

Concise Oxford Thesaurus

SECOND EDITION

**EDITED BY
Maurice Waite**

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Preface

For this Second Edition, the Thesaurus has been revised in the light of recent research that has shown how words are really used and has made it possible to give better-matching sets of synonyms than ever before. This has been achieved using computational techniques to analyse a very large body of English—the 100-million-word British National Corpus and the Oxford Reading Programme database, which currently consists of 70 million words and is growing by about 5 million words a year.

The examples of use have been replaced by generally fuller examples taken from real evidence, making it easier for the reader to identify the appropriate set of synonyms.

The number of opposites (antonyms) has been increased, and entries now also include related words, prefixes, and suffixes, such as *nocturnal* at the entry for 'night', *labio-* at 'lip', and *-cide* at 'kill'.

The lists of words and names (of birds and animals, types of food, famous people, etc.) have been expanded in number and scope as well as updated.

MJW

Guide to the Thesaurus

Arrangement of synonyms

The synonyms in each entry are grouped in numbered 'synonym sets'. Major synonym sets correspond roughly to different senses of the word in a dictionary, and many sets contain finer distinctions, which are signalled by semicolons.

The synonyms in each set that are closest in meaning to the entry word are given first, usually starting with a 'core synonym' in **SMALL CAPITALS**. Some synonym sets have more than one core synonym if two synonyms are very close to the entry word but neither covers the whole sense; for example at *audience*, both *spectators* and *listeners* are given as core synonyms. Two different core synonyms may also emphasize slightly different aspects of the meaning of the entry word. For example, at *prosperous*, the first core synonym given is *thriving*, followed by a group of words closely related to that aspect of its meaning, such as *flourishing* and *successful*. Then, after a semicolon, a second core synonym, *affluent*, is given, with an allied group of synonyms such as *wealthy* and *rich*.

Guidance on the use of synonyms

Most of the synonyms given are part of standard English, but some are suitable only in certain contexts. These are grouped at the end of their synonym set and given the following labels:

informal, e.g. *swig*, *dodgy*: the kind of vocabulary normally only used in informal speech or writing.

formal, e.g. *perquisite*, *adjure*: normally only used in writing, in contexts such as official documents.

technical, e.g. *occlusion*, *admixture*. Words used in specific specialist fields are labelled *Medicine*, *Nautical*, etc.

poetic/literary, e.g. *forsake*, *plenteous*: normally only found in poetry or literature.

dated, e.g. *toodle-oo*, *rotter*: no longer used by the majority of English speakers, but still encountered, especially among the older generation.

historical, e.g. *serfdom*, *ballista*: still used today, but only to refer to some practice or article that is no longer part of the modern world.

humorous, e.g. *retail therapy*, *transmogrify*: normally used with humorous intent.

archaic, e.g. *bootless*, *in sooth*: very old-fashioned language, not used today except for effect.

rare, e.g. *funambulist*, *reprehend*: not in normal use today or in previous times.

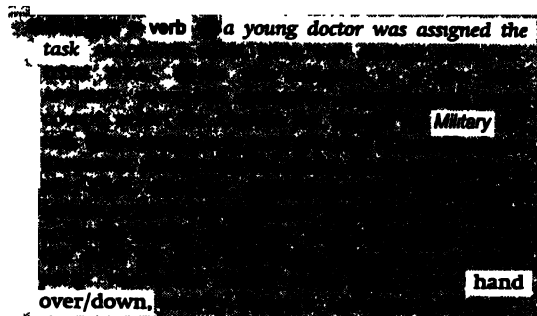
Synonyms are also labelled if they are used exclusively or mainly in the English spoken in a particular part of the world, namely: British (abbreviated to *Brit.*), North American (*N. Amer.*), United States (*US*), Canadian, Australian (*Austral.*), New Zealand (*NZ*), South African (*S. Afr.*), or West Indian (*W. Ind.*).

Note on trademarks and proprietary status

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Major features

part of speech of the
entry word

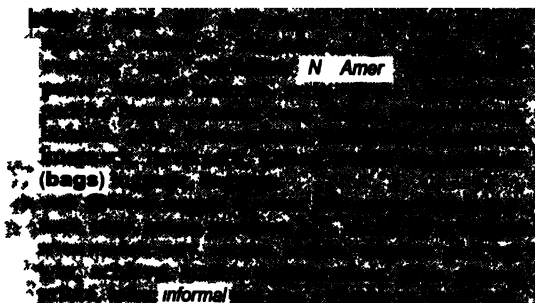


example of use to help
distinguish different senses

label indicating the
specialist field in which the
following synonym(s) are
used

combined synonym group
standing for *hand over* and
hand down

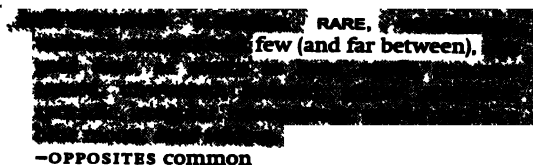
form of the entry word for
which the following
synonym(s) can be
substituted



label indicating the region
of the world in which the
following synonym(s) are
used (see opposite for
abbreviations)

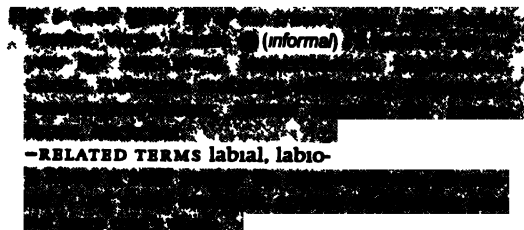
label indicating the style of
English in which the
following synonym(s) are
used

core synonym—the closest
synonym to the entry word



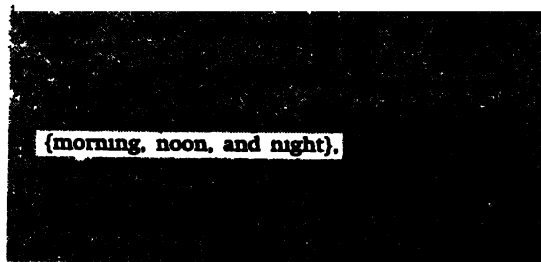
combined synonym group
standing for *few* and *few*
and far between

word(s) meaning the
opposite of the entry word
most have entries of their
own where a wider choice
can be found



label indicating the style of
English in which this sense
of *lip* is used

words prefixes or suffixes
with meanings that are
closely related to the entry
word but are not actual
synonyms



brackets showing that the
phrase they contain is one
complete synonym

Aa

aback

■ **take someone aback** SURPRISE, shock, stun, stagger, astound, astonish, startle, take by surprise; dumbfound, nonplus, stop someone in their tracks; shake (up), jolt, throw, unnerve, disconcert, unsettle, bewilder; *informal* flabbergast, knock sideways, floor; *Brit. informal* knock for six.

abandon ► **verb** ① *the party abandoned policies which made it unelectable*: RENOUNCE, relinquish, dispense with, disclaim, disown, disavow, discard, wash one's hands of; give up, drop, jettison, do away with, axe; *informal* ditch, scrap, scrub, junk; *formal* forswear. ② *by that stage, she had abandoned painting*: GIVE UP, stop, cease, drop, forgo, desist from, have done with, abstain from, discontinue, break off, refrain from, set aside; *informal* cut out, kick, pack in, quit; *Brit. informal* jack in; *formal* abjure. ③ *he abandoned his wife and children*: DESERT, leave, leave high and dry, turn one's back on, cast aside, break (up) with; jilt, strand, leave stranded, leave in the lurch, throw over; *informal* walk out on, run out on, dump, ditch; *poetic/literary* forsake. ④ *the skipper gave the order to abandon ship*: VACATE, leave, depart from, withdraw from, quit, evacuate. ⑤ *a vast expanse of territory was abandoned to the invaders*: RELINQUISH, surrender, give up, cede, yield, leave. ⑥ *she abandoned herself to the sensuousness of the music*: INDULGE IN, give way to, give oneself up to, yield to, lose oneself to/in.

—OPPOSITES keep, retain, continue.

► **noun** *reckless abandon*: UNINHIBITEDNESS, recklessness, lack of restraint, lack of inhibition, wildness, impulsiveness, impetuosity, immoderation, wantonness.

—OPPOSITES self-control.

abandoned ► **adjective** ① *an abandoned child*: DESERTED, forsaken, cast aside/off; jilted, stranded, rejected; *informal* dumped, ditched. ② *an abandoned tin mine*: UNUSED, disused, neglected, idle; deserted, unoccupied, uninhabited, empty. ③ *a wild, abandoned dance*: UNINHIBITED, reckless, unrestrained, wild, unbridled, impulsive, impetuous; immoderate, wanton.

abase ► **verb** HUMBLE, humiliate, belittle, demean, lower, degrade, debase, cheapen, discredit, bring low; (**abase oneself**) grovel, kowtow, bow and scrape, toady, fawn; *informal* crawl, suck up to someone, lick someone's boots.

abasement ► **noun** HUMILIATION, belittlement, lowering, degradation, debasement.

abashed ► **adjective** EMBARRASSED, ashamed, shamefaced, remorseful, conscience-stricken, mortified, humiliated, humbled, chagrined, crestfallen, sheepish, red-faced, blushing, put out of countenance, discountenanced, with one's tail between one's legs.

abate ► **verb** ① *the storm had abated*: SUBSIDE, die down/away/out, lessen, ease (off), let up, decrease, diminish, moderate, decline, fade, dwindle, recede, tail off, peter out, taper off,

wane, ebb, weaken, come to an end; *archaic* remit. ② *nothing abated his crusading zeal*: DECREASE, lessen, diminish, reduce, moderate, ease, soothe, dampen, calm, tone down, allay, temper.

—OPPOSITES intensify, increase.

abatement ► **noun** ① *the storm still rages with no sign of abatement*: SUBSIDING, dying down/away/out, lessening, easing (off), let-up, decrease, moderation, decline, ebb. ② *noise abatement*: DECREASE, reduction, lowering.

abattoir ► **noun** SLAUGHTERHOUSE; *Brit. butchery; archaic* shambles.

abbey ► **noun** MONASTERY, CONVENT, priory, cloister, friary, nunnery; *historical* charterhouse; *rare* coenobium.

abbreviate ► **verb** SHORTEN, reduce, cut, contract, condense, compress, abridge, truncate, pare down, prune, shrink, telescope; summarize, abstract, precis, synopsis, digest, edit.

—OPPOSITES lengthen, expand.

abbreviated ► **adjective** SHORTENED, reduced, cut, condensed, abridged, concise, compact, succinct; summary, thumbnail, synoptic; *formal* compendious.

—OPPOSITES long.

abbreviation ► **noun** SHORTENED FORM, short form, contraction, acronym, initialism, symbol, diminutive; elision.

abdicate ► **verb** ① *the king abdicated in 1936*: RESIGN, retire, stand down, step down, bow out, renounce the throne; *archaic* demit. ② *Ferdinand abdicated the throne*: RESIGN FROM, relinquish, renounce, give up, surrender, vacate, cede; *Law* disclaim; *formal* abjure. ③ *the state abdicated all responsibility for their welfare*: DISOWN, reject, renounce, give up, refuse, relinquish, repudiate, abandon, turn one's back on, wash one's hands of; *formal* abjure; *poetic/literary* forsake.

abdication ► **noun** ① *Edward VIII's abdication*: RESIGNATION, retirement; relinquishment, renunciation, surrender; *formal* abjuration; *archaic* demission. ② *an abdication of responsibility*: DISOWNING, renunciation, rejection, refusal, relinquishment, repudiation, abandonment.

abdomen ► **noun** STOMACH, belly, gut, middle, intestines; *informal* tummy, tum, insides, guts, maw, breadbasket, pot, paunch; *Austral. informal* bingy; *dated* corporation.

abdominal ► **adjective** GASTRIC, intestinal, stomach, stomachic, enteric, duodenal, visceral, coeliac, ventral.

abduct ► **verb** KIDNAP, carry off, seize, capture, run away/off with, make off with, spirit away, hold hostage, hold to ransom; *informal* snatch.

aberrant ► **adjective** DEVIANT, deviating, divergent, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, irregular, rogue; strange, odd, peculiar, uncommon, freakish; twisted, warped, perverted.

—OPPOSITES normal, typical.

a

aberration ▶ noun a statistical aberration: ANOMALY, deviation, departure from the norm, divergence, abnormality, irregularity, variation, freak, rarity, oddity, peculiarity, curiosity; mistake.

abet ▶ verb ASSIST, aid, help, lend a hand, support, back, encourage; cooperate with, collaborate with, work with, collude with, be in collusion with, be hand in glove with, side with; second, endorse, sanction; promote, champion, further, expedite, connive at.
—OPPOSITES hinder.

abeyance ▶ noun SUSPENSION, a state of suspension, a state of uncertainty, remission; (IN abeyance) pending, suspended, deferred, postponed, put off, put to one side, unresolved, up in the air; informal in cold storage, on ice, on the back burner, hanging fire.

abhor ▶ verb DETEST, hate, loathe, despise, execrate, regard with disgust, shrink from, recoil from, shudder at; formal abominate.
—OPPOSITES love, admire.

abhorrence ▶ noun HATRED, loathing, detestation, execration, revulsion, abomination, disgust, repugnance, horror, odium, aversion.

abhorrent ▶ adjective DETESTABLE, hateful, loathsome, despicable, abominable, execrable, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, disgusting, distasteful, horrible, horrid, horrifying, awful, heinous, reprehensible, obnoxious, odious, nauseating, offensive, contemptible.
—OPPOSITES admirable.

abide ▶ verb ① he expected everybody to abide by the rules: COMPLY WITH, obey, observe, follow, keep to, hold to, conform to, adhere to, stick to, stand by, act in accordance with, uphold, heed, accept, go along with, acknowledge, respect, defer to. ② (informal) I can't abide the smell of cigarettes: TOLERATE, bear, stand, put up with, endure, take, countenance; informal stomach; Brit. informal stick; formal brook; archaic suffer. ③ at least one memory will abide: CONTINUE, remain, survive, last, persist, stay, live on.
—OPPOSITES flout, disobey.

abiding ▶ adjective ENDURING, lasting, persisting, long-lasting, lifelong, continuing, remaining, surviving, standing, durable, everlasting, perpetual, eternal, unending, constant, permanent, unchanging, steadfast, immutable.
—OPPOSITES short-lived, ephemeral.

ability ▶ noun ① the ability to read and write: CAPACITY, capability, potential, potentiality, power, faculty, aptness, facility; wherewithal, means. ② the president's leadership ability: TALENT, skill, expertise, adeptness, aptitude, skilfulness, savoir faire, prowess, mastery, accomplishment; competence, proficiency; dexterity, adroitness, deftness, cleverness, flair, finesse, gift, knack, genius; qualification, resources; informal know-how.

abject ▶ adjective ① abject poverty: WRETCHED, miserable, hopeless, pathetic, pitiful, pitiable, piteous, sorry, woeful, lamentable, degrading, appalling, atrocious, awful. ② an abject sinner: CONTEMPTIBLE, base, low, vile, worthless, debased, degraded, despicable, ignominious, mean, unworthy, ignoble. ③ an abject apology: obsequious, grovelling, fawning, toadyish, servile, cringing, sycophantic, submissive, craven.

abjure ▶ verb (formal) RENOUNCE, relinquish, reject, forgo, disavow, abandon, deny, repudiate, give up, wash one's hands of; eschew, abstain from, refrain from; informal kick, pack in; Brit. informal jack in; Law disaffirm; poetic/literary forsake; formal forswear, abnegate.

ablaze ▶ adjective ① several vehicles were ablaze: ON FIRE, alight, aflame, in flames, flaming, burning, blazing; poetic/literary afire. ② every window was ablaze with light: LIT UP, alight, gleaming, glowing, aglow, illuminated, bright, shining, radiant, shimmering, sparkling, flashing, dazzling, luminous, incandescent. ③ his eyes were ablaze with fury: PASSIONATE, impassioned, aroused, excited, stimulated, eager, animated, intense, ardent, fervent, frenzied.

able ▶ adjective ① he will soon be able to resume his duties: CAPABLE OF, competent to, equal to, up to, fit to, prepared to, qualified to; allowed to, free to, in a position to. ② an able student: INTELLIGENT, clever, talented, skilful, skilled, accomplished, gifted; proficient, apt, good, adroit, adept; capable, competent, efficient, effective.
—OPPOSITES incompetent, incapable.

able-bodied ▶ adjective HEALTHY, FIT, in good health, robust, strong, sound, sturdy, vigorous, hardy, hale and hearty, athletic, muscular, strapping, burly, brawny, lusty; in good shape, in good trim, in fine fettle, fighting fit, as fit as a fiddle, as fit as a flea; informal husky; dated stalwart.
—OPPOSITES infirm, frail, disabled.

ablutions ▶ plural noun (formal) WASHING, cleansing, bathing, showering, scrubbing; wash, bath, shower, toilet, soak, dip, douche; rare lavage, lavation.

abnegation ▶ noun (formal) ① a serious abnegation of their responsibilities: RENUNCIATION, rejection, refusal, abandonment, abdication, surrender, relinquishment, repudiation, denial; formal abjuration. ② people capable of abnegation and unselfishness: SELF-DENIAL, self-sacrifice, abstinence, temperance, continence, asceticism, abstemiousness, austerity.
—OPPOSITES acceptance, self-indulgence.

abnormal ▶ adjective UNUSUAL, uncommon, atypical, untypical, non-typical, unrepresentative, rare, isolated, irregular, anomalous, deviant, divergent, aberrant, freak, freakish; STRANGE, odd, peculiar, curious, bizarre, weird, queer; eccentric, idiosyncratic, quirky; unexpected, unfamiliar, unconventional, surprising, unorthodox, singular, exceptional, extraordinary, out of the ordinary, out of the way; unnatural, perverse, perverted, twisted, warped, unhealthy, distorted; Brit. out of the common; informal funny, freaky, kinky.
—OPPOSITES normal, typical, common.

abnormality ▶ noun ① babies born with physical or mental abnormalities: MALFORMATION, deformity, irregularity, flaw, defect. ② the abnormality of such behaviour: UNUSUALNESS, uncommonness, atypicality, irregularity, anomalousness, deviation, divergence, aberrance, aberration, freakishness; strangeness, oddness, peculiarity, unexpectedness, singularity.

abode ▶ noun (formal) HOME, house, place of residence, accommodation, seat; quarters, lodgings, rooms; address; informal pad, digs; formal dwelling, dwelling place, residence, habitation.

abolish ▶ verb PUT AN END TO, get rid of, scrap, end, stop, terminate, axe, eradicate, eliminate, exterminate, destroy, annihilate, stamp out, obliterate, wipe out, extinguish, quash, expunge, extirpate; annul, cancel, invalidate, nullify, void, dissolve; rescind, repeal, revoke, overturn; discontinue, remove, excise, drop, jettison; *informal* do away with, ditch, junk, scrub, dump, chop, give something the chop, knock something on the head; *formal* abrogate.
-OPPOSITES retain, create.

abolition ▶ noun SCRAPPING, ending, termination, eradication, elimination, extermination, destruction, annihilation, obliteration, extirpation; annulment, cancellation, invalidation, nullification, dissolution; revocation, repeal, rescindment, discontinuation, removal; *formal* abrogation.

abominable ▶ adjective LOATHSOME, detestable, hateful, odious, obnoxious, despicable, contemptible, damnable, diabolical; disgusting, revolting, repellent, repulsive, offensive, repugnant, abhorrent, reprehensible, atrocious, horrifying, execrable, foul, vile, wretched, base, horrible, awful, dreadful, appalling, nauseating, horrid, nasty, disagreeable, unpleasant, distasteful; *informal* terrible, shocking, God-awful; *Brit. informal* beastly; *dated* cursed, accursed.
-OPPOSITES good, admirable.

abominate ▶ verb (*formal*) DETEST, loathe, hate, abhor, despise, execrate, shudder at, recoil from, shrink from, be repelled by.
-OPPOSITES like, love.

abomination ▶ noun ① in both wars, *internment* was an abomination: ATROCITY, disgrace, horror, obscenity, outrage, evil, crime, monstrosity, anathema, bane. ② he had a Calvinist abomination of indulgence: DETESTATION, loathing, hatred, aversion, antipathy, revulsion, repugnance, abhorrence, odium, execration, disgust, horror, hostility.
-OPPOSITES liking, love.

aboriginal ▶ adjective the area's aboriginal inhabitants: INDIGENOUS, native; original, earliest, first; ancient, primitive, primeval, primordial; *rare* autochthonous, autochthonic.

▶ noun the social structure of the aboriginals: NATIVE, aborigine, original inhabitant; *rare* autochthon, indigene.

abort ▶ verb ① I decided not to abort the pregnancy: TERMINATE, end. ② the organism can cause pregnant ewes to abort: MISCARRY, have a miscarriage. ③ the crew aborted the take-off: HALT, stop, end, axe, call off, cut short, discontinue, terminate, arrest; *informal* pull the plug on. ④ the mission aborted: COME TO A HALT, end, terminate, fail, miscarry, go wrong, fall through, collapse, founder, come to grief.

abortion ▶ noun TERMINATION, miscarriage; *rare* feticide.

abortive ▶ adjective UNSUCCESSFUL, failed, vain, thwarted, futile, useless, worthless, ineffective, ineffectual, to no effect, inefficacious, fruitless, unproductive, unavailing, to no avail, sterile. *nugatory*; *archaic* bootless.
-OPPOSITES successful, fruitful.

abound ▶ verb ① cafes and bars abound in the narrow streets: BE PLENTIFUL, be abundant, be numerous, proliferate, superabound, be thick on the ground; *informal* grow on trees, be two/ten a

penny. ② a stream which abounded with trout and eels: BE FULL OF, overflow with, teem with, be packed with, be crowded with, be thronged with; be alive with, be crawling with, be overrun by/with, swarm with, bristle with, be infested with, be thick with; *informal* be lousy with, be stuffed with, be jam-packed with, be chock-a-block with, be chock-full of.

abounding ▶ adjective ABUNDANT, plentiful, superabundant, considerable, copious, ample, lavish, luxuriant, profuse, boundless, prolific, inexhaustible, generous; *galore*; *poetic/literary* plenteous.

-OPPOSITES meagre, scanty.

about ▶ preposition ① a book about ancient Greece: REGARDING, concerning, with reference to, referring to, with regard to, with respect to, respecting, relating to, on, touching on, dealing with, relevant to, connected with, in connection with, on the subject of, in the matter of, apropos, re. ② two hundred people were milling about the room: AROUND, round, throughout, over, through, on every side of.

▶ adverb ① there were babies crawling about in the grass: AROUND, here and there, to and fro, back and forth, from place to place, hither and thither, in all directions. ② I knew he was about somewhere: NEAR, nearby, around, whereabouts, not far off/away, close by, in the vicinity, in the neighbourhood. ③ the explosion caused about £15,000 worth of damage: APPROXIMATELY, roughly, around, round about, in the region of, circa, of the order of, something like; or so, or thereabouts, there or thereabouts, more or less, give or take a few, not far off; *Brit.* getting on for; *informal* as near as dammit; *N. Amer. informal* in the ballpark of. ④ there's a lot of flu about: AROUND, in circulation, in existence, current, going on, prevailing, prevalent, happening, in the air, abroad.

■ about to (JUST) GOING TO, ready to, all set to, preparing to, intending to, soon to; on the point of, on the verge of, on the brink of, within an ace of.

about-turn (*Brit.*) ▶ noun ① he saluted and did an about-turn: ABOUT-FACE, volte-face, turn-around, turnabout, U-turn; *informal* U-ey, one-eighty. ② the government was forced to make an about-turn: VOLTE-FACE, U-turn, reversal, retraction, backtracking, swing, swerve; change of heart, change of mind, sea change.

above ▶ preposition ① a tiny window above the door: OVER, higher (up) than; on top of, atop, on, upon. ② those above the rank of Colonel: SUPERIOR TO, senior to, over, higher (up) than, more powerful than; in charge of, commanding. ③ you must be above suspicion: BEYOND, not liable to, not open to, not vulnerable to, out of reach of; immune to, exempt from. ④ the Chinese valued pearls above gold: MORE THAN, over, before, rather than, in preference to, instead of. ⑤ an increase above the rate of inflation: GREATER THAN, more than, higher than, exceeding, in excess of, over, over and above, beyond, surpassing, upwards of.
-OPPOSITES below, under, beneath.

▶ adverb ① in the darkness above, something moved: OVERHEAD, on/at the top, high up, on high, up above, (up) in the sky, high above one's head, aloft. ② the two cases described above: EARLIER, previously, before, formerly.

a

► **adjective** *the above example*: PRECEDING, previous, earlier, former, foregoing, prior, above-stated, aforementioned, aforesaid.

■ **above all** MOST IMPORTANTLY, before everything, beyond everything, first of all, most of all, chiefly, primarily, in the first place, first and foremost, mainly, principally, predominantly, especially, essentially, basically, in essence, at bottom; *informal* at the end of the day, when all is said and done.

■ **above oneself** CONCEITED, proud, arrogant, swollen-headed, self-important, cocky, haughty, disdainful, snobbish, snobby, supercilious; *informal* stuck-up, high and mighty, snooty, uppity, big-headed, too big for one's boots.

above board ► **adjective** *the proceedings were completely above board*: LEGITIMATE, lawful, legal, licit, honest, fair, open, frank, straight, overt, candid, forthright, unconcealed, trustworthy, unequivocal; *informal* legit, kosher, pukka, by the book, fair and square, square, on the level, on the up and up, upfront.

—OPPOSITES dishonest, shady.

abrade ► **verb** WEAR AWAY, wear down, erode, scrape away, corrode, eat away at, gnaw away at.

abrasion ► **noun** ① *he had abrasions to his forehead*: GRAZE, cut, scrape, scratch, gash, laceration, injury, contusion; sore, ulcer; *Medicine* trauma. ② *the metal is resistant to abrasion*: EROSION, wearing away/down, corrosion.

abrasive ► **adjective** ① *abrasive kitchen cleaners*: CORROSIVE, corroding, erosive; caustic, harsh, coarse. ② *her abrasive manner*: CAUSTIC, cutting, biting, acerbic; rough, harsh, hard, tough, sharp, curt, brusque, stern, severe; wounding, nasty, cruel, callous, insensitive, unfeeling, unsympathetic, inconsiderate; *N. Amer.* acerb. —OPPOSITES kind, gentle.

abreast ► **adverb** ① *they walked three abreast*: IN A ROW, side by side, alongside, level, beside each other, shoulder to shoulder. ② *try to keep abreast of current affairs*: UP TO DATE WITH, up with, in touch with, informed about, acquainted with, knowledgeable about, conversant with, familiar with, au courant with, au fait with.

abridge ► **verb** SHORTEN, cut, cut short/down, curtail, truncate, trim, crop, clip, pare down, prune; abbreviate, condense, contract, compress, reduce, decrease, shrink; summarize, sum up, abstract, precis, synopsis, give a digest of, put in a nutshell, edit; *rare* epitomize. —OPPOSITES lengthen.

abridged ► **adjective** SHORTENED, cut, cut down, concise, condensed, abbreviated; summary, outline, thumbnail; bowdlerized, censored, expurgated; *informal* potted.

abridgement ► **noun** SUMMARY, abstract, synopsis, precis, outline, résumé, sketch, digest.

abroad ► **adverb** ① *he regularly travels abroad*: OVERSEAS, out of the country, to/in foreign parts, to/in a foreign country/land. ② *rumours were abroad*: IN CIRCULATION, circulating, widely current, everywhere, in the air, (here, there, and everywhere); about, around; at large.

abrogate ► **verb** (formal) REPEAL, revoke, rescind, repudiate, overturn, annul, cancel, invalidate, nullify, void, negate, dissolve, countermand, declare null and void, discontinue; re-

verse, retract, remove, withdraw, abolish, put an end to, do away with, get rid of, end, stop, quash, scrap; *Law* disaffirm.

—OPPOSITES institute, introduce.

abrogation ► **noun** (formal) REPEAL, revocation, repudiation, rescindment, overturning, annulment, cancellation, invalidation, nullification, negation, dissolution, discontinuation; reversal, retraction, removal, withdrawal, abolition; *formal* rescission; *Law* disaffirmation.

abrupt ► **adjective** ① *an abrupt halt* | *an abrupt change of subject*: SUDDEN, unexpected, without warning, unanticipated, unforeseen, precipitate, surprising, startling; quick, swift, rapid, hurried, hasty, immediate, instantaneous. ② *an abrupt manner*: CURT, brusque, blunt, short, sharp, terse, brisk, crisp, gruff, rude, discourteous, uncivil, snappish, unceremonious, off-hand, rough, harsh; bluff, no-nonsense, to the point; *informal* snappy. ③ *abrupt, epigrammatic paragraphs*: DISJOINTED, jerky, uneven, disconnected, inelegant. ④ *an abrupt slope*: STEEP, sheer, precipitous, bluff, sharp, sudden; perpendicular, vertical, dizzy, vertiginous.

—OPPOSITES gradual, gentle.

abscess ► **noun** ULCER, ulceration, cyst, boil, blister, sore, pustule, carbuncle, pimple, wen, whitlow, canker; inflammation, infection, eruption.

abscond ► **verb** RUN AWAY, escape, bolt, flee, make off, take flight, take off, decamp; make a break for it, take to one's heels, make a quick getaway, beat a hasty retreat, run for it, make a run for it; disappear, vanish, slip away, steal away, sneak away; *informal* do a moonlight flit, clear out, cut and run, show a clean pair of heels, skedaddle, skip, head for the hills, do a disappearing act, fly the coop, take French leave, scarper, vamoose; *Brit. informal* do a bunk, do a runner; *N. Amer. informal* take a powder.

absence ► **noun** ① *his absence from the office*: NON-ATTENDANCE, non-appearance, absenteeism; TRUANCY, playing truant; leave, holiday, vacation, sabbatical. ② *the absence of any other suitable candidate*: LACK, want, non-existence, unavailability, deficiency, dearth; need. —OPPOSITES presence.

absent ► **adjective** ① *she was absent from work*: AWAY, off, out, non-attending, truant; off duty, on holiday, on leave; gone, missing, lacking, unavailable, non-existent; *informal* AWOL. ② *an absent look*: DISTRACTED, preoccupied, inattentive, vague, absorbed, abstracted, unheeding, oblivious, distraught, absent-minded, dreamy, far away, in a world of one's own, lost in thought, in a brown study; blank, empty, vacant; *informal* miles away.

—OPPOSITES present, attentive, alert.

► **verb** *Rose absented herself from the occasion*: STAY AWAY, be absent, withdraw, retire, take one's leave, remove oneself.

absent-minded ► **adjective** FORGETFUL, distracted, preoccupied, inattentive, vague, scatterbrained, abstracted, unheeding, oblivious, distraught, in a brown study, wool-gathering; lost in thought, pensive, thoughtful, brooding; *informal* miles away, having a mind/memory like a sieve.

absolute ► **adjective** ① *absolute silence* | *an absolute disgrace*: COMPLETE, total, utter, out-and-out,

outright, entire, perfect, pure, decided; thorough, thoroughgoing, undivided, unqualified, unadulterated, unalloyed, unmodified, unreserved, downright, undiluted, consummate, unmitigated, sheer, arrant, rank, dyed-in-the-wool. ② *the absolute truth*: DEFINITE, certain, positive, unconditional, categorical, unquestionable, incontrovertible, undoubted, unequivocal, decisive, conclusive, confirmed, infallible. ③ *absolute power*: UNLIMITED, unrestricted, unrestrained, unbounded, boundless, infinite, ultimate, total, supreme, unconditional. ④ *an absolute monarch*: AUTOCRATIC, despotic, dictatorial, tyrannical, tyrannous, authoritarian, arbitrary, autonomous, sovereign, autarchic, omnipotent. ⑤ *absolute moral standards*: UNIVERSAL, fixed, independent, non-relative, non-variable, absolute.

—OPPOSITES partial, qualified, limited, conditional.

absolutely ▶ *adverb* *you're absolutely right*: COMPLETELY, totally, utterly, perfectly, entirely, wholly, fully, quite, thoroughly, unreservedly; definitely, certainly, positively, unconditionally, categorically, unquestionably, undoubtedly, without (a) doubt, without question, surely, unequivocally; exactly, precisely, decisively, conclusively, manifestly, in every way/respect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt; *informal* dead.

▶ *exclamation (informal)* 'Have I made myself clear?' 'Absolutely!': YES, indeed, of course, definitely, certainly, quite, without (a) doubt, without question, unquestionably; affirmative, by all means.

absolution ▶ *noun* FORGIVENESS, pardon, exonerated, remission, dispensation, indulgence, clemency, mercy; discharge, acquittal; freedom, deliverance, release; vindication; *informal* let-off; *formal* exculpation; *archaic* shrift.

absolve ▶ *verb* ① *this fact does not absolve you from responsibility*: EXONERATE, discharge, acquit, vindicate; release, relieve, liberate, free, deliver, clear, exempt, let off; *formal* exculpate. ② (Christianity) *I absolve you from your sins*: FORGIVE, pardon.

—OPPOSITES blame, condemn.

absorb ▶ *verb* ① *a sponge-like material which absorbs water*: SOAK UP, suck up, draw up/in, take up/in, blot up, mop up, sop up. ② *she absorbed the information in silence*: ASSIMILATE, digest, take in. ③ *the company was absorbed into the new concern*: INCORPORATE, assimilate, integrate, take in, subsume, include, co-opt, swallow up. ④ *these roles absorb most of his time and energy*: USE (UP), consume, take up, occupy. ⑤ *she was totally absorbed in her book*: ENROSS, captivate, occupy, preoccupy, engage, rivet, grip, hold, interest, intrigue, immerse, involve, enthrall, spellbind, fascinate.

absorbent ▶ *adjective* POROUS, spongy, sponge-like, permeable, pervious, absorptive; *technical* spongiform; *rare* sorbefacient

absorbing ▶ *adjective* FASCINATING, interesting, captivating, gripping, engrossing, compelling, compulsive, enthralling, riveting, spellbinding, intriguing, thrilling, exciting; *informal* unput-downable.

—OPPOSITES boring, uninteresting.

absorption ▶ *noun* ① *the absorption of water*: SOAKING UP, sucking up; *technical* osmosis. ② *the*

company's absorption into a larger concern: INCORPORATION, assimilation, integration, inclusion. ③ *her total absorption in the music*: INVOLVEMENT, immersion, raptness, engrossment, occupation, preoccupation, engagement, captivation, fascination, enthrallment.

abstain ▶ *verb* ① *Benjamin abstained from wine*: REFRAIN, desist, hold back, forbear; give up, renounce, avoid, shun, eschew, forgo, go without, do without; refuse, decline; *informal* cut out; *formal* abjure. ② *most pregnant women abstain, or drink very little*: BE TEETOTAL, take the pledge; *informal* be on the wagon. ③ *262 voted against, 38 abstained*: NOT VOTE, decline to vote.

abstemious ▶ *adjective* SELF-DENYING, temperate, abstinent, moderate, self-disciplined, restrained, self-restrained, sober, austere, ascetic, puritanical, spartan, self-abnegating, hair-shirt.

—OPPOSITES self-indulgent.

abstinence ▶ *noun* SELF-DENIAL, self-restraint; teetotalism, temperance, sobriety, abstemiousness, abstention.

abstract ▶ *adjective* ① *abstract concepts*: THEORETICAL, conceptual, notional, intellectual, metaphysical, philosophical, academic; *rare* ideational. ② *abstract art*: NON-REPRESENTATIONAL, non-pictorial.

—OPPOSITES actual, concrete.

▶ *verb* ① *staff abstract material for an online database*: SUMMARIZE, precis, abridge, condense, compress, shorten, cut down, abbreviate, synopsis; *rare* epitomize. ② *a scheme to abstract more water from the river*: EXTRACT, pump, draw (off), withdraw, remove, take out/away; separate, isolate.

▶ *noun* *an abstract of her speech*: SUMMARY, synopsis, precis, résumé, outline, abridgement, digest, summation; *N. Amer.* wrap-up; *archaic* argument.

abstracted ▶ *adjective* ABSENT-MINDED, distracted, preoccupied, in a world of one's own, with one's head in the clouds, daydreaming, dreamy, inattentive, thoughtful, pensive, lost in thought, deep in thought, immersed in thought, wool-gathering, in a brown study, musing, brooding, absent, distraught; *informal* miles away.

—OPPOSITES attentive.

abstraction ▶ *noun* ① *philosophical abstractions*: CONCEPT, idea, notion, thought, theory, hypothesis. ② *she sensed his momentary abstraction*: ABSENT-MINDEDNESS, distraction, preoccupation, dreaminess, inattentiveness, inattention, wool-gathering; thoughtfulness, pensiveness. ③ *the abstraction of metal from ore*: EXTRACTION, removal, separation.

abstruse ▶ *adjective* OBSCURE, arcane, esoteric, little known, recherché, rarefied, recondite, difficult, hard, puzzling, perplexing, cryptic, Delphic, complex, complicated, involved, over/above one's head, incomprehensible, unfathomable, impenetrable, mysterious.

absurd ▶ *adjective* PREPOSTEROUS, ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, laughable, risible, idiotic, stupid, foolish, silly, inane, imbecilic, insane, hare-brained; unreasonable, irrational, illogical, nonsensical, pointless, senseless; *informal* crazy; *Brit. informal* barmy, daft.

—OPPOSITES reasonable, sensible.

absurdity ▶ *noun* PREPOSTEROUNESS, ridiculousness, ludicrousness, risibility, idiocy, stu-

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plidity, foolishness, folly, silliness, inanity, insanity; unreasonableness, irrationality, illogicality, pointlessness, senselessness; *informal* craziness.

abundance ► **noun** PROFUSION, plentifulness, profuseness, copiousness, amplitude, lavishness, bountifulness; host, cornucopia, riot; plenty, quantities, scores, multitude; *informal* millions, sea, ocean(s), wealth, lot(s), heap(s), mass(es), stack(s), pile(s), load(s), bags, mountain(s), ton(s), slew, scads, oodles; *Brit informal* shedload; *N Amer informal* gobs; *formal* plenitude.
-OPPOSITES lack, scarcity.

abundant ► **adjective** an abundant supply of food: PLENTIFUL, copious, ample, profuse, rich, lavish, liberal, generous, bountiful, large, huge, great, bumper, overflowing, prolific, teeming; in plenty, in abundance; *informal* a gogo, galore; *poetic/literary* plenteous, bounteous.
-OPPOSITES scarce, sparse.

■ **be abundant** ABOUND, be plentiful, be numerous, be in abundance, proliferate, be thick on the ground; *informal* grow on trees, be two/ten a penny.

abuse ► **verb** ① the judge abused his power: MISUSE, misapply, misemploy; exploit, take advantage of. ② he was accused of abusing children: MIS TREAT, maltreat, ill-treat, treat badly; molest, interfere with, indecently assault, sexually abuse, sexually assault; injure, hurt, harm, damage. ③ the referee was abused by players from both teams: INSULT, be rude to, swear at, curse, call someone names, taunt, shout at, revile, inveigh against, vilify, slander, cast aspersions on; *Brit informal* slag off.

► **noun** ① the abuse of power: MISUSE, misapplication, misemployment; exploitation. ② the abuse of children: MISTREATMENT, maltreatment, ill-treatment; molestation, interference, indecent assault, sexual abuse, sexual assault; injury, hurt, harm, damage. ③ the scheme is open to administrative abuse: CORRUPTION, injustice, wrongdoing, wrong, misconduct, misdeed(s), offence(s), crime(s), sin(s). ④ torrents of abuse: INSULTS, curses, jibes, expletives, swear words; swearing, cursing, name-calling; invective, vilification, vituperation, slander; *Brit informal* verbal(s); *N Amer informal* trash talk; *archaic* contumely.

abusive ► **adjective** INSULTING, rude, vulgar, offensive, disparaging, belittling, derogatory, disrespectful, denigratory, uncomplimentary, pejorative, vituperative; defamatory, slanderous, libellous, scurrilous, blasphemous; *informal* bitchy; *archaic* contumelious.

abut ► **verb** ADJOIN, be adjacent to, border, neighbour, join, touch, meet, reach, be contiguous with.

abysmal ► **adjective** (*informal*) some of the teaching was *abysmal*: VERY BAD, dreadful, awful, terrible, frightful, atrocious, disgraceful, deplorable, shameful, hopeless, lamentable, laughable; *informal* rotten, appalling, crummy, pathetic, pitiful, woeful, useless, lousy, dire, poxy, the pits; *Brit informal* chronic, shocking.

abyss ► **noun** CHASM, gorge, ravine, canyon, fissure, rift, crevasse, hole, gulf, pit, cavity, void, bottomless pit.

academic ► **adjective** ① an academic institution: EDUCATIONAL, scholastic, instructional, peda-

gogical. ② his academic turn of mind: SCHOLARLY, studious, literary, well read, intellectual, clever, erudite, learned, educated, cultured, bookish, highbrow, pedantic, donnish, cerebral; *informal* brainy; *dated* lettered. ③ the debate has been largely *academic*: THEORETICAL, conceptual, notional, philosophical, hypothetical, speculative, conjectural, suppositional, putative; impractical, unrealistic, ivory-tower.

► **noun** a group of Russian academics: SCHOLAR, lecturer, don, teacher, tutor, professor, fellow, man/woman of letters, thinker, bluestocking; *informal* egghead, bookworm; *formal* pedagogue.

academy ► **noun** EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, school, college, university, institute, seminary, conservatory, conservatoire.

accede ► **verb** (*formal*) ① he acceded to the government's demands: AGREE TO, consent to, accept, assent to, acquiesce in, comply with, go along with, concur with, surrender to, yield to, give in to, give way to, defer to. ② Elizabeth I acceded to the throne in 1558: SUCCEED TO, come to, assume, inherit, take. ③ Albania acceded to the IMF in 1990: JOIN, become a member of, sign up to.

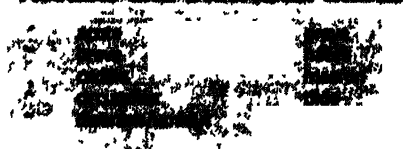
accelerate ► **verb** ① the car accelerated down the hill: SPEED UP, go faster, gain momentum, increase speed, pick up speed, gather speed, put on a spurt. ② inflation started to accelerate: INCREASE, rise, go up, leap up, surge, escalate, spiral. ③ the university accelerated the planning process: HASTEN, expedite, precipitate, speed up, quicken, make faster, step up, advance, further, forward, promote, give a boost to, stimulate, spur on; *informal* crank up.
-OPPOSITES decelerate, delay.

acceleration ► **noun** ① the car's acceleration is sensational: INCREASE IN SPEED, increasing speed, gain in momentum. ② the acceleration of the industrial process: HASTENING, precipitation, speeding up, quickening, stepping up, advancement, furtherance, boost, stimulation, spur. ③ an acceleration in the divorce rate: INCREASE, rise, leap, surge, escalation.

accent ► **noun** ① a Scottish accent: PRONUNCIATION, intonation, enunciation, articulation, inflection, tone, modulation, cadence, timbre, manner of speaking, delivery; brogue, burr, drawl, twang. ② the accent is on the first syllable: STRESS, emphasis, accentuation, force, prominence; beat; *technical* ictus. ③ the accent is on comfort: EMPHASIS, stress, priority; importance, prominence. ④ an acute accent: MARK, diacritic, diacritical mark. See list.

► **verb** fabrics which accent the background colours in the room: FOCUS ATTENTION ON, draw attention to, point up, underline, underscore, accentuate, highlight, spotlight, foreground, feature, play up, bring to the fore, heighten, stress, emphasize.

Accents and Diacritical Marks



accentuate ► **verb** FOCUS ATTENTION ON, draw attention to, point up, underline, underscore

accent, highlight, spotlight, foreground, feature, play up, bring to the fore, heighten, stress, emphasize.

accept ▶ **verb** ① *he accepted a pen as a present:* RECEIVE, take, get, gain, obtain, acquire. ② *he accepted the job immediately:* TAKE ON, undertake, assume, take responsibility for. ③ *she accepted an invitation to lunch:* SAY YES TO, reply in the affirmative, agree to. ④ *she was accepted as one of the family:* WELCOME, receive, embrace, adopt. ⑤ *he accepted Ellen's explanation:* BELIEVE, regard as true, give credence to, credit, trust; *informal* buy, swallow. ⑥ *we have agreed to accept his decision:* GO ALONG WITH, agree to, consent to, acquiesce in, concur with, assent to, comply with, abide by, follow, adhere to, act in accordance with, defer to, yield to, surrender to, bow to, give in to, submit to, respect; *formal* accede to. ⑦ *she will just have to accept the consequences:* TOLERATE, endure, put up with, bear, take, submit to, stomach, swallow; reconcile oneself to, resign oneself to, get used to, adjust to, learn to live with, make the best of; face up to.
—**OPPOSITES** refuse, reject.

acceptable ▶ **adjective** ① *an acceptable standard of living:* SATISFACTORY, adequate, reasonable, quite good, fair, decent, good enough, sufficient, sufficiently good, fine, not bad, all right, average, tolerable, passable, middling, moderate; *informal* OK, so-so, fair-to-middling. ② *a most acceptable present:* WELCOME, appreciated; pleasing, agreeable, delightful, desirable, satisfying, gratifying, to one's liking. ③ *the risk had seemed acceptable at the time:* BEARABLE, tolerable, allowable, admissible, sustainable, justifiable, defensible.

acceptance ▶ **noun** ① *the acceptance of an award:* RECEIPT, receiving, taking, obtaining. ② *the acceptance of responsibility:* UNDERTAKING, assumption. ③ *acceptances to an invitation:* YES, affirmative reply, confirmation. ④ *her acceptance as one of the family:* WELCOME, favourable reception, adoption. ⑤ *his acceptance of Matilda's explanation:* BELIEF, credence, trust, faith. ⑥ *their acceptance of the decision:* COMPLIANCE, acquiescence, agreement, consent, concurrence, assent, adherence, deference, surrender, submission, respect. ⑦ *the acceptance of pain:* TOLERATION, endurance, forbearance.

accepted ▶ **adjective** RECOGNIZED, acknowledged, established, traditional, orthodox; usual, customary, common, normal, general, prevailing, accustomed, familiar, popular, expected, routine, standard, stock; *poetic/literary* wonted.

access ▶ **noun** ① *the building has a side access:* ENTRANCE, entry, way in, means of entry; approach, means of approach. ② *they were denied access to the stadium:* ADMISSION, admittance, entry, entrée, ingress, right of entry. ③ *students have access to a photocopier:* (THE) USE OF, permission to use. ④ *an access of rage:* FIT, attack, outburst, outpouring, eruption, explosion, burst, outbreak, flare-up, blow-up, blaze, paroxysm, bout, rush; outflow, outflowing, welling up.

▶ **verb** *the program used to access the data:* RETRIEVE, gain access to, obtain; read.

accessible ▶ **adjective** ① *the village is only accessible on foot* | *an easily accessible reference tool:* REACHABLE, attainable, approachable; obtainable, available; *informal* get-at-able. ② *his accessible*

style of writing: UNDERSTANDABLE, comprehensible, easy to understand, intelligible. ③ *Professor Cooper is very accessible:* APPROACHABLE, friendly, agreeable, obliging, congenial, affable, cordial, welcoming, easy-going, pleasant.

accession ▶ **noun** ① *the Queen's accession to the throne:* SUCCESSION, assumption, inheritance. ② *accession to the Treaty of Rome was effected in 1971:* ASSENT, consent, agreement; acceptance, acquiescence, compliance, concurrence. ③ *recent accessions to the museum:* ADDITION, acquisition, new item, gift, purchase.

accessorize ▶ **verb** COMPLEMENT, enhance, set off, show off; go with, accompany; decorate, adorn, ornament, trim.

accessory ▶ **noun** ① *camera accessories such as tripods and flashguns:* ATTACHMENT, extra, addition, add-on, adjunct, appendage, appurtenance, fitment, supplement. ② *fashion accessories:* ADORNMENT, embellishment, ornament, ornamentation, decoration; frills, trimmings. ③ *she was charged as an accessory to murder:* ACCOMPLICE, partner in crime, associate, collaborator, fellow conspirator, henchman.

▶ **adjective** *an accessory gearbox:* ADDITIONAL, extra, supplementary, supplemental, auxiliary, ancillary, secondary, subsidiary, reserve, add-on.

accident ▶ **noun** ① *an accident at work:* MISHAP, misadventure, unfortunate incident, mischance, misfortune, disaster, tragedy, catastrophe, calamity; technical casualty. ② *an accident on the motorway:* CRASH, collision, smash, bump, car crash, road traffic accident, RTA; derailment; *N. Amer.* wreck; *informal* smash-up, pile-up; *Brit. informal* prang, shunt. ③ *it is no accident that there is a similarity between them:* CHANCE, mere chance, coincidence, twist of fate, freak, hazard; fluke, bit of luck, serendipity; fate, fortuity, fortune, providence, happenstance.

accidental ▶ **adjective** ① *an accidental meeting:* FORTUITOUS, chance, adventitious, fluky, coincidental, casual, serendipitous, random; unexpected, unforeseen, unanticipated, unlooked-for, unintentional, unintended, inadvertent, unplanned, unpremeditated, unthinking, unwitting. ② *the location is accidental and contributes nothing to the poem:* INCIDENTAL, unimportant, by the way, by the by, supplementary, subsidiary, subordinate, secondary, accessory, peripheral, tangential, extraneous, extrinsic, irrelevant; non-essential, inessential.

—**OPPOSITES** intentional, deliberate.

accidentally ▶ **adverb** BY ACCIDENT, by chance, by a mere chance, by a twist of fate, as luck would have it, fortuitously, by a fluke, by happenstance, coincidentally, adventitiously; unexpectedly, unintentionally, inadvertently, unwittingly.

acclaim ▶ **verb** *the booklet has been widely acclaimed by teachers:* PRAISE, applaud, cheer, commend, approve, welcome, pay tribute to, speak highly of, eulogize, compliment, celebrate, sing the praises of, rave about, heap praise on, wax lyrical about, lionize, exalt, admire, hail, extol, honour, hymn; *informal* crack someone/something up; *N. Amer. informal* ballyhoo; *formal* laud.

—**OPPOSITES** criticize.

▶ **noun** *she has won acclaim for her commitment to democracy:* PRAISE, applause, cheers, ovation, tribute, accolade, acclamation, salutes, plau-

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dits, bouquets; approval, approbation, admiration, congratulations, commendation, welcome, homage; compliment, a pat on the back. —OPPOSITES criticism.

acclaimed ▶ **adjective** CELEBRATED, admired, highly rated, lionized, honoured, esteemed, exalted, well thought of, well received, acknowledged; eminent, great, renowned, distinguished, prestigious, illustrious, pre-eminent.

acclamation ▶ **noun** PRAISE, applause, cheers, ovation, tribute, accolade, acclaim, salutes, plaudits, bouquets; approval, admiration, approbation, congratulations, commendation, homage; compliment, a pat on the back. —OPPOSITES criticism.

acclimatization ▶ **noun** ADJUSTMENT, adaptation, accommodation, habituation, acculturation, familiarization, inurement; naturalization; *N. Amer.* acclimation.

acclimatize ▶ **verb** ADJUST, adapt, accustom, accommodate, habituate, acculturate; get used, become inured, reconcile oneself, resign oneself; familiarize oneself; find one's feet, get one's bearings, become seasoned, become naturalized; *N. Amer.* acclimate.

accolade ▶ **noun** ① *he received the accolade of knighthood*: HONOUR, privilege, award, gift, title; prize, laurels, bays, palm. ② *the hotel won a top accolade from the inspectors*: TRIBUTE, commendation, praise, testimonial, compliment, pat on the back; salutes, plaudits, congratulations, bouquets; *informal* rave.

accommodate ▶ **verb** ① *refugees were accommodated in army camps*: LODGE, house, put up, billet, quarter, board, take in, shelter, give someone a roof over their head; harbour. ② *the cottages accommodate up to six people*: HOLD, take, have room for. ③ *our staff will make every effort to accommodate you*: HELP, assist, aid, oblige; meet the needs/wants of, cater for, fit in with, satisfy. ④ *she tried to accommodate herself to her new situation*: ADJUST, adapt, accustom, habituate, acclimatize, acculturate, get accustomed, get used, come to terms with; *N. Amer.* acclimate. ⑤ *the bank would be glad to accommodate you with a loan*: PROVIDE, supply, furnish, grant.

accommodating ▶ **adjective** OBLIGING, cooperative, helpful, eager to help, adaptable, amenable, considerate, unselfish, generous, willing, kindly, hospitable, neighbourly, kind, friendly, pleasant, agreeable; *Brit. informal* decent.

accommodation ▶ **noun** ① *temporary accommodation*: HOUSING, lodging(s), living quarters, quarters, rooms; place to stay, billet; shelter, a roof over one's head; *informal* digs, pad; *formal* abode, residence, place of residence, dwelling, dwelling place, habitation. ② *lifeboat accommodation for 1,178 people*: SPACE, room, seating, places. ③ *an accommodation between the two parties was reached*: ARRANGEMENT, understanding, settlement, accord, deal, bargain, compromise. ④ *their accommodation to changing economic circumstances*: ADJUSTMENT, adaptation, habituation, acclimatization, acculturation; inurement; *N. Amer.* acclimation.

accompaniment ▶ **noun** ① *a musical accompaniment*: BACKING, support, background, soundtrack. ② *the wine makes a superb accompaniment to cheese*: COMPLEMENT, supplement, addition, adjunct, appendage, companion, accessory.

accompany ▶ **verb** ① *the driver accompanied her to the door*: GO WITH, travel with, keep someone company, tag along with, partner, escort, chaperone, attend, show, see, usher, conduct. ② *the illness is often accompanied by nausea*: OCCUR WITH, co-occur with, coexist with, go with, go together with, go hand in hand with, appear with, attend by. ③ *he accompanied the choir on the piano*: BACK, play with, play for, support.

accomplice ▶ **noun** PARTNER IN CRIME, associate, accessory, confederate, collaborator, fellow conspirator; henchman; *informal* sidekick.

accomplish ▶ **verb** FULFIL, achieve, succeed in, realize, attain, manage, bring about/off, carry out/through, execute, effect, perform, do, discharge, complete, finish, consummate, conclude; *formal* effectuate.

accomplished ▶ **adjective** EXPERT, skilled, skilful, masterly, virtuoso, master, consummate, complete, proficient, talented, gifted, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, good, competent, capable, efficient, experienced, seasoned, trained, practised, professional, polished, ready, apt; *informal* great, mean, nifty, crack, ace, wizard; *Brit. informal* a dab hand at; *N. Amer. informal* crackerjack.

accomplishment ▶ **noun** ① *the reduction of inflation was a remarkable accomplishment*: ACHIEVEMENT, act, deed, exploit, performance, attainment, effort, feat, move, coup. ② *typing was another of her accomplishments*: TALENT, skill, gift, ability, attainment, achievement, forte, knack. ③ *a poet of considerable accomplishment*: EXPERTISE, skill, skilfulness, talent, adeptness, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, ability, prowess, mastery, competence, capability, proficiency, aptitude, artistry, art; *informal* know-how.

accord ▶ **verb** ① *the national assembly accorded him more power*: GIVE, grant, present, award, vouchsafe; confer on, bestow on, vest in, invest with. ② *his views accorded with mine*: CORRESPOND, agree, tally, match, concur, be consistent, harmonize, be in harmony, be compatible, be in tune, correlate; conform to; *informal* square.

—OPPOSITES withhold, disagree, differ.

▶ **noun** ① *a peace accord*: PACT, treaty, agreement, settlement, deal, entente, concordat, protocol, contract, convention. ② *the two sides failed to reach accord*: AGREEMENT, consensus, unanimity, harmony, unison, unity; *formal* concord.

■ *of one's own accord* VOLUNTARILY, of one's own free will, of one's own volition, by choice; willingly, freely, readily.

■ *with one accord* UNANIMOUSLY, in complete agreement, with one mind, without exception, as one, of one voice, to a man.

accordance ▶ **noun** a ballot held in accordance with trade union rules: IN AGREEMENT WITH, in conformity with, in line with, true to, in the spirit of, observing, following, heeding.

according ▶ **adjective** ① *she had a narrow escape, according to the doctors*: AS STATED BY, as claimed by, on the authority of, in the opinion of. ② *cook the rice according to the instructions*: AS SPECIFIED BY, as per, in accordance with, in compliance with, in agreement with. ③ *salary will be fixed according to experience*: IN PROPORTION TO, proportional to, commensurate with, in relation to, relative to, in line with, corresponding to.

accordingly ► **adverb** ① *they appreciated the danger and acted accordingly*: APPROPRIATELY, correspondingly, suitably. ② *accordingly, he returned home to Yorkshire*: THEREFORE, for that reason, consequently, so, as a result, as a consequence, in consequence, hence, thus, that being the case, ergo.

accost ► **verb** SPEAK TO, call to, shout to, hail, address; approach, confront, detain, stop; *informal* buttonhole, collar; *Brit. informal* nabble.

account ► **noun** ① *his account of the incident*: DESCRIPTION, report, version, story, narration, narrative, statement, explanation, exposition, delineation, portrayal, tale; chronicle, history, record, log; view, impression. ② *a sensitive account of the Debussy Sonata*: PERFORMANCE, interpretation, rendering, rendition, execution. ③ *the firm's quarterly accounts*: FINANCIAL RECORD, ledger, balance sheet, financial statement; (**accounts**) books. ④ *I pay the account off in full each month*: BILL, invoice, tally; debt, charges; *N. Amer.* check; *informal* tab. ⑤ *his background is of no account*: IMPORTANCE, import, significance, consequence, substance, note; *formal* moment.

► **verb** *her visit could not be accounted a success*: CONSIDER, regard as, reckon, hold to be, think, look on as, view as, see as, judge, adjudge, count, deem, rate.

■ **account for** ① *they must account for the delay*: EXPLAIN, answer for, give reasons for, rationalize, justify. ② *excise duties account for over half the price of Scotch*: CONSTITUTE, make up, comprise, form, compose, represent.

■ **on account of** BECAUSE OF, owing to, due to, as a consequence of, thanks to, by/in virtue of, in view of.

■ **on no account** NEVER, under no circumstances, not for any reason.

accountability ► **noun** RESPONSIBILITY, liability, answerability.

accountable ► **adjective** ① *the government was held accountable for the food shortage*: RESPONSIBLE, liable, answerable; to blame. ② *the game's popularity is barely accountable*: EXPLICABLE, explainable; understandable, comprehensible.

accoutrements ► **plural noun** EQUIPMENT, paraphernalia, stuff, things, apparatus, tackle, kit, implements, material(s), rig, outfit, regalia, appurtenances, impedimenta, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, trappings, accessories.

accredit ► **verb** ① *he was accredited with being one of the world's fastest sprinters*: RECOGNIZE AS, credit with. ② *the discovery of distillation is usually accredited to the Arabs*: ASCRIBE, attribute. ③ *professional bodies accredit these research degrees*: RECOGNIZE, authorize, approve, certify, license.

accredited ► **adjective** OFFICIAL, appointed, recognized, authorized, approved, certified, licensed.

accretion ► **noun** ① *the accretion of sediments*: ACCUMULATION, formation, collecting, cumulation, accrual; growth, increase. ② *architectural accretions*: ADDITION, extension, appendage, addition, supplement.

accrue ► **verb** ① *financial benefits will accrue from restructuring*: RESULT, arise, follow, ensue; be caused by. ② *interest is added to the account as it accrues*: ACCUMULATE, collect, build up, mount up, grow, increase.

accumulate ► **verb** GATHER, collect, amass, stockpile, pile up, heap up, store (up), hoard, cumulate, lay in/up; increase, multiply, accrue; run up.

accumulation ► **noun** MASS, build-up, pile, heap, stack, collection, stock, store, stockpile, reserve, hoard; amassing, gathering, cumulation, accrual, accretion.

accuracy ► **noun** CORRECTNESS, precision, exactness; factuality, literalness, fidelity, faithfulness, truth, truthfulness, veracity, authenticity, realism, verisimilitude.

accurate ► **adjective** ① *accurate information | an accurate representation of the situation*: CORRECT, precise, exact, right, error-free, perfect; FACTUAL, fact-based, literal, faithful, true, truthful, true to life, authentic, realistic; *informal* on the mark, on the beam, on the nail; *Brit. informal* spot on, bang on; *N. Amer. informal* on the money, on the button; *formal* veracious. ② *an accurate shot*: WELL AIMED, on target, unerring, deadly, lethal, sure, true, on the mark.

accursed ► **adjective** ① (*dated*) *that accursed woman*: HATEFUL, detestable, loathsome, foul, abominable, damnable, odious, obnoxious, despicable, horrible, horrid, ghastly, awful, dreadful, terrible; annoying, irritating, infuriating, exasperating; *informal* damned, damn, blasted, pesky, pestilential, infernal; *Brit. informal* beastly. ② (*poetic/literary*) *he and his line are accursed*: CURSED, damned, doomed, condemned, ill-fated, ill-omened, jinxed.
-OPPOSITES pleasant, blessed.

accusation ► **noun** ALLEGATION, charge, claim, assertion, imputation; indictment, arraignment; suit, lawsuit; *Law, Brit.* plaint; *N. Amer.* impeachment.

accuse ► **verb** ① *four people were accused of assault*: CHARGE WITH, indict for, arraign for, summons, cite, prefer charges against; *N. Amer.* impeach for. ② *the companies were accused of causing job losses*: BLAME FOR, lay the blame on, hold responsible for, hold accountable for; condemn for, criticize for, denounce for; lay at the door of; *informal* point the finger at, stick on, pin on.
-OPPOSITES absolve, exonerate.

accustom ► **verb** ADAPT, adjust, acclimatize, habituate, accommodate, acculturate; reconcile oneself, become reconciled, get used to, come to terms with, learn to live with, become inured; *N. Amer.* acclimate.

accustomed ► **adjective** CUSTOMARY, usual, normal, habitual, regular, routine, ordinary, typical, traditional, established, common, general; *poetic/literary* wonted.

ace (*informal*) ► **noun** *a rowing ace*: EXPERT, master, genius, virtuoso, maestro, adept, past master, doyen, champion, star; *informal* demon, hotshot, wizard, whizz; *Brit. informal* dab hand; *N. Amer. informal* maven, crackerjack.

-OPPOSITES amateur.

► **adjective** *an ace tennis player*: EXCELLENT, first-rate, first-class, marvellous, wonderful, magnificent, outstanding, superlative, formidable, virtuoso, masterly, expert, champion, consummate, skilful, adept; *informal* great, terrific, tremendous, superb, fantastic, sensational, fabulous, fab, crack, hotshot, A1, mean, demon, awesome, magic, tip-top, top-notch; *Brit. informal* smashing, brilliant, brill.

a

—OPPOSITES mediocre.

acerbic ▶ **adjective** SHARP, sarcastic, sardonic, mordant, trenchant, cutting, razor-edged, biting, stinging, searing, scathing, caustic, astringent, abrasive; *N. Amer.* acerb; *Brit. informal* sarky; *N. Amer. informal* snarky.

ache ▶ **noun** ① a stomach ache: PAIN, cramp, twinge, pang; gnawing, stabbing, stinging, smarting; soreness, tenderness, irritation, discomfort. ② the ache in her heart: SORROW, sadness, misery, grief, anguish, suffering, pain, agony, torture, hurt.

▶ **verb** ① my legs were aching: HURT, be sore, be painful, be in pain, throb, pound, twinge; smart, burn, sting; *informal* give someone gyp; *Brit. informal* play up. ② her heart ached for poor Philippa: GRIEVE, sorrow, be in distress, be miserable, be in anguish, bleed. ③ Marie ached for his affection: LONG, yearn, hunger, thirst, hanker, pine, itch; crave, desire.

achieve ▶ **verb** ATTAIN, reach, arrive at; realize, bring off/about, pull off, accomplish, carry out/through, fulfil, execute, perform, engineer, conclude, complete, finish, consummate; earn, win, gain, acquire, obtain, come by, get, secure, clinch, net; *informal* wrap up, wangle, swing; *formal* effectuate.

achievement ▶ **noun** ① the achievement of a high rate of economic growth: ATTAINMENT, realization, accomplishment, fulfilment, implementation, execution, performance; conclusion, completion, close, consummation. ② they felt justifiably proud of their achievement: ACCOMPLISHMENT, attainment, feat, performance, undertaking, act, action, deed, effort, exploit; work, handiwork.

Achilles' heel ▶ **noun** WEAK SPOT, weak point, weakness, soft underbelly, shortcoming, failing, imperfection, flaw, defect, chink in one's armour.

—OPPOSITES strength.

aching ▶ **adjective** ① his aching back: PAINFUL, achy, sore, stiff, hurt, tender, uncomfortable; hurting, in pain, throbbing, pounding, smarting, burning, stinging. ② her aching heart: SORROWFUL, sad, miserable, grieving, upset, distressed, anguished, grief-stricken, heavy.

acid ▶ **adjective** ① a slightly acid flavour: ACIDIC, SOUR, tart, bitter, sharp, acrid, pungent, acerbic, vinegary, acetic, acetous. ② acid remarks: ACERBIC, sarcastic, sharp, sardonic, scathing, cutting, razor-edged, biting, stinging, caustic, trenchant, mordant, bitter, acrimonious, astringent, harsh, abrasive, wounding, hurtful, unkind, vitriolic, venomous, waspish, spiteful, malicious; *N. Amer.* acerb; *informal* bitchy, catty; *Brit. informal* sarky; *N. Amer. informal* snarky.

—OPPOSITES sweet, pleasant.

▶ **noun.** See list.

Types of Acid

vinegary acid
sour, tart, bitter, sharp, acrid, pungent, acerbic, vinegary, acetic, acetous

acrid acid
sharp, sardonic, scathing, cutting, razor-edged, biting, stinging, caustic, trenchant, mordant, bitter, acrimonious, astringent, harsh, abrasive, wounding, hurtful, unkind, vitriolic, venomous, waspish, spiteful, malicious

acknowledge ▶ **verb** ① the government acknowledged the need to begin talks: ADMIT, accept,

grant, allow, concede, confess, own, recognize.

② he did not acknowledge Colin, but hurried past: GREET, salute, address; nod to, wave to, raise one's hat to, say hello to. ③ Douglas was glad to acknowledge her help: EXPRESS GRATITUDE FOR, show appreciation for, thank someone for.

④ few people acknowledged my letters: ANSWER, reply to, respond to.

—OPPOSITES reject, deny, ignore.

acknowledged ▶ **adjective** RECOGNIZED, accepted, approved, accredited, confirmed, declared, confessed, avowed.

acknowledgement ▶ **noun** ① acknowledgement of the need to take new initiatives: ACCEPTANCE, admission, concession, confession, recognition. ② a smile of acknowledgement: GREETING, welcome, salutation. ③ she left without a word of acknowledgement: THANKS, gratitude, appreciation, recognition. ④ I sent off the form, but there was no acknowledgement: ANSWER, reply, response.

acme ▶ **noun** PEAK, pinnacle, zenith, height, high point, crown, crest, summit, top, apex, apogee; climax, culmination.

—OPPOSITES nadir.

acolyte ▶ **noun** ASSISTANT, helper, attendant, minion, underling, lackey, henchman; follower, disciple, supporter, votary; *informal* sidekick, groupie, hanger-on.

acquaint ▶ **verb** he will need to acquaint himself with the regulations: FAMILIARIZE, make familiar, make aware of, inform of, advise of, apprise of, let know, get up to date; brief, prime; *informal* fill in on, gen up on, clue in on.

acquaintance ▶ **noun** ① a business acquaintance: CONTACT, associate, colleague. ② my acquaintance with George: ASSOCIATION, relationship, contact. ③ the pupils had little acquaintance with the language: FAMILIARITY WITH, knowledge of, experience of, awareness of, understanding of, comprehension of, grasp of.

acquainted ▶ **adjective** ① she was well acquainted with Gothic literature: FAMILIAR, conversant, at home, up to date, abreast, au fait, au courant, well versed, knowledgeable, well informed; informed, apprised; *informal* genned up, clued in; *formal* cognizant. ② I am not personally acquainted with him: FRIENDLY, on friendly terms.

acquiesce ▶ **verb** he acquiesced in the cover-up: ACCEPT, consent to, agree to, allow, concede, assent to, concur with, give the nod to; comply with, go along with, cooperate with, give in to, bow to, yield to, submit to.

acquiescence ▶ **noun** CONSENT, agreement, acceptance, concurrence, assent, leave; compliance, concession, cooperation; submission.

acquiescent ▶ **adjective** COMPLIANT, cooperative, willing, obliging, agreeable, amenable, tractable, persuadable, pliant, unprotesting; submissive, self-effacing, unassertive, yielding, biddable, docile.

acquire ▶ **verb** OBTAIN, come by, get, receive, gain, earn, win, come into, be given; buy, purchase, procure, possess oneself of, secure, pick up; *informal* get one's hands on, get hold of, land, bag, score.

—OPPOSITES lose.

acquirement ▶ **noun** ① her many acquirements: ATTAINMENT, achievement, accomplishment.

skill, talent. ② *the acquirement of money*: ACQUISITION, obtaining, gaining, earning, winning, procurement.

acquisition ▶ noun ① *a new acquisition*: PURCHASE, gain, accession, addition, investment, possession; *informal* buy. ② *the acquisition of funds*: OBTAINING, acquirement, gaining, earning, winning, procurement, collection.

acquisitive ▶ adjective GREEDY, covetous, avaricious, possessive, grasping, grabbing, predatory, avid, rapacious, mercenary, materialistic; *informal* money-grubbing.

acquisitiveness ▶ noun GREED, greediness, covetousness, cupidity, possessiveness, avarice, avidity, rapaciousness, rapacity, materialism.

acquit ▶ verb ① *the jury acquitted her*: CLEAR, exonerate, find innocent, absolve; discharge, release, free, set free; *informal* let off (the hook); *formal* exculpate. ② *the boys acquitted themselves well*: BEHAVE, conduct oneself, perform, act; *formal* comport oneself. ③ (*archaic*) *they acquitted themselves of their duty*: CARRY OUT, perform, discharge, execute.

—OPPOSITES convict.

acquittal ▶ noun ① *the acquittal of the defendants*: CLEARING, exoneration; discharge, release, freeing; *informal* let-off; *formal* exculpation. ② (*archaic*) *the acquittal of these duties*: DISCHARGE, carrying out, execution, performance.

—OPPOSITES conviction.

acrid ▶ adjective PUNGENT, bitter, sharp, sour, tart, harsh, acid, acidic, vinegary, acetic, acetous; stinging, burning.

acrimonious ▶ adjective BITTER, angry, rancorous, caustic, acerbic, scathing, sarcastic, acid, harsh, sharp, cutting; virulent, spiteful, vicious, vitriolic, hostile, venomous, nasty, bad-tempered, ill-natured, mean, malign, malicious, malignant, waspish; *informal* bitchy, catty.

acrimony ▶ noun BITTERNESS, anger, rancour, resentment, ill feeling, ill will, bad blood, animosity, hostility, enmity, antagonism, waspishness, spleen, malice, spitefulness, venom.

—OPPOSITES goodwill.

acrobat ▶ noun TUMBLER, gymnast, tightrope walker, wire walker, trapeze artist; *rare* funambulist.

acrobatics ▶ plural noun ① *staggering feats of acrobatics*: GYMNASTICS, tumbling; agility; *rare* funambulism. ② *the acrobatics required to negotiate an international contract*: MENTAL AGILITY, skill, quick thinking, alertness, inventiveness.

act ▶ verb ① *the Government must act to remedy the situation*: TAKE ACTION, take steps, take measures, move, react. ② *he was acting on the orders of the party leader*: FOLLOW, act in accordance with, obey, heed, comply with; fulfil, meet, discharge. ③ *an estate agent acting for a prospective buyer*: REPRESENT, act on behalf of; stand in for, fill in for, deputize for, take the place of. ④ *Alison began to act oddly*: BEHAVE, conduct oneself, react; *formal* comport oneself. ⑤ *the scents act as a powerful aphrodisiac*: OPERATE, work, function, serve. ⑥ *the drug acted directly on the blood vessels*: AFFECT, have an effect on, work on; have an impact on, impact on, influence. ⑦ *he acted in a highly successful film*: PERFORM, play a part, take part, appear; *informal* tread the boards. ⑧ *we laughed, but most of us were just acting*: PRETEND, play-act, put it on, fake it, feign it, dissemble,

dissimulate.

▶ noun ① *acts of kindness* | *a criminal act*: DEED, action, feat, exploit, move, gesture, performance, undertaking, stunt, operation; achievement, accomplishment. ② *the act raised the tax on tobacco*: LAW, decree, statute, bill, act of Parliament, enactment, resolution, edict, dictum, ruling, measure; *N. Amer. formal* ordinance. ③ *the first act of the play*: DIVISION, section, subsection, part, segment. ④ *a music hall act*: PERFORMANCE, turn, routine, number, sketch, skit. ⑤ *it was all just an act*: PRETENCE, show, front, facade, masquerade, charade, posture, pose, affectation, sham, fake; *informal* a put-on.

■ **act up** (*informal*) ① *all children act up from time to time*: MISBEHAVE, behave badly, get up to mischief; *Brit. informal* play up. ② *the engine was acting up*: MALFUNCTION, go wrong, be defective, be faulty; *informal* be on the blink; *Brit. informal* play up.

acting ▶ noun *the theory and practice of acting*: DRAMA, the theatre, the stage, the performing arts, thespianism, dramatics, dramaturgy, stagecraft, theatricals; *informal* treading the boards.

▶ adjective *the bank's acting governor*: TEMPORARY, interim, caretaker, pro tem, provisional, stop-gap; deputy, stand-in, fill-in; *N. Amer. informal* pinch-hitting.

—OPPOSITES permanent.

action ▶ noun ① *there can be no excuse for their actions*: DEED, act, move, undertaking, exploit, manoeuvre, endeavour, effort, exertion; behaviour, conduct, activity. ② *the need for local community action*: MEASURES, steps, activity, movement, work, operation. ③ *a man of action*: ENERGY, vitality, vigour, forcefulness, drive, initiative, spirit, liveliness, vim, pep; activity; *informal* get-up-and-go. ④ *the action of hormones on the pancreas*: EFFECT, influence, working; power. ⑤ *he missed all the action while he was away*: EXCITEMENT, activity, happenings, events, incidents; *informal* goings-on. ⑥ *twenty-nine men died in the action*: FIGHTING, hostilities, battle, conflict, combat, warfare; engagement, clash, encounter, skirmish. ⑦ *a civil action for damages*: LAWSUIT, legal action, suit (at law), case, prosecution, litigation, proceedings.

activate ▶ verb OPERATE, switch on, turn on, start (up), set going, trigger (off), set in motion, actuate, energize; trip.

active ▶ adjective ① *despite her illness she remained active*: ENERGETIC, lively, sprightly, spry, mobile, vigorous, vital, dynamic, sporty; busy, occupied; *informal* on the go, full of beans. ② *an active member of the union*: HARD-WORKING, busy, industrious, diligent, tireless, contributing, effective, enterprising, involved, enthusiastic, keen, committed, devoted, zealous. ③ *the water-mill was active until 1960*: OPERATIVE, working, functioning, functional, operating, operational, in action, in operation; live; *informal* up and running.

—OPPOSITES listless, passive.

activity ▶ noun ① *there was a lot of activity in the area*: BUSTLE, hustle and bustle, busyness, action, liveliness, movement, life, stir, flurry; happenings, occurrences, proceedings, events, incidents; *informal* toing and froing, comings and goings. ② *a wide range of activities*: PURSUIT, occupation, interest, hobby, pastime, recreation,

Actors and Actresses (cont.)

Lamarr, Hedy (American, b. in Austria)
 Lancaster, Burt (American)
 Lange, Jessica (American)
 Langtry, Lillie (English)
 Lapointe, Jane (English)
 Laughlin, Charles (American, b. in Britain)
 Laurel, Stan (English)
 Lawrence, Gertrude (English)
 Lee, Bruce (American)
 Lee, Christopher (English)
 Lehman, Beatrix (English)
 Leigh, Vivien (British, b. in India)
 Lennon, Jack (American)
 Lillie, Beatrix (English)
 Lloyd, Marie (English)
 Lopez, Jennifer (American)
 Loren, Sophia (Italian)
 Lorré, Peter (American, b. in Hungary)
 Lugosi, Bela (American, b. in Hungary)
 Lunt, Alfred (American)
 MacDowell, Andie (American)
 McEwan, Geraldine (English)
 McCowan, Alec (English)
 MacGregor, Evan (Scottish)
 MacLaine, Shirley (American)
 McKellen, Ian (English)
 McKenna, Siobhán (Irish)
 McKern, Leo (Australian)
 Mac Liamáir, Michael (Irish)
 McQueen, Steve (American)
 Mansfield, Jayne (American)
 Mercœur, Sophie (French)
 Martin, Steve (American)
 Mason, James (English)
 Massey, Raymond (Canadian)
 Mastrolanni, Marcello (Italian)
 Matheu, Walter (American)
 Maurs, Carmen (Spanish)
 Mercouri, Melina (Greek)
 Midler, Bette (American)
 Mifune, Toshio (Japanese)
 Mills, John (English)
 Minnelli, Liza (American)
 Mirren, Helen (English)
 Mithum, Robert (American)
 Monroe, Marilyn (American)
 Montand, Yves (Italian)
 Moore, Demi (American)
 Moore, Dudley (English)
 Moore, Roger (English)
 Moreau, Jeanne (French)
 Murphy, Eddie (American)

Murray, Bill (American)
 Neeson, Liam (Irish)
 Nell, Sam (New Zealand)
 Newman, Paul (American)
 Nicholson, Jack (American)
 Nielsen, Bette (Canadian)
 Nixon, David (English)
 Nolte, Philippe (French)
 Oldman, Gary (English)
 Olivier, Laurence (English)
 O'Neil, Ryan (American)
 O'Toole, Peter (British, b. in Ireland)
 Pacino, Al (American)
 Paltrow, Gwyneth (American)
 Peck, Gregory (American)
 Pfeiffer, Michelle (American)
 Pickford, Mary (American, b. in Canada)
 Pitt, Brad (American)
 Plowright, Joan (English)
 Poitier, Sidney (American)
 Porter, Eric (English)
 Price, Vincent (American)
 Quaid, Dennis (American)
 Quinn, Anthony (American, b. in Mexico)
 Rachel, Elsa Félix (French)
 Rampling, Charlotte (English)
 Redford, Robert (American)
 Radgrave, Michael (English)
 Radgrave, Vanessa (English)
 Reed, Oliver (English)
 Reese, Christopher (American)
 Reeves, Keanu (American, b. in Lebanon)
 Richardson, Ralph (English)
 Richards, Jason (American)
 Robbins, Tim (American)
 Roberts, Julie (American)
 Robeson, Paul (American)
 Robinson, Edward G. (American, b. in Romania)
 Rogers, Ginger (American)
 Rooney, William (American)
 Roschus, Quintus (Roman)
 Roth, Tim (American)
 Rourke, Mickey (American)
 Russell, Jane (American)
 Ruthven, Margaret (English)
 Ryan, Meg (American)
 Ryder, Willem (American)
 Sanderson, Susan (American)
 Schwarzenegger, Arnold (American, b. in Austria) •
 Schygulla, Hanna (Polish)

Scotfield, Paul (English)
 Seitz, George C. (American)
 Sellers, Peter (English)
 Sherry, Michael (American)
 Siddons, Mike (English)
 Sira, Alister (Scottish)
 Sirlin, Donald (English)
 Slater, Christian (American)
 Smith, Maggie (English)
 Smith, Will (American)
 Spall, Timothy (English)
 Stallone, Sylvester (American)
 Statton, Terence (English)
 Stanek, Konstantin (Russian)
 Stanley, Barbara (American)
 Steadman, Allan (English)
 Steiger, Rod (American)
 Stewart, James (American)
 Stone, Sharon (American)
 Strong, Meryl (American)
 Strouss, Rodan (American)
 Sutherland, Donald (American)
 Swann, Janet (South African)
 Swanson, Gloria (American)
 Tati, Jacques (French)
 Taylor, Elizabeth (American, b. in Britain)
 Temple, Shirley (American)
 Terry, Ellen (English)
 Thompson, Emma (English)
 Thorndike, Sybil (English)
 Tracy, Spencer (American)
 Travolta, John (American)
 Turner, Kathleen (American)
 Turturro, John (American)
 Tutin, Dorothy (English)
 Ustinov, Peter (British, of Russian descent)
 Valentine, Rudolf (American, b. in Italy)
 Von Selan, Mia (Swedish)
 Walker, Christopher (American)
 Washington, Denzel (American)
 Wayne, John (American)
 Weaver, Sigourney (American)
 Weigel, Helma (German)
 Weinstadt, Johnny (American)
 Waller, Oren (American)
 West, Mia (American)
 Williams, Robin (American)
 Willis, Bruce (American, b. in Germany)
 Winslet, Kate (English)
 Woffington, Peg (Irish)
 Wolff, Donald (English)
 Wood, Natalie (American)

diversion; venture, undertaking, enterprise, project, scheme, business, entertainment, act, action, deed, exploit.

actor, actress ► noun PERFORMER, player, troupier, thespian; film star, matinee idol, star, starlet; informal ham; Brit informal luvvy; N Amer informal hambone. See list.

—RELATED TERMS histrionic.

actual ► adjective REAL, true, genuine, authentic, verified, attested, confirmed, definite, hard, plain, veritable; existing, existent, manifest,

substantial, factual, de facto, bona fide; informal real live.

—OPPOSITES notional.

actuality ► noun the journalistic debate about actuality and fiction: REALITY, fact, truth, real life.

■ In **actuality** REALLY, in (actual) fact, in point of fact, actually, as a matter of fact, in reality, in truth, if truth be told, to tell the truth; archaic in sooth.

actually ► adverb I looked upset but actually I was terribly excited: REALLY, in (actual) fact, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in reality, in actual-

a

ity, in truth, if truth be told, to tell the truth; *archaic* in sooth.

actuate ▶ verb ① the sprinkler system was actuated by the fire: ACTIVATE, operate, switch on, turn on, start (up), set going, trigger (off), trip, set in motion, energize. ② the defendant was actuated by malice: MOTIVATE, prompt, stimulate, move, drive, influence, incite, spur on, impel.

acumen ▶ noun ASTUTENESS, shrewdness, acuity, sharpness, sharp-wittedness, cleverness, smartness, brains; judgement, understanding, awareness, sense, common sense, canny, discernment, wisdom, wit, sagacity, perspicacity, insight, perception, penetration; *informal* nous, savvy, know-how, horse sense; *N. Amer. informal* smarts; *formal* perspicuity.

acute ▶ adjective ① the acute food shortages: SEVERE, critical, drastic, dire, dreadful, terrible, awful, grave, bad, serious, desperate, parlous, dangerous. ② acute stomach pains: SHARP, severe, stabbing, excruciating, agonizing, racking, searing. ③ his acute mind: ASTUTE, shrewd, sharp, sharp-witted, razor-sharp, rapier-like, quick, quick-witted, agile, nimble, clever, intelligent, brilliant, smart, canny, discerning, perceptive, perspicacious, penetrating, insightful, incisive, piercing, discriminating, sagacious, wise, judicious; *informal* on the ball, quick off the mark, quick on the uptake, streetwise, savvy; *N. Amer. informal* heads-up. ④ an acute sense of smell: KEEN, sharp, good, penetrating, discerning, sensitive. -OPPOSITES mild, dull.

acutely ▶ adverb EXTREMELY, exceedingly, very, markedly, severely, intensely, deeply, profoundly, keenly, painfully, desperately, tremendously, enormously, thoroughly, heartily; *informal* awfully, terribly. -OPPOSITES slightly.

adage ▶ noun SAYING, maxim, axiom, proverb, aphorism, apophthegm, saw, dictum, precept, motto, truism, platitude, cliché, commonplace.

adamant ▶ adjective UNSHAKEABLE, immovable, inflexible, unwavering, unswerving, uncompromising, resolute, resolved, determined, firm, steadfast; stubborn, unrelenting, unyielding, unbending, rigid, obdurate, inexorable, intransigent, dead set.

adapt ▶ verb ① we've adapted the hotels to suit their needs: MODIFY, alter, change, adjust, convert, redesign, restyle, refashion, remodel, reshape, revamp, rework, rejig, redo, reconstruct, reorganize; customize, tailor; improve, amend, refine; *informal* tweak. ② he has adapted well to his new home: ADJUST, acclimatize oneself, accommodate oneself, habituate oneself, become habituated, get used, orient oneself, reconcile oneself, come to terms, get one's bearings, find one's feet, acculturate, assimilate, blend in, fit in; *N. Amer.* acclimate.

adaptable ▶ adjective ① competent and adaptable staff: FLEXIBLE, versatile, cooperative, accommodating, amenable. ② an adaptable piece of furniture: VERSATILE, modifiable, convertible, alterable, adjustable, changeable; multi-purpose, all-purpose.

adaptation ▶ noun ① the adaptation of old buildings: CONVERSION, alteration, modification, redesign, remodelling, revamping, reconstruction. ② the adaptation of an ethnic community to British society: ADJUSTMENT, acclimatization, ac-

commodation, habituation, acculturation, assimilation, integration; *N. Amer.* acclimation.

add ▶ verb ① the front porch was added in 1751: ATTACH, build on, join, append, affix, connect, annex; include, incorporate. ② they added all the figures up: TOTAL, count (up), compute, reckon up, tally; *Brit.* tot up. ③ the subsidies added up to £1700: AMOUNT TO, come to, run to, make, total, equal, number. ④ the recent riots add up to a deepening crisis: AMOUNT TO, constitute; signify, signal, mean, indicate, denote, point to, be evidence of, be symptomatic of; *informal* spell. ⑤ her decision just added to his woe: INCREASE, magnify, amplify, augment, intensify, heighten, deepen; exacerbate, aggravate, compound, reinforce; add fuel to the fire, fan the flames, rub salt on the wound. ⑥ she added that she had every confidence in Laura: GO ON TO SAY, state further, continue, carry on. -OPPOSITES subtract.

■ add up (*informal*) the situation just didn't add up: MAKE SENSE, stand to reason, hold up, hold water, ring true, be convincing.

addendum ▶ noun APPENDIX, codicil, postscript, afterword, tailpiece, rider, coda, supplement; adjunct, appendage, addition, add-on, attachment.

addict ▶ noun ① a heroin addict: ABUSER, user; *informal* junkie, druggie, -freak, -head, pill-popper; *N. Amer. informal* hophead. ② (*informal*) skiing addicts: ENTHUSIAST, fan, lover, devotee, aficionado; *informal* freak, nut, fiend, fanatic, maniac.

addicted ▶ adjective ① he was addicted to tranquilizers: DEPENDENT ON; *informal* hooked on. ② she became addicted to the theatre: DEVOTED TO, obsessed with, fixated on, fanatical about, passionate about, a slave to; *informal* hooked on, mad on, crazy about.

addiction ▶ noun ① his heroin addiction: DEPENDENCY, dependence, habit; *informal* monkey. ② a slavish addiction to fashion: DEVOTION TO, dedication to, obsession with, infatuation with, passion for, love of, mania for, enslavement to.

addictive ▶ adjective HABIT-FORMING; compulsive; *Brit. informal* moreish.

addition ▶ noun ① the soil is improved by the addition of compost: ADDING, incorporation, inclusion, introduction. ② an addition to the existing regulations: SUPPLEMENT, adjunct, addendum, appendage, add-on, extra; rider.

■ In addition ① conditions were harsh and in addition some soldiers fell victim to snipers: ADDITIONALLY, as well, what's more, furthermore, moreover, also, into the bargain, to boot. ② eight presidential candidates in addition to the General: BESIDES, as well as, on top of, plus, over and above.

additional ▶ adjective EXTRA, added, supplementary, supplemental, further, auxiliary, ancillary; more, other, another, new, fresh.

additionally ▶ adverb ALSO, in addition, as well, too, besides, on top (of that), moreover, further, furthermore, what's more, over and above that, into the bargain, to boot; *archaic* withal.

additive ▶ noun ADDED INGREDIENT, addition; preservative, colouring; *Brit. informal* E-number.

addled ▶ **adjective** MUDDLED, confused, muzzy, fuddled, befuddled, dazed, disoriented, disorientated, fuzzy; *informal* woozy.

address ▶ **noun** ① *the address on the envelope:* inscription, superscription; directions. ② *our officers called at the address:* HOUSE, flat, apartment, home; *formal* residence, dwelling, dwelling place, habitation, abode, domicile. ③ *his address to the European Parliament:* SPEECH, lecture, talk, monologue, dissertation, discourse, oration, peroration; sermon, homily, lesson.

▶ **verb** ① *I addressed the envelope by hand:* inscribe, superscribe. ② *the preacher addressed a crowded congregation:* TALK TO, give a talk to, speak to, make a speech to, give a lecture to, lecture, hold forth to; PREACH TO, give a sermon to. ③ *the question of how to address one's parents-in-law:* CALL, name, designate; speak to, write to; *formal* denominate. ④ *correspondence should be addressed to the Banking Ombudsman:* DIRECT, send, communicate, convey, remit. ⑤ *the minister failed to address the issue of subsidies:* ATTEND TO, apply oneself to, tackle, see to, deal with, confront, get to grips with, get down to, turn one's hand to, take in hand, undertake, concentrate on, focus on, devote oneself to.

adduce ▶ **verb** CITE, quote, name, mention, instance, point out, refer to; put forward, present, offer, advance, propose, proffer.

adept ▶ **adjective** an adept negotiator: EXPERT, proficient, accomplished, skilful, talented, masterly, consummate, virtuoso; adroit, dexterous, deft, artful; brilliant, splendid, marvellous, formidable, outstanding, first-rate, first-class, excellent, fine; *informal* great, top-notch, tip-top, A1, ace, mean, hotshot, crack, nifty, deadly; *Brit informal* a dab hand at; *N Amer informal* cracker-jack.

—OPPOSITES inept.

▶ **noun** *kung fu adepts:* EXPERT, past master, master, genius, maestro, doyen; *informal* wizard, demon, ace, hotshot, whizz; *N Amer informal* maven, crackerjack.

—OPPOSITES amateur.

adequacy ▶ **noun** ① *the adequacy of the existing services:* SATISFACTORINESS, acceptability, acceptableness; sufficiency. ② *he had deep misgivings about his own adequacy:* CAPABILITY, competence, ability, aptitude, suitability; effectiveness, fitness; *formal* efficacy.

adequate ▶ **adjective** ① *he lacked adequate financial resources:* SUFFICIENT, enough, requisite. ② *the company provides an adequate service:* ACCEPTABLE, passable, reasonable, satisfactory, tolerable, fair, decent, quite good, pretty good, goodish, moderate, unexceptional, unremarkable, undistinguished, ordinary, average, not bad, all right, middling; *informal* OK, so-so, fair-to-middling, nothing to write home about. ③ *the workstations were small but seemed adequate to the task:* EQUAL TO, up to, capable of, suitable for, able to do, fit for, sufficient for.

adhere ▶ **verb** ① *a dollop of cream adhered to her nose:* STICK (FAST), cohere, cling, bond, attach; be stuck, be fixed, be glued. ② *they adhere scrupulously to Jewish law:* ABIDE BY, stick to, hold to, comply with, act in accordance with, conform to, submit to; follow, obey, heed, observe, respect, uphold, fulfil.

—OPPOSITES flout, ignore.

adherent ▶ **noun** FOLLOWER, supporter, upholder, defender, advocate, disciple, votary, devotee, partisan, member, friend, stalwart, sectary; believer, worshipper.
—OPPOSITES opponent.

adhesion ▶ **noun** ① *the adhesion of the gum strip to the paper fibres:* STICKING, adherence. ② *the front tyres were struggling for adhesion:* TRACTION, grip, purchase.

adhesive ▶ **noun** a spray adhesive: GLUE, fixative, gum, paste, cement; *N Amer* mucilage; *N Amer informal* stickum.

▶ **adjective** adhesive mortar: STICKY, tacky, gluey, gummed; viscous, viscid; *technical* adherent; *informal* icky.

adieu ▶ **noun & exclamation** GOODBYE, farewell, until we meet again; *informal* bye-bye, ta-ta, bye, cheerio, cheers, ciao, so long; *informal, dated* toodle-oo, toodle-pip.

ad infinitum ▶ **adverb** FOREVER, for ever and ever, evermore, always, for all time, until the end of time, in perpetuity, until hell freezes over; perpetually, eternally, endlessly, interminably, unceasingly, unendingly; *Brit* for evermore; *informal* until the cows come home, until the twelfth of never, until doomsday, until kingdom come; *archaic* for aye.

adjacent ▶ **adjective** ADJOINING, neighbouring, next-door, abutting, contiguous, proximate; (adjacent to) close to, near, next to, by, by the side of, bordering on, beside alongside, attached to, touching, cheek by jowl with.

adjoin ▶ **verb** BE NEXT TO, be adjacent to, border (on), abut, be contiguous with, communicate with, extend to; join, conjoin, connect with, touch, meet.

adjoining ▶ **adjective** CONNECTING, connected, interconnecting, adjacent, neighbouring, bordering, next-door; contiguous, proximate; attached, touching.

adjourn ▶ **verb** ① *the hearing was adjourned:* SUSPEND, break off, discontinue, interrupt, prorogue, stay, recess. ② *sentencing was adjourned until June 9:* POSTPONE, put off/back, defer, delay, hold over, shelve. ③ *they adjourned to the sitting room for liqueurs:* WITHDRAW, retire, retreat, take oneself; *formal* repair, remove; *poetic/literary* betake oneself.

adjournment ▶ **noun** SUSPENSION, discontinuation, interruption, postponement, deferment, deferral, stay, prorogation; break, pause, recess.

adjudge ▶ **verb** JUDGE, deem, find, pronounce, proclaim, rule, hold, determine; consider, think, rate, reckon, perceive, regard as, view as, see as, believe to be.

adjudicate ▶ **verb** JUDGE, try, hear, examine, arbitrate; pronounce on, give a ruling on, pass judgement on, decide, determine, settle, resolve.

adjudication ▶ **noun** JUDGEMENT, decision, pronouncement, ruling, settlement, resolution, arbitration, finding, verdict, sentence; *Law* determination.

adjudicator ▶ **noun** JUDGE, arbitrator, arbiter; referee, umpire.

adjunct ▶ **noun** SUPPLEMENT, addition, extra, add-on, accessory, accompaniment, complement, appurtenance; attachment, appendage, addendum.



adjust ▶ **verb** ① *Kate had adjusted to her new life:* ADAPT, become accustomed, get used, accommodate, acclimatize, orient oneself, reconcile oneself, habituate oneself, assimilate; come to terms with, blend in with, fit in with, find one's feet in; *N. Amer.* acclimate. ② *he adjusted the brakes:* MODIFY, alter, regulate, tune, fine-tune, calibrate, balance; adapt, rearrange, change, rejig, rework, revamp, remodel, reshape, convert, tailor, improve, enhance, customize; repair, fix, correct, rectify, overhaul, put right; *informal* tweak.

adjustable ▶ **adjective** ALTERABLE, adaptable, modifiable, convertible, variable, multiway, versatile.

adjustment ▶ **noun** ① *a period of adjustment:* ADAPTATION, accommodation, acclimatization, habituation, acculturation, naturalization, assimilation; *N. Amer.* acclimation. ② *the car will run on unleaded petrol with no adjustment:* MODIFICATION, alteration, regulation, adaptation, rearrangement, change, reconstruction, customization, refinement; repair, correction, amendment, overhaul, improvement.

ad-lib ▶ **verb** *she ad-libbed half the speech:* IMPROVISE, extemporize, speak impromptu, play it by ear, make it up as one goes along; *informal* busk it, wing it.

▶ **adverb** *she spoke ad lib:* IMPROMPTU, extempore, without preparation, without rehearsal, extemporaneously; *informal* off the cuff, off the top of one's head.

▶ **adjective** *a live, ad-lib commentary:* IMPROMPTU, extempore, extemporaneous, extemporary, improvised, unprepared, unrehearsed, unscripted; *informal* off-the-cuff, spur-of-the-moment.

administer ▶ **verb** ① *the union is administered by a central executive:* MANAGE, direct, control, operate, regulate, conduct, handle, run, organize, supervise, superintend, oversee, preside over, govern, rule, lead, head, steer; be in control of, be in charge of, be responsible for, be at the helm of; *informal* head up. ② *the lifeboat crew administered first aid:* DISPENSE, issue, give, provide, apply, allot, distribute, hand out, dole out, disburse. ③ *a gym shoe was used to administer punishment:* INFLICT, mete out, deal out, deliver.

administration ▶ **noun** ① *the day-to-day administration of the company:* MANAGEMENT, direction, control, command, charge, conduct, operation, running, leadership, government, governing, superintendence, supervision, regulation, overseeing. ② *the previous Labour administration:* GOVERNMENT, cabinet, ministry, regime, executive, authority, directorate, council, leadership, management; parliament, congress, senate; rule, term of office, incumbency. ③ *the administration of anti-inflammatory drugs:* PROVISION, issuing, issuance, application, dispensing, dispensation, distribution, disbursement.

administrative ▶ **adjective** MANAGERIAL, management, directorial, executive, organizational, supervisory, regulatory.

administrator ▶ **noun** MANAGER, director, executive, controller, head, chief, leader, governor, superintendent, supervisor; *informal* boss.

admirable ▶ **adjective** COMMENDABLE, praise-worthy, laudable, estimable, meritorious, creditable, exemplary, honourable, worthy, deserv-

ing, respectable, worthwhile, good, sterling, fine, masterly, great.

—OPPOSITES deplorable.

admiration ▶ **noun** RESPECT, approval, approbation, appreciation, regard, (high) regard, esteem; commendation, acclaim, applause, praise, compliments, tributes, accolades, plaudits; *formal* laudation.

—OPPOSITES scorn.

admire ▶ **verb** ① *I admire your courage:* RESPECT, approve of, esteem, think highly of, rate highly, hold in high regard, applaud, praise, commend, acclaim. ② *Simon had admired her for a long time:* ADORE, love, worship, dote on, be enamoured of, be infatuated with; be taken with, be attracted to, find attractive; *informal* carry a torch for, have a thing about.

—OPPOSITES despise.

admirer ▶ **noun** ① *a great admirer of Henry James:* FAN, devotee, enthusiast, aficionado; supporter, adherent, follower, disciple. ② *a handsome admirer of hers:* SUITOR, wooer, sweetheart, lover, boyfriend, young man; *poetic/literary* swain; *dated* beau.

admissible ▶ **adjective** VALID, allowable, allowed, permissible, permitted, acceptable, satisfactory, justifiable, defensible, supportable, well founded, tenable, sound; legitimate, lawful, legal, licit; *informal* OK, legit, kosher, pukka.

admission ▶ **noun** ① *membership entitles you to free admission:* ADMITTANCE, entry, entrance, right of entry, access, right of access, ingress; *entrée*. ② *admission is fifty pence:* ENTRANCE FEE, entry charge, ticket. ③ *a written admission of liability:* CONFESSION, acknowledgement, acceptance, concession, disclosure, divulgence.

admit ▶ **verb** ① *he unlocked the door to admit her:* LET IN, allow entry, permit entry, take in, usher in, show in, receive, welcome. ② *he was admitted as a scholar to Winchester College:* ACCEPT, take on, receive, enrol, enlist, register, sign up. ③ *Paul admitted that he was angry:* CONFESS, acknowledge, own, concede, grant, accept, allow; reveal, disclose, divulge. ④ *he admitted three offences of reckless driving:* CONFESS (TO), plead guilty to, own up to, make a clean breast of.

—OPPOSITES exclude, deny.

admittance ▶ **noun** ENTRY, right of entry, admission, entrance, access, right of access, ingress; *entrée*.

—OPPOSITES exclusion.

admonish ▶ **verb** ① *he was severely admonished by his father:* REPRIMAND, rebuke, scold, reprove, reproach, upbraid, chastise, chide, berate, criticize, take to task, pull up, read the Riot Act to, haul over the coals; *informal* tell off, dress down, bawl out, rap over the knuckles, give someone hell; *Brit. informal* tick off, give someone a rocket, have a go at, carpet, tear someone off a strip; *N. Amer. informal* chew out; *formal* castigate; *rare* reprehend. ② *she admonished him to drink less:* ADVISE, recommend, counsel, urge, exhort, bid, enjoin; *formal* adjure.

admonition ▶ **noun** ① *a breach of the rules which led to an admonition:* REPRIMAND, rebuke, reproof, remonstrance, reproach, reproof, stricture, criticism, recrimination, scolding, censure; *informal* telling-off, dressing-down, talking-to, tongue-lashing, rap over the knuckles, slap on the wrist, flea in one's ear,

earful; *Brit. informal* rocket, rollicking, wiggling, ticking-off; *formal* castigation. ② an admonition to proceed carefully: EXHORTATION, warning, piece of advice, recommendation, counsel.

ado ▶ **noun** FUSS, trouble, bother, upset, agitation, commotion, stir, hubbub, confusion, excitement, hurly-burly, flurry; palaver, rigmarole, brouhaha; *N. Amer.* fuss and feathers; *informal* hassle, to-do, hoo-ha, ballyhoo, song and dance, performance, kerfuffle; *Brit. informal* carry-on.

adolescence ▶ **noun** TEENAGE YEARS, teens, youth; pubescence, puberty.

adolescent ▶ **noun** an awkward adolescent: TEENAGER, youngster, young person, youth, boy, girl; juvenile, minor; *informal* teen, teenybopper.

▶ **adjective** ① an adolescent boy: TEENAGE, pubescent, young; juvenile; *informal* teen. ② adolescent silliness: IMMATURE, childish, juvenile, infantile, puerile, jejune.

—OPPOSITES adult, mature.

adopt ▶ **verb** ① the child was adopted by an American family: take as one's child, be adoptive parents to, take in, take care of. ② they adopted local customs: EMBRACE, take on/up, assume, espouse; appropriate, arrogate. ③ the people adopted him as their patron saint: CHOOSE, select, pick, vote for, elect, settle on, decide on, opt for; name, nominate, appoint.

—OPPOSITES abandon.

adorable ▶ **adjective** LOVABLE, appealing, charming, cute, sweet, enchanting, bewitching, captivating, engaging, endearing, dear, darling, delightful, lovely, beautiful, attractive, gorgeous, winsome, winning, fetching; *Scottish & N. English* bonny.

—OPPOSITES hateful.

adoration ▶ **noun** ① the girl gazed at him with adoration: LOVE, devotion, care, fondness; admiration, high regard, awe, idolization, worship, hero-worship, adulation. ② our day of prayer and adoration: WORSHIP, glory, glorification, praise, thanksgiving, homage, exaltation, extolment, veneration, reverence; *archaic* magnification.

adore ▶ **verb** ① he adored his mother: LOVE DEARLY, love, be devoted to, dote on, hold dear, cherish, treasure, prize, think the world of; admire, hold in high regard, look up to, idolize, worship; *informal* put on a pedestal. ② the people had come to pray and adore God: WORSHIP, glorify, praise, revere, reverence, exalt, extol, venerate, pay homage to; *formal* laud; *archaic* magnify. ③ (*informal*) I adore oysters: LIKE, love, be very fond of, be very keen on, be partial to, have a weakness for; delight in, revel in, relish, savour; *informal* be crazy about, be wild about, have a thing about, be hooked on, go a bundle on; *Brit. informal* be potty about.

—OPPOSITES hate.

adorn ▶ **verb** DECORATE, embellish, ornament, enhance; beautify, prettify, grace, bedeck, deck (out), dress (up), trim, swathe, wreath, festoon, garland, array, emblazon; *poetic/literary* bedizen, caparison.

—OPPOSITES disfigure.

adornment ▶ **noun** DECORATION, embellishment, ornamentation, ornament, enhancement; beautification, prettification; frills, accessories, trimmings, finishing touches.

adrift ▶ **adjective** ① their empty boat was spotted adrift: DRIFTING, unmoored, unanchored. ② (*Brit. informal*) the pipe of my breathing apparatus came adrift: LOOSE, free; detached, unsecured, unfastened, untied, unknotted, undone. ③ he was adrift in a strange country: LOST, off course; disorientated, disoriented, confused, (all) at sea; drifting, rootless, unsettled, directionless, aimless, purposeless, without purpose. ④ (*Brit. informal*) his instincts were not entirely adrift. See **WRONG** adjective sense 1.

adroit ▶ **adjective** SKILFUL, adept, dexterous, deft, nimble, able, capable, skilled, expert, masterly, masterful, master, practised, polished, slick, proficient, accomplished, gifted, talented; quick-witted, quick-thinking, clever, smart, sharp, cunning, wily, resourceful, astute, shrewd, canny; *informal* nifty, crack, mean, wizard, demon, ace, A1, on the ball, savvy; *N. Amer. informal* crackerjack.

—OPPOSITES inept, clumsy.

adroitness ▶ **noun** SKILL, skilfulness, prowess, expertise, adeptness, dexterity, deftness, nimbleness, ability, capability, mastery, proficiency, accomplishment, artistry, art, facility, aptitude, flair, finesse, talent; quick-wittedness, cleverness, sharpness, cunning, astuteness, shrewdness, resourcefulness, savoir faire; *informal* know-how, savvy.

adulation ▶ **noun** HERO-WORSHIP, worship, idolization, adoration, admiration, veneration, awe, devotion, glorification, praise, flattery, blandishments.

adulatory ▶ **adjective** FLATTERING, complimentary, highly favourable, enthusiastic, glowing, reverential, rhapsodic, eulogistic, laudatory; fulsome, honeyed.

—OPPOSITES disparaging.

adult ▶ **adjective** ① an adult woman: MATURE, grown-up, fully grown, full-grown, fully developed, of age. ② an adult movie: SEXUALLY EXPLICIT, pornographic, obscene, smutty, dirty, rude, erotic, sexy, suggestive, titillating; *informal* porn, porno, naughty, blue, X-rated, skin.

adulterate ▶ **verb** MAKE IMPURE, degrade, debase, spoil, taint, contaminate; doctor, tamper with, dilute, water down, weaken; bastardize, corrupt; *informal* cut, spike, dope.

—OPPOSITES purify.

adulterer ▶ **noun** PHILANDERER, deceiver, womanizer, ladies' man, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario; *informal* cheat, two-timer, love rat; *formal* fornicator.

adulterous ▶ **adjective** UNFAITHFUL, faithless, disloyal, untrue, inconstant, false, false-hearted, deceiving, deceitful, treacherous; extramarital; *informal* cheating, two-timing.

—OPPOSITES faithful.

adultery ▶ **noun** INFIDELITY, unfaithfulness, falseness, disloyalty, cuckoldry, extramarital sex; affair, liaison, amour; *informal* carryings-on, hanky-panky, a bit on the side, playing around; *formal* fornication.

—OPPOSITES fidelity.

advance ▶ **verb** ① the battalion advanced rapidly: MOVE FORWARD, proceed, press on, push on, push forward, make progress, make headway, gain ground, approach, come closer, draw nearer, near; *archaic* draw nigh. ② the court may advance the date of the hearing: BRING FORWARD,

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put forward, move forward. ① *the move advanced his career*: PROMOTE, further, forward, help, aid, assist, boost, strengthen, improve, benefit, foster. ② *our technology has advanced in the last few years*: PROGRESS, make progress, make headway, develop, evolve, make strides, move forward (in leaps and bounds), move ahead; improve, thrive, flourish, prosper. ③ *the hypothesis I wish to advance in this article*: PUT FORWARD, present, submit, suggest, propose, introduce, offer, adduce, moot. ④ *a relative advanced him some money*: LEND, loan, put up, come up with; *Brit. informal sub.*

—OPPOSITES retreat, hinder, postpone, retract, borrow.

noun ① *the advance of the aggressors*: PROGRESS, forward movement; approach. ② *a significant medical advance*: BREAKTHROUGH, development, step forward, step in the right direction, (quantum) leap; find, finding, discovery, invention. ③ *share prices showed significant advances*: INCREASE, rise, upturn, upswing, growth; *informal hike*. ④ *the writer is going to be given a huge advance*: DOWN PAYMENT, retainer, prepayment, deposit, front money, money up front. ⑤ *unwelcome sexual advances*: PASS, proposition.

► **adjective** ① *an advance party of settlers*: PRELIMINARY, sent (on) ahead, first, exploratory; pilot, test, trial. ② *advance warning*: EARLY, prior, beforehand.

■ **in advance** BEFOREHAND, before, ahead of time, earlier, previously; in readiness.

advanced ► **adjective** ① *advanced manufacturing techniques*: STATE-OF-THE-ART, new, modern, up to date, up to the minute, the newest, the latest; progressive, avant-garde, ahead of the times, pioneering, innovatory, sophisticated. ② *advanced further-education courses*: HIGHER-LEVEL, higher, tertiary.
—OPPOSITES primitive.

advancement ► **noun** ① *the advancement of computer technology*: DEVELOPMENT, progress, evolution, growth, improvement, advance, furtherance; headway. ② *employees must be offered opportunities for advancement*: PROMOTION, preferment, career development, upgrading, a step up the ladder, progress, improvement, betterment, growth.

advantage ► **noun** ① *the advantages of belonging to a union*: BENEFIT, value, good point, strong point, asset, plus, bonus, boon, blessing, virtue; attraction, beauty, usefulness, helpfulness, convenience, advantageousness, profit. ② *they appeared to be gaining the advantage over their opponents*: UPPER HAND, edge, lead, whip hand, trump card; superiority, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy, power, mastery. ③ *there is no advantage to be gained from delaying the process*: BENEFIT, profit, gain, good; *informal* mileage, percentage.
—OPPOSITES disadvantage, drawback, detriment.

advantageous ► **adjective** ① *an advantageous position*: SUPERIOR, dominant, powerful; good, fortunate, lucky, favourable. ② *the arrangement is advantageous to both sides*: BENEFICIAL, of benefit, helpful, of assistance, useful, of use, of value, of service, profitable, fruitful; convenient, expedient, in everyone's interests.
—OPPOSITES disadvantageous, detrimental.

advent ► **noun** ARRIVAL, appearance, emergence, materialization, occurrence, dawn, birth, rise, development; approach, coming.
—OPPOSITES disappearance.

adventitious ► **adjective** ① *he felt that the conversation was not entirely adventitious*: UNPLANNED, unpremeditated, accidental, chance, fortuitous, serendipitous, coincidental, casual, random. ② *the adventitious population*: FOREIGN, alien, non-native.
—OPPOSITES premeditated.

adventure ► **noun** ① *her recent adventures in Italy*: EXPLOIT, escapade, deed, feat, experience; stunt. ② *they set off in search of adventure*: EXCITEMENT, thrill, stimulation; risk, danger, hazard, peril, uncertainty, precariousness.

adventurer ► **noun** DAREDEVIL, hero, heroine; swashbuckler, knight errant.

adventurous ► **adjective** ① *an adventurous traveller*: DARING, daredevil, intrepid, venturesome, bold, fearless, brave, unafraid, unshrinking, dauntless; *informal gutsy, spunky*. ② *adventurous activities*: RISKY, dangerous, perilous, hazardous, precarious, uncertain; exciting, thrilling.
—OPPOSITES cautious.

adversary ► **noun** OPPONENT, rival, enemy, antagonist, combatant, challenger, contender, competitor, opposer; opposition, competition; *poetic/literary* foe.
—OPPOSITES ally, supporter.

adverse ► **adjective** ① *adverse weather conditions*: UNFAVOURABLE, disadvantageous, inauspicious, unpropitious, unfortunate, unlucky, untimely, untoward. ② *the drug's adverse side effects*: HARMFUL, dangerous, injurious, detrimental, hurtful, deleterious. ③ *an adverse response from the public*: HOSTILE, UNFAVOURABLE, antagonistic, unfriendly, ill-disposed, negative.
—OPPOSITES favourable, auspicious, beneficial.

adversity ► **noun** MISFORTUNE, ill luck, bad luck, trouble, difficulty, hardship, distress, disaster, suffering, affliction, sorrow, misery, tribulation, woe, pain, trauma; mishap, misadventure, accident, upset, reverse, setback, crisis, catastrophe, tragedy, calamity, trial, cross, burden, blow, vicissitude; hard times, trials and tribulations.

advertise ► **verb** PUBLICIZE, make public, make known, announce, broadcast, proclaim, trumpet, call attention to, bill; promote, market, beat/bang the drum for, trail, huckster; *informal* push, plug, hype, boost; *N. Amer. informal* ballyhoo, flack.

advertisement ► **noun** NOTICE, announcement, bulletin; commercial, promotion, blurb, write-up; poster, leaflet, pamphlet, flyer, bill, handbill, handout, circular, brochure, sign, placard; *informal* ad, push, plug, puff, bump; *Brit. informal* advert.

advice ► **noun** GUIDANCE, counselling, counsel, help, direction; information, recommendations, guidelines, suggestions, hints, tips, pointers, ideas, opinions, views.

advisability ► **noun** WISDOM, desirability, preferability, prudence, sense, appropriateness, aptness, fitness, suitability, judiciousness; expediency, advantageousness, advantage, benefit, profit, profitability.

advisable ▶ adjective WISE, desirable, preferable, well, best, sensible, prudent, proper, appropriate, apt, suitable, fitting, judicious, recommended, suggested; expedient, politic, advantageous, beneficial, profitable, in one's (best) interests.

advise ▶ verb ① *her grandmother advised her about marriage*: COUNSEL, give guidance, guide, offer suggestions, give hints/tips/pointers. ② *he advised caution*: ADVOCATE, recommend, suggest, urge, encourage, enjoin. ③ *you will be advised of the requirements*: INFORM, notify, give notice, apprise, warn, forewarn; acquaint with, make familiar with, make known to, update about; *informal* fill in on.

adviser ▶ noun COUNSELLOR, mentor, guide, consultant, confidant, confidante; coach, teacher, tutor, guru.

advisory ▶ adjective CONSULTATIVE, consultative, advising; recommendatory.
-OPPOSITES executive.

advocacy ▶ noun SUPPORT, backing, promotion, championing; recommendation, prescription; *N. Amer.* boosterism.

advocate ▶ noun *an advocate of children's rights*: CHAMPION, upholder, supporter, backer, promoter, proponent, exponent, spokesman, spokeswoman, spokesperson, campaigner, fighter, crusader; propagandist, apostle, apologist; *N. Amer.* booster.

-OPPOSITES critic.

▶ verb *heart specialists advocate a diet low in cholesterol*: RECOMMEND, prescribe, advise, urge; support, back, favour, uphold, subscribe to, champion, campaign on behalf of, speak for, argue for, lobby for, promote.

aegis ▶ noun PROTECTION, backing, support, patronage, sponsorship, charge, care, guidance, guardianship, trusteeship, agency, safeguarding, shelter, umbrella, aid, assistance; auspices.

aeon ▶ noun AGES, an age, an eternity, a long time, a lifetime; years; *informal* donkey's years; *Brit. informal* yonks. See *list* at AGE.

aeroplane ▶ noun. See PLANE² and *list* at AIRCRAFT.

aesthetic ▶ adjective ARTISTIC, tasteful, in good taste; graceful, elegant, exquisite, beautiful, attractive, pleasing, lovely.

affability ▶ noun FRIENDLINESS, amiability, geniality, congeniality, cordiality, warmth, pleasantness, likeability, good humour, good nature, kindness, kindness, courtesy, courteousness, civility, approachability, amenability, sociability, gregariousness, neighbourliness.

affable ▶ adjective FRIENDLY, amiable, genial, congenial, cordial, warm, pleasant, nice, likeable, personable, charming, agreeable, sympathetic, good-humoured, good-natured, kindly, kind, courteous, civil, gracious, approachable, accessible, amenable, sociable, outgoing, gregarious, clubbable, neighbourly, welcoming, hospitable, obliging; *Scottish* couthy.

-OPPOSITES unfriendly.

affair ▶ noun ① *what you do is your affair*: BUSINESS, concern, matter, responsibility, province, preserve; problem, worry; *Brit. informal* lookout. ② *(affairs) his financial affairs*: TRANSACTIONS, concerns, matters, activities, dealings, undertakings, ventures, business. ③ *the board admit-*

ted responsibility for the affair: EVENT, incident, happening, occurrence, eventuality, episode; case, matter, business. ④ *his affair with Anthea was over*: RELATIONSHIP, love affair, affaire (de cœur), romance, fling, flirtation, dalliance, liaison, involvement, intrigue, amour; *informal* hanky-panky; *Brit. informal* carry-on.

affect¹ ▶ verb ① *this development may have affected the judge's decision*: HAVE AN EFFECT ON, influence, act on, work on, have an impact on; change, alter, modify, transform, form, shape, sway, bias. ② *he was visibly affected by the experience*: MOVE, touch, make an impression on, hit (hard), tug at someone's heartstrings; UPSET, trouble, distress, disturb, agitate, shake (up). ③ *the disease affected his lungs*: ATTACK, infect; hit, strike.

affect² ▶ verb ① *he deliberately affected a republican stance*: ASSUME, take on, adopt, embrace, espouse. ② *Paul affected an air of injured innocence*: PRETEND, feign, fake, simulate, make a show of, make a pretence of, sham; *informal* put on; *N. Amer. informal* make like.

affectation ▶ noun ① *George had always abhorred affectation*: PRETENSION, pretentiousness, affectedness, artificiality, posturing, posing; airs (and graces); *informal* la-di-da; *Brit. informal* side. ② *an affectation of calm*: FACADE, front, show, appearance, pretence, simulation, posture, pose.

affected ▶ adjective PRETENTIOUS, artificial, contrived, unnatural, stagy, studied, mannered, ostentatious; insincere, unconvincing, feigned, false, fake, sham, simulated; *informal* la-di-da, phoney, pretend, put on.

-OPPOSITES natural, unpretentious, genuine.

affecting ▶ adjective TOUCHING, moving, emotive, emotional; stirring, soul-stirring, heart-warming; poignant, pathetic, pitiful, piteous, tear-jerking, heart-rending, heartbreaking, disturbing, distressing, upsetting, sad, haunting.

affection ▶ noun FONDNESS, love, liking, tenderness, warmth, devotion, endearment, care, caring, attachment, friendship; warm feelings.

affectionate ▶ adjective LOVING, fond, adoring, devoted, caring, doting, tender, warm, warm-hearted, soft-hearted, friendly; demonstrative, cuddly; *informal* touchy-feely, lovey-dovey.

-OPPOSITES cold.

affiliated ▶ adjective (*poetic/literary*). See ENGAGED sense 2.

affiliate ▶ verb ASSOCIATE WITH, unite with, combine with, join (up) with, join forces with, link up with, ally with, align with, federate with, amalgamate with, merge with; attach to, annex to, incorporate into, integrate into.

affiliated ▶ adjective ASSOCIATED, allied, related, federated, confederated, amalgamated, unified, connected, linked; in league, in partnership.

affiliation ▶ noun ASSOCIATION, connection, alliance, alignment, link, attachment, tie, relationship, fellowship, partnership, coalition, union; amalgamation, incorporation, integration, federation, confederation.

affinity ▶ noun ① *her affinity with animals and birds*: EMPATHY, rapport, sympathy, accord, harmony, relationship, bond, fellow feeling, like-

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mindedness, closeness, understanding; liking, fondness; *informal* chemistry. ② *the semantic affinity between the two words*: SIMILARITY, resemblance, likeness, kinship, relationship, association, link, analogy, similitude, correspondence.

—OPPOSITES aversion, dislike, dissimilarity.

affirm ▶ verb ① *he affirmed that they would lend military assistance*: DECLARE, state, assert, proclaim, pronounce, attest, swear, avow, guarantee, pledge, give an undertaking; *formal* aver; *rare* asseverate. ② *the referendum affirmed the republic's right to secede*: UPHOLD, support, confirm, ratify, endorse.

—OPPOSITES deny.

affirmation ▶ noun ① *an affirmation of faith*: DECLARATION, statement, assertion, proclamation, pronouncement, attestation; oath, avowal, guarantee, pledge; deposition; *formal* averment; *rare* asseveration. ② *the poem ends with an affirmation of pastoral values*: CONFIRMATION, ratification, endorsement.

—OPPOSITES denial.

affirmative ▶ adjective *an affirmative answer*: POSITIVE, assenting, consenting, corroborative, favourable.

—OPPOSITES negative.

▶ noun *she took his grunt as an affirmative*: AGREEMENT, acceptance, assent, acquiescence, concurrence; OK, yes.

—OPPOSITES disagreement.

affix ▶ verb ① *he affixed a stamp to the envelope*: STICK, glue, paste, gum; attach, fasten, fix; clip, tack, pin; tape. ② *(formal) affix your signature to the document*: APPEND, add, attach.

—OPPOSITES detach.

afflict ▶ verb TROUBLE, burden, distress, cause suffering to, beset, harass, worry, oppress; torment, plague, blight, bedevil, rack, smite, curse; *archaic* ail.

affliction ▶ noun ① *a herb reputed to cure a variety of afflictions*: DISORDER, disease, malady, complaint, ailment, illness, indisposition, handicap; scourge, plague, trouble. ② *he bore his affliction with great dignity*: SUFFERING, distress, pain, trouble, misery, wretchedness, hardship, misfortune, adversity, sorrow, torment, tribulation, woe.

affluence ▶ noun WEALTH, prosperity, fortune; riches, money, resources, assets, possessions, property, substance, means.

—OPPOSITES poverty.

affluent ▶ adjective WEALTHY, rich, prosperous, well off, moneyed, well-to-do; propertied, substantial, of means, of substance, plutocratic; *informal* well heeled, rolling in it, made of money, filthy rich, stinking rich, loaded, on easy street, worth a packet.

—OPPOSITES poor, impoverished.

afford ▶ verb ① *I can't afford a new car*: PAY FOR, bear the expense of, have the money for, spare the price of; run to, stretch to, manage. ② *it took more time than he could afford*: SPARE, allow (oneself). ③ *the rooftop terrace affords beautiful views*: PROVIDE, supply, furnish, offer, give, make available, yield.

affray ▶ noun (*Law, dated*) FIGHT, brawl, confrontation, clash, skirmish, scuffle, tussle; fracas, altercation, disturbance, breach of the peace; *in-*

formal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, set-to, shindig, free-for-all.

affront ▶ noun *an affront to public morality*: INSULT, offence, indignity, slight, snub, put-down, provocation, injury; outrage, atrocity, scandal; *informal* slap in the face, kick in the teeth.

▶ verb *she was affronted by his familiarity*: INSULT, offend, mortify, provoke, pique, wound, hurt; put out, irk, displease, bother, rankle, vex, gall; outrage, scandalize, disgust; *informal* put someone's back up, needle.

aficionado ▶ noun CONNOISSEUR, expert, authority, specialist, pundit; enthusiast, devotee; *informal* buff, freak, nut, fiend, maniac, fanatic, addict.

afire ▶ adjective BURNING, ablaze, alight, on fire, in flames, blazing; *poetic/literary* afire.

afloat ▶ adverb & adjective BUOYANT, floating, buoyed up, on/above the surface, (keeping one's head) above water.

afoot ▶ adjective & adverb GOING ON, happening, around, about, abroad, stirring, circulating, in circulation, at large, in the air/wind; brewing, looming, in the offing, on the horizon.

aforesaid ▶ adjective PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED, aforementioned, aforementioned; foregoing, preceding, earlier, previous; above.

afraid ▶ adjective ① *they ran away because they were afraid*: FRIGHTENED, scared, terrified, fearful, petrified, scared witless, scared to death, terror-stricken, terror-struck, frightened/scared out of one's wits, shaking in one's shoes, shaking like a leaf, intimidated, alarmed, panicky; faint-hearted, cowardly; *informal* scared stiff, in a (blue) funk, in a cold sweat; *N. Amer. informal* spooked; *archaic* afeared, affrighted. ② *don't be afraid to ask awkward questions*: RELUCTANT, hesitant, unwilling, disinclined, loath, slow, chary, shy. ③ *I'm afraid that your daughter is ill*: SORRY, sad, distressed, regretful, apologetic.

—RELATED TERMS phobe.

—OPPOSITES brave, confident.

afresh ▶ adverb ANEW, again, over/once again, once more, another time.

Africa ▶ noun. See list.

after ▶ preposition ① *he made a speech after the performance*: FOLLOWING, subsequent to, at the close/end of, in the wake of; *formal* posterior to.

② *Guy shut the door after them*: BEHIND, following.

③ *after the way he treated my sister I never want to speak to him again*: BECAUSE OF, as a result/consequence of, in view of, owing to, on account of. ④ *is he still going to marry her, after all that's happened?* DESPITE, in spite of, regardless of, notwithstanding. ⑤ *the policeman ran after him*: IN PURSUIT OF, in someone's direction, following. ⑥ *I'm after information, and I'm willing to pay for it*: IN SEARCH OF, in quest/pursuit of, trying to find, looking for. ⑦ *they asked after Dad*: ABOUT, concerning, regarding, with regard/respect/reference to. ⑧ *the village was named after a Roman officer*: IN HONOUR OF, as a tribute to; with the name of. ⑨ *animal studies after Bandinelli*: IN THE STYLE OF, in the manner of, in imitation of; similar to, like, characteristic of.

—RELATED TERMS post.

—OPPOSITES before, preceding.

▶ adverb ① *the week after, we went to Madrid*: LATER, afterwards, after this/that, subsequently.

② *porters were following on after with their bags*:

African Peoples

Acholi	Kholisi	Nyanja
Afars	Khoisan	Oromo
Afrikaners	Kikuyu	Ovambo
Alkan	Kongo	Padi
Ashanti	Kono	Pondo
Baganda	Koranko	Pygmies
Bambara	Kru	Ronga
Basotho	Kung	Samburu
Beja	Lamla	Sap
Bemba	Lango	Sandawe
Beninese	Limba	Senajo
Berbers	Loma	Shangaan
Bushman	Lozi	Shilluk
Chagga	Luba	Shona
Chewa	Lugbara/	Sidamo
Chokwe	Lugweri	Somalis
Damara	Lunda	Songhai
Danakil	Luo	Soninke
Dinka	Luvale	Sotho
Edo	Makonde	Sukuma
Effik	Makua	Susu
Ewe	Malinke	Swahili
Fang	Mende/	Swazi
Fante	Mandingo	Tambu
Fon	Mandinka	Temne
Fulani	Masai	Tiv
Fur	Matabele	Tonga
Ga	Mbuti	Tsonga
Galla	Mende	Tswana
Griqua	Meru	Tuareg
Hausa	Moors	Turkana
Herero	Mossi	Tutsi/Watusi
Hottentots	Nago	Twa
Hutu	Nama	Twi
Ibibio	Nandi	Ubengi
Igbo/Ibo	Ndebele	Venda
Ijo	Negrillos	Watusi
Ila	Ngoni	Walamo
Issas	Nguni	Wolof
Kabye	Nuba	Xhosa
Kamba	Nubians	Yao
Kanuri	Nuer	Yoruba
Kaonde	Nupe	Zande
Karamojong	Nyamwezi	

BEHIND, in the rear, at the back, in someone's wake.

—OPPOSITES previously, before, ahead, in front.

■ **after all** MOST IMPORTANTLY, above all, beyond everything, ultimately; *informal* when all's said and done, at the end of the day, when push comes to shove.

after-effect ► noun REPERCUSSION, aftermath, consequence; *Medicine* sequela.

afterlife ► noun LIFE AFTER DEATH, the next world, the hereafter, the afterworld; immortality.

aftermath ► noun REPERCUSSIONS, after-effects, consequences, effects, results, fruits.

afterwards ► adverb LATER, later on, subsequently, then, next, after this/that; at a later time/date, in due course.

again ► adverb ① *her spirits lifted again*: ONCE MORE, another time, afresh, anew. ② *this can add half as much again to the price*: EXTRA, in addition, additionally, on top. ③ *again, evidence was not always consistent*: ALSO, furthermore; moreover, besides.

■ **again and again** REPEATEDLY, over and over (again), time and (time) again, many times, many a time; often, frequently, continually, constantly.

against ► preposition ① *a number of delegates were against the motion*: OPPOSED to, in opposition to, hostile to, averse to, antagonistic towards, inimical to, unsympathetic to, resistant to, at odds with, in disagreement with, dead set against; *informal* anti, agin. ② *he was swimming against the tide*: IN OPPOSITION to, counter to, contrary to, in the opposite direction to. ③ *his age is against him*: DISADVANTAGEOUS to, unfavourable to, damaging to, detrimental to, prejudicial to, deleterious to, harmful to, injurious to, a drawback for. ④ *she leaned against the wall*: TOUCHING, in contact with, up against, on.

—RELATED TERMS anti-.

—OPPOSITES in favour of, pro.

age ► noun ① *he is 35 years of age*: NUMBER OF YEARS, length of life; stage of life, generation, age group. ② *her hearing had deteriorated with age*: ELDERLINESS, old age, oldness, senescence, seniority, maturity; one's advancing/advanced/declining years; *poetic/literary* old; *archaic* caducity. ③ *the Elizabethan age*: ERA, epoch, period, time. See list. ④ *(informal) you haven't been in touch with me for ages*: A LONG TIME, days/months/years on end, an eternity; *informal* ages and ages, donkey's years, a month of Sundays; *Brit informal* yonks.

► verb *Cabernet Sauvignon ages well | the experience has aged her*: MATURE, mellow, ripen; grow/become/make old, (cause to) decline.

Geological Ages

Archaean/Azoic period	Paleocene epoch
Cambrian period	Paleozoic era
Carboniferous period	Permian period
Cenozoic era	Phanerozoic aeon
Cretaceous period	Platocene epoch
Devonian period	Pliocene epoch
Eocene epoch	Precambrian era
Holocene epoch	Proterozoic aeon
Jurassic period	Quaternary period
Mesozoic era	Silurian period
Miocene epoch	Tertiary period
Oligocene epoch	Triassic period
Ordovician period	

aged ► adjective ELDERLY, old, mature, older, senior, ancient, senescent, advanced in years, in one's dotage, long in the tooth, as old as the hills, past one's prime, not as young as one used to be; *informal* getting on, over the hill, no spring chicken.

—OPPOSITES young.

agency ► noun ① *an advertising agency*: BUSINESS, organization, company, firm, office, bureau. ② *the infection is caused by the agency of insects*: ACTION, activity, means, effect, influence, force, power, vehicle, medium. ③ *regional policy was introduced through the agency of the Board of Trade*: INTERVENTION, intercession, involvement, good offices; auspices, aegis.

agenda ► noun LIST OF ITEMS, schedule, programme, timetable, line-up, list, plan.

a

agent ▶ noun ① *the sale was arranged through an agent*: REPRESENTATIVE, emissary, envoy, go-between, proxy, negotiator, broker, spokesperson, spokesman, spokeswoman; *informal rep.* ② *a travel agent*: AGENCY, business, organization, company, firm, bureau. ③ *a CIA agent*: SPY, secret agent, undercover agent, operative, fifth columnist, mole, Mata Hari; *N. Amer. informal* spook, G-man; *archaic* intelligencer. ④ *the agents of destruction*: PERFORMER, author, executor, perpetrator, producer, instrument, catalyst. ⑤ *a cleansing agent*: MEDIUM, means, instrument, vehicle.

agglomeration ▶ noun COLLECTION, mass, cluster, lump, clump, pile, heap; accumulation, build-up; miscellany, jumble, hotchpotch, mixed bag.

aggravate ▶ verb ① *the new law could aggravate the situation*: WORSEN, make worse, exacerbate, inflame, compound; add fuel to the fire/flames, add insult to injury, rub salt in the wound. ② *(informal) you don't have to aggravate people to get what you want*: ANNOY, irritate, exasperate, put out, nettle, provoke, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle (someone's feathers), try someone's patience; *Brit.* rub up the wrong way; *informal* peeve, needle, bug, miff, hack off, get someone's goat, get under someone's skin, get up someone's nose; *Brit. informal* wind up, nark, get at, get across, get on someone's wick; *N. Amer. informal* tick off.
-OPPOSITES alleviate, improve.

aggravation ▶ noun ① *the recession led to the aggravation of unemployment problems*: WORSENING, exacerbation, compounding. ② *(informal) no amount of money is worth the aggravation*: NUISANCE, annoyance, irritation, hassle, trouble, difficulty, inconvenience, bother; *informal* aggro.

aggregate ▶ noun ① *the specimen is an aggregate of rock and mineral fragments*: COLLECTION, mass, agglomeration, assemblage; mixture, mix, combination, blend; compound, alloy, amalgam. ② *he won with an aggregate of 325*: TOTAL, sum total, sum, grand total.

▶ adjective an aggregate score: TOTAL, combined, gross, overall, composite.

aggression ▶ noun ① *an act of aggression*: HOSTILITY, aggressiveness, belligerence, bellicosity, force, violence; pugnacity, pugnaciousness, militancy, warmongering. ② *he played the game with unceasing aggression*: CONFIDENCE, self-confidence, boldness, determination, forcefulness, vigour, energy, dynamism, zeal.

aggressive ▶ adjective ① *aggressive and disruptive behaviour*: VIOLENT, confrontational, antagonistic, truculent, pugnacious, macho; quarrelsome, argumentative. ② *aggressive foreign policy*: WARMONGERING, warlike, warring, belligerent, bellicose, hawkish, militaristic; offensive, expansionist; *informal* gung-ho. ③ *an aggressive promotional drive*: ASSERTIVE, pushy, forceful, vigorous, energetic, dynamic; bold, audacious; *informal* in-your-face, feisty.
-OPPOSITES peaceable, peaceful.

aggressor ▶ noun ATTACKER, assaulter, assailant; invader.

aggrieved ▶ adjective ① *the manager looked aggrieved at the suggestion*: RESENTFUL, affronted, indignant, disgruntled, discontented, upset, offended, piqued, riled, nettled, vexed, irked, irri-

tated, annoyed, put out, chagrined; *informal* peeved, miffed, in a huff; *Brit. informal* cheesed off; *N. Amer. informal* sore, steamed. ② *the aggrieved party*: WRONGED, injured, harmed.
-OPPOSITES pleased.

aghast ▶ adjective HORRIFIED, appalled, dismayed, thunderstruck, stunned, shocked, staggered; *informal* flabbergasted; *Brit. informal* gob-smacked.

agile ▶ adjective ① *she was as agile as a monkey*: NIMBLE, lithe, supple, limber, acrobatic, fleet-footed, light-footed, light on one's feet; *informal* nippy, twinkle-toed; *poetic/literary* fleet, light-some. ② *an agile mind*: ALERT, sharp, acute, shrewd, astute, perceptive, quick-witted.
-OPPOSITES clumsy, stiff.

agitate ▶ verb ① *any mention of Clare agitates my grandmother*: UPSET, perturb, fluster, ruffle, disconcert, unnerve, disquiet, disturb, distress, unsettle; *informal* rattle, faze; *N. Amer. informal* discombobulate. ② *she agitated for the appointment of more women*: CAMPAIGN, strive, battle, fight, struggle, push, press. ③ *agitate the water to disperse the oil*: STIR, whisk, beat.

agitated ▶ adjective UPSET, perturbed, flustered, ruffled, disconcerted, unnerved, disquieted, disturbed, distressed, unsettled; nervous, on edge, tense, keyed up; *informal* rattled, fazed, in a dither, in a flap, in a state, in a lather, jittery, jumpy, in a tizz/tizzy; *Brit. informal* having kittens, in a (flat) spin; *N. Amer. informal* discombobulated.
-OPPOSITES calm, relaxed.

agitation ▶ noun ① *Freddie gritted his teeth in agitation*: ANXIETY, perturbation, disquiet, distress, concern, alarm, worry; *rare* disconcertment. ② *an upsurge in nationalist agitation*: CAMPAIGNING, striving, battling, fighting, struggling. ③ *the vigorous agitation of the components*: STIRRING, whisking, beating.

agitator ▶ noun TROUBLEMAKER, rabble-rouser, agent provocateur, demagogue, incendiary; revolutionary, firebrand, rebel, insurgent, subversive; *informal* stirrer.

agnostic ▶ noun SCEPTIC, doubter, doubting Thomas; unbeliever, disbeliever, non-believer; rationalist; *rare* nullifidian.
-OPPOSITES believer, theist.

ago ▶ adverb IN THE PAST, before, earlier, back, since, previously; *formal* heretofore.

agog ▶ adverb EAGER, excited, impatient, keen, anxious, avid, in suspense, on tenterhooks, on the edge of one's seat, on pins and needles, waiting with bated breath.

agonize ▶ verb WORRY, fret, fuss, brood, upset oneself, rack one's brains, wrestle with oneself, be worried/anxious, feel uneasy, exercise oneself; *informal* stew; *archaic* pore on.

agonizing ▶ adjective EXCRUCIATING, harrowing, racking, searing, extremely painful, acute, severe, torturous, tormenting, piercing; *informal* hellish, killing; *formal* grievous.

agony ▶ noun PAIN, hurt, suffering, torture, torment, anguish, affliction, trauma; pangs, throes; *rare* excruciation.

agrarian ▶ adjective AGRICULTURAL, rural, rustic, pastoral, countryside, farming; *poetic/literary* georgic, sylvan, Arcadian, agrestic.

agree ▶ verb ① I agree with you: CONCUR, be of the same mind/opinion, see eye to eye, be in sympathy, be united, be as one man. ② they had agreed to a ceasefire: CONSENT, assent, acquiesce, accept, approve, say yes, give one's approval, give the nod; formal accede. ③ the plan and the drawing do not agree with each other: MATCH (UP), accord, correspond, conform, coincide, fit, tally, be in harmony/agreement, be consistent/equivalent; informal square. ④ they agreed on a price: SETTLE, decide, arrive at, negotiate, reach an agreement, come to terms, strike a bargain, make a deal, shake hands. -OPPOSITES differ, contradict, reject.

agreeable ▶ adjective ① an agreeable atmosphere of rural tranquillity: PLEASANT, pleasing, enjoyable, pleasurable, nice, to one's liking, appealing, charming, delightful. ② an agreeable fellow: LIKEABLE, charming, amiable, affable, pleasant, nice, friendly, good-natured, sociable, genial, congenial. ③ we should get together for a talk, if you're agreeable: WILLING, amenable, in accord/agreement. -OPPOSITES unpleasant.

agreement ▶ noun ① all heads nodded in agreement: ACCORD, concurrence, consensus; assent, acceptance, consent, acquiescence, endorsement. ② an agreement on military cooperation: CONTRACT, compact, treaty, covenant, pact, accord, concordat, protocol. ③ there is some agreement between my view and that of the author: CORRESPONDENCE, consistency, compatibility, accord; similarity, resemblance, likeness, similitude. -OPPOSITES discord.

agricultural ▶ adjective ① an agricultural labourer FARM, farming, agrarian; rural, rustic, pastoral, countryside; poetic/literary georgic, sylvan, Arcadian, agrestic. ② agricultural land: FARMED, farm, agrarian, cultivated, tilled. -OPPOSITES urban.

agriculture ▶ noun FARMING, cultivation, husbandry. See list at FARMING. -RELATED TERMS agri-, agro-.

aground ▶ adverb & adjective GROUNDED, ashore, beached, stuck, shipwrecked, high and dry, on the rocks, on the ground/bottom.

ahead ▶ adverb ① he peered ahead, but could see nothing: FORWARD(s), towards the front, frontwards. ② he had ridden on ahead: IN FRONT, at the head, in the lead, at the fore, in the vanguard, in advance. ③ she was preparing herself for what lay ahead: IN THE FUTURE, in time, in time to come, in the fullness of time, at a later date, after this, henceforth, later on, in due course, next. ④ they are ahead by six points: LEADING, winning, in the lead, (out) in front, first, coming first. -OPPOSITES behind, at the back, in the past.

■ ahead of ① Blanche went ahead of the others: IN FRONT OF, before. ② we have a demanding trip ahead of us: IN STORE FOR, waiting for. ③ two months ahead of schedule: IN ADVANCE OF, before, earlier than. ④ in terms of these amenities, Britain is ahead of other European countries: MORE ADVANCED THAN, further on than, superior to, surpassing, exceeding, better than.

aid ▶ noun ① with the aid of his colleagues he prepared a manifesto: ASSISTANCE, support, help, backing, cooperation, succour, a helping hand. ② humanitarian aid: RELIEF, charity, financial as-

sistance, donations, contributions, subsidies, handouts, subvention; debt remission; historical alms. ③ a hospital aid: HELPER, assistant, girl/man Friday. -OPPOSITES hindrance.

▶ verb ① he provided an army to aid the King of England: HELP, assist, abet, come to someone's aid, give assistance, lend a hand, be of service; avail, succour, sustain. ② essences can aid restless sleep: FACILITATE, promote, encourage, help, further, boost; speed up, hasten, accelerate, expedite. -OPPOSITES hinder.

aide ▶ noun ASSISTANT, helper, adviser, right-hand man, man/girl Friday, adjutant, deputy, second (in command); subordinate, junior, underling, acolyte; N. Amer. cohort.

ail ▶ verb (archaic) TROUBLE, afflict, pain, distress, bother, worry, be the matter with.

ailing ▶ adjective ① his ailing mother: ILL, unwell, sick, sickly, poorly, weak, indisposed, in poor/bad health, infirm, debilitated, delicate, valetudinarian, below par; Brit. off colour; informal laid up, under the weather. ② the country's ailing economy: FAILING, in poor condition, weak, poor, deficient. -OPPOSITES healthy.

ailment ▶ noun ILLNESS, disease, disorder, affliction, malady, complaint, infirmity; informal bug, virus; Brit. informal lurgy. See lists at ILLNESS.

aim ▶ verb ① he aimed the rifle: POINT, direct, train, sight, line up. ② she aimed at the target: TAKE AIM, fix on, zero in on, draw a bead on. ③ undergraduates aiming for a first degree: WORK TOWARDS, be after, set one's sights on, try for, strive for, aspire to, endeavour to achieve; formal essay. ④ this system is aimed at the home entertainment market: TARGET, intend, destine, direct, design, tailor, market, pitch. ⑤ we aim to give you the best possible service: INTEND, mean, have in mind/view; plan, resolve, propose, design.

▶ noun our aim is to develop gymnasts to the top level: OBJECTIVE, object, goal, end, target, design, desire, desired result, intention, intent, plan, purpose, object of the exercise; ambition, aspiration, wish, dream, hope, raison d'être.

aimless ▶ adjective ① Flavia set out on an aimless walk: PURPOSELESS, objectless, goalless, without purpose, without goal. ② aimless men standing outside the bars: UNOCCUPIED, idle, at a loose end; purposeless, undirected. -OPPOSITES purposeful.

air ▶ noun ① hundreds of birds hovered in the air: SKY, atmosphere, airspace, ether; poetic/literary heavens. ② open the windows to get some air into the room: BREEZE, draught, wind; breath/blast of air, gust/puff of wind. ③ an air of defiance: EXPRESSION, appearance, look, impression, aspect, aura, mien, countenance, manner, bearing, tone. ④ women putting on airs: AFFECTATIONS, pretension, pretentiousness, affectedness, posing, posturing, airs and graces; Brit. informal side. ⑤ a traditional Scottish air: TUNE, melody, song; poetic/literary lay. -RELATED TERMS aerial, aero-.

▶ verb ① a chance to air your views: EXPRESS, voice, make public, ventilate, articulate, state, declare, give expression/voice to; have one's say. ② the windows were opened to air the room: VENTILATE, freshen, refresh, cool. ③ the film was aired

a

[illegible]

alcoholic ▶ **adjective** *alcoholic drinks*: INTOXICATING, inebriating, containing alcohol; strong, hard, stiff; *formal* spirituous.

▶ **noun** *he is an alcoholic*: DIPSOMANIAC, drunk, drunkard, heavy/hard/serious drinker, problem drinker, alcohol-abuser, person with a drink problem; tippler, sot, inebriate; *informal* boozier, lush, alky, dipso, soak, tosspot, wino, sponge, barfly; *Austral./NZ informal* hophead; *archaic* toper.

alcove ▶ **noun** RECESS, niche, nook, inglenook, bay.

alert ▶ **adjective** ① *police have asked neighbours to keep alert*: VIGILANT, watchful, attentive, observant, wide awake, circumspect; on the lookout, on one's guard/toes, on the qui vive; *informal* keeping one's eyes open/peeled. ② *mentally alert*: QUICK-WITTED, sharp, bright, quick, keen, perceptive, wide awake, on one's toes; *informal* on the ball, quick on the uptake, all there, with it.

—OPPOSITES inattentive.

▶ **noun** ① *a state of alert*: VIGILANCE, watchfulness, attentiveness, alertness, circumspection. ② *a flood alert*: WARNING, notification, notice; siren, alarm, signal, danger/distress signal.

▶ **verb** *police were alerted by a phone call*: WARN, notify, apprise, forewarn, put on one's guard, put on the qui vive; *informal* tip off, clue in.

alias ▶ **noun** *he is known under several aliases*: AS SUMED NAME, false name, pseudonym, sobriquet, incognito; pen/stage name, nom de plume/guerre. See list at PSEUDONYM.

▶ **adverb** *Cassius Clay, alias Muhammad Ali*: ALSO KNOWN AS, aka, also called, otherwise known as.

alibi ▶ **noun** *we've both got a good alibi for last night*: DEFENCE, justification, explanation, reason; *informal* story, line.

▶ **verb** (*informal*) *her brother agreed to alibi her*: COVER FOR, give an alibi to, provide with an alibi.

alien ▶ **adjective** ① *alien cultures*: FOREIGN, overseas, non-native. ② *an alien landscape*: UNFAMILIAR, unknown, strange, peculiar; exotic, foreign. ③ *a vicious role alien to his nature*: INCOMPATIBLE, opposed, conflicting, contrary, in conflict, at variance; *rare* oppugnant. ④ *alien beings*: EXTRATERRESTRIAL, unearthly; Martian.

—OPPOSITES native, familiar, earthly.

▶ **noun** ① *an illegal alien*: FOREIGNER, non-native, immigrant, emigrant, émigré, incomer. ② *the alien's spaceship crashed*: EXTRATERRESTRIAL, ET; Martian; *informal* little green man.

alienate ▶ **verb** ① *his homosexuality alienated him from his conservative father*: ESTRANGE, divide, distance, put at a distance, isolate, cut off; set against, turn away, drive apart, disunite, set at variance/odds, drive a wedge between. ② (*Law*) *they tried to prevent the land from being alienated*: TRANSFER, pass on, hand over; *Law* convey, devolve.

alienation ▶ **verb** ① *a sense of alienation from society*: ISOLATION, detachment, estrangement, distance, separation, division; cutting off, turning away. ② (*Law*) *most leases contain restrictions against alienation*: TRANSFER, passing on, handing over; *Law* conveyance, devolution.

alight ▶ **verb** ① *he alighted from the train*: GET OFF, step off, disembark, pile out; detrain, deplane. ② *a swallow alighted on a branch*: LAND, come to rest, settle, perch; *archaic* light.

—OPPOSITES get on, board.

alight ▶ **adjective** ① *the bales of hay were alight*: BURNING, ablaze, aflame, on fire, in flames, blazing; *poetic/literary* afire. ② *her face was alight with laughter*: LIT UP, gleaming, glowing, aglow, ablaze, bright, shining, radiant.

align ▶ **verb** ① *the desks are aligned in straight rows*: LINE UP, put in order, put in rows/columns, place, position, situate, set, range. ② *he aligned himself with the workers*: ALLY, affiliate, associate, join, side, unite, combine, join forces, form an alliance, team up, band together, throw in one's lot, make common cause.

alike ▶ **adjective** *all the doors looked alike*: SIMILAR, (much) the same, indistinguishable, identical, uniform, interchangeable, cut from the same cloth, like (two) peas in a pod, (like) Tweedledum and Tweedledee; *informal* much of a muchness.

—OPPOSITES different.

▶ **adverb** *great minds think alike*: SIMILARLY, (just) the same, in the same way/manner/fashion, identically.

alimony ▶ **noun** FINANCIAL SUPPORT, maintenance, support; child support.

alive ▶ **adjective** ① *he was last seen alive on Boxing Day*: LIVING, live, breathing, animate, sentient; *informal* alive and kicking; *archaic* quick. ② *the synagogue has kept the Jewish faith alive*: ACTIVE, existing, in existence, existent, functioning, in operation; on the map. ③ *the thrills that kept him really alive*: ANIMATED, lively, full of life, alert, active, energetic, vigorous, spry, sprightly, vital, vivacious, buoyant, exuberant, ebullient, zestful, spirited; *informal* full of beans, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, chirpy, chipper, peppy, full of vim and vigour. ④ *teachers need to be alive to their pupils' backgrounds*: ALERT, awake, aware, conscious, mindful, heedful, sensitive, familiar; *informal* wise; *formal* cognizant. ⑤ *the place was alive with mice*: TEEMING, swarming, overrun, crawling, bristling, infested; crowded, packed; *informal* lousy.

—OPPOSITES dead, inanimate, inactive, lethargic.

all ▶ **determiner** ① *all the children went* | *all creatures need sleep*: EACH OF, each/every one of, every single one of; every (single), each and every. ② *the sun shone all week*: THE WHOLE OF THE, every bit of the, the complete, the entire. ③ *in all honesty* | *with all speed*: COMPLETE, entire, total, full; greatest (possible), maximum.

—RELATED TERMS omni-, pan-, panto-.

—OPPOSITES no, none of.

▶ **pronoun** ① *all are welcome*: EVERYONE, everybody, each/every person. ② *all of the cups were broken*: EACH ONE, the sum, the total, the whole lot. ③ *they took all of it*: EVERYTHING, every part, the whole/total amount, the (whole) lot, the entirety.

—OPPOSITES none, nobody, nothing.

▶ **adverb** *he was dressed all in black*: COMPLETELY, fully, entirely, totally, wholly, absolutely, utterly; in every respect, in all respects, without reservation/exception.

—OPPOSITES partly.

allay ▶ **verb** REDUCE, diminish, decrease, lessen, assuage, alleviate, ease, relieve, soothe, soften, calm, take the edge off.

—OPPOSITES increase, intensify.

a

allegation ► noun CLAIM, assertion, charge, accusation, declaration, statement, contention, argument, affirmation, attestation; *formal* averment.

allege ► verb CLAIM, assert, charge, accuse, declare, state, contend, argue, affirm, attest, testify, swear; *formal* aver.

alleged ► adjective SUPPOSED, so-called, claimed, professed, purported, ostensible, putative, unproven.

allegedly ► adverb REPORTEDLY, supposedly, reputedly, purportedly, ostensibly, apparently, putatively, by all accounts, so the story goes.

allegiance ► noun LOYALTY, faithfulness, fidelity, obedience, adherence, homage, devotion; *historical* fealty; *formal* troth.

—OPPOSITES disloyalty, treachery.

allegorical ► adjective SYMBOLIC, metaphoric, figurative, representative, emblematic.

allegory ► noun PARABLE, analogy, metaphor, symbol, emblem.

allergic ► adjective ① *she was allergic to nuts*: HYPERSENSITIVE, sensitive, sensitized. ② (*informal*) *boys are allergic to washing*: AVERSE, opposed, hostile, inimical, antagonistic, antipathetic, resistant, (dead) set against.

allergy ► noun ① *an allergy to feathers*: HYPERSENSITIVITY, sensitivity, allergic reaction. ② (*informal*) *their allergy to free enterprise*: AVERSION, antipathy, opposition, hostility, antagonism, dislike, distaste.

alleviate ► verb REDUCE, ease, relieve, take the edge off, deaden, dull, diminish, lessen, weaken, lighten, attenuate, allay, assuage, palliate, damp, soothe, help, soften, temper.

—OPPOSITES aggravate.

alley ► noun PASSAGE, passageway, alleyway, back alley, backstreet, lane, path, pathway, walk, allée.

alliance ► noun ① *a defensive alliance*: ASSOCIATION, union, league, confederation, federation, confederacy, coalition, consortium, affiliation, partnership. ② *an alliance between medicine and morality*: RELATIONSHIP, affinity, association, connection.

allied ► adjective ① *a group of allied nations*: FEDERATED, confederated, associated, in alliance, in league, in partnership; unified, united, amalgamated, integrated. ② *agricultural and allied industries*: ASSOCIATED, related, connected, interconnected, linked; similar, like, comparable, equivalent.

—OPPOSITES independent, unrelated.

all-important ► adjective VITAL, essential, indispensable, crucial, key, vitally important, of the utmost importance; critical, life-and-death, paramount, pre-eminent, high-priority; urgent, pressing, burning.

—OPPOSITES inessential.

allocate ► verb ALLOT, assign, distribute, apportion, share out, portion out, deal out, dole out, give out, dish out, parcel out, ration out, divide out/up; *informal* divvy up.

allocation ► noun ① *the efficient allocation of resources*: ALLOTMENT, assignment, distribution, apportionment, sharing out, handing out, dealing out, doling out, giving out, dishing out, parcelling out, rationing out, dividing out/up; *informal* divvy up. ② *our annual allocation of*

funds: ALLOWANCE, allotment, quota, share, ration, grant, slice; *informal* cut; *Brit. informal* whack.

allot ► verb ALLOCATE, assign, apportion, distribute, issue, grant; earmark for, designate for, set aside for; hand out, deal out, dish out, dole out, give out; *informal* divvy up.

allotment ► noun ① *the allotment of shares by a company*: ALLOCATION, assignment, distribution, apportionment, issuing, sharing out, handing out, dealing out, doling out, giving out, dishing out, parcelling out, rationing out, dividing out/up; *informal* divvy up. ② *each member received an allotment of new shares*: QUOTA, share, ration, grant, allocation, allowance, slice; *informal* cut; *Brit. informal* whack.

all out ► adverb I'm working all out to finish my novel: STRENUOUSLY, energetically, vigorously, hard, with all one's might (and main), eagerly, enthusiastically, industriously, diligently, assiduously, sedulously, indefatigably, with application/perseverance; *informal* like mad, like crazy; *Brit. informal* like billy-o.

—OPPOSITES lackadaisically.

► adjective an all-out attack: STRENUOUS, energetic, vigorous, forceful, forcible; spirited, mettlesome, plucky, determined, resolute, aggressive, eager, keen, enthusiastic, zealous, ardent, fervent.

—OPPOSITES halfhearted.

allow ► verb ① *the police allowed him to go home*: PERMIT, let, authorize, give permission/authorization/leave, sanction, grant someone the right, license, enable, entitle; consent, assent, give one's consent/assent/blessing, give the nod, acquiesce, agree, approve; *informal* give the go-ahead, give the thumbs up, OK, give the OK, give the green light; *formal* accede. ② *allow an hour or so for driving*: SET ASIDE, allocate, allot, earmark, designate, assign. ③ *the house was demolished to allow for road widening*: PROVIDE, get ready, cater, take into consideration, take into account, make provision, make preparations, prepare, plan, make plans. ④ *she allowed that all people had their funny little ways*: ADMIT, acknowledge, recognize, agree, accept, concede, grant.

—OPPOSITES prevent, forbid.

allowable ► adjective the maximum allowable number of users: PERMISSIBLE, permitted, allowed, admissible, acceptable, legal, lawful, legitimate, licit, authorized, sanctioned, approved, in order; *informal* OK, legit.

—OPPOSITES forbidden.

allowance ► noun ① *your baggage allowance*: PERMITTED AMOUNT/QUANTITY, allocation, allotment, quota, share, ration, grant, limit, portion, slice. ② *her father gave her an allowance*: PAYMENT, pocket money, sum of money, contribution, grant, subsidy, maintenance, financial support. ③ *a tax allowance*: CONCESSION, reduction, decrease, discount.

■ make allowance(s) for ① *you must make allowances for delays*: TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, take into account, bear in mind, have regard to, provide for, plan for, make plans for, get ready for, cater for, allow for, make provision for, make preparations for, prepare for. ② *she made allowances for his faults*: EXCUSE, make excuses for, forgive, pardon, overlook.

alloy ► noun MIXTURE, mix, amalgam, fusion, meld, blend, compound, combination, composite, union; *technical* admixture. See list.

Alloys

aluminum	aluminium	aluminum	aluminium
brass	brass	brass	brass
bronze	bronze	bronze	bronze
babbitt metal	babbitt metal	babbitt metal	babbitt metal
bell metal	bell metal	bell metal	bell metal
bidri	bidri	bidri	bidri
billon	billon	billon	billon
brass	brass	brass	brass
Britannia metal	Britannia metal	Britannia metal	Britannia metal
bronze	bronze	bronze	bronze
constantan	constantan	constantan	constantan
cupro-nickel	cupro-nickel	cupro-nickel	cupro-nickel
Dutch metal	Dutch metal	Dutch metal	Dutch metal
electrum	electrum	electrum	electrum
eureka	eureka	eureka	eureka
German silver	German silver	German silver	German silver
gunmetal	gunmetal	gunmetal	gunmetal
kamacite	kamacite	kamacite	kamacite
magnox	magnox	magnox	magnox
manganese bronze	manganese bronze	manganese bronze	manganese bronze
misc metal	misc metal	misc metal	misc metal
mosaic gold	mosaic gold	mosaic gold	mosaic gold
nickel brass	nickel brass	nickel brass	nickel brass
nitinol	nitinol	nitinol	nitinol
ormolu	ormolu	ormolu	ormolu
permalloy	permalloy	permalloy	permalloy
pewter	pewter	pewter	pewter
phosphor bronze	phosphor bronze	phosphor bronze	phosphor bronze
pinchbeck	pinchbeck	pinchbeck	pinchbeck
platinoid	platinoid	platinoid	platinoid
red gold	red gold	red gold	red gold
shakudo	shakudo	shakudo	shakudo
silver solder	silver solder	silver solder	silver solder
solder	solder	solder	solder
speculum metal	speculum metal	speculum metal	speculum metal
spiegeleisen	spiegeleisen	spiegeleisen	spiegeleisen
steel	steel	steel	steel
tombac	tombac	tombac	tombac
tappe	tappe	tappe	tappe
tin	tin	tin	tin
type metal	type metal	type metal	type metal
white gold	white gold	white gold	white gold
white metal	white metal	white metal	white metal
zircaloy	zircaloy	zircaloy	zircaloy

all-powerful ▶ adjective OMNIPOTENT, almighty, supreme, pre-eminent; dictatorial, despotic, totalitarian, autocratic.
—OPPOSITES powerless.

all right ▶ adjective ① *the tea was all right*: SATISFACTORY, acceptable, adequate, fairly good, passable, reasonable; *informal* so-so, OK. ② *are you all right?* UNHURT, uninjured, unharmed, unscathed, in one piece, safe (and sound); well, fine, alive and well; *informal* OK. ③ *it's all right for you to go now*: PERMISSIBLE, permitted, allowed, allowable, admissible, acceptable, legal, lawful, legitimate, licit, authorized, sanctioned, approved, in order; *informal* OK, legit.
—OPPOSITES unsatisfactory, hurt, forbidden.

▶ adverb ① *the system works all right*: SATISFACTORILY, adequately, fairly well, passably, acceptably, reasonably; *informal* OK. ② *it's him all right*: DEFINITELY, certainly, unquestionably, undoubtedly, indubitably, undeniably, assuredly, without (a) doubt, beyond (any) doubt, beyond the shadow of a doubt; *archaic* in sooth, verily.

▶ exclamation *all right, I'll go*: VERY WELL (THEN), right (then), fine, good, yes, agreed, wilco; *informal* OK, okey-dokey, roger; *Brit. informal* righto.

allude ▶ verb REFER, touch on, suggest, hint, imply, mention (in passing), make an allusion to; *formal* advert.

allure ▶ noun *the allure of Paris*: ATTRACTION, lure, draw, pull, appeal, allurement, enticement, temptation, charm, seduction, fascination.

▶ verb *will sponsors be allured by such opportunities?* ATTRACT, lure, entice, tempt, appeal to, captivate, draw, win over, charm, seduce, fascinate, whet the appetite of, make someone's mouth water.
—OPPOSITES repel.

alluring ▶ adjective ENTICING, tempting, attractive, appealing, inviting, captivating, fetching, seductive; enchanting, charming, fascinating; *informal* come-hither.

allusion ▶ noun REFERENCE, mention, suggestion, hint, comment, remark.

ally ▶ noun *close political allies*: ASSOCIATE, colleague, friend, confederate, partner, supporter.
—OPPOSITES enemy, opponent.

▶ verb ① *he allied his racing experience with business acumen*: COMBINE, marry, couple, merge, amalgamate, join, fuse. ② *the Catholic powers allied*

with Philip II: UNITE, combine, join (up), join forces, band together, team up, collaborate, side, align oneself, form an alliance, throw in one's lot, make common cause.
—OPPOSITES split.

almanac ▶ noun YEARBOOK, calendar, register, annual; manual, handbook.

almighty ▶ adjective ① *I swear by almighty God*: ALL-POWERFUL, omnipotent, supreme, pre-eminent. ② (*informal*) *an almighty explosion*: VERY GREAT, huge, enormous, immense, colossal, massive, prodigious, stupendous, tremendous, monumental, mammoth, vast, gigantic, giant, mighty, Herculean, epic; very loud, deafening, ear-splitting, ear-piercing, booming, thundering, thunderous; *informal* whopping, thumping, astronomical, mega, monster, humongous, jumbo; *Brit. informal* whacking, ginormous.
—OPPOSITES powerless, insignificant.

almost ▶ adverb NEARLY, (just) about, more or less, practically, virtually, all but, as good as, close to, near, well-nigh, nigh on, not quite, not far from/off, to all intents and purposes; approaching, bordering on, verging on; *informal* pretty nearly/much/well.
—RELATED TERMS quasi-

aims ▶ plural noun (*historical*) GIFT(s), donation(s), handout(s), offering(s), charity, baksheesh, largesse; *rare* donative.

aloft ▶ adjective & adverb ① *he hoisted the Cup aloft*: UPWARDS, up, high, into the air/sky, skyward, heavenward. ② *the airships stayed aloft for many hours*: IN THE AIR, in the sky, high up, up (above), on high, overhead.
—OPPOSITES down.

alone ▶ adjective & adverb ① *she was alone in the house*: BY ONESELF, on one's own, all alone, solitary, single, singly, solo, solus; unescorted, partnerless, companionless; *Brit. informal* on one's tod, on one's lonesome, on one's Jack Jones; *Austral./NZ informal* on one's Pat Malone. ② *he managed alone*: UNAIDED, unassisted, without help/assistance, single-handedly, solo, on one's own. ③ *she felt terribly alone*: LONELY, isolated, solitary, deserted, abandoned, forlorn, friendless. ④ *a house standing alone*: APART, by itself/oneself, separate, detached, isolated. ⑤ *you alone can inspire me*: ONLY, solely, just; and no one else, and nothing else, no one but, nothing but.
—OPPOSITES in company, with help, among others.

along ▶ preposition ① *she walked along the corridor*: DOWN, from one end of — to the other. ② *trees grew along the river bank*: BESIDE, by the side of, on the edge of, alongside. ③ *they'll stop along the way*: ON, at a point on, in the course of.

▶ adverb ① *Maurice moved along past the other exhibits*: ONWARDS, on, ahead, forward(s). ② *I invited a friend along*: AS COMPANY, with one, to accompany one, as a partner.

■ **along with** TOGETHER WITH, accompanying, accompanied by; at the same time as; as well as, in addition to, plus, besides.

aloof ▶ adjective DISTANT, detached, unfriendly, unsociable, remote, unapproachable, formal, stiff, austere, withdrawn, reserved, unforthcoming, uncommunicative; *informal* stand-offish.
—OPPOSITES familiar, friendly.

a

aloud ► **adverb** AUDIBLY, out loud, for all to hear.

—**OPPOSITES** silently.

alphabet ► **noun** ABC, letters, writing system, syllabary. *See* list.

Names for Alphabetical Letters

See also PHONETIC ALPHABET.

GREEK		HEBREW
A α	alpha	א aleph
B β	beta	ב beth
Γ γ	gamma	ג gimel
Δ δ	delta	ד dalet
Ε ε	epsilon	ה he
Ζ ζ	zeta	ו waw
Η η	eta	ז zayin
Θ θ	theta	ח heth
Ι ι	iota	ט teth
Κ κ	kappa	י yodh
Λ λ	lambda	כ kaph
Μ μ	mu	ל lamedh
Ν ν	nu	מ mem
Ξ ξ	xi	נ nun
Ο ο	omicron	ס samekh
Π π	pi	ע ayin
Ρ ρ	rho	פ pe
Σ σ, ς	sigma	צ sadhe
Τ τ	tau	ק qoph
Υ υ	upsilon	ר resh
Φ φ	phi	ש shin
Χ χ	chi	ת tav
Ψ ψ	psi	
Ω ω	omega	

already ► **adverb** ① *Anna had suffered a great deal already.* BY THIS/THAT TIME, by now/then, thus/so far, before now/then, until now/then, up to now/then. ② *Is it 3 o'clock already?* AS EARLY AS THIS/THAT, as soon as this/that, so soon.

also ► **adverb** TOO, as well, besides, in addition, additionally, furthermore, further, moreover, into the bargain, on top (of that), what's more, to boot, equally; *informal* and all; *archaic* withal, forbye.

alter ► **verb** ① *Ellot was persuaded to alter the passage.* CHANGE, make changes to, make different, make alterations to, adjust, make adjustments to, adapt, amend, modify, revise, revamp, rework, redo, refine, vary, transform; *informal* tweak; *technical* permute. ② *the state of affairs has altered.* CHANGE, become different, undergo a (sea) change, adjust, adapt, transform, evolve. —**OPPOSITES** preserve, stay the same.

alteration ► **noun** CHANGE, adjustment, adaptation, modification, variation, revision, amendment; rearrangement, reordering, restyling, rejigging, reworking, revamping; sea change, transformation; *humorous* transmogrification.

altercation ► **noun** ARGUMENT, quarrel, squabble, fight, shouting match, disagreement, difference of opinion, falling-out, dispute, disputation, wrangle, war of words; *informal* tiff, run-in, slanging match, spat, scrap; *Brit. informal* row, barney, ding-dong, bust-up, bit of argy-bargy; *N. Amer. informal* rhu-barb; *archaic* broil, miff.

alternate ► **verb** ① *rows of trees alternate with dense shrub.* BE INTERSPERSED, occur in turn/rotation, rotate, follow one another; take turns, take it in turns, work/act in sequence. ② *we could alternate the groups so that no one felt they had been left out.* GIVE TURNS TO, take in turn, rotate, take in rotation; swap, exchange, interchange.

► **adjective** ① *she attended on alternate days.* EVERY OTHER, every second. ② *place the leeks and noodles in alternate layers.* ALTERNATING, interchanging, following in sequence, sequential, occurring in turns. ③ (*N. Amer.*) an alternate plan. *See* ALTERNATIVE adjective sense 1.

alternative ► **adjective** ① *an alternative route.* DIFFERENT, other, another, second, possible, substitute, replacement; standby, emergency, reserve, back-up, auxiliary, fallback; *N. Amer.* alternate. ② *an alternative lifestyle.* UNORTHODOX, unconventional, non-standard, unusual, uncommon, out of the ordinary, radical, revolutionary, nonconformist, avant-garde; *informal* off the wall, oddball, offbeat, way-out.

► **noun** we have no alternative: OPTION, choice, other possibility; substitute, replacement.

alternatively ► **adverb** ON THE OTHER HAND, as an alternative, or; otherwise, instead, if not, then again; *N. Amer.* alternately.

although ► **conjunction** IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT, despite the fact that, notwithstanding (the fact) that, even though/if, for all that, while, whilst.

altitude ► **noun** HEIGHT, elevation, distance above the sea/ground.

altogether ► **adverb** ① *he wasn't altogether happy.* COMPLETELY, totally, entirely, absolutely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, utterly, perfectly, one hundred per cent, in all respects. ② *we have five offices altogether.* IN ALL, all told, in toto. ③ *altogether it was a great evening.* ON THE WHOLE, overall, all in all, all things considered, on balance, on average, for the most part, in the main, in general, generally, by and large.

altruism ► **noun** UNSELFISHNESS, selflessness, compassion, kindness, public-spiritedness; charity, benevolence, beneficence, philanthropy, humanitarianism; *poetic/literary* bounty, bounteousness.

—**OPPOSITES** selfishness.

always ► **adverb** ① *he's always late.* EVERY TIME, each time, at all times, all the time, without fail, consistently, invariably, regularly, habitually, unfailingly. ② *she's always complaining.* CONTINUALLY, continuously, constantly, forever, perpetually, incessantly, ceaselessly, unceasingly, endlessly, the entire time; *informal* 24-7. ③ *the place will always be dear to me.* FOREVER, for always, for good (and all), for evermore, for ever and ever, until the end of time, eternally, for eternity, until hell freezes over; *informal* for keeps, until the cows come home; *archaic* for aye. ④ *you can always take it back to the shop.* AS A LAST RESORT, no matter what, in any event/case, come what may.

—**OPPOSITES** never, seldom, sometimes.

amalgamate ► **verb** COMBINE, merge, unite, fuse, blend, meld; join (together), join forces, band (together), link (up), team up, go into partnership; *poetic/literary* commingle.

—**OPPOSITES** separate.

amalgamation ▶ noun COMBINATION, union, blend, mixture, fusion, coalescence, synthesis, composite, amalgam.

amass ▶ verb GATHER, collect, assemble; accumulate, stockpile, store (up), cumulate, accrue, lay in/up, garner; *informal* stash (away).
—OPPOSITES dissipate.

amateur ▶ noun ① *the crew were all amateurs*: NON-PROFESSIONAL, non-specialist, layman, layperson; dilettante. ② *what a bunch of amateurs*: BUNGLER, incompetent, bumbler; *Brit. informal* bodger.

—OPPOSITES professional, expert.

▶ adjective ① *an amateur sportsman*: NON-PROFESSIONAL, non-specialist, lay; dilettante. ② *their amateur efforts*: INCOMPETENT, inept, unskilful, inexpert, amateurish, clumsy, maladroit, bumbling; *Brit. informal* bodger.

amateurish ▶ adjective. See AMATEUR adjective sense 2.

amatory ▶ adjective SEXUAL, erotic, amorous, romantic, sensual, passionate, sexy; *informal* randy, steamy, naughty.

amaze ▶ verb ASTONISH, astound, surprise, stun, stagger, nonplus, shock, startle, stupefy, stop someone in their tracks, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast, take someone's breath away, dumbfound; *informal* bowl over, flabbergast; *Brit. informal* knock for six; (**amazed**) thunderstruck, at a loss for words, speechless; *Brit. informal* gobsmacked.

amazement ▶ noun ASTONISHMENT, surprise, shock, stupefaction, incredulity, disbelief, speechlessness, awe, wonder, wonderment.

amazing ▶ adjective ASTONISHING, astounding, surprising, stunning, staggering, shocking, startling, stupefying, breathtaking; awesome, awe-inspiring, sensational, remarkable, spectacular, stupendous, phenomenal, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable; *informal* mind-blowing, flabbergasting; *poetic/literary* wondrous.

ambassador ▶ noun ① *the American ambassador*: ENVOY, plenipotentiary, emissary, (papal) nuncio, representative, diplomat; *archaic* legate. ② *a great ambassador for the sport*: CAMPAIGNER, representative, promoter, champion, supporter, backer; *N. Amer.* booster.

ambience ▶ noun ATMOSPHERE, air, aura, climate, mood, feel, feeling, vibrations, character, quality, impression, flavour, look, tone; *informal* vibes.

ambiguity ▶ noun AMBIVALENCE, equivocation; obscurity, vagueness, abstruseness, doubtfulness, uncertainty; *formal* dubiety.

ambiguous ▶ adjective EQUIVOCAL, ambivalent, open to debate/argument, arguable, debatable; obscure, unclear, vague, abstruse, doubtful, dubious, uncertain.
—OPPOSITES clear.

ambit ▶ noun SCOPE, extent, range, breadth, width, reach, sweep; terms of reference, field of reference, jurisdiction, remit; area, sphere, field, realm, compass.

ambition ▶ noun ① *young people with ambition*: DRIVE, determination, enterprise, initiative, eagerness, motivation, enthusiasm, zeal, commitment, a sense of purpose; *informal* get-up-and-go. ② *her ambition was to become a model*: ASPIRATION, intention, goal, aim, objective, object,

purpose, intent, plan, desire, wish, design, target, dream.

ambitious ▶ adjective ① *an energetic and ambitious politician*: ASPIRING, determined, forceful, pushy, enterprising, motivated, enthusiastic, energetic, zealous, committed, purposeful, power-hungry; *informal* go-ahead, go-getting. ② *he was ambitious to make it to the top*: EAGER, determined, intent on, enthusiastic, anxious, hungry, impatient, striving. ③ *an ambitious task*: DIFFICULT, exacting, demanding, formidable, challenging, hard, arduous, onerous, tough; *archaic* toilsome.

—OPPOSITES laid-back.

ambivalent ▶ adjective EQUIVOCAL, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, indecisive, inconclusive, irresolute, in two minds, undecided, torn, in a dilemma, on the horns of a dilemma, in a quandary, on the fence, hesitating, wavering, vacillating, equivocating, blowing hot and cold; *informal* iffy.

—OPPOSITES unequivocal, certain.

amble ▶ verb STROLL, saunter, wander, ramble, promenade, walk, go for a walk, take a walk; *informal* mosey, tootle; *Brit. informal* pootle, mooch; *formal* perambulate.

ambush ▶ noun *the soldiers were killed in an ambush*: SURPRISE ATTACK, trap; *archaic* ambuscade.

▶ verb *twenty youths ambushed their patrol car*: ATTACK BY SURPRISE, surprise, pounce on, lay a trap for, set an ambush for, lie in wait for, waylay; *N. Amer.* bushwhack; *archaic* ambuscade.

ameliorate ▶ verb IMPROVE, make better, better, make improvements to, enhance, help, benefit, boost, amend; relieve, ease, mitigate; *informal* tweak, patch up.

—OPPOSITES worsen.

amenable ▶ adjective ① *an amenable child*: COMPLIANT, acquiescent, biddable, manageable, controllable, governable, persuadable, tractable, responsive, pliant, malleable, complaisant, easily handled; *rare* persuasible. ② *many cancers are amenable to treatment*: SUSCEPTIBLE, receptive, responsive; *archaic* susceptible.

—OPPOSITES uncooperative.

amend ▶ verb REVISE, alter, change, modify, qualify, adapt, adjust; edit, copy-edit, rewrite, redraft, rephrase, reword, rework, revamp.

amends ▶ plural noun *I wanted to make amends*: COMPENSATION, recompense, reparation, restitution, redress, atonement, expiation.

■ **make amends** COMPENSATE, recompense, indemnify, make it up to; atone for, make up for, make good, expiate.

amenity ▶ noun ① *basic amenities*: FACILITY, service, convenience, resource, appliance, aid, comfort, benefit, advantage. ② *a loss of amenity*: PLEASANTNESS, agreeableness, niceness.

America ▶ noun. See UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

amiable ▶ adjective FRIENDLY, affable, amicable, cordial; warm, warm-hearted, good-natured, nice, pleasant, agreeable, likeable, genial, good-humoured, charming, easy to get on/along with, companionable, sociable, personable; *informal* chummy; *Brit. informal* matey; *N. Amer. informal* regular.

—OPPOSITES unfriendly, disagreeable.

a

amicable ▶ **adjective** FRIENDLY, good-natured, cordial, easy, easy-going, neighbourly, harmonious, cooperative, civilized.

—**OPPOSITES** unfriendly.

amid ▶ **preposition** ① *the jeep was concealed amid pine trees*: IN THE MIDDLE OF, surrounded by, among, amongst; *poetic/literary* amidst, in the midst of. ② *the truce collapsed amid fears of a revolt*: AT A TIME OF, in an atmosphere of, against a background of; as a result of.

amiss ▶ **adjective** an inspection revealed nothing amiss: WRONG, awry, faulty, out of order, defective, unsatisfactory, incorrect; inappropriate, improper.

—**OPPOSITES** right, in order.

■ **not come/go amiss** BE WELCOME, be appropriate, be useful.

■ **take something amiss** BE OFFENDED, take offence, be upset.

amity ▶ **noun** FRIENDSHIP, friendliness, harmony, harmoniousness, understanding, accord, cooperation, amicableness, goodwill, cordiality, warmth; *formal* concord.

—**OPPOSITES** animosity, enmity.

ammunition ▶ **noun** police seized arms and ammunition: BULLETS, shells, projectiles, missiles, rounds, shot, slugs, cartridges, munitions; *informal* ammo. See list at BULLET.

amnesty ▶ **noun** an amnesty for political prisoners: PARDON, pardoning, reprieve; release, discharge; *informal* let-off.

▶ **verb** the guerrillas were amnestied: PARDON, grant an amnesty to, reprieve; release, discharge, liberate, free, spare; *informal* let off, let off the hook.

amok

■ **run amok** GO BERSERK, get out of control, rampage, riot, run riot, go on the rampage, behave like a maniac, behave wildly/uncontrollably, become violent/destructive; *informal* raise hell.

among, amongst ▶ **preposition** ① *you're among friends*: SURROUNDED BY, in the company of, amongst, amid, in the middle of; *poetic/literary* amidst, in the midst of. ② *a child was among the injured*: INCLUDED IN, one/some of, in the group/number of. ③ *he distributed the proceeds among his creditors*: BETWEEN, to each of.

—**RELATED TERMS** inter-.

■ **among ourselves/yourself/themselves** JOINTLY, with one another, together, mutually, reciprocally.

amoral ▶ **adjective** UNPRINCIPLED, without standards/morals/scruples, unethical.

—**OPPOSITES** principled.

amorous ▶ **adjective** LUSTFUL, sexual, erotic, amatory, ardent, passionate, impassioned; in love, enamoured, lovesick; *informal* lovey-dovey, kissy, smoochy, goo-goo, hot; *Brit. informal* randy; *archaic* sportive.

—**OPPOSITES** unloving.

amorphous ▶ **adjective** SHAPELESS, formless, structureless, indeterminate.

—**OPPOSITES** shaped, definite.

amount ▶ **noun** QUANTITY, number, total, aggregate, sum, quota, group, size, mass, weight, volume, bulk, quantum.

■ **amount to** ① *the bill amounted to £50*: ADD UP TO, come to, run to, be, make, total; *Brit.* tot up to. ② *the delays amounted to maladministration*:

CONSTITUTE, comprise, be tantamount, come down, boil down; signify, signal, mean, indicate, suggest, denote, point to, be evidence, be symptomatic; *poetic/literary* betoken. ③ *her relationships had never amounted to anything significant*: BECOME, grow/develop into, prove to be, turn out to be.

■ **the full amount** THE GRAND TOTAL, the total, the aggregate; *informal* the whole caboodle/shebang, the full nine yards.

amphibian ▶ **noun**. See list.

Amphibians

alpine salamander

axolotl

bullfrog

caecilian

cane toad

cave salamander

clawed frog

crested newt

eft

fire-bellied toad

fire salamander

flying frog

frog

giant salamander

golliwog

hairy frog

hellbender

horned toad

hyla

leopard frog

lungless salamander

marsh frog

midwife toad

mole salamander

mud puppy

natterjack toad

newt

olm

palmate newt

peeper

platanna

poison-arrow frog

salamander

siren

smooth newt

spadefoot toad

Suriname toad

tiger salamander

toad

tree frog

waterdog

Xenopus

ample ▶ **adjective** ① *there is ample time for discussion*: ENOUGH, sufficient, adequate, plenty of, more than enough, enough and to spare. ② *an ample supply of wine*: PLENTIFUL, abundant, copious, profuse, rich, lavish, liberal, generous, bountiful, large, huge, great, bumper; *informal* a gogo, galore; *poetic/literary* plenteous. ③ *his ample tunic*: SPACIOUS, capacious, roomy, sizeable; voluminous, loose-fitting, baggy, sloppy; *formal* commodious.

—**OPPOSITES** insufficient, meagre.

amplify ▶ **verb** ① *many frogs amplify their voices*: MAKE LOUDER, louden, turn up, magnify, intensify, increase, boost, step up, raise. ② *these notes amplify our statement*: EXPAND, enlarge on, elaborate on, add to, supplement, develop, flesh out, add detail to, go into detail about.

—**OPPOSITES** reduce, quieten.

amplitude ▶ **noun** MAGNITUDE, size, volume; extent, range, compass; breadth, width.

amputate ▶ **verb** CUT OFF, sever, remove (surgically), saw/chop off.

amulet ▶ **noun** LUCKY CHARM, charm, talisman, fetish, mascot, totem, idol, juju; *archaic* periapt.

amuse ▶ **verb** ① *her annoyance simply amused him*: ENTERTAIN, make laugh, delight, divert, cheer (up), please, charm, tickle; *informal* tickle pink, crack up; *Brit. informal* crease up. ② *he amused himself by writing poetry*: OCCUPY, engage, busy, employ, distract, absorb, engross, hold someone's attention; interest, entertain, divert.

—**OPPOSITES** bore.

amusement ▶ **noun** ① *we looked with amusement at the cartoon*: MIRTH, merriment, light-

heartedness, hilarity, glee, delight, gaiety, joviality, fun; enjoyment, pleasure, high spirits, cheerfulness. ② *I read the book for amusement:* ENTERTAINMENT, pleasure, leisure, relaxation, fun, enjoyment, interest, diversion; *informal* R and R; *N Amer. informal* rec; *archaic* disport. ③ *a wide range of amusements:* ACTIVITY, entertainment, diversion; game, sport.

amusing ▶ *adjective* ENTERTAINING, funny, comical, humorous, light-hearted, jocular, witty, mirthful, hilarious, droll, diverting; *informal* wacky, side-splitting, rib-tickling.
-OPPOSITES boring, solemn.

anaemic ▶ *adjective* ① *his anaemic face:* COLOURLESS, bloodless, pale, pallid, wan, ashen, grey, sallow, pasty-faced, whey-faced, peaky, sickly, etiolated. ② *an anaemic description of her feelings:* FEEBLE, weak, insipid, wishy-washy, vapid, bland; lame, tame, lacklustre, spiritless, lifeless, ineffective, ineffectual, etiolated; *informal* pathetic.

anaesthetic ▶ *noun* NARCOTIC, painkiller, painkilling drug, pain reliever, sedative, anodyne, analgesic; general, local.

analgesic ▶ *adjective* PAINKILLING, pain-relieving, anodyne, narcotic, palliative.

analogous ▶ *adjective* COMPARABLE, parallel, similar, like, corresponding, related, kindred, equivalent; *formal* cognate.
-OPPOSITES unrelated.

analogy ▶ *noun* SIMILARITY, parallel, correspondence, likeness, resemblance, correlation, relation, kinship, equivalence, similitude.
-OPPOSITES dissimilarity.

analyse ▶ *verb* EXAMINE, inspect, survey, study, scrutinize, look over; investigate, explore, probe, research, go over (with a fine-tooth comb), review, evaluate, break down, dissect, anatomize.

analysis ▶ *noun* EXAMINATION, investigation, inspection, survey, study, scrutiny; exploration, probe, research, review, evaluation, interpretation, anatomization, dissection.

analytical, analytic ▶ *adjective* SYSTEMATIC, logical, scientific, methodical, (well) organized, ordered, orderly, meticulous, rigorous.
-OPPOSITES unsystematic.

anarchic ▶ *adjective* LAWLESS, without law and order, in disorder/turmoil, unruly, chaotic, turbulent.
-OPPOSITES ordered.

anarchist ▶ *noun* NIHILIST, insurgent, agitator, subversive, terrorist, revolutionary, revolutionist, insurrectionist.

anarchy ▶ *noun* LAWLESSNESS, nihilism, mobocracy, revolution, insurrection, disorder, chaos, tumult, turmoil.
-OPPOSITES government, order.

anathema ▶ *noun* ① *racial hatred was anathema to her:* ABHORRENT, hateful, repugnant, repellent, offensive; ABOMINATION, outrage, bane, bugbear, bête noire. ② *the Vatican Council issued an anathema:* CURSE, ban, excommunication, proscription, debarment, denunciation.

anatomy ▶ *noun* ① *a cat's anatomy:* STRUCTURE, make-up, composition, constitution, form. ② *an anatomy of society:* ANALYSIS, examination, inspection, survey, study, investigation, review, evaluation.

ancestor ▶ *noun* ① *he could trace his ancestors back to King James I:* FOREBEAR, forefather, predecessor, antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor. ② *the instrument is an ancestor of the lute:* FORE RUNNER, precursor, predecessor.
-OPPOSITES descendant, successor.

ancestral ▶ *adjective* INHERITED, hereditary, familial.

ancestry ▶ *noun* ANCESTORS, forebears, forefathers, progenitors, antecedents; family tree; lineage, genealogy, roots.

anchor ▶ *noun* ① *a ship's anchor:* kedge, killick, bower, grapnel, ground tackle. ② *the anchor of the new coalition:* MAINSTAY, cornerstone, linchpin, bulwark, foundation. ③ *a CBS news anchor:* PRESENTER, announcer, anchorman, anchorwoman, broadcaster.

▶ *verb* ① *the ship was anchored in the bay:* MOOR, berth, be at anchor; *archaic* harbour. ② *the fish anchors itself to the coral:* SECURE, fasten, attach, affix, fix.

anchorage ▶ *noun* MOORINGS, moorage, roads, roadstead, harbourage.

anchorite ▶ *noun* (*historical*) HERMIT, recluse, ascetic; *historical* stylite; *archaic* eremite.

ancient ▶ *adjective* ① *ancient civilizations:* OF LONG AGO, early, prehistoric, primeval, primordial, primitive; *poetic/literary* of yore; *archaic* foregone. ② *an ancient custom:* OLD, very old, age-old, archaic, antediluvian, time-worn, time-honoured. ③ *I feel positively ancient:* ANTIQUATED, aged, elderly, decrepit, antediluvian, in one's dotage; old-fashioned, out of date, outmoded, démodé, passé; *informal* out of the ark; *Brit. informal* past its/one's sell-by date.
-RELATED TERMS archaeo-, palaeo-.
-OPPOSITES recent, contemporary.

ancillary ▶ *adjective* ADDITIONAL, auxiliary, supporting, helping, extra, supplementary, accessory; *Medicine* adjuvant; *rare* adminicular.
-RELATED TERMS para-.

and ▶ *conjunction* TOGETHER WITH, along with, with, as well as, in addition to, also, too; besides, furthermore; *informal* plus.

anecdotal ▶ *adjective* ① *anecdotal evidence:* UNSCIENTIFIC, unreliable, based on hearsay. ② *her book is anecdotal and chatty:* NARRATIVE, full of stories.

anecdote ▶ *noun* STORY, tale, narrative; urban myth; *informal* yarn.

anew ▶ *adverb* AGAIN, afresh, once more/again, over again.

angel ▶ *noun* ① *God sent an angel:* MESSENGER OF GOD, divine/heavenly messenger, divine being. See list. ② *she's an absolute angel:* PARAGON OF VIRTUE, saint; gem, treasure, darling, dear; *informal* star; *Brit. informal, dated* brick. ③ (*informal*) *a financial angel:* BACKER, sponsor, benefactor, promoter, patron.
-OPPOSITES devil.

The Manyfold Mien of Angels

angelic
cherub
seraph

angelic
cherub
seraph

a

angelic ▶ **adjective** ① *angelic beings*: DIVINE, heavenly, celestial, holy, seraphic; *poetic/literary* empyrean. ② *Sophie's angelic appearance*: INNOCENT, pure, virtuous, good, saintly, wholesome. —**OPPOSITES** demonic, infernal.

anger ▶ **noun** *his face was livid with anger*: ANNOYANCE, vexation, exasperation, crossness, irritation, irritability, indignation, pique; rage, fury, wrath, outrage, irascibility, ill temper/humour; *informal* aggravation; *poetic/literary* ire, choler. —**RELATED TERMS** irascible.

—**OPPOSITES** pleasure, good humour.

▶ **verb** *she was angered by his terse reply*: ANNOY, irritate, exasperate, irk, vex, put out; enrage, incense, infuriate, make someone's hackles rise; *Brit* rub up the wrong way; *informal* make someone's blood boil, get someone's back up, make someone see red, get someone's dander up, rattle someone's cage; aggravate, get someone, rile, hack off; *Brit informal* wind up, nark; *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off, burn up, gravel; *informal*, dated give someone the pip. —**OPPOSITES** pacify, placate.

angle¹ ▶ **noun** ① *the wall is sloping at an angle of 33°*: GRADIENT, slant, inclination. ② *the angle of the roof*: CORNER, intersection, point, apex. ③ *consider the problem from a different angle*: PERSPECTIVE, point of view, viewpoint, standpoint, position, aspect, slant, direction.

▶ **verb** ① *Anna angled her camera towards the tree*: TILT, slant, direct, turn. ② *angle your answer so that it is relevant*: PRESENT, slant, orient, twist, bias.

angle² ▶ **verb** *he was angling for an invitation*: TRY TO GET, seek to obtain, fish for, hope for, be after.

angler ▶ **noun** FISHERMAN, rod; *archaic* fisher.

angry ▶ **adjective** ① *Vivienne got angry*: IRATE, annoyed, cross, vexed, irritated, indignant, irked; furious, enraged, infuriated, in a temper, incensed, raging, incandescent, fuming, seething, beside oneself, outraged; *informal* (hopping) mad, wild, livid, apoplectic, as cross as two sticks, hot under the collar, up in arms, foaming at the mouth, steamed up, in a lather/paddy, fit to be tied; *Brit informal* aerated, shirty; *N. Amer. informal* sore, bent out of shape, teed off, ticked off; *Austral/NZ informal* ropeable, snaky; *poetic/literary* wrathful; *archaic* wroth. ② *an angry debate*: HEATED, passionate, stormy, 'lively'; bad-tempered, ill-tempered, acrimonious, bitter. ③ *angry sores*: INFLAMED, red, swollen, sore, painful.

—**OPPOSITES** pleased, good-humoured.

■ **get angry** LOSE ONE'S TEMPER, become enraged, go into a rage, go berserk, flare up; *informal* go mad/crazy/wild, go bananas, hit the roof, go through the roof, go up the wall, see red, go off the deep end, fly off the handle, blow one's top, blow a fuse/gasket, lose one's rag, flip (one's lid), have a fit, foam at the mouth, explode, go non-linear, go ballistic; *Brit informal* go spare, do one's nut; *N. Amer informal* flip one's wig, blow one's lid/stack, have a conniption fit.

anget ▶ **noun** ANXIETY, fear, apprehension, worry, foreboding, trepidation, malaise, disquiet, disquietude, unease, uneasiness.

anguish ▶ **noun** AGONY, pain, torment, torture, suffering, distress, angst, misery, sorrow, grief,

heartache, desolation, despair; *poetic/literary* dolor.

—**OPPOSITES** happiness.

anguished ▶ **adjective** AGONIZED, tormented, tortured; grief-stricken, wretched, heartbroken, desolate, devastated; *informal* cut up; *poetic/literary* dolorous.

angular ▶ **adjective** ① *an angular shape*: SHARP-CORNERED, pointed, V-shaped, Y-shaped. ② *an angular face*: BONY, raw-boned, lean, rangy, spare, thin, gaunt.

—**OPPOSITES** rounded, curving.

animal ▶ **noun** ① *endangered animals*: CREATURE, beast, living thing; (animals) wildlife, fauna; *N Amer informal* critter. See lists here and at AMPHIBIAN, ARACHNID, BAT, BEAR, BIRD, BUTTERFLY, CAT, CATTLE, CETACEAN, DEER, DOG, FISH, FOWL, FOX, GAME, GOAT, HORSE, INSECT, MAMMAL, MOLLUSC, MONKEY, MOTH, PIG, PROSIMIAN, RABBIT, REPTILE, RODENT, SEAL, SHEEP, SNAKE, SQUIRREL, WEASEL,

Male and Female Animals

ANIMAL	MALE	FEMALE
antelope	buck	doe
badger	boar	sow
beaver	boar	sow
bobcat	tom	lioness
buffalo	bull	cow
camel	buli	cow
caribou	stag	doe
cat	tom	queen
cattle	bull	cow
chicken	cock	hen
cougar	tom	lioness
coyote	dog	bitch
deer	stag	doe
dog	dog	bitch
donkey	jackass	jennyass
duck	drake	duck
elephant	bull	cow
ferret	jack	jill
fish	cock	hen
fox	fox	vixen
giraffe	bull	cow
goat	billigout	nannygoat
goose	gander	goose
hare	buck	doe
hartbeest	bull	cow
horse	stallion	mare
impala	ram	ewe
jackrabbit	buck	doe
kangaroo	buck	doe
leopard	leopard	leopardess
lion	lion	lioness
lobster	cock	hen
monkey	bull	cow
ox	bullock	cow
peacock	peacock	peahen
pig	cock	hen
porcupine	boar	sow
sheep	bull	cow
snake	snake	she
swan	swan	swan
tiger	tiger	tigress
wolf	wolf	wolf
zebra	zebra	zebra

WOLF, WORM, YOUNG. ② *the man was an animal*: BRUTE, beast, monster, devil, demon, fiend; *informal* swine, bastard, pig.

—RELATED TERMS ZOO—

- **adjective** ① *animal life*: ZOOLOGICAL, animalistic; *rare* zoic. ② *a grunt of animal passion*: CARNAL, fleshly, bodily, physical; brutish, unrefined, uncultured, coarse.

Animals' Homes

ANIMAL	HOME
badger	sett/earth
bear	den
beaver	lodge
bee	beehive/apiary
bird	nest/aviary
cow	byre
dog	kennel
dove	dovecote
eagle	eyrie
fish	aquarium
fox	earth/hole/burrow
hare	form
hen	coop
horse	stable
lion	den
otter	holt
pig	sty
rabbit	burrow/warren
sheep	fold/pen
squirrel	drey
wasp	nest/vespiary

animate ► **verb** *a sense of excitement animated the whole school*: ENLIVEN, vitalize, breathe (new) life into, energize, invigorate, revive, vivify, liven up; inspire, inspirit, exhilarate, thrill, excite, fire, arouse, rouse; *N. Amer.* light a fire under; *informal* buck up, pep up, give someone a buzz.

—OPPOSITES depress.

- **adjective** *an animate being*: LIVING, alive, live, breathing; *archaic* quick.

—OPPOSITES inanimate.

animated ► **adjective** LIVELY, spirited, high-spirited, energetic, full of life, excited, enthusiastic, eager, alive, active, vigorous, vibrant, vital, vivacious, buoyant, exuberant, ebullient, effervescent, bouncy, bubbly, perky; *informal* bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, full of beans, bright and breezy, chirpy, chipper, peppy.

—OPPOSITES lethargic, lifeless.

animosity ► **noun** ANTIPATHY, hostility, friction, antagonism, enmity, animus, bitterness, rancor, resentment, dislike, ill feeling/will, bad blood, hatred, hate, loathing; malice, spite, spitefulness.

—OPPOSITES goodwill, friendship.

annals ► **plural noun** RECORDS, archives, chronicles, accounts, registers; *Law* muniments.

annex ► **verb** ① *ten amendments were annexed to the constitution*: ADD, append, attach, tack on, tag on. ② *Charlemagne annexed northern Italy*: TAKE OVER, take possession of, appropriate, seize, conquer, occupy.

- **noun** (also **annexe**) EXTENSION, addition; wing; *N. Amer.* ell.

annexation ► **noun** SEIZURE, occupation, invasion, conquest, takeover, appropriation.

annihilate ► **verb** DESTROY, wipe out, obliterate, wipe off the face of the earth; kill, slaughter, exterminate, eliminate, liquidate; *informal* take out, rub out, snuff out, waste.

—OPPOSITES create.

anniversary ► **noun** JUBILEE, commemoration. *See list at WEDDING.*

annotate ► **verb** COMMENT ON, add notes/footnotes to, gloss, interpret; *archaic* margin.

annotation ► **noun** NOTE, notation, comment, gloss, footnote; commentary, explanation, interpretation.

announce ► **verb** ① *their financial results were announced*: MAKE PUBLIC, make known, report, declare, state, give out, notify, publicize, broadcast, publish, advertise, circulate, proclaim, blazon abroad. ② *Victor announced the guests*: INTRODUCE, present, name. ③ *strains of music announced her arrival*: SIGNAL, indicate, give notice of, herald, proclaim; *poetic/literary* betoken.

announcement ► **noun** ① *an announcement by the Minister*: STATEMENT, report, declaration, proclamation, pronouncement, rescript; bulletin, communiqué; *N. Amer.* advisory. ② *the announcement of the decision*: DECLARATION, notification, reporting, publishing, broadcasting, proclamation; *archaic* annunciation.

announcer ► **noun** PRESENTER, anchorman, anchorwoman, anchor, newsreader, newscaster, broadcaster.

annoy ► **verb** IRRITATE, vex, make angry/cross, anger, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, put out, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise, nettle; *Brit.* rub up the wrong way; *informal* aggravate, peeve, hassle, miff, rile, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get someone's back up, give someone the hump, drive mad/crazy, drive round the bend/twist, drive up the wall, get someone's dander up; *Brit. informal* wind up, nark, get on someone's wick; *N. Amer. informal* tee off, tick off, burn up, rangle, gravel; *informal, dated* give someone the pip.

—OPPOSITES please, gratify.

annoyance ► **noun** ① *much to his annoyance, Louise didn't even notice*: IRRITATION, exasperation, vexation, indignation, anger, displeasure, chagrin; *informal* aggravation. ② *they found him an annoyance*: NUISANCE, pest, bother, irritant, inconvenience, thorn in one's flesh; *informal* pain (in the neck), bind, bore, hassle; *N. Amer. informal* nudnik, burr in/under someone's saddle; *Austral./NZ informal* nark.

annoyed ► **adjective** IRRITATED, cross, angry, vexed, exasperated, irked, piqued, displeased, put out, disgruntled, nettled, in a bad mood, in a temper; *informal* aggravated, peeved, miffed, miffy, riled, hacked off, hot under the collar; *Brit. informal* narked, shirty; *N. Amer. informal* teed off, ticked off, sore, bent out of shape; *Austral./NZ informal* snaky, crook; *archaic* wroth.

annoying ► **adjective** IRRITATING, infuriating, exasperating, maddening, trying, tiresome, troublesome, bothersome, irksome, vexing, vexatious, galling; *informal* aggravating, pesky.

annual ► **adjective** YEARLY, once-a-year; year-long, twelve-month.

a

annually ► **adverb** YEARLY, once a year, each year, per annum.

annul ► **verb** DECLARE INVALID, declare null and void, nullify, invalidate, void; repeal, reverse, rescind, revoke; *Law* vacate; *formal* abrogate; *archaic* recall.

—**OPPOSITES** restore, enact.

anodyne ► **noun** PAINKILLER, painkilling drug, pain reliever, analgesic, narcotic.

► **adjective** the conversation was *anodyne*: BLAND, inoffensive, innocuous, neutral, unobjectionable.

anoint ► **verb** ① the head of the infant was *anointed*: SMEAR/RUB WITH OIL; *archaic* aneal. ② he was *anointed and crowned*: CONSECRATE, bless, ordain; *formal* hallow.

anomalous ► **adjective** ABNORMAL, atypical, irregular, aberrant, exceptional, freak, freakish, odd, bizarre, peculiar, unusual, out of the ordinary.

—**OPPOSITES** normal, typical.

anomaly ► **noun** ODDITY, peculiarity, abnormality, irregularity, inconsistency, incongruity, aberration, quirk.

anon ► **adverb** (*informal*) SOON, shortly, in a little while, presently, before long, by and by; *dated* directly; *poetic/literary* ere long.

anonymous ► **adjective** ① an *anonymous donor*: UNNAMED, of unknown name, nameless, incognito, unidentified, unknown; *rare* innominate. ② an *anonymous letter*: UNSIGNED, unattributed. ③ an *anonymous housing estate*: CHARACTERLESS, nondescript, impersonal, faceless.

—**OPPOSITES** known, identified.

another ► **determiner** ① *have another drink*: ONE MORE, a further, an additional; an extra, a spare. ② *she left him for another man*: A DIFFERENT, some other, an alternative.

—**OPPOSITES** the same.

answer ► **noun** ① *her answer was unequivocal*: REPLY, response, rejoinder, reaction; retort, riposte; *informal* comeback. ② *the answer is 150*: SOLUTION, key. ③ *a new filter is the answer*: SOLUTION, remedy, way out.

—**OPPOSITES** question.

► **verb** ① *Steve was about to answer*: REPLY, respond, make a rejoinder, rejoin; retort, riposte. ② *he has yet to answer the charges*: REBUT, refute, defend oneself against. ③ *a man answering this description*: MATCH, fit, correspond to, be similar to. ④ *we're trying to answer the needs of our audience*: SATISFY, meet, fulfil, fill, measure up to. ⑤ *I answer to the Commissioner*: REPORT, work for/under, be subordinate, be accountable, be answerable, be responsible.

■ *answer someone back* RESPOND CHEEKILY TO, be cheeky to, be impertinent to, talk back to, cheek; *N. Amer. informal* sass.

■ *answer for* ① *he will answer for his crime*: PAY FOR, be punished for, suffer for; make amends for, make reparation for, atone for. ② *the government has a lot to answer for*: BE ACCOUNTABLE FOR, be responsible for, be liable for, take the blame for; *informal* take the rap for.

answerable ► **adjective** ACCOUNTABLE, responsible, liable; subject.

ant ► **noun**. See *list at* INSECT.

—**RELATED TERMS** formic.

antagonism ► **noun** HOSTILITY, friction, enmity, antipathy, animus, opposition, dissension,

rivalry; acrimony, bitterness, rancour, resentment, aversion, dislike, ill/bad feeling, ill will; *Brit. informal* needle.

—**OPPOSITES** rapport, friendship.

antagonist ► **noun** ADVERSARY, opponent, enemy, rival; (*antagonists*) opposition, competition.

—**OPPOSITES** ally.

antagonistic ► **adjective** ① *he was antagonistic to the reforms*: HOSTILE, against, (dead) set against, opposed, inimical, antipathetic, ill-disposed, resistant, in disagreement; *informal* anti. ② *an antagonistic group of bystanders*: HOSTILE, aggressive, belligerent, bellicose, pugna-cious; *rare* oppugnant.

—**OPPOSITES** pro.

antagonize ► **verb** AROUSE HOSTILITY IN, alienate; anger, annoy, provoke, vex, irritate; *Brit.* rub up the wrong way; *informal* aggravate, rile, needle, rattle someone's cage, get someone's back up, get someone's dander up; *Brit. informal* mark, get on someone's wick.

—**OPPOSITES** pacify, placate.

antecedent ► **noun** ① *her antecedents have been traced*: ANCESTOR, forefather, forebear, progenitor, primogenitor; (*antecedents*) ancestry, family tree, lineage, genealogy, roots. ② *the guitar's antecedent*: PRECURSOR, forerunner, predecessor.

—**OPPOSITES** descendant.

► **adjective** antecedent events: PREVIOUS, earlier, prior, preceding, precursory; *formal* anterior.

—**OPPOSITES** subsequent.

antedate ► **verb** PRECEDE, predate, come/go before.

antediluvian ► **adjective** ① *antediluvian animals*: PREHISTORIC, primeval, primordial, primal, ancient, early. ② *his antediluvian attitudes*: OUT OF DATE, outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned, antiquated, behind the times, passé.

antelope ► **noun**. See *list at* DEER.

ante-room ► **noun** ANTECHAMBER, vestibule, lobby, foyer; *Architecture* narthex.

anthem ► **noun** HYMN, song, chorale, psalm, paean.

anthology ► **noun** COLLECTION, selection, compendium, treasury, miscellany; *archaic* garland.

anticipate ► **verb** ① *the police did not anticipate trouble*: EXPECT, foresee, predict, be prepared for, bargain on, reckon on; *N. Amer. informal* figure on. ② *Elaine anticipated her meeting with Will*: LOOK FORWARD TO, await, lick one's lips over. ③ *warders can't always anticipate the actions of prisoners*: PRE-EMPT, forestall, second-guess; *informal* beat someone to the punch. ④ *her plays anticipated her film work*: FORESHADOW, precede, antedate, come/go before.

anticipation ► **noun** ① *my anticipation is that we will see a rise in rates*: EXPECTATION, prediction, forecast. ② *her eyes sparkled with anticipation*: EXPECTANCY, expectation, excitement, suspense.

■ *in anticipation of* IN THE EXPECTATION OF, in preparation for, ready for.

anticlimax ► **noun** LET-DOWN, disappointment, bathos, comedown, non-event; *dissillusionment*; *Brit. damp squib*; *informal* washout.

antics ► **plural noun** CAPERS, pranks, larks, high jinks, skylarking; *Brit. informal* monkey tricks.

antidote ▶ noun ① *the antidote to this poison:* ANTITOXIN, antiserum, antivenin. ② *laughter is a good antidote to stress:* REMEDY, cure, nostrum.

antipathetic ▶ adjective HOSTILE, against, (dead) set against, opposed, antagonistic, ill-disposed, unsympathetic; *informal* anti, down on. —OPPOSITES pro.

antipathy ▶ noun HOSTILITY, antagonism, animosity, aversion, animus, enmity, dislike, distaste, hatred, hate, abhorrence, loathing. —OPPOSITES liking, affinity.

antiquated ▶ adjective OUTDATED, out of date, outmoded, outworn, behind the times, old-fashioned, anachronistic, old-fangled, passé, démodé; *informal* out of the ark, mouldy; *N. Amer. informal* horse-and-buggy, mossy, clunky. —OPPOSITES modern, up to date.

antique ▶ noun COLLECTOR'S ITEM, period piece, antiquity, object of virtu, objet d'art.

▶ adjective ① *antique furniture:* OLD, antiquarian, collectable. ② *statues of antique gods:* ANCIENT, of long ago; *poetic/literary* of yore. ③ *antique work practices.* See ANTIQUATED.

—OPPOSITES modern, state-of-the-art.

antiquity ▶ noun ① *the civilizations of antiquity:* ANCIENT TIMES, the ancient past, classical times, the distant past. ② *Islamic antiquities:* ANTIQUE, period piece, collector's item. ③ *a church of great antiquity:* AGE, oldness, ancientness.

antiseptic ▶ adjective ① *an antiseptic substance:* DISINFECTANT, germicidal, bactericidal. ② *antiseptic bandages:* STERILE, aseptic, germ-free, uncontaminated, disinfected. ③ *their antiseptic surroundings:* CHARACTERLESS, colourless, soulless; clinical, institutional.

—OPPOSITES contaminated.

▶ noun DISINFECTANT, germicide, bactericide.

antisocial ▶ adjective ① *antisocial behaviour:* OBJECTIONABLE, offensive, unacceptable, distasteful, disruptive; sociopathic. ② *I'm feeling a bit antisocial:* UNSOCIAL, unfriendly, uncommunicative, reclusive, misanthropic.

antithesis ▶ noun (DIRECT) OPPOSITE, converse, reverse, inverse, obverse, the other side of the coin; *informal* the flip side.

antithetical ▶ adjective (DIRECTLY) OPPOSED, contrasting, contrary, contradictory, conflicting, incompatible, irreconcilable, inconsistent, poles apart, at variance/odds; *rare* oppugnant. —OPPOSITES identical, like.

anxiety ▶ noun ① *his anxiety grew:* WORRY, concern, apprehension, apprehensiveness, uneasiness, unease, fearfulness, fear, disquiet, disquietude, perturbation, agitation, angst, nervousness, nerves, tension, tenseness; *informal* butterflies (in one's stomach), jitteriness, twitchiness, collywobbles, jim-jams. ② *an anxiety to please:* EAGERNESS, keenness, desire. —OPPOSITES serenity.

anxious ▶ adjective ① *I'm anxious about her:* WORRIED, concerned, apprehensive, fearful, uneasy, perturbed, troubled, bothered, disturbed, distressed, fretful, agitated, nervous, edgy, unquiet, on edge, tense, overwrought, worked up, keyed up, worried sick, with one's stomach in knots, with one's heart in one's mouth; *informal* uptight, on tenterhooks, with butterflies in one's stomach, like a cat on a hot tin roof, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, in a stew/twitter, all of a dither/lather, in a tizz/tizzy, het up; *Brit. informal*

strung up, windy, having kittens, in a (flat) spin, like a cat on hot bricks; *N. Amer. informal* antsy, spooky, squirrely, in a tizz; *Austral./NZ informal* toey; *dated* overstrung. ② *she was anxious for news:* EAGER, keen, desirous, impatient.

—OPPOSITES carefree, unconcerned.

any ▶ determiner ① *is there any cake left?* SOME, a piece/part/bit of. ② *it doesn't make any difference:* THE SLIGHTEST BIT OF, a scrap/shred/jot/whit of, an iota of. ③ *any job will do:* WHICHEVER, no matter which, never mind which; *informal* any old.

▶ pronoun *you don't know any of my friends:* A SINGLE ONE, (even) one; anyone, anybody.

▶ adverb *is your father any better?* AT ALL, in the least, to any extent, in any degree.

anyhow ▶ adverb ① *anyhow, it doesn't really matter:* ANYWAY, in any case/event, at any rate; however, be that as it may; *N. Amer. informal* anyways. ② *her clothes were strewn about anyhow:* HAPHAZARDLY, carelessly, heedlessly, negligently, in a muddle; *informal* all over the place; *Brit. informal* all over the shop; *N. Amer. informal* all over the lot.

apace ▶ adverb (*poetic/literary*) QUICKLY, fast, swiftly, rapidly, briskly, without delay, post-haste, expeditiously.

—OPPOSITES slowly.

apart ▶ adverb ① *the villages are two miles apart:* AWAY/DISTANT FROM EACH OTHER. ② *Isabel stood apart:* TO ONE SIDE, aside, separately, alone, by oneself/itself. ③ *his parents are living apart:* SEPARATELY, independently, on one's own. ④ *the car was blown apart:* TO PIECES/BITS, up; *poetic/literary* asunder.

■ **apart from** EXCEPT FOR, but for, aside from, with the exception of, excepting, excluding, bar, barring, besides, other than; *informal* outside of; *formal* save.

apartment ▶ noun ① *a rented apartment:* FLAT, penthouse; *Austral.* home unit; *N. Amer. informal* crib. ② *the royal apartments:* SUITE (OF ROOMS), rooms, living quarters, accommodation.

apathetic ▶ adjective UNINTERESTED, indifferent, unconcerned, unmoved, uninvolved, unemotional, emotionless, dispassionate, lukewarm, unmotivated; *informal* couldn't-care-less; *rare* Laodicean.

apathy ▶ noun INDIFFERENCE, lack of interest/enthusiasm/concern, unconcern, uninterestedness, unresponsiveness, impassivity, dispassion, dispassionateness, lethargy, languor, ennui, accidie.

—OPPOSITES enthusiasm, passion.

ape ▶ noun PRIMATE, simian; monkey; *technical* anthropoid. See LIST at MONKEY.

▶ verb *he aped Barbara's accent:* IMITATE, mimic, copy, do an impression of; *informal* take off, send up; *archaic* monkey.

aperture ▶ noun OPENING, hole, gap, slit, slot, vent, crevice, chink, crack, interstice; *technical* orifice, foramen.

apex ▶ noun ① *the apex of a pyramid:* TIP, peak, summit, pinnacle, top, vertex. ② *the apex of his career:* CLIMAX, culmination, apotheosis; peak, pinnacle, zenith, acme, apogee, high(est) point. —RELATED TERMS apical.

—OPPOSITES bottom, nadir.

aphorism ▶ noun SAYING, maxim, axiom, adage, epigram, dictum, gnome, proverb, saw, tag, apophthegm.

a

aphrodisiac ▶ noun LOVE POTION, philtre.

▶ adjective EROTIC, sexy, sexually arousing.

apiece ▶ adverb EACH, respectively, per item; *informal* a throw.

aplenty ▶ adjective IN ABUNDANCE, in profusion, galore, in large quantities/numbers, by the dozen; *informal* a gogo, by the truckload.

aplomb ▶ noun POISE, self-assurance, self-confidence, calmness, composure, collectedness, level-headedness, sangfroid, equilibrium, equanimity; *informal* unflappability.

apocryphal ▶ adjective FICTITIOUS, made-up, untrue, fabricated, false, spurious; unverified, unauthenticated, unsubstantiated.

—OPPOSITES authentic.

apologetic ▶ adjective REGRETFUL, sorry, contrite, remorseful, penitent, repentant; conscience-stricken, shamefaced, ashamed.

—OPPOSITES unrepentant.

apologia ▶ noun DEFENCE, justification, vindication, explanation; argument, case.

apologist ▶ noun DEFENDER, supporter, upholder, advocate, proponent, exponent, propagandist, champion, campaigner.

—OPPOSITES critic.

apologize ▶ verb SAY SORRY, express regret, be apologetic, make an apology, ask forgiveness, ask for pardon, eat humble pie.

apology ▶ noun ① I owe you an apology: EXPRESSION OF REGRET, one's regrets; *Austral/NZ informal* beg-pardon; *poetic/literary* amende honorable. ② *(informal)* an apology for a flat: TRAVESTY, inadequate/poor example; *informal* excuse.

apoplectic ▶ adjective *(informal)* FURIOUS, enraged, infuriated, incensed, raging; incandescent, fuming, seething; *informal* (hopping) mad, livid, as cross as two sticks, foaming at the mouth, fit to be tied; *poetic/literary* wrathful.

apostate ▶ noun DISSENTER, heretic, defector, turncoat; *archaic* recreant; *rare* tergiversator.

—OPPOSITES follower.

apostle ▶ noun ① the twelve apostles: DISCIPLE, follower. See list. ② the apostles of the Slavs: MISSIONARY, evangelist, proselytizer. ③ an apostle of capitalism: ADVOCATE, apologist, proponent, exponent, promoter, supporter, upholder, champion; *N. Amer.* booster.

The Twelve Apostles of Jesus

Peter
James, son of Zebedee
John
Andrew
Philip
Satanstrow
Thomas
Matthew

Isaac, son of Abraham
Simon, Thaddaeus, son of
Jesus
Judas
Judas Iscariot
Matthew (Levi)
Judas Thaddaeus

apotheosis ▶ noun CULMINATION, climax, peak, pinnacle, zenith, acme, apogee, high(est) point.

—OPPOSITES nadir.

appel ▶ verb HORRIFY, shock, dismay, distress, outrage, scandalize; disgust, repel, revolt, sicken, nauseate, offend, make someone's blood run cold.

appalling ▶ adjective ① an appalling crime: SHOCKING, horrific, horrifying, horrible, terrible, awful, dreadful, ghastly, hideous, horrendous, frightful, atrocious, abominable, abhorrent, outrageous, gruesome, grisly, monstrous, heinous, egregious. ② *(informal)* your schoolwork is appalling: DREADFUL, awful, terrible, frightful, atrocious, disgraceful, deplorable, hopeless, lamentable; *informal* rotten, crummy, pathetic, pitiful, woeful, useless, lousy, abysmal, dire; *Brit informal* chronic, shocking.

apparatus ▶ noun ① laboratory apparatus: EQUIPMENT, gear, rig, tackle, gadgetry; appliance, instrument, machine, mechanism, device, contraption. ② the apparatus of government: STRUCTURE, system, framework, organization, network.

apparel ▶ noun *(formal)* CLOTHES, clothing, garments, dress, attire, wear, garb; *informal* gear, togs, duds; *Brit informal* clobber, kit; *N Amer informal* threads; *archaic* raiment, habit, habiliments.

apparent ▶ adjective ① their relief was all too apparent: EVIDENT, plain, obvious, clear, manifest, visible, discernible, perceptible; unmistakable, crystal clear, palpable, patent, blatant, as plain as a pikestaff, writ large; *informal* as plain as the nose on one's face, written all over one's face. ② his apparent lack of concern: SEEMING, ostensible, outward, superficial; supposed, alleged, professed.

—OPPOSITES unclear.

apparently ▶ adverb SEEMINGLY, evidently, it seems/appears (that), as far as one knows, by all accounts; ostensibly, outwardly, on the face of it, so the story goes, so I'm told; allegedly, reputedly.

apparition ▶ noun ① a monstrous apparition: GHOST, phantom, spectre, spirit, wraith; vision, hallucination; *informal* spook; *poetic/literary* phantasm, revenant, shade, visitant, wight; *rare* eidolon. ② the apparition of a strange man: APPEARANCE, manifestation, materialization, emergence; visitation.

appeal ▶ verb ① police are appealing for information: ASK URGENTLY/EARNESTLY, make an urgent/earnest request, call, make a plea, plead. ② Andrew appealed to me to help them: IMPLORER, beg, entreat, call on, plead with, exhort, ask, request, petition; *formal* adjure; *poetic/literary* beseech. ③ the thought of travelling appealed to me: ATTRACT, be attractive to, interest, take someone's fancy, fascinate, tempt, entice, allure, lure, draw, whet someone's appetite; *informal* float someone's boat.

• noun ① an appeal for help: PLEA, urgent/earnest request, entreaty, cry, call, petition, supplication, cri de cœur; *rare* obsecration. ② the cultural appeal of the island: ATTRACTION, attractiveness, allure, charm; fascination, magnetism, drawing power, pull. ③ the court allowed the appeal: RETRIAL, re-examination.

appealing ▶ adjective ATTRACTIVE, engaging, alluring, enchanting, captivating, bewitching, fascinating, tempting, enticing, seductive, irresistible, winning, winsome, charming, desirable; *Brit informal* tasty; *dated* taking.

—OPPOSITES disagreeable, off-putting.

appear ▶ verb ① a cloud of dust appeared on the horizon: BECOME VISIBLE, come into view/sight, materialize, pop up. ② fundamental differences

were beginning to appear: BE REVEALED, emerge, surface, manifest itself, become apparent/evident, come to light; arise, crop up. ① (informal) Bill still hadn't appeared: ARRIVE, turn up, put in an appearance, come, get here/there; informal show (up), pitch up, fetch up, roll in, blow in. ② they appeared to be completely devoted: SEEM, look, give the impression, come across as, strike someone as. ③ the paperback edition didn't appear for two years: BECOME AVAILABLE, come on the market, go on sale, come out, be published, be produced. ④ he appeared on Broadway: PERFORM, play, act.
-OPPOSITES vanish.

appearance ▶ noun ① her dishevelled appearance: LOOK(s), air, aspect, mien. ② an appearance of respectability: IMPRESSION, air, (outward) show; semblance, facade, veneer, front, pretence. ③ the sudden appearance of her daughter: ARRIVAL, advent, coming, emergence, materialization. ④ the appearance of these symptoms: OCCURRENCE, manifestation, development.

appease ▶ verb ① an attempt to appease his critics: CONCILIATE, placate, pacify, propitiate, reconcile, win over; informal sweeten. ② I'd wasted a lot of money to appease my vanity: SATISFY, fulfil, gratify, indulge; assuage, relieve, take the edge off.

-OPPOSITES provoke, inflame.

appeasement ▶ noun ① a policy of appeasement: CONCILIATION, placation, pacification, propitiation, reconciliation; peacemaking, peacemongering. ② appeasement for battered consciences: SATISFACTION, fulfilment, gratification, indulgence; assuagement, relief.
-OPPOSITES provocation.

appellation ▶ noun (formal) NAME, title, designation, tag, sobriquet, byname, nickname, cognomen; informal moniker, handle; formal denomination.

append ▶ verb ADD, attach, affix, tack on, tag on; formal subjoin.

appendage ▶ noun ① I am not just an appendage to the family: ADDITION, attachment, adjunct, addendum, appurtenance, accessory. ② a pair of feathery appendages: PROTUBERANCE, projection; technical process.

appendix ▶ noun SUPPLEMENT, addendum, postscript, codicil; coda, epilogue, afterword, tailpiece, back matter.

appertain

■ **appertain** to PERTAIN TO, be pertinent to, apply to, relate to, concern, be concerned with, have to do with, be relevant to, have reference to, have a bearing on, bear on; archaic regard.

appetite ▶ noun ① a walk sharpens the appetite: HUNGER, ravenousness, hungriness; taste, palate; raw edacity. ② my appetite for learning: CRAVING, longing, yearning, hankering, hunger, thirst, passion; enthusiasm, keenness, eagerness, desire; informal yen; archaic appetency.

appetizer ▶ noun STARTER, first course, hors d'oeuvre, amuse-gueule, antipasto.

appetizing ▶ adjective ① an appetizing lunch: MOUTH-WATERING, inviting, tempting; tasty, delicious, flavoursome, toothsome, delectable; informal scrumptious, scrummy, yummy, moreish. ② the least appetizing part of election campaigns: APPEALING, attractive, inviting, alluring.

-OPPOSITES bland, unappealing.

applaud ▶ verb ① the audience applauded: CLAP, give a standing ovation, put one's hands together; show one's appreciation; informal give someone a big hand. ② police have applauded the decision: PRAISE, commend, acclaim, salute, welcome, celebrate, express admiration for, express approval of, look on with favour, approve of, sing the praises of, pay tribute to, speak highly of, take one's hat off to, express respect for.

-OPPOSITES boo, criticize.

applause ▶ noun ① a massive round of applause: CLAPPING, handclapping, (standing) ovation; acclamation. ② the museum's design won general applause: PRAISE, acclaim, acclamation, admiration, commendation, adulation, favour, approbation, approval, respect; compliments, accolades, tributes.

appliance ▶ noun ① domestic appliances: DEVICE, machine, instrument, gadget, contraption, apparatus, utensil, implement, tool, mechanism, contrivance, labour-saving device; informal gizmo, mod con. ② the appliance of science: APPLICATION, use, exercise, employment, implementation, utilization, practice, applying, discharge, execution, prosecution, enactment; formal praxis.

applicable ▶ adjective the laws applicable to the dispute: RELEVANT, appropriate, pertinent, appurtenant, apposite, germane, material, significant, related, connected; fitting, suitable, apt, befitting, to the point, useful, helpful; formal ad rem.

-OPPOSITES inappropriate, irrelevant.

applicant ▶ noun CANDIDATE, interviewee, competitor, contestant, contender, entrant; claimant, suppliant, supplicant, petitioner, postulant; prospective student/employee, job-seeker, job-hunter, auditioner.

application ▶ noun ① an application for an overdraft: REQUEST, appeal, petition, entreaty, plea, solicitation, supplication, requisition, suit, approach, claim, demand. ② the application of anti-inflation policies: IMPLEMENTATION, use, exercise, employment, utilization, practice, applying, discharge, execution, prosecution, enactment; formal praxis. ③ the argument is clearest in its application to the theatre: RELEVANCE, relevancy, bearing, significance, pertinence, aptness, appositeness, germaneness, importance. ④ the application of make-up: PUTTING ON, rubbing in, applying. ⑤ an application to relieve muscle pain: OINTMENT, lotion, cream, rub, salve, emollient, preparation, liniment, embrocation, balm, unguent, poultice. ⑥ the job takes a great deal of application: DILIGENCE, industriousness, industry, assiduity, commitment, dedication, devotion, conscientiousness, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, doggedness, sedulousness; concentration, attention, attentiveness, steadiness, patience, endurance; effort, hard work, labour, endeavour. ⑦ a vector graphics application: PROGRAM, software, routine.

apply ▶ verb ① 300 people applied for the job: PUT IN AN APPLICATION, put in, try, bid, appeal, petition, sue, register, audition; request, seek, solicit, claim, ask, try to obtain. ② the Act did not apply to Scotland: BE RELEVANT, have relevance, have a bearing, appertain, pertain, relate, concern, affect, involve, cover, deal with, touch; be pertinent, be appropriate, be significant. ③ she

a

applied some ointment: PUT ON, rub in, work in, spread, smear. ① *a steady pressure should be applied*: EXERT, administer, implement, use, exercise, employ, utilize, bring to bear.

■ **apply oneself** BE DILIGENT, be industrious, be assiduous, show commitment, show dedication; work hard, exert oneself, make an effort, try hard, do one's best, give one's all, buckle down, put one's shoulder to the wheel, keep one's nose to the grindstone; strive, endeavour, struggle, labour, toil; pay attention, commit oneself, devote oneself; persevere, persist; *informal* put one's back in it, knuckle down, get stuck in.

appoint ▶ verb ① *he was appointed chairman*: NOMINATE, name, designate, install as, commission, engage, co-opt; select, choose, elect, vote in; *Military* detail. ② *the arbitrator shall appoint a date for the meeting*: SPECIFY, determine, assign, designate, allot, set, fix, arrange, choose, decide on, establish, settle, ordain, prescribe, decree.

—OPPOSITES reject.

appointed ▶ adjective ① *at the appointed time*: SCHEDULED, arranged, pre-arranged, specified, decided, agreed, determined, assigned, designated, allotted, set, fixed, chosen, established, settled, preordained, ordained, prescribed, decreed. ② *a well appointed room*: FURNISHED, decorated, outfitted, fitted out, provided, supplied.

appointment ▶ noun ① *a six o'clock appointment*: MEETING, engagement, interview, arrangement, consultation, session; date, rendezvous, assignation; commitment, fixture; *poetic/literary* tryst. ② *the appointment of directors*: NOMINATION, naming, designation, installation, commissioning, engagement, co-option; selection, choosing, election, voting in; *Military* detailing. ③ *he held an appointment at the university*: JOB, post, position, situation, employment, place, office; dated station.

apportion ▶ verb SHARE, divide, allocate, distribute, allot, assign, give out, hand out, mete out, deal out, dish out, dole out; ration, measure out; split; *informal* divvy up.

apposite ▶ adjective APPROPRIATE, suitable, fitting, apt, befitting; relevant, pertinent, appurtenant, to the point, applicable, germane, material, congruous, felicitous; *formal* ad rem.

—OPPOSITES inappropriate.

appraisal ▶ noun ① *an objective appraisal of the book*: ASSESSMENT, evaluation, estimation, judgement, rating, gauging, sizing up, summing-up, consideration. ② *a free insurance appraisal*: VALUATION, estimate, estimation, quotation, pricing; survey.

appraise ▶ verb ① *they appraised their handiwork*: ASSESS, evaluate, judge, rate, gauge, review, consider; *informal* size up. ② *his goods were appraised at £1,800*: VALUE, price, estimate, quote; survey.

appreciable ▶ adjective CONSIDERABLE, substantial, significant, sizeable, goodly, fair, reasonable, marked; perceptible, noticeable, visible; *informal* tidy.

—OPPOSITES negligible.

appreciate ▶ verb ① *I'd appreciate your advice*: BE GRATEFUL, be thankful, be obliged, be indebted, be in your debt, be appreciative. ② *the college appreciated her greatly*: VALUE, treasure, ad-

mire, respect, hold in high regard, think highly of, think much of. ③ *we appreciate the problems*: RECOGNIZE, acknowledge, realize, know, be aware of, be conscious of, be sensitive to, understand, comprehend; *informal* be wise to. ④ *a home that will appreciate in value*: INCREASE, gain, grow, rise, go up, escalate, soar, rocket.

—OPPOSITES disparage, depreciate, decrease.

appreciation ▶ noun ① *he showed his appreciation*: GRATITUDE, thanks, gratefulness, thankfulness, recognition, sense of obligation. ② *her appreciation of literature*: VALUING, treasuring, admiration, respect, regard, esteem, high opinion. ③ *an appreciation of the value of teamwork*: ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, recognition, realization, knowledge, awareness, consciousness, understanding, comprehension. ④ *the appreciation of the franc against the pound*: INCREASE, gain, growth, rise, inflation, escalation. ⑤ *an appreciation of the professor's work*: REVIEW, critique, criticism, critical analysis, assessment, evaluation, judgement, rating; *Brit. informal* crit.

—OPPOSITES ingratitude, unawareness, depreciation, decrease.

appreciative ▶ adjective ① *we are appreciative of all your efforts*: GRATEFUL, thankful, obliged, indebted, in someone's debt. ② *an appreciative audience*: SUPPORTIVE, encouraging, sympathetic, responsive; enthusiastic, admiring, approving, complimentary.

—OPPOSITES ungrateful, disparaging.

apprehend ▶ verb ① *the thieves were quickly apprehended*: ARREST, catch, capture, seize; take prisoner, take into custody, detain, put in jail, put behind bars, imprison, incarcerate; *informal* collar, nab, nail, run in, pinch, bust, pick up, pull in, feel someone's collar; *Brit. informal* nick, do. ② *they are slow to apprehend danger*: APPRECIATE, recognize, discern, perceive, make out, take in, realize, grasp, understand, comprehend; *informal* get the picture; *Brit. informal* twig, suss (out).

apprehension ▶ noun ① *he was filled with apprehension*: ANXIETY, worry, unease, nervousness, nerves, misgivings, disquiet, concern, tension, trepidation, perturbation, consternation, angst, dread, fear, foreboding; *informal* butterflies, the willies, the heebie-jeebies. ② *her quick apprehension of their wishes*: APPRECIATION, recognition, discernment, perception, realization, grasp, understanding, comprehension, awareness.

③ *the apprehension of a perpetrator*: ARREST, capture, seizure; detention, imprisonment, incarceration; *informal* collar, nabbing, bust; *Brit. informal* nick.

—OPPOSITES confidence.

apprehensive ▶ adjective ANXIOUS, worried, uneasy, nervous, concerned, agitated, tense, afraid, scared, frightened, fearful; *informal* on tenterhooks.

—OPPOSITES confident.

apprentice ▶ noun TRAINEE, learner, probationer, novice, beginner, starter; pupil, student; *N. Amer.* tenderfoot; *informal* rookie; *N. Amer. informal* greenhorn.

—OPPOSITES veteran.

apprenticeship ▶ noun TRAINEESHIP, training period, studentship, novitiate; *historical* indentureship.

apprise ▶ verb INFORM, tell, notify, advise, brief, make aware, enlighten, update, keep posted; *informal* clue in, fill in, put wise, put in the picture.

approach ▶ verb ① *she approached the altar*: MOVE TOWARDS, come/go towards, advance towards, go/come/draw/move nearer, go/come/draw/move closer, near; close in, gain on; reach, arrive at. ② *the trade deficit is approaching £20 million*: BORDER ON, verge on, approximate, touch, nudge, get on for, near, come near to, come close to. ③ *she approached him about leaving his job*: SPEAK TO, talk to; make advances, make overtures, make a proposal, sound out, proposition. ④ *he approached the problem in the best way*: TACKLE, set about, address oneself to, undertake, get down to, launch into, embark on, go about, get to grips with.
-OPPOSITES leave.

▶ noun ① *the traditional British approach*: METHOD, procedure, technique, modus operandi, MO, style, way, manner; strategy, tactic, system, means, line of action. ② *he considered an approach to the High Court*: PROPOSAL, proposition, submission, application, appeal, plea, request. ③ (*dated*) *his approaches were repulsed*: ADVANCES, overtures, suggestions, attentions; suit. ④ *the dog barked at the approach of any intruder*: ADVANCE, coming, nearing; arrival, appearance; advent. ⑤ *the approach to the castle*: DRIVEWAY, drive, access road, road, avenue; way.

approachable ▶ adjective ① *students found the staff approachable*: FRIENDLY, welcoming, pleasant, agreeable, congenial, affable, cordial; obliging, communicative, helpful. ② *the south landing is approachable by boat*: ACCESSIBLE, attainable, reachable; *informal* get-at-able.
-OPPOSITES aloof, inaccessible.

approbation ▶ noun APPROVAL, acceptance, endorsement, appreciation, respect, admiration, commendation, praise, congratulations, acclaim, esteem, applause.
-OPPOSITES criticism.

appropriate ▶ adjective *this isn't the appropriate time*: SUITABLE, proper, fitting, apt, right; relevant, pertinent, apposite; convenient, opportune; seemly, befitting; *formal* ad rem; *archaic* meet.
-OPPOSITES unsuitable.

▶ verb ① *the barons appropriated church lands*: SEIZE, commandeer, expropriate, annex, arrogate, sequester, sequester, take over, hijack; steal, take; *informal* swipe, nab, bag; *Brit. informal* pinch, half-inch, nick. ② *his images have been appropriated by advertisers*: PLAGIARIZE, copy; poach, steal, 'borrow'; *informal* rip off. ③ *we are appropriating funds for these expenses*: ALLOCATE, assign, allot, earmark, set aside, devote, apportion.

approval ▶ noun ① *their proposals went to the ministry for approval*: ACCEPTANCE, agreement, consent, assent, permission, leave, the nod; rubber stamp, sanction, endorsement, ratification, authorization, validation; support, backing; *informal* the go-ahead, the green light, the OK, the thumbs up. ② *Lily looked at him with approval*: APPROBATION, appreciation, favour, liking, admiration, regard, esteem, respect, praise. ③ *we will send you the goods on approval*: TRIAL, sale or return; *Brit. informal* appro.
-OPPOSITES refusal, dislike.

approve ▶ verb ① *his boss doesn't approve of his lifestyle*: AGREE WITH, hold with, endorse, support, back, uphold, subscribe to, recommend, advocate, be in favour of, favour, think well of, like, appreciate, take kindly to; be pleased with, admire, applaud, praise. ② *the government approved the proposals*: ACCEPT, agree to, consent to, assent to, give one's blessing to, bless, rubber-stamp, give the nod; ratify, sanction, endorse, authorize, validate, pass; support, back; *informal* give the go-ahead, give the green light, give the OK, give the thumbs-up.
-OPPOSITES condemn, refuse.

approximate ▶ adjective *all measurements are approximate*: ESTIMATED, rough, imprecise, inexact, indefinite, broad, loose; *N. Amer. informal* ballpark.

-OPPOSITES precise.

▶ verb *this scenario probably approximates to the truth*: BE/COME CLOSE TO, be/come near to, approach, border on, verge on; resemble, be similar to, be not unlike.

approximately ▶ adverb ROUGHLY, about, around, circa, round about, more or less, in the neighbourhood of, in the region of, of the order of, something like, give or take (a few); near to, close to, nearly, almost, approaching; *Brit* getting on for; *informal* pushing; *N. Amer. informal* in the ballpark of.
-OPPOSITES precisely.

approximation ▶ noun ① *the figure is only an approximation*: ESTIMATE, estimation, guess, rough calculation; *informal* guesstimate; *N. Amer. informal* ballpark figure. ② *an approximation to the truth*: SEMBLANCE, resemblance, likeness, similarity, correspondence.

appurtenances ▶ plural noun ACCESSORIES, trappings, appendages, accoutrements, equipment, paraphernalia, impedimenta, bits and pieces, things; *informal* stuff.

a priori ▶ adjective *a priori reasoning*: THEORETICAL, deduced, deductive, inferred, postulated, suppositional; scientific.
-OPPOSITES empirical.

▶ adverb *the results cannot be predicted a priori*: THEORETICALLY, deductively, scientifically.

apron ▶ noun PINAFORE, overall; *informal* pinny.

apropos ▶ preposition *he was asked a question apropos his resignation*: WITH REFERENCE TO, with regard to, with respect to, regarding, concerning, on the subject of, connected with, about, re.

▶ adjective *the word 'conglomerate' was decidedly apropos*: APPROPRIATE, pertinent, relevant, apposite, apt, applicable, suitable, germane, material.
-OPPOSITES inappropriate.

■ **apropos of nothing** IRRELEVANTLY, arbitrarily, at random, for no reason, illogically.

apt ▶ adjective ① *a very apt description of how I felt*: SUITABLE, fitting, appropriate, befitting, relevant, applicable, apposite; *Brit. informal* spot on. ② *they are apt to get a mite slipshod*: INCLINED, given, likely, liable, disposed, predisposed, prone. ③ *an apt pupil*: CLEVER, quick, bright, sharp, smart, intelligent, able, gifted, adept, astute.
-OPPOSITES inappropriate, unlikely, slow.

a

Arachnids

baboon spider
 beetle mite
 bird-eating spider
 black widow
 button spider
 camel spider
 cardinal spider
 chigger
 cobweb spider
 crab spider
 diadem spider
 false scorpion
 funnel-web spider
 harvestman
 harvest mite
 hunting spider
 huntsman spider
 itch mite
 jockey spider
 jumping spider
 katipo
 mite
 money spider
 myriapod
 orb-weaver spider

orb weaver
raft spider
redback
red spider mite
retziary spider
scorpion
scorpion spider
solifuge
spider
spider mite
sun spider
tarantula
tick
trapdoor spider
varroa
violin spider
water scorpion
water spider
whip scorpion
white-tailed spider
wind scorpion
wolf spider
wood tick
zebra soldier

aptitude ► **NOUN** TALENT, gift, flair, bent, skill, knack, facility, ability, capability potential capacity, faculty, genius

aquatic ► **adjective** MARINE, water, saltwater, freshwater, seawater, sea, oceanic, river, *technical* pelagic, thalassic

aqueduct ► noun CONDUIT, race, channel

watercourse, sluice, sluiceway, spillway; bridge, viaduct

aquiline ► **adjective** HOOKED, curved, bent, and angular. beak-like

arable ► **adjective** FARMABLE, cultivable, cultivatable, fertile, productive, fecund

arachnid ► noun *See list*

arbiter ► noun ① an arbiter between Moscow and Washington. See ARBITRATOR. ② the great arbiter of fashion. AUTHORITY, judge, controller, director master, expert, pundit

arbitrary ► **adjective** ① *an arbitrary decision* CA PRICIOUS, whimsical, random, chance, unpredictable, casual, wanton, unmotivated, motiveless, unreasoned, unsupported, irrational, illogical, groundless, unjustified ② *the arbitrary power of a prince* AUTOCRATIC, dictatorial, autarchic undemocratic, despotic, tyrannical, authoritarian, absolute, uncontrolled, unlimited, unrestrained

-OPPOSITES reasoned, democratic

arbitrate ► verb ADJUDICATE, judge, referee, umpire, mediate, conciliate, intervene, intercede, settle, decide, resolve, pass judgement

arbitration ► noun ADJUDICATION, judgement
arbitrament, mediation, mediatorship, concili-
ation, intervention, interposition

arbitrator ► noun ADJUDICATOR, arbiter, judge
referee, umpire, mediator, conciliator inter
venor, intercessor, go-between

arbour ► noun BOWER, alcove, grotto, recess
pergola, gazebo

ARC ► noun *the arc of a circle* CURVE, arch, crescent, semicircle half-moon, curvature convexity

Architects

Aalto, Alvar (Finnish)
Abercrombie, Patrick (English)
Adam, Robert (Scottish)
Alberti, Leon Battista (Italian)
Arnolfo di Cambio (Italian)
Barry, Charles (English)
Behrens, Peter (German)
Bernini, Gian-Lorenzo (Italian)
Borromini, Francesco (Italian)
Bramante, Donato (Italian)
Brunelleschi, Filippo (Italian)
Butterfield, William (English)
Callicrates (Greek)
Candela, Felix (Mexican)
Casson, Hugh (English)
Chambers, William (Scottish)
Chernyshev, Sergei (American; b.
in the Caucasus) +
Coates, Wells Wintarsute
(Canadian; b. in Tokyo)
Cotter, John (English) W. N.
de Champagnon, José (Spanish)
Delonius, Robert (French)
Fischer von Erlach, Johann

Guilmard, Hector Germain (French)
Hardouin-Mansart, Jules (French)
Hawkesmoor, Nicholas (English)
Herrera, Juan de (Spanish)
Hood, Raymond (American)
Horta, Victor (Belgian)
Ictinus (Greek)
Imhofap (Egyptian)
Jacobsen, Arne (Danish)
Jones, Isigo (Singular)
Kahn, Louis L. (American)
Karr, William (English)
Laudun, Dany (English)
Le Corbusier (French)
Lecocq, Marie (French)
Loos, Adolph (Austrian)
Luyens, Edwin (English)
Macdonald, Charles (English)

Pugh, Augustus (English)
Richardson, Henry (American)
Rogers, Richard (English)
Saarinen, Eero (Finnish)
Sansovino, Jacopo (Italian)
Scott, George Gilbert (English)
Scott, Giles Gilbert (English)
Soane, John (English)
Soufflot, Jacques (French)
Spencer, Albert (German)
Spence, David (Scottish)
Stirling, James (Scottish)
Sturtevant, Louis (American)
Tange, Kenzo (Japanese)
Terry, Pauline (English)
Utzon, Jørn (Danish)
Van der Grinten, Johannes (English)
Van der Meulen, Henri (Belgian)
Wegman, Robert (American)
Winzler, Giovanni de (Italian)

[illegible]

Architectural Terms

See also CHURCH, TOWER, VAULT, WINDOW.

abacus	crocket	frieze	mansard	scotia
amphiprostyle	crow steps	fronspiece	marble	scroll
ancon	cruck	gable	mezzanine	scutcheon
annulet	cupola	gambrel	moulding	sedile
architrave	cusp	gargoyle	naillon	severy
archivolt	dado	half-timbered	obelisk	sode
astragal	decasyle	hammer beam	octastyle	soffit
astylar	dentil	haunch	octofol	spandrel
atlas	diptral	hexastyle	ogee	springer
baguette	dog-tooth	hipped roof	ogive	squinch
bas-relief	dome	hood mould	oignon dome	stringboard
beading	dossieret	hypoethral	pediment	string course
boss	driestone	hypostyle	peet roof	stucco
butress	echinus	hypotrachelum	peripheral	stylobate
campanile	embrasure	inglenook	peristyle	talon
capital	encrustation	intercolumniation	perron	tambour
capstone	entablature	intrados	plaster	talamon
cartouche	entablement	jerkin head	pillar	tetrastyle
caryatid	entasis	keystone	plinth	tie beam
cavetto	entresol	king post	polychromy	tracery
clerestory	epistyle	lacunar	porch	transom
colonnade	extrados	lancet arch	portico	trefoil
column	facade	lantern	prostyle	truss
conch	fascia	linenfold	queen post	tympanum
coping	fenestration	lintel	quoit	vault
corbel	fillet	loggia	respond	vaulting
cornice	finial	long-and-short	reticulated	vignette
cove	flaunching	work	rope-moulding	volute
coving	flute	lunette	rustication	vousoir
cresting	flying buttress	machicolation	saddleback	

► verb I sent the ball arcing out over the river. CURL, curve; arch

arcade ► noun ① a classical arcade: GALLERY, colonnade, cloister, loggia, portico, peristyle, stoa. ② (Brit) she went to a cafe in the arcade: SHOPPING CENTRE, shopping precinct; N Amer plaza, mall, shopping mall.

arcane ► adjective MYSTERIOUS, secret, covert, clandestine; enigmatic, esoteric, obscure, abstruse, recondite, recherché, impenetrable, opaque.

arch¹ ► noun ① a stone arch: ARCHWAY, vault, span, dome. ② the arch of his spine: CURVE, bow, bend, arc, curvature, convexity; hunch, crook.

► verb she arched her eyebrows: CURVE, arc; raise.

arch² ► adjective an arch grin: MISCHIEVOUS, teasing, saucy, knowing, playful, roguish, impish, cheeky, tongue-in-cheek.

arch- ► combining form his arch-enemy: CHIEF, principal, foremost, leading, main, major, prime, premier, greatest; informal number-one. —OPPOSITES minor.

archaic ► adjective OBSOLETE, out of date, old-fashioned, outmoded, behind the times, bygone, anachronistic, antiquated, superannuated, antediluvian, olde worlde, old-fangled; ancient, old, extinct, defunct; informal out of the arc; poetic/literary of yore. —OPPOSITES modern.

arched ► adjective VAULTED, domed, curved, bowed; poetic/literary embowed.

archer ► noun BOWMAN.

—RELATED TERMS toxophily.

archetypal ► adjective QUINTESSENTIAL, classic, most typical, representative, model, exemplary, textbook, copybook; stock, stereotypical, prototypical.

—OPPOSITES atypical.

archetype ► noun QUINTESSENCE, essence, typification, representative, model, embodiment, prototype, stereotype; original, pattern, standard, paradigm.

architect ► noun ① the architect of Durham Cathedral: DESIGNER, planner, draughtsman. See list. ② the architect of the National Health Service: ORIGINATOR, author, creator, founder, (founding) father; engineer, inventor, mastermind; poetic/literary begetter.

architecture ► noun ① modern architecture: BUILDING DESIGN, building style, planning, building, construction; formal architectonics. See lists. ② the architecture of a computer system: STRUCTURE, construction, organization, layout, design, build, anatomy, make-up; informal set-up.

archive ► noun ① she delved into the family archives: RECORDS, annals, chronicles, accounts; papers, documents, files; history; Law muniments. ② the National Sound Archive: RECORD OFFICE, registry, repository, museum, chancery.

► verb the videos are archived for future use: FILE, log, catalogue, document, record, register, store, cache.

arctic ► adjective ① Arctic waters: POLAR, far northern; poetic/literary hyperborean; technical boreal. ② arctic weather conditions: (BITTERLY) COLD, wintry, freezing, frozen, icy, glacial, gelid, sub-zero, polar, Siberian.

a

Architectural Styles

Art Deco	Jacobean
Art Nouveau	mannerist
baroque	Manueline
Bauhaus	medieval
beaux-arts	modernist
brutalist	Moorish
Byzantine	Moresque
Cape Dutch	Mozarabic
Carolingian	Mudejar
Churrigueraesque	neoclassical
cinquecento	neo-Gothic
classical	Norman
collegiate Gothic	Palladian
colonial	Perpendicular
composite	postmodernist
Corinthian	quattrocento
Decorated	Queen Anne
Doric	rayonnant
Early English	Regency
Edwardian	Renaissance
Elizabethan	rococo
Empire	Roman
Federation	Romanesque
flamboyant	Saxon
functional	Spanish-Colonial
Georgian	Spanish-Mission
Gothic	transitional
Gothic Revival	Tudor
Graeco-Roman	Tudorbethan
Grecian	Tuscan
Greek Revival	Usonian
International	vernacular
Ionian	Victorian Gothic
Islamic	

—OPPOSITES Antarctic, tropical.

▶ noun FAR NORTH, North Pole, Arctic circle.

—OPPOSITES Antarctic.

ardent ▶ adjective PASSIONATE, fervent, zealous, wholehearted, vehement, intense, fierce; enthusiastic, keen, eager, avid, committed, dedicated.

—OPPOSITES apathetic.

ardour ▶ noun PASSION, fervour, zeal, vehemence, intensity, fire, emotion; enthusiasm, eagerness, gusto, keenness, dedication.

arduous ▶ adjective ONEROUS, taxing, difficult, hard, heavy, laborious, burdensome, strenuous, vigorous, back-breaking; demanding, tough, challenging, formidable; exhausting, tiring, punishing, gruelling; informal killing; Brit. informal knackerings; archaic toilsome.

—OPPOSITES easy.

area ▶ noun ① an inner-city area: DISTRICT, region, zone, sector, quarter; locality, locale, neighbourhood, parish, patch; tract, belt; informal neck of the woods; Brit. informal manor; N. Amer. informal turf. ② specific areas of scientific knowledge: FIELD, sphere, discipline, realm, domain, sector, province, territory, line. ③ the dining area: SECTION, space; place, room. ④ the area of a circle: EXPANSE, extent, size, scope, compass; dimensions, proportions.

arena ▶ noun ① an ice-hockey arena: STADIUM, amphitheatre, coliseum; ground, field, ring, rink, pitch, court; N. Amer. bowl, park; historical circus. ② the political arena: SCENE, sphere,

realm, province, domain, sector, forum, territory, world.

argot ▶ noun JARGON, slang, idiom, cant, parlance, vernacular, patois; dialect, speech, language; informal lingo.

arguable ▶ adjective ① he had an arguable claim for asylum: TENABLE, defensible, defensible, supportable, sustainable, able to hold water; reasonable, viable, acceptable. ② it is arguable whether these routes are worthwhile: DEBATABLE, questionable, open to question, controversial, contentious, doubtful, uncertain, moot.

—OPPOSITES untenable, certain.

arguably ▶ adverb POSSIBLY, conceivably, feasibly, plausibly, probably, maybe, perhaps.

argue ▶ verb ① they argued that the government was to blame: CONTEND, assert, maintain, insist, hold, claim, reason, swear, allege; Law depose; formal aver, represent, opine. ② the children are always arguing: QUARREL, disagree, row, squabble, fall out, bicker, fight, wrangle, dispute, feud, have words, cross swords, lock horns, be at each other's throats; informal argufy, spat; archaic altercation. ③ it is hard to argue the point: DISPUTE, debate, discuss, controvert.

argument ▶ noun ① he had an argument with Tony: QUARREL, disagreement, squabble, fight, dispute, wrangle, clash, altercation, feud, contretemps, disputation, falling-out; informal tiff, slanging match; Brit. informal row, barney. ② arguments for the existence of God: REASONING, justification, explanation, rationalization; case, defence, vindication; evidence, reasons, grounds. ③ (archaic) the argument of the book: THEME, topic, subject matter; summary, synopsis, precis, gist, outline.

argumentative ▶ adjective QUARRELSOME, disputatious, captious, contrary, cantankerous, contentious; belligerent, bellicose, combative, antagonistic, truculent, pugnacious; rare oppugnant.

arid ▶ adjective ① an arid landscape: DRY, dried up, waterless, moistureless, parched, scorched, baked, thirsty, droughty, desert; BARREN, infertile. ② this town has an arid, empty feel: DREARY, dull, drab, dry, sterile, colourless, unstimulating, uninspiring, flat, boring, uninteresting, lifeless.

—OPPOSITES wet, fertile, vibrant.

aright ▶ adverb (dated) CORRECTLY, rightly, right, all right; accurately, properly, precisely, perfectly; informal OK.

arise ▶ verb ① many problems arose: COME TO LIGHT, become apparent, appear, emerge, crop up, turn up, surface, spring up; occur; poetic/literary befall, come to pass. ② injuries arising from defective products: RESULT, proceed, follow, ensue, derive, stem, originate; be caused by. ③ (formal) the beast arose: STAND UP, rise, get to one's feet, get up.

aristocracy ▶ noun NOBILITY, peerage, gentry, upper class, ruling class, elite, high society, establishment, haut monde; aristocrats, lords, ladies, peers (of the realm), nobles, noblemen, noblewomen; informal upper crust, top drawer, aristos; Brit. informal nobs, toffs.

—OPPOSITES working class.

aristocrat ▶ noun NOBLEMAN, noblewoman, lord, lady, peer (of the realm), peeress, grandee; informal aristo; Brit. informal toff, nob.

-OPPOSITES commoner.

aristocratic ▶ adjective ① an aristocratic family: NOBLE, titled, upper-class, blue-blooded, high-born, well born, elite; *Brit.* upmarket; *informal* upper crust, top drawer; *Brit. informal* posh; *archaic* gentle. ② an aristocratic manner: REFINED, polished, courtly, dignified, decorous, gracious, fine, gentlemanly, ladylike; haughty, proud.
-OPPOSITES working-class, vulgar.

arm¹ ▶ noun ① the arm of her jacket: SLEEVE. ② an arm of the sea: INLET, creek, cove, fjord, bay, voe; estuary, firth, strait(s), sound, channel. ③ the political arm of the group: BRANCH, section, department, division, wing, sector, detachment, offshoot, extension. ④ the long arm of the law: REACH, power, authority, influence.

arm² ▶ verb ① he armed himself with a revolver: EQUIP, provide, supply, furnish, issue, fit out. ② arm yourself against criticism: PREPARE, forearm, make ready, brace, steel, fortify.

armada ▶ noun FLEET, flotilla, squadron; *poetic/literary* navy.

armaments ▶ plural noun ARMS, weapons, weaponry, firearms, guns, ordnance, artillery, munitions, materiel. See lists at GUN, PROJECTILE, WEAPON.

armistice ▶ noun TRUCE, ceasefire, peace, suspension of hostilities.

armour ▶ noun PROTECTIVE COVERING, armour plate; *historical* chain mail, coat of mail, panoply. See list.

Parts of a Suit of Armour

basinet	gauntlet	pauldron
beaver	gorget	poleyn
bracer	greave	renebrace
brassard	habergeon	sabaton
breastplate	hauberk	sallet
camail	helmet	solleret
chausses	jambau	tasses
coif	lance rest	vambrace
corselet	mail	ventail
coutere	nasal	visor
culrass	neck guard	
cuisse	nosepiece	

armoured ▶ adjective ARMOUR-PLATED, steel-plated, ironclad; bulletproof, bombproof; reinforced, toughened.

armoury ▶ noun ARSENAL, arms depot, arms cache, ordnance depot, magazine, ammunition dump.

arms ▶ plural noun ① the illegal export of arms: WEAPONS, weaponry, firearms, guns, ordnance, artillery, armaments, munitions, materiel. See lists at GUN, PROJECTILE, WEAPON. ② the family arms: CREST, emblem, coat of arms, heraldic device, insignia, escutcheon, shield. See list at HERALDRY.

-RELATED TERMS heraldic.

army ▶ noun ① the invading army: ARMED FORCE, military force, land force, military, soldiery, infantry, militia; troops, soldiers; *archaic* host. See lists at RANK. ② an army of tourists: CROWD, swarm, multitude, horde, mob, gang, throng, mass, flock, herd, pack.

-RELATED TERMS military, martial.

aroma ▶ noun SMELL, odour, fragrance, scent, perfume, bouquet, nose; *poetic/literary* redolence.

aromatic ▶ adjective FRAGRANT, scented, perfumed, fragranced, odoriferous; *poetic/literary* redolent.

around ▶ adverb ① there were houses scattered around: ON EVERY SIDE, on all sides, throughout, all over (the place), everywhere; about, here and there. ② he turned around: IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION, to face the other way, backwards, to the rear. ③ there was no one around: NEARBY, near, about, close by, close (at hand), at hand, in the vicinity, at close range.

▶ preposition ① the palazzo is built around a courtyard: ON ALL SIDES OF, about, encircling, surrounding. ② they drove around town: ABOUT, all over, in/to all parts of. ③ around three miles: AP PROXIMATELY, about, round about, circa, roughly, something like, more or less, in the region of, in the neighbourhood of, give or take (a few); nearly, close to, approaching; *Brit.* getting on for; *N Amer. informal* in the ballpark of.

arouse ▶ verb ① they had aroused his suspicion: INDUCE, prompt, trigger, stir up, bring out, kindle, fire, spark off, provoke, engender, cause, foster; *poetic/literary* enkindle. ② his ability to arouse the masses: STIR UP, rouse, galvanize, excite, electrify, stimulate, inspire, inspirit, move, fire up, whip up, get going, inflame, agitate, goad, incite. ③ his touch aroused her: EXCITE, stimulate (sexually), titillate; *informal* turn on, get going, give a thrill to, light someone's fire. ④ she was aroused from her sleep: WAKE (UP), awaken, bring to/round, rouse; *Brit. informal* knock up; *poetic/literary* waken.

-OPPOSITES allay, pacify, turn off.

arraign ▶ verb ① he was arraigned for murder: IN DICT, prosecute, put on trial, bring to trial, take to court, lay/file/prefer charges against, summons, cite; accuse of, charge with; *N Amer.* impeach; *informal* do; *archaic* inculpate. ② they bitterly arraigned the government: CRITICIZE, censure, attack, condemn, chastise, lambaste, rebuke, admonish, remonstrate with, take to task, berate, reproach; *informal* knock, slam, blast, lay into; *Brit. informal* slate, slag off; *formal* castigate, excoriate.

-OPPOSITES acquit, praise.

arrange ▶ verb ① she arranged the flowers: ORDER, set out, lay out, array, position, dispose, present, display, exhibit; group, sort, organize, tidy. ② they hoped to arrange a meeting: ORGANIZE, fix (up), plan, schedule, pencil in, contrive, settle on, decide, determine, agree. ③ he arranged the piece for a full orchestra: ADAPT, set, score, orchestrate.

arrangement ▶ noun ① the arrangement of the furniture: POSITIONING, disposition, order, presentation, display; grouping, organization, alignment. ② the arrangements for my trip: PREPARATION, plan, provision; planning, groundwork. ③ we had an arrangement: AGREEMENT, deal, understanding, bargain, settlement, pact, modus vivendi. ④ an arrangement of Beethoven's symphonies: ADAPTATION, orchestration, instrumentation.

arrant ▶ adjective what arrant nonsense! UTTER, complete, total, absolute, downright, outright, thorough, out-and-out, sheer, pure, unmitigated, unqualified; blatant, flagrant; *Brit. informal* right.

a

array ▶ noun ① a huge array of cars: RANGE, collection, selection, assortment, diversity, variety; arrangement, assemblage, line-up, formation; display, exhibition, exposition. ② she arrived in silken array: DRESS, attire, clothing, garb, garments; finery; formal apparel.

▶ verb ① a buffet was arrayed on the table: ARRANGE, assemble, group, order, range, place, position, set out, lay out, dispose; display. ② he was arrayed in grey flannel: DRESS, attire, clothe, garb, deck (out), outfit, get up, turn out; archaic apparel, habit.

arrears ▶ plural noun rent arrears: MONEY OWING, outstanding payment(s), debt(s), liabilities, dues.

—OPPOSITES credit.

■ In arrears BEHIND, behindhand, late, overdue, in the red, in debt.

arrest ▶ verb ① police arrested him for murder: APPREHEND, take into custody, take prisoner, detain, put in jail; informal pick up, pull in, pinch, bust, nab, do, collar; Brit. informal nick. ② the spread of the disease can be arrested: STOP, halt, check, block, hinder, restrict, limit, inhibit, impede, curb; prevent, obstruct; poetic/literary stay. ③ she tried to arrest his attention: ATTRACT, capture, catch, hold, engage; absorb, occupy, engross.

—OPPOSITES release, start.

▶ noun ① a warrant for your arrest: DETENTION, apprehension, seizure, capture. ② a cardiac arrest: STOPPAGE, halt, interruption.

arresting ▶ adjective an arresting image: STRIKING, eye-catching, conspicuous, engaging, impressive, imposing, spectacular, dramatic, breathtaking, awe-inspiring, dazzling, stunning; remarkable, outstanding, distinctive.

—OPPOSITES inconspicuous.

arrival ▶ noun ① they awaited Ruth's arrival: COMING, appearance, entrance, entry, approach. ② staff greeted the late arrivals: COMER, entrant, in-comer, visitor, caller, guest. ③ the arrival of democracy: EMERGENCE, appearance, advent, coming, dawn, onset, inauguration, origin, birth.

—OPPOSITES departure, end.

arrive ▶ verb ① more police arrived: COME, turn up, get here/there, make it, appear, enter, present oneself, come along, materialize; informal show (up), roll in/up, blow in, show one's face.

② we arrived at his house: REACH, get to, come to, make, make it to, gain, end up at; informal wind up at. ③ they arrived at an agreement: REACH, achieve, attain, gain, accomplish; work out, draw up, put together, strike, settle on; informal clinch. ④ the wedding finally arrived: HAPPEN, occur, take place, come about; present itself, crop up; poetic/literary come to pass. ⑤ quadrupony had arrived: EMERGE, appear, surface, dawn, be born, come into being, arise. ⑥ (informal) their Rolls Royce proved that they had arrived: SUCCEED, be a success, do well, reach the top, make good, prosper, thrive; informal make it, make one's mark, do all right for oneself.

—OPPOSITES depart, leave.

arriviste ▶ noun SOCIAL CLIMBER, status seeker, would-be, self-seeker; upstart, parvenu(e), vulgarian; (arrivistes) nouveau riche, new money; informal go-getter.

arrogant ▶ adjective HAUGHTY, conceited, self-important, egotistic, full of oneself, superior;

overbearing, pompous, bumptious, imperious, overweening; proud, immodest; informal high and mighty, too big for one's boots, big-headed; rare hubristic.

—OPPOSITES modest.

arrogate ▶ verb ASSUME, take, claim, appropriate, seize, expropriate, wrest, usurp, commandeer.

arrow ▶ noun ① a bow and arrow: SHAFT, bolt, dart; historical quarrel. ② the arrow pointed right: POINTER, indicator, marker, needle.

arsenal ▶ noun ① Britain's nuclear arsenal: WEAPONS, weaponry, arms, armaments. ② munitioners broke into the arsenal: ARMOURY, arms depot, arms cache, ordnance depot, magazine, ammunition dump.

arson ▶ noun INCENDIARISM, pyromania; Brit. fire-raising.

arsonist ▶ noun INCENDIARY, pyromaniac; Brit. fire-raiser; informal firebug, pyro; N. Amer. informal torch.

art ▶ noun ① he studied art: FINE ART, artwork, design. See lists. ② the art of writing: SKILL, craft, technique, knack, facility, ability. ③ she uses art to achieve her aims: CUNNING, artfulness, slyness, craftiness, guile; deceit, duplicity, artifice, wiles.

artery ▶ noun ① a coronary artery. See list at VEIN. ② the main arteries out of town: MAIN ROAD, trunk road, high road, highway.

artful ▶ adjective SLY, crafty, cunning, wily, scheming, devious, Machiavellian, sneaky, tricky, conniving, designing, calculating; canny, shrewd; deceitful, duplicitous, disingenuous, underhand; informal foxy, shifty; archaic subtle.

—OPPOSITES ingenuous.

article ▶ noun ① small household articles: OBJECT, thing, item, artefact, commodity, product. ② an article in The Times: REPORT, account, story, write-up, feature, item, piece (of writing), column, review, commentary. ③ the crucial article of the treaty: CLAUSE, section, subsection, point, item, paragraph, division, subdivision, part, portion.

articulate ▶ adjective an articulate speaker: ELOQUENT, fluent, effective, persuasive, lucid, expressive, silver-tongued; intelligible, comprehensible, understandable.

—OPPOSITES unintelligible.

▶ verb they were unable to articulate their emotions: EXPRESS, voice, vocalize, put in words, communicate, state; air, ventilate, vent, pour out; utter, say, speak, enunciate, pronounce; informal come out with.

articulated ▶ adjective HINGED, jointed, segmented; technical articulate.

artifice ▶ noun TRICKERY, deceit, deception, duplicity, guile, cunning, artfulness, williness, craftiness, slyness, chicanery; fraud, fraudulence.

artificial ▶ adjective ① artificial flowers: SYNTHETIC, fake, imitation, mock, ersatz, substitute, replica, reproduction; man-made, manufactured, fabricated; plastic; informal pretend. ② an artificial smile: INSINCERE, feigned, false, unnatural, contrived, put-on, exaggerated, forced, laboured, strained, hollow; informal pretend, phoney.

—OPPOSITES natural, genuine.

Art Schools and Movements

abstract art
abstract expressionism
Aesthetic Movement
Art Deco
Art Nouveau
Arts and Crafts Movement
African School
avant-garde
Barbizon School
baroque
Blaise Reiter
Bloomsbury Group
body art
Camden School
classicism
conceptual art
concrete art
constructivism
cubism
Dada
Danube School
De Stijl
Euston Road
expressionism
fauvism
figurative art
Florentine school
folk art
futurism
grand manner
Group of Seven
High Renaissance art
impressionism
International Gothic
intimisme
Jugendstil
junk art
kinetic art
land art
magic realism
mannerism
metaphysical painting
minimalism
modernism
Nazi Group
naïve art
naturalism
neoclassicism
neorealism
neoplasticism
neoromanticism
Neue Sachlichkeit
Norwich School
op art
Orphism
performance art
photorealism
plein-air painting
pop art
postimpressionism
postmodernism
Prachionism
Pre-Raphaelitism
primitive art
purism
Rayonism
realism
Renaissance art
representational art
rococo
romanticism
Sezession
Slavonic school
socialist realism
social realism
Sturm und Drang
suprematism
surrealism
symbolism
Synchromism
transavant-garde
Ukrainian school
Venetian school
verism
Vorticism

Art Techniques and Media

See also **PAINTING**.

acrylic painting
adobe painting
airbrushing
aquatint
batik
brisk rubbing
calligraphy
caricature
ceramics
chiselled
collage
colotype
colour print
colour wash
comix
divisionism
drawing
dry-point
enamelling
encaustic
engineering drawing
engraving
etching
finger-painting
fresco
frottage
illumination
intaglio
line cut
lithography
lost wax
marbling
marble
monochrome
mosaic
mural
painting
pastel
photography
photogram
photomontage
photoprint
screen printing
sculpture
sculpting
sgraffito
silk-screen printing
sketching
soft-graded etching
stained glass
tachism
tapestry
technical drawing
trompe l'œil
wood carving
woodcut
wood engraving
zincography

artistry ► noun CREATIVE SKILL, creativity, art, skill, talent, genius, brilliance, flair, proficiency, virtuosity, finesse, style, craftsmanship, workmanship

artless ► adjective NATURAL, ingenuous, naive, simple, innocent, childlike, guileless, candid, open, sincere, unaffected
—OPPOSITES scheming

as ► conjunction ① *she saw him as he disappeared* WHILE, just as, even as, just when, at the time that, at the moment that ② *we all felt as Frank did* IN THE (SAME) WAY THAT, the (same) way, in formal like ③ *do as you're told* WHAT, that which ④ *they were free, as the case had not been proved* BECAUSE, since, seeing that/as, in view of the fact that, owing to the fact that, informal on account of; poetic/literary for ⑤ *try as she did, she couldn't smile* THOUGH, although, even though, in spite of the fact that, despite the fact that, notwithstanding that, for all that, albeit, how ever ⑥ *relatively short distances, as Paris to Lyons* SUCH AS, like, for instance, for example, e.g. ⑦ *I'm away a lot, as you know* WHICH, a fact which

► preposition ① *he was dressed as a policeman* LIKE, in the guise of, so as to appear to be ② *I'm speaking to you as your friend* IN THE ROLE OF, being, acting as

■ **as for/as to** CONCERNING, with respect to, on the subject of, in the matter of, as regards, with regard to, regarding, with reference to, re, in re, apropos, vis-à-vis

■ **as if** were SO TO SPEAK, in a manner of speaking, to some extent, so to say, informal sort of

artillery ► noun ORDNANCE, (big) guns, cannon(s), cannonry

artisan ► noun CRAFTSMAN, craftswoman, craftsperson, skilled worker, technician, smith, wright, journeyman, *archaic* artificer

artist ► noun ① *a Belfast mural artist* PAINTER, drawer, illustrator, sketcher, designer, creator, originator, producer, old master. See list ② *the surgeon is an artist with the knife* EXPERT, master, maestro, past master, virtuoso, genius, informal pro, ace, Brit informal dab hand
—OPPOSITES novice

artiste ► noun ENTERTAINER, performer, show man, artist, player, musician, singer, dancer, actor, actress, star

artistic ► adjective ① *he's very artistic* CREATIVE, imaginative, inventive, expressive, sensitive, perceptive, discerning ② *artistic dances* AESTHETIC, aesthetically pleasing, beautiful, attractive, fine, decorative, ornamental, tasteful, stylish, elegant, exquisite
—OPPOSITES unimaginative, inelegant

Artists (cont.)

Nicholson, Ben (English)
 Nolan, Sidney (Australian)
 Nolde, Emil (German)
 O'Keeffe, Georgia (American)
 Ople, John (English)
 Orcagna (Italian)
 Ostade, Adriaen van (Dutch)
 Palmer, Samuel (English)
 Peolozzi, Eduardo (Scottish)
 Parmigianino (Italian)
 Pasmore, Victor (English)
 Pechstein, Max (German)
 Picasso, Pablo (Spanish)
 Piero della Francesca (Italian)
 Piper, John (English)
 Piranesi, Giovanni (Italian)
 Pissarro, Camille (French)
 Pollaiuolo, Antonio (Italian)
 Pollock, Jackson (American)
 Pontorno, Jacopo da (Italian)
 Poussin, Nicolas (French)
 Rackham, Arthur (English)
 Raeburn, Henry (Scottish)
 Ramsay, Allan (Scottish)
 Raphael (Italian)
 Rauschenberg, Robert (American)
 Redon, Odilon (French)
 Rembrandt (Harmensz van Rijn) (Dutch)
 Renoir, Auguste (French)
 Reynolds, Joshua (English)
 Ribera, José (Spanish)
 Riley, Bridget (English)
 Rivera, Diego (Mexican)

Roberts, Tom (Australian)
 Romney, George (English)
 Rosa, Salvatore (Italian)
 Rossetti, Dante Gabriel (English)
 Rothko, Mark (American, b. in Latvia)
 Roudult, Georges (French)
 Rousseau, Henri (French)
 Rowlandson, Thomas (English)
 Rubens, Peter Paul (Flemish)
 Ruysdael, Jacob van (Dutch)
 Sargent, John Singer (American)
 Sarto, Andrea del (Italian)
 Schiele, Egon (Austrian)
 Schnabel, Julian (American)
 Schwitters, Kurt (German)
 Sezhu (Japanese)
 Seurat, Georges (French)
 Sickert, Walter (English)
 Signac, Paul (French)
 Signorelli, Luca (Italian)
 Siqueiros, David Alfaro (Mexican)
 Sisley, Alfred (French)
 Soutine, Chaim (French)
 Spencer, Stanley (English)
 Stella, Frank (American)
 Steer, Philip Wilson (English)
 Stubbs, George (English)
 Sutherland, Graham (English)
 Tanguy, Yves (French)
 Teniers, David (Flemish)
 Tiepolo, Giovanni Battista (Italian)
 Tintoretto (Italian)
 Titian (Italian)

Toussaint-Lautrec, Henri de (French)
 Turner, J. M. W. (English)
 Uccello, Paolo (Italian)
 Utamaro, Kitagawa (Japanese)
 Utrillo, Maurice (French)
 Valentin, Suzanne (French)
 Van Dyck, Anthony (Flemish)
 Van Eyck, Jan (Flemish)
 Van Gogh, Vincent (Dutch)
 Vasarely, Viktor (French, b. in Hungary)
 Vaseri, Giorgio (Italian)
 Velázquez, Diego (Spanish)
 Vermeer, Jan (Dutch)
 Veronese, Paolo (Italian)
 Vigile-Labrun, Elisabeth (French)
 Viennick, Maurice de (French)
 Vuillard, Edouard (French)
 Warhol, Andy (American)
 Watteau, Antoine (French)
 Watts, George (English)
 West, Benjamin (American)
 Weyden, Rogier van der (Flemish)
 Whistler, James (American)
 Wilde, David (Scottish)
 Winterhalter, Franz (German)
 Witz, Konrad (German)
 Zeuxis (Greek)
 Zoffany, Johann (German)
 Zorn, Anders (Swedish)
 Zurbarán, Francisco de (Spanish)

■ **as yet** SO FAR, thus far, yet, still, up till now, up to now

ascend ► **verb** CLIMB, go up/upwards, move up/upwards, rise (up); mount, scale, conquer; take to the air, take off.

—OPPOSITES descend.

ascendancy ► **noun** DOMINANCE, domination, supremacy, superiority, paramountcy, predominance, primacy, dominion, hegemony, authority, control, command, power, rule, sovereignty, lordship, leadership, influence.

—OPPOSITES subordination.

ascendant ► **adjective** RISING (IN POWER), on the rise, on the way up, up-and-coming, flourishing, prospering, burgeoning.

—OPPOSITES declining.

ascent ► **noun** ① the first ascent of the Matterhorn: CLIMB, scaling, conquest. ② a balloon ascent: RISE, climb, launch, take-off, lift-off, blast-off. ③ the ascent grew steeper: (UPWARD) SLOPE, incline, rise, upward gradient, inclination, acclivity.

—OPPOSITES descent, drop.

ascertain ► **verb** FIND OUT, discover, get to know, work out, make out, fathom (out), learn, deduce, divine, discern, see, understand, comprehend; establish, determine, verify, confirm; informal figure out; Brit. informal suss (out).

ascetic ► **adjective** an ascetic life: AUSTERE, self-denying, abstinent, abstemious, self-disciplined, self-abnegating; simple, puritanical, monastic; reclusive, eremitic, hermitic; celibate, chaste.

—OPPOSITES sybaritic.

► **noun** a desert ascetic: ABSTAINER, puritan, recluse, hermit, solitary; fakir, Sufi, dervish, sadhu, muni; historical anchorite; archaic eremite.

—OPPOSITES sybarite.

ascribe ► **verb** ATTRIBUTE, assign, put down, accredit, credit, chalk up, impute; blame on, lay at the door of; connect with, associate with.

ash ► **noun** CINDERS, ashes, clinker.

ashamed ► **adjective** ① the poor are made to feel ashamed: SORRY, shamefaced, abashed, sheepish, guilty, contrite, remorseful, repentant, penitent, regretful, rueful, apologetic; embarrassed, mortified. ② he was ashamed to admit it: RELUCTANT, loath, unwilling, disinclined, indisposed, afraid.

—OPPOSITES proud, pleased.

ashen ► **adjective** PALE, wan, pasty, grey, colourless, pallid, white, waxen, ghostly, bloodless.

ashore ► **adverb** ON TO (THE) LAND, on to the shore; shorewards, landwards; on the shore, on (dry) land.

aside ► **adverb** ① they stood aside: TO ONE SIDE, to the side, on one side; apart, away, separately. ② that aside, he seemed a nice man: APART, notwithstanding.

► **noun** 'Her parents died,' said Mrs Manton in an aside: WHISPERED REMARK, confidential remark, stage whisper, digression, incidental remark, obiter dictum, deviation.

■ aside from APART FROM, besides, in addition to, not counting, barring, other than, but (for).

a

excluding, not including, except (for), excepting, leaving out, save (for).

asinine ▶ **adjective** FOOLISH, stupid, brainless, mindless, senseless, idiotic, imbecilic, ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd, nonsensical, fatuous, silly, inane, witless, empty-headed; *informal* half-witted, dumb, moronic; *Brit. informal* daft; *Scottish & N. English informal* glaikit.

—**OPPOSITES** intelligent, sensible.

ask ▶ **verb** ① *he asked what time we opened*: ENQUIRE, query, want to know; question, interrogate, quiz. ② *they want to ask a few questions*: PUT (FORWARD), pose, raise, submit. ③ *don't be afraid to ask for advice*: REQUEST, demand; solicit, seek, crave, apply, petition, call, appeal, sue. ④ *let's ask them to dinner*: INVITE, bid, summon, have someone over/round.

—**OPPOSITES** answer.

askance ▶ **adverb** *they look askance at anything foreign*: SUSPICIOUSLY, sceptically, cynically, mistrustfully, distrustfully, doubtfully, dubiously; disapprovingly, contemptuously, scornfully, disdainfully.

—**OPPOSITES** approvingly.

askew ▶ **adjective** CROOKED, lopsided, tilted, angled, at an angle, skew, skewed, slanted, aslant, awry, squint, out of true, to/on one side, uneven, off-centre, asymmetrical; *informal* cock-eyed, wonky; *Brit. informal* skew-whiff.

—**OPPOSITES** straight.

asleep ▶ **adjective** ① *she was asleep in bed*: SLEEPING, in a deep sleep, napping, catnapping, dozing, drowsing; *informal* snoozing, dead to the world; *Brit. informal* kipping; *humorous* in the land of Nod; *poetic/literary* slumbering. ② *my leg's asleep*: NUMB, with no feeling, numbed, benumbed, dead, insensible, insensate, unfeeling.

—**OPPOSITES** awake.

aspect ▶ **noun** ① *the photos depict every aspect of life*: FEATURE, facet, side, characteristic, particular, detail; angle, slant. ② *his face had a sinister aspect*: APPEARANCE, look, air, cast, mien, demeanour, expression; atmosphere, mood, quality, ambience, feeling. ③ *a summer house with a southern aspect*: OUTLOOK, view, exposure; situation, position, location. ④ *the front aspect of the hotel*: FACE, elevation, facade, side.

asperity ▶ **noun** HARSHNESS, sharpness, abrasiveness, severity, acerbity, astringency, tartness, sarcasm.

aspersions ▶ **plural noun** VILIFICATION, disparagement, denigration, defamation, condemnation, criticism, denunciation, slander, libel, calumny; slurs, smears, insults, slights; *informal* mud-slinging, bad-mouthing; *Brit. informal* slagging off; *formal* castigation.

■ **cast aspersions on** VILIFY, disparage, denigrate, defame, run down, impugn, belittle, criticize, condemn, decry, denounce, pillory; malign, slander, libel, discredit; *informal* pull apart, throw mud at, knock, bad-mouth; *Brit. informal* rubbish, slate, slag off.

asphyxiate ▶ **verb** CHOKE (TO DEATH), suffocate, smother, stifle; throttle, strangle.

aspiration ▶ **noun** DESIRE, hope, dream, wish, longing, yearning; aim, ambition, expectation, goal, target.

aspire ▶ **verb** DESIRE, hope, dream, long, yearn, set one's heart on, wish, want, be desirous of; aim, seek, pursue, set one's sights on.

aspiring ▶ **adjective** WOULD-BE, aspirant, hopeful, budding; potential, prospective, future; ambitious, determined; *informal* wannabe.

ass ▶ **noun** ① *he rode on an ass*: DONKEY, jackass, jenny; *Scottish* cuddy; *Brit. informal* moke, neddly. ② *(informal) don't be a silly ass*: FOOL, idiot, dolt, simpleton, imbecile; *informal* ninny, nincompoop, dimwit, donkey, chump, halfwit, dum-dum, loon, jackass, cretin, jerk, nerd, fathead, blockhead, numbskull, dunce, dipstick, lame-brain, pea-brain, thickhead, woodenhead, pinhead, airhead, birdbrain; *Brit. informal* nitwit, twit, clot, plonker, berk, prat, pillock, wally, twerp, charlie; *Scottish informal* nyaff, balloon, gowk; *N. Amer. informal* schmuck, bozo, turkey, goofball, putz, wiener, weeny; *Austral./NZ informal* drongo, galah; *dated* tomfool, muttonhead.

assail ▶ **verb** ① *the army moved in to assail the enemy*: ATTACK, assault, pounce on, set upon/about, fall on, charge, rush, storm; *informal* lay into, tear into, pitch into. ② *she was assailed by doubts*: PLAGUE, torment, rack, beset, dog, trouble, disturb, worry, bedevil, nag, vex. ③ *critics assailed the policy*: CRITICIZE, censure, attack, condemn, pillory, revile; *informal* knock, slam; *Brit. informal* slate, slag off; *formal* castigate.

assailant ▶ **noun** ATTACKER, mugger, assaulter; *rare* assailer.

assassin ▶ **noun** MURDERER, killer, gunman; executioner; *informal* hit man, hired gun; *poetic/literary* slayer; *dated* homicide.

assassinate ▶ **verb** MURDER, kill, slaughter; eliminate, execute; *N. Amer.* terminate; *informal* hit; *poetic/literary* slay.

assassination ▶ **noun** MURDER, killing, slaughter, homicide; political execution, elimination; *N. Amer.* termination; *informal* hit; *poetic/literary* slaying. See list.

assault ▶ **verb** ① *he assaulted a police officer*: ATTACK, hit, strike, punch, beat up, thump; pummel, pound, batter; *informal* clout, wallop, belt, clobber, bop, biff, sock, deck, slug, plug, lay into, do over, rough up; *Austral. informal* quilt; *poetic/literary* smite. ② *they left to assault the hill*: ATTACK, assail, pounce on, set upon, strike, fall on, swoop on, rush, storm, besiege. ③ *he first assaulted then murdered her*: RAPE, sexually assault, molest, interfere with.

▶ **noun** ① *he was charged with assault*: BATTERY, violence; sexual assault, rape; *Brit.* grievous bodily harm, GBH, actual bodily harm, ABH. ② *an assault on the city*: ATTACK, strike, onslaught, offensive, charge, push, thrust, invasion, bombardment, sortie, incursion, raid, blitz, campaign.

assay ▶ **noun** *new plate was brought for assay*: EVALUATION, assessment, appraisal, analysis, examination, tests, inspection, scrutiny.

▶ **verb** *gold is assayed to determine its purity*: EVALUATE, assess, appraise, analyse, examine, test, inspect, scrutinize, probe.

assemblage ▶ **noun** COLLECTION, accumulation, conglomeration, gathering, group, grouping, cluster, aggregation, mass, number; assortment, selection, array.

assemble ▶ **verb** ① *a crowd had assembled*: GATHER, collect, get together, congregate, convene, meet, muster, rally; *formal* foregather. ② *he assembled the suspects*: BRING/CALL TOGETHER, gather, collect, round up, marshal, muster, summon; *formal* convolve. ③ *how to assemble the*

Victims of Assassination

Abdullah ibn Husayn,
King of Jordan
Alcibiades
Alexander II of Russia
Aurelian
Aquino, Benigno
Aung San
Bandaranaike, Solomon
Becket, St Thomas à
Bernadotte, Count
Falke
Birendra, King of Nepal
Boudiuf, Mohammed
Caesar, Julius
Caligula
Caracalla
Carranza, Venustiano
Collins, Michael
Dolfuss, Engelbert
Domitian
Faisal II of Iraq
Franz Ferdinand,
Archduke
Gandhi, Indira
Gandhi, Mahatma
Gandhi, Rajiv
Garfield, James
Gemayel, Bashir
Gobind Singh
Henry IV of France
Heydrich, Reinhard
Ito, Prince Hirobumi
Kennedy, John F.
Kennedy, Robert F.
King, Martin Luther
Kotzebue, August von
Lannoy, John
Lincoln, Abraham
Lumumba, Patrice
Luxemburg, Rosa
Malcolm X
Marat, Jean Paul
McKinley, William
Moro, Aldo
Mountbatten, Earl
Muftur Rahman, Sheikh
Nicholas II of Russia
Opweid, Lee Harvey
Palme, Olof
Park Chung Hee
Percival, Spencer
Philip II of Macedonia
Pizarro, Francisco
Rabin, Yitzhak
Rasputin, Grigori
Sadat, Anwar al-
Shaka
Somoza (Debayle),
Anastasio
Somoza (Garcia),
Anastasio
Sucre, Antonio José de
Trotsky, Leon
Umberto I of Italy
Verwoerd, Hendrik
William, Prince of
Orange
Ziaur Rahman

late: CONSTRUCT, build, fabricate, manufacture, erect, set up, put/piece together, connect, join.
-OPPOSITES disperse, dismantle.

assembly ▶ noun ① an assembly of dockers: GATHERING, meeting, congregation, convention, rally, convocation, assemblage, group, body, crowd, throng, company; informal get-together. ② the labour needed in car assembly: CONSTRUCTION, manufacture, building, fabrication, erection.

assent ▶ noun they are likely to give their assent: AGREEMENT, acceptance, approval, approbation, consent, acquiescence, compliance, concurrence, the nod; sanction, endorsement, confirmation; permission, leave, blessing; informal the go-ahead, the green light, the OK, the thumbs up.
-OPPOSITES dissent, refusal.

▶ verb he assented to the change: AGREE TO, accept, approve, consent to, acquiesce in, concur in, give one's blessing to, give the nod; sanction, endorse, confirm; informal give the go-ahead, give the green light, give the OK, OK, give the thumbs up; formal accede to.
-OPPOSITES refuse.

assert ▶ verb ① they asserted that all aboard were safe: DECLARE, maintain, contend, argue, state, claim, propound, proclaim, announce, pronounce, swear, insist, avow; formal aver, opine; rare asseverate. ② we find it difficult to assert our rights: INSIST ON, stand up for, uphold, defend, contend, establish, press/push for, stress.

▶ **assert oneself** BEHAVE/SPEAK CONFIDENTLY, be assertive, put oneself forward, make one's presence felt; informal put one's foot down.

assertion ▶ noun ① I questioned his assertion: DECLARATION, contention, statement, claim, opinion, proclamation, announcement, pronouncement, protestation, avowal; formal averment; rare asseveration. ② an assertion of the right to march: DEFENCE, upholding; insistence on.

assertive ▶ adjective CONFIDENT, self-confident, bold, decisive, assured, self-assured, self-possessed; authoritative, strong-willed, forceful, insistent, determined, commanding, pushy; informal feisty; dated pushful.
-OPPOSITES timid.

assess ▶ verb ① the committee's power is hard to assess: EVALUATE, judge, gauge, rate, estimate, appraise, get the measure of, determine, weigh up, analyse; informal size up. ② the damage was assessed at £5 billion: VALUE, calculate, work out, determine, fix, cost, price, estimate.

assessment ▶ noun ① a teacher's assessment of the pupil's abilities: EVALUATION, judgement, rating, estimation, appraisal, analysis, opinion. ② some assessments valued the estate at £2 million: VALUATION, calculation, costing, pricing, estimate.

asset ▶ noun ① he sees his age as an asset: BENEFIT, advantage, blessing, good point, strong point, strength, forte, virtue, recommendation, attraction, resource, boon, merit, bonus, plus, pro. ② the seizure of all their assets: PROPERTY, resources, estate, holdings, possessions, effects, goods, valuables, belongings, chattels.
-OPPOSITES liability.

assiduous ▶ adjective DILIGENT, careful, meticulous, thorough, sedulous, attentive, conscientious, punctilious, painstaking, rigorous, particular; persevering.

assign ▶ verb ① a young doctor was assigned the task: ALLOCATE, allot, give, set; charge with, entrust with. ② she was assigned to a new post: APPOINT, promote, delegate, commission, post, co-opt; select for, choose for, install in; Military detail. ③ we assign large sums of money to travel budgets: earmark, designate, set aside, reserve, appropriate, allot, allocate, apportion. ④ he assigned the opinion to the Prince: ASCRIBE, attribute, put down, accredit, credit, chalk up, impute; pin on, lay at the door of. ⑤ he may assign the money to a third party: TRANSFER, make over, give, pass, hand over/down, convey, consign; Law attorn, devise.

assignment ▶ noun RENDEZVOUS, date, appointment, meeting; poetic/literary tryst.

assignment ▶ noun ① I'm going to finish this assignment tonight: TASK, piece of work, job, duty, chore, mission, errand, undertaking, exercise, business, endeavour, enterprise; project, homework. ② the assignment of tasks: ALLOCATION, allotment, issuance, designation; sharing out, apportionment, distribution, handing out, dispensation. ③ the assignment of property: TRANSFER, making over, giving, handing down, consignment; Law conveyance, devise, attornment.

assimilate ▶ verb ① the amount of information he can assimilate: ABSORB, take in, acquire, pick up, grasp, comprehend, understand, learn.

a

master; digest, ingest. ② many tribes were assimilated by Turkic peoples: SUBSUME, incorporate, integrate, absorb, engulf, acculturate; co-opt, adopt, embrace, admit.

assist ▶ verb ① I spend my time assisting the chef: HELP, aid, abet, lend a (helping) hand to, oblige, accommodate, serve; collaborate with, work with; support, back (up), second; informal pitch in with; Brit. informal muck in with. ② the exchange rates assisted the firm's expansion: FACILITATE, aid, ease, expedite, spur, promote, boost, benefit, foster, encourage, stimulate, precipitate, accelerate, advance, further, forward.
-OPPOSITES hinder, impede.

assistance ▶ noun HELP, aid, support, backing, reinforcement, succour, relief, intervention, cooperation, collaboration; a (helping) hand, a good turn; informal a break, a leg up.
-OPPOSITES hindrance.

assistant ▶ noun ① a photographer's assistant: SUBORDINATE, deputy, second (in command), number two, right-hand man/woman, aide, personal assistant, PA, attendant, mate, apprentice, junior, auxiliary; hired hand, hired help, helper, man/girl Friday; informal sidekick, gofer; Brit. informal dogsbody, skivvy. ② an assistant in the local shop: SALES ASSISTANT, salesperson, saleswoman/girl, salesman, server, check-out operator; seller, vendor; N. Amer. clerk; informal counter-jumper; dated shop boy/girl.

associate ▶ verb ① the colours that we associate with fire: LINK, connect, relate, identify, equate, bracket, set side by side. ② I was forced to associate with them: MIX, keep company, mingle, socialize, go around, rub shoulders, fraternize, consort, have dealings; N. Amer. rub elbows; informal hobnob, hang out/around/round, be thick with; Brit. informal hang about. ③ the firm is associated with a local charity: AFFILIATE, align, connect, join, attach, team up, be in league, ally; merge, integrate, confederate.

▶ noun his business associate: PARTNER, colleague, co-worker, workmate, comrade, ally, confederate; connection, contact, acquaintance; collaborator, partner; informal crony; Brit. informal oppo; Austral./NZ informal offsidier.

associated ▶ adjective ① salaries and associated costs: RELATED, connected, linked, correlated, similar, corresponding; attendant, accompanying, incidental. ② their associated company: AFFILIATED, allied, integrated, amalgamated, federated, confederated, syndicated, connected, related.
-OPPOSITES unrelated.

association ▶ noun ① a trade association: ALLIANCE, consortium, coalition, union, league, guild, syndicate, federation, confederation, confederacy, conglomerate, cooperative, partnership, affiliation. ② the association between man and environment: RELATIONSHIP, relation, interrelation, connection, interconnection, link, bond, union, tie, attachment, interdependence, affiliation.

assorted ▶ adjective VARIOUS, miscellaneous, mixed, varied, varying, diverse, eclectic, multifarious, sundry; poetic/literary divers.

assortment ▶ noun MIXTURE, variety, array, mixed bag, mix, miscellany, selection, medley, diversity, ragbag, pot-pourri, salmagundi, farago, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum.

assuage ▶ verb ① a pain that could never be assuaged: RELIEVE, ease, alleviate, soothe, mitigate, allay, palliate, abate, suppress, subdue, tranquillize; moderate, lessen, diminish, reduce. ② her hunger was quickly assuaged: SATISFY, gratify, appease, fulfil, indulge, relieve, slake, sate, satiate, quench, check.

-OPPOSITES aggravate, intensify.

assume ▶ verb ① I assumed he wanted me to keep the book: PRESUME, suppose, take it (as given), take for granted, take as read, conjecture, surmise, conclude, deduce, infer, reckon, reason, think, fancy, believe, understand, gather; N. Amer. figure; archaic ween. ② he assumed a Southern accent: AFFECT, adopt, impersonate, put on, simulate, feign, fake. ③ the disease may assume epidemic proportions: ACQUIRE, take on, come to have. ④ they are to assume more responsibility: ACCEPT, shoulder, bear, undertake, take on/up, manage, handle, deal with. ⑤ he assumed control of their finances: SEIZE, take (over), appropriate, commandeer, expropriate, hijack, wrest, usurp.

assumed ▶ adjective FALSE, fictitious, invented, made-up, fake, bogus, sham, spurious, make-believe, improvised, adopted; informal pretend, phoney; Brit. informal cod.

-OPPOSITES genuine.

assumption ▶ noun ① an informed assumption: SUPPOSITION, presumption, belief, expectation, conjecture, speculation, surmise, guess, premise, hypothesis; conclusion, deduction, inference, notion, impression. ② her assumption of ease: PRETENCE, simulation, affectation. ③ the early assumption of community obligation: ACCEPTANCE, shouldering, tackling, undertaking. ④ the assumption of power by revolutionaries: SEIZURE, arrogation, appropriation, expropriation, commandeering, confiscation, hijacking, wresting.

assurance ▶ noun ① her calm assurance: SELF-CONFIDENCE, confidence, self-assurance, self-possession, nerve, poise, aplomb, level-headedness; calmness, composure, sangfroid, equanimity; informal cool, unflappability. ② you have my assurance: WORD (OF HONOUR), promise, pledge, vow, avowal, oath, bond, undertaking, guarantee, commitment. ③ there is no assurance of getting one's money back: GUARANTEE, certainty, certitude, surety, confidence, expectation. ④ life assurance: INSURANCE, indemnity, indemnification, protection, security, cover.
-OPPOSITES self-doubt, uncertainty.

assure ▶ verb ① we must assure him of our loyal support: REASSURE, convince, satisfy, persuade, guarantee, promise, tell; affirm, pledge, swear, vow. ② he wants to assure a favourable vote: ENSURE, secure, guarantee, seal, clinch, confirm; informal sew up. ③ they guarantee to assure your life: INSURE, provide insurance, cover, indemnify.

assured ▶ adjective ① an assured voice: CONFIDENT, self-confident, self-assured, self-possessed, poised, phlegmatic, level-headed; calm, composed, equanimous, imperturbable, unruffled; informal unflappable, together. ② an assured supply of weapons: GUARANTEED, certain, sure, secure, reliable, dependable, sound; infallible, unfailing; informal sure-fire.

-OPPOSITES doubtful, uncertain.

asteroid ▶ noun. See list.

a

farm; *N. Amer. informal* bughouse; *dated* lunatic asylum; *archaic* bedlam.

asymmetrical ▶ **adjective** ① *lopsided, unsymmetrical, uneven, unbalanced, crooked, awry, askew, skew, squint, misaligned; disproportionate, unequal, irregular; informal* cock-eyed; *Brit. informal* skew-whiff, wonky.

atheism ▶ **noun** NON-BELIEF, disbelief, unbelief, scepticism, doubt, agnosticism; nihilism.

atheist ▶ **noun** NON-BELIEVER, disbeliever, unbeliever, sceptic, doubter, doubting Thomas, agnostic; nihilist; *rare* nullifidian.
—OPPOSITES believer.

athlete ▶ **noun** SPORTSMAN, sportswoman, sportsperson; Olympian; runner; *N. Amer. informal* jock.

athletic ▶ **adjective** ① *his athletic physique*: MUSCULAR, muscly, sturdy, strapping, well built, strong, powerful, robust, able-bodied, vigorous, hardy, lusty, hearty, brawny, burly, broad-shouldered, Herculean; *fit*, in good shape, in trim; *informal* sporty, husky, hunky, beefy; *poetic/literary* thewy, stark. ② *athletic events*: SPORTING, sports; Olympic.
—OPPOSITES puny.

athletics ▶ **plural noun** TRACK AND FIELD EVENTS, sporting events, sports, games, races; contests. See list.

Athletics Events

biathlon	marathon
caber, <i>tiasing</i> the	middle-distance race
cross-country running	pentathlon
decathlon	pole vault
discus	relay race
fell-running	shotput
half-marathon	sprint
hammer	steplechase
heptathlon	tetathlon
high jump	triathlon
hurdles	triple jump
javelin	tug-of-war
long jump	

atmosphere ▶ **noun** ① *the gases present in the atmosphere*: AIR, sky, airspace; *poetic/literary* the heavens, the firmament, the blue, the azure, the ether. See list. ② *the hotel has a relaxed atmosphere*: AMBIENCE, air, mood, feel, feeling, character, tone, tenor, aura, quality, undercurrent, flavour; *informal* vibe.

Layers of the Earth's Atmosphere

ionosphere	cosmosphere	troposphere
stratosphere	stratosphere	
mesosphere	thermosphere	

atom ▶ **noun** ① *they build tiny circuits atom by atom*: PARTICLE, molecule, bit, piece, fragment, fraction. ② *there wasn't an atom of truth in the allegations*: GRAIN, iota, jot, whit, mite, scrap, shred, ounce, scintilla; *Irish* stim; *informal* smidgen.

atone ▶ **verb** MAKE AMENDS, make reparation, make up for, compensate, pay, recompense, expiate, make good, offset; do penance.

atrocious ▶ **adjective** ① *atrocious cruelties*: BRUTAL, barbaric, barbarous, savage, vicious; wicked, cruel, nasty, heinous, monstrous, vile, inhuman, black-hearted, fiendish, ghastly, horrible; abominable, outrageous, hateful, disgusting, despicable, contemptible, loathsome, odious, abhorrent, sickening, horrifying, unspeakable, execrable, egregious. ② *the weather was atrocious*: APPALLING, dreadful, terrible, very bad, unpleasant, miserable; *informal* abysmal, dire, rotten, lousy, God-awful; *Brit. informal* shocking, chronic.

—OPPOSITES admirable, superb.

atrocities ▶ **noun** ① *press reports detailed a number of atrocities*: ABOMINATION, cruelty, enormity, outrage, horror, monstrosity, obscenity, violation, crime, abuse. ② *conflict and atrocities around the globe*: BARBARITY, barbarism, brutality, savagery, inhumanity, cruelty, wickedness, evil, iniquity, horror.

atrophy ▶ **verb** ① *muscles atrophy in microgravity*: WASTE AWAY, become emaciated, wither, shrivel (up), shrink; decay, decline, deteriorate, degenerate, weaken. ② *the Labour campaign atrophied*: DWINDLE, deteriorate, decline, wane, fade, peter out, crumble, disintegrate, collapse, slump, go downhill.

—OPPOSITES strengthen, flourish.

▶ **noun** muscular atrophy: WASTING, emaciation, withering, shrivelling, shrinking; decay, decline, deterioration, degeneration, weakening, debilitation, enfeeblement.

—OPPOSITES strengthening.

attach ▶ **verb** ① *a lead weight is attached to the cord*: FASTEN, fix, affix, join, connect, link, secure, make fast, tie, bind, chain; stick, adhere, glue, fuse; append. ② *he attached himself to the Liberal Party*: AFFILIATE, associate, align, ally, unite, integrate, join; be in league with, form an alliance with. ③ *they attached importance to research*: ASCRIBE, assign, attribute, accredit, impute. ④ *the medical officer attached to HQ*: ASSIGN, appoint, allocate, second; *Military* detail.
—OPPOSITES detach, separate.

attached ▶ **adjective** ① *I'm not interested in you—I'm attached*: MARRIED, engaged, promised in marriage; going out, spoken for, involved; *informal* hitched, spliced, shackled, going steady; *dated* betrothed; *formal* wed, wedded; *poetic/literary* affianced; *archaic* espoused. ② *she was very attached to her brother*: FOND OF, devoted to; *informal* mad about, crazy about.

—OPPOSITES single.

attachment ▶ **noun** ① *he has a strong attachment to his mother*: BOND, closeness, devotion, loyalty; fondness for, love for, affection for, feeling for; relationship with. ② *the shower had a massage attachment*: ACCESSORY, fitting, fitment, extension, add-on, appendage. ③ *the attachment of safety restraints*: FIXING, fastening, linking, coupling, connection. ④ *he was on attachment from another regiment*: ASSIGNMENT, appointment, secondment, transfer; *Military* detail. ⑤ *his family's Conservative attachment*: AFFILIATION, association, alliance, alignment, connection; links, ties, sympathies.

attack ▶ **verb** ① *Chris had been brutally attacked*: ASSAULT, assail, set upon, beat up; batter, pummel, punch; *N. Amer.* beat up on; *informal* do over, work over, rough up; *Brit. informal* duff up. ② *the French had still not attacked*: STRIKE, charge,

pounce; bombard, shell, blitz, strafe, fire. ③ *the clergy attacked government policies*: CRITICIZE, censure, condemn, pillory, savage, revile, vilify; *informal* knock, slam, bash, lay into; *Brit. informal* slate, slag off, rubbish; *N. Amer. informal* pummel. ④ *they have to attack the problem soon*: ADDRESS, attend to, deal with, confront, apply oneself to, get to work on, undertake, embark on; *informal* get stuck into, get cracking on, get weaving on. ⑤ *the virus attacks the liver*: AFFECT, have an effect on, strike; infect, damage, injure.

—OPPOSITES defend, praise, protect.

► **noun** ① *an attack on their home*: ASSAULT, onslaught, offensive, strike, blitz, raid, charge, rush, invasion, incursion. ② *she wrote a hostile attack on him*: CRITICISM, censure, rebuke, admonishment, reprimand, reproval; condemnation, denunciation, revilement, vilification; tirade, diatribe, polemic; *informal* roasting, caning; *Brit. informal* slating, rollicking, blast. ③ *an asthmatic attack*: FIT, seizure, spasm, convulsion, paroxysm, outburst, bout.

—OPPOSITES defence, commendation.

attacker ► **noun** ASSAILANT, assaulter, aggressor; mugger, rapist, killer, murderer.

attain ► **verb** ACHIEVE, accomplish, reach, obtain, gain, procure, secure, get, hook, net, win, earn, acquire; realize, fulfil; *informal* clinch, bag, wrap up.

attainable ► **adjective** ACHIEVABLE, obtainable, accessible, within reach, securable, realizable; practicable, workable, realistic, reasonable, viable, feasible, possible; *informal* doable, get-at-able.

attainment ► **noun** ① *the attainment of common goals*: ACHIEVEMENT, accomplishment, realization, fulfilment, completion; *formal* effectuation, reification. ② *educational attainment*: ACHIEVEMENT, accomplishment, proficiency, competence; qualification; skill, aptitude, ability.

attempt ► **verb** I attempted to answer the question: TRY, strive, aim, venture, endeavour, seek, undertake, make an effort; have a go at, try one's hand at; *informal* go all out, bend over backwards, bust a gut, have a crack at, have a shot at, have a stab at; *formal* essay; *archaic* assay.

► **noun** an attempt to put the economy to rights: EFFORT, endeavour, try, venture, trial; *informal* crack, go, shot, stab; *formal* essay; *archaic* assay.

attend ► **verb** ① *they attended a carol service*: BE PRESENT AT, sit in on, take part in; appear at, present oneself at, turn up at, visit, go to; *informal* show up at, show one's face at. ② *he had not attended to the regulations*: PAY ATTENTION, pay heed, be attentive, listen; concentrate, take note, bear in mind, take into consideration, heed, observe, mark. ③ *the wounded were attended to nearby*: CARE FOR, look after, minister to, see to; tend, treat, nurse, help, aid, assist, succour; *informal* doctor. ④ *he attended to the boy's education*: DEAL WITH, see to, manage, organize, sort out, handle, take care of, take charge of, take in hand, tackle. ⑤ *the queen was attended by an usher*: ESCORT, accompany, chaperone, squire, guide, lead, conduct, usher, shepherd; assist, help, serve, wait on. ⑥ *her giddiness was attended with a fever*: BE ACCOMPANIED BY, occur with, coexist with, be associated with, connected with, be linked with; be produced by, originate from/in, stem from, result from, arise from.

—OPPOSITES miss, disregard, ignore, neglect.

attendance ► **noun** ① *you requested the attendance of a doctor*: PRESENCE, appearance; attention. ② *their gig attendances grew*: AUDIENCE, turnout, house, gate; crowd, congregation, gathering; *Austral. informal* muster.

—OPPOSITES absence.

■ **In attendance** PRESENT, here, there, near, nearby, at hand, available; assisting, supervising.

attendant ► **noun** ① *a sleeping car attendant*: STEWARD, waiter, waitress, garçon, porter, servant; *N. Amer.* waitperson. ② *a royal attendant*: ESCORT, companion, retainer, aide, lady in waiting, equerry, chaperone; servant, manservant, valet, gentleman's gentleman, maid-servant, maid; *N. Amer.* houseman; *Brit. informal* skivvy; *Military*, doted batman.

► **adjective** new discoveries and the attendant excitement: ACCOMPANYING, associated, related, connected, concomitant; resultant, resulting, consequent.

attention ► **noun** ① *the issue needs further attention*: CONSIDERATION, contemplation, deliberation, thought, study, observation, scrutiny, investigation, action. ② *he tried to attract the attention of a policeman*: AWARENESS, notice, observation, heed, regard, scrutiny, surveillance. ③ *adequate medical attention*: CARE, treatment, ministration, succour, relief, aid, help, assistance. ④ *he was effusive in his attentions*: OVERTURES, approaches, suit, wooing, courting; compliments, flattery.

attentive ► **adjective** ① *a bright and attentive scholar*: PERCEPTIVE, observant, alert, acute, aware, heedful, vigilant; intent, focused, committed, studious, diligent, conscientious, earnest; *informal* not missing a trick, on the ball. ② *the most attentive of husbands*: CONSCIENTIOUS, considerate, thoughtful, kind, caring, solicitous, understanding, sympathetic, obliging, accommodating, gallant, chivalrous; dutiful, responsible.

—OPPOSITES inconsiderate.

attenuated ► **adjective** ① *attenuated fingers*: THIN, slender, narrow, slim, skinny, spindly, bony; *poetic/literary* extenuated; *rare* attenuate. ② *his muscle activity was much attenuated*: WEAKENED, reduced, lessened, decreased, diminished, impaired.

—OPPOSITES plump, broad, strengthened.

attest ► **verb** CERTIFY, corroborate, confirm, verify, substantiate, authenticate, evidence, demonstrate, show, prove; endorse, support, affirm, bear out, give credence to, vouch for; *formal* evince.

—OPPOSITES disprove.

attic ► **noun** LOFT, roof space, cock loft; garret, mansard.

attire ► **noun** Thomas preferred formal attire: CLOTHING, clothes, garments, dress, wear, outfits, garb, costume; *informal* gear, togs, duds, get-up; *Brit. informal* clobber; *N. Amer. informal* threads; *formal* apparel; *archaic* raiment, habiliments.

► **verb** she was attired in black crêpe: DRESS (UP), clothe, garb, robe, array, costume, swathe, deck (out), turn out, fit out, trick out/up, rig out; *informal* get up; *archaic* apparel, invest, habit.

a

attitude ▶ noun ① you seem ambivalent in your attitude: VIEW, viewpoint, outlook, perspective, stance, standpoint, position, inclination, orientation, approach, reaction; opinion, ideas, convictions, feelings, thinking. ② an attitude of prayer: POSITION, posture, pose, stance.

attorney ▶ noun LAWYER, legal practitioner, legal executive, legal representative, member of the bar, barrister, counsel; *Brit.* Queen's counsel, QC; *Scottish* advocate; *N. Amer.* counselor(-at-law); *informal* brief.

attract ▶ verb ① positive ions are attracted to the negatively charged terminal: DRAW, pull, magnetize. ② he was attracted by her smile: ENTICE, allure, lure, tempt, charm, win over, woo, engage, enchant, entrance, captivate, beguile, bewitch, seduce; excite, titillate, arouse; *informal* turn on.

—OPPOSITES repel.

attraction ▶ noun ① the stars are held together by gravitational attraction: PULL, draw; magnetism. ② she had lost whatever attraction she had ever had: APPEAL, attractiveness, desirability, seductiveness, seduction, allure, animal magnetism; charisma, charm, beauty, good looks; *informal* come-on. ③ the fair offers sideshows and other attractions: ENTERTAINMENT, activity, diversion, interest.

—OPPOSITES repulsion.

attractive ▶ adjective ① a more attractive career: APPEALING, inviting, tempting, irresistible; agreeable, pleasing, interesting. ② she has no idea how attractive she is: GOOD-LOOKING, beautiful, pretty, handsome, lovely, stunning, striking, arresting, gorgeous, prepossessing, fetching, captivating, bewitching, beguiling, engaging, charming, enchanting, appealing, delightful; sexy, seductive, alluring, tantalizing, irresistible, ravishing, desirable; *Scottish & N. English* bonny; *informal* fanciable, tasty, hot, easy on the eye, drop-dead gorgeous; *Brit. informal* fit; *N. Amer. informal* cute, foxy; *Austral./NZ informal* spunky; *poetic/literary* beauteous; *archaic* comely, fair.

—OPPOSITES uninviting, ugly.

attribute ▶ verb they attributed their success to him: ASCRIBE, assign, accredit, credit, impute; put down, chalk up, hold responsible, pin on; connect with, associate with.

noun ① he has all the attributes of a top player: QUALITY, characteristic, trait, feature, element, aspect, property, sign, hallmark, mark, distinction. ② the hourglass is the attribute of Father Time: SYMBOL, mark, sign, hallmark, trademark.

attrition ▶ noun ① a gradual attrition of the market economy: WEARING DOWN/AWAY, weakening, debilitation, enfeebling, sapping, attenuation. ② the attrition of the edges of the teeth: ABRASION, friction, erosion, corrosion, grinding, wearing (away); deterioration, damaging; *rare* detrition.

attune ▶ verb ACCUSTOM, adjust, adapt, acclimatize, condition, accommodate, assimilate; *N. Amer.* acclimate.

atypical ▶ adjective UNUSUAL, untypical, uncommon, unconventional, unorthodox, irregular, abnormal, aberrant, deviant, unrepresentative; strange, odd, peculiar, bizarre, weird, queer, freakish; exceptional, singular, rare, out of the way, out of the ordinary, extraordinary; *Brit.* out of the common; *informal* funny, freaky.

—OPPOSITES normal.

auburn ▶ adjective REDDISH-BROWN, red-brown, Titian (red), tawny, russet, chestnut, copper, coppery, rufous.

au courant ▶ adjective UP TO DATE, au fait, in touch, familiar, at home, acquainted, conversant; abreast, apprised, in the know, well informed, knowledgeable, well versed, enlightened; *informal* clued up, wise to, hip to.

audacious ▶ adjective ① his audacious exploits: BOLD, daring, fearless, intrepid, brave, courageous, valiant, heroic, plucky; daredevil, devil-may-care, death-or-glory, reckless, madcap; venturesome, mettlesome; *informal* gutsy, spunky, ballsy; *poetic/literary* temerarious. ② an audacious remark: IMPUDENT, impertinent, insolent, presumptuous, cheeky, irreverent, discourteous, disrespectful, insubordinate, ill-mannered, unmannerly, rude, brazen, shameless, pert, defiant, cocky, bold (as brass); *informal* brass-necked, fresh, lippy, mouthy, saucy; *N. Amer. informal* sassy, nervy; *archaic* malapert, contumelious.

—OPPOSITES timid, polite.

audacity ▶ noun ① a traveller of extraordinary audacity: BOLDNESS, daring, fearlessness, intrepidity, bravery, courage, heroism, pluck, grit; recklessness; spirit, mettle; *informal* guts, gutsiness, spunk; *Brit. informal* bottle; *N. Amer. informal* moxie. ② he had the audacity to contradict me: IMPUDENCE, impertinence, insolence, presumption, cheek, bad manners, effrontery, nerve, gall, defiance, temerity; *informal* brass (neck), chutzpah; *Brit. informal* sauce; *N. Amer. informal* sass.

audible ▶ adjective HEARABLE, perceptible, discernible, detectable, appreciable; clear, distinct, loud.

—OPPOSITES faint.

audience ▶ noun ① the audience applauded: SPECTATORS, LISTENERS, viewers, onlookers, patrons; crowd, throng, congregation, turnout; house, gallery, stalls; *Brit. informal* punters. ② the radio station has a teenage audience: MARKET, PUBLIC, following, fans; listenership, viewership. ③ an audience with the Pope: MEETING, consultation, conference, hearing, reception, interview.

audit ▶ noun an audit of the party accounts: INSPECTION, examination, scrutiny, probe, investigation, assessment, appraisal, evaluation, review, analysis; *informal* going-over, once-over.

▶ verb we audited their accounts: INSPECT, examine, survey, go through, scrutinize, check, probe, vet, investigate, enquire into, assess, appraise, evaluate, review, analyse, study; *informal* give something a/the once-over, give something a going-over.

auditorium ▶ noun THEATRE, hall, assembly room; chamber, room.

au fait ▶ adjective FAMILIAR, acquainted, conversant, at home, up to date, au courant, in touch; abreast, apprised, in the know, well informed, knowledgeable, well versed, enlightened; *informal* clued up, wise to, hip to.

augment ▶ verb INCREASE, add to, supplement, top up, build up, enlarge, expand, extend, raise, multiply, swell; magnify, amplify, escalate; improve, boost; *informal* up, jack up, hike up, bump up.

—OPPOSITES decrease.

augur ▶ *verb* these successes augur well for the future: BODE, portend, herald, be a sign, warn, forewarn, foreshadow, be an omen, presage, indicate, signify, signal, promise, threaten, spell, denote; predict, prophesy; poetic/literary betoken, foretoken, forebode.

august ▶ *adjective* DISTINGUISHED, respected, eminent, venerable, hallowed, illustrious, prestigious, renowned, celebrated, honoured, acclaimed, esteemed, exalted; great, important, lofty, noble; imposing, impressive, awe-inspiring, stately, grand, dignified.

aura ▶ *noun* ATMOSPHERE, ambience, air, quality, character, mood, feeling, feel, flavour, tone, tenor; emanation, vibration; informal vibe.

auspices ▶ *plural noun* PATRONAGE, aegis, umbrella, protection, keeping, care; support, backing, guardianship, trusteeship, guidance, supervision.

auspicious ▶ *adjective* FAVOURABLE, propitious, promising, rosy, good, encouraging; opportune, timely, lucky, fortunate, providential, felicitous, advantageous.

austere ▶ *adjective* ① an outwardly austere man: SEVERE, stern, strict, harsh, steely, flinty, dour, grim, cold, frosty, unemotional, unfriendly; formal, stiff, reserved, aloof, forbidding; grave, solemn, serious, unsmiling, unsympathetic, unforgiving; hard, unyielding, unbending, inflexible, illiberal; informal hard-boiled. ② an austere life: ASCETIC, self-denying, self-disciplined, non-indulgent, frugal, spartan, puritanical, abstemious, abstinent, self-sacrificing, strict, temperate, sober, simple, restrained; celibate, chaste. ③ the buildings were austere: PLAIN, simple, basic, functional, modest, unadorned, unembellished, unfussy, restrained; stark, bleak, bare, clinical, spartan, ascetic; informal no frills.

—OPPOSITES genial, immoderate, ornate.

Australia ▶ *noun* informal Oz, Aussie, down under. See list.

States and Mainland Territories of Australia

STATE	CAPITAL
New South Wales	Sydney
Northern Territory	Darwin
Queensland	Brisbane
South Australia	Adelaide
Tasmania	Hobart
Victoria	Melbourne
Western Australia	Perth
TERRITORY	CAPITAL
Australian Capital Territory	Canberra (federal capital)
Jarvis Bay Territory	—

authentic ▶ *adjective* ① an authentic document: GENUINE, real, bona fide, true, veritable, simon-pure; legitimate, lawful, legal, valid; informal the real McCoy, the real thing, pukka, kosher; Austral./NZ informal dinkum. ② an authentic depiction of the situation: RELIABLE, dependable, trustworthy, authoritative, honest, faithful; accurate, factual, true, truthful; formal veridical, veracious.

—OPPOSITES fake, unreliable.

authenticate ▶ *verb* ① the evidence will authenticate his claim: VERIFY, validate, prove, substantiate, corroborate, confirm, support, back up, attest to, give credence to. ② a mandate authenticated by the popular vote: VALIDATE, ratify, confirm, seal, sanction, endorse.

authenticity ▶ *noun* ① the authenticity of the painting: GENUINENESS, bona fides; legitimacy, legality, validity. ② the authenticity of this account: RELIABILITY, dependability, trustworthiness, credibility; accuracy, truth, veracity, fidelity.

author ▶ *noun* ① modern Canadian authors: WRITER, wordsmith; novelist, playwright, poet, essayist, biographer; columnist, reporter; informal penman, penwoman, scribe, scribbler. See lists at DRAMATIST, POET, WRITER. ② the author of the peace plan: ORIGINATOR, creator, instigator, founder, father, architect, designer, deviser, producer; cause, agent.

—RELATED TERMS auctorial.

authoritarian ▶ *adjective* his authoritarian manner: AUTOCRATIC, dictatorial, despotic, tyrannical, draconian, oppressive, repressive, illiberal, undemocratic; disciplinarian, domineering, overbearing, high-handed, peremptory, imperious, strict, rigid, inflexible; informal bossy.

—OPPOSITES democratic, liberal.
▶ *noun* the army is dominated by authoritarians: AUTOCRAT, despot, dictator, tyrant; disciplinarian, martinet.

authoritative ▶ *adjective* ① authoritative information: RELIABLE, dependable, trustworthy, sound, authentic, valid, attested, verifiable; accurate. ② the authoritative edition: DEFINITIVE, most reliable, best; authorized, accredited, recognized, accepted, approved. ③ his authoritative manner: ASSURED, confident, assertive; commanding, masterful, lordly; domineering, imperious, overbearing, authoritarian; informal bossy.

—OPPOSITES unreliable, timid.

authority ▶ *noun* ① a rebellion against those in authority: POWER, jurisdiction, command, control, charge, dominance, rule, sovereignty, supremacy; influence; informal clout. ② the authority to arrest drug traffickers: AUTHORIZATION, right, power, mandate, prerogative, licence. ③ the money was spent without parliamentary authority: AUTHORIZATION, permission, consent, leave, sanction, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, endorsement, clearance; informal the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light. ④ the authorities: OFFICIALS, officialdom; government, administration, establishment; police; informal the powers that be. ⑤ an authority on the stock market: EXPERT, specialist, aficionado, pundit, doyen(ne), guru, sage; informal boffin. ⑥ he cites the nuns' testimony as an authority: SOURCE, reference, citation, quotation, passage. ⑦ on good authority: EVIDENCE, testimony, witness, attestation, word, avowal; Law deposition.

authorization ▶ *noun* PERMISSION, consent, leave, sanction, licence, dispensation, clearance, the nod; assent, agreement, approval, endorsement; authority, right, power, mandate; informal the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light.

—OPPOSITES refusal.

a

authorize ▶ verb ① they authorized further action: SANCTION, permit, allow, approve, consent to, assent to; ratify, endorse, validate; *informal* give the green light, give the go-ahead, OK, give the thumbs up. ② the troops were authorized to fire: EMPOWER, mandate, commission; entitle. —OPPOSITES forbid.

authorized ▶ adjective APPROVED, recognized, sanctioned; accredited, licensed, certified; official, lawful, legal, legitimate. —OPPOSITES unofficial.

autobiography ▶ noun MEMOIRS, life story, personal history.

autocracy ▶ noun ABSOLUTISM, totalitarianism, dictatorship, despotism, tyranny, monarchy, autarchy. —OPPOSITES democracy.

autocrat ▶ noun ABSOLUTE RULER, dictator, despot, tyrant, monarch.

autocratic ▶ adjective DESPOTIC, tyrannical, dictatorial, totalitarian, autarchic; undemocratic, one-party, monocratic; domineering, draconian, overbearing, high-handed, peremptory, imperious; harsh, rigid, inflexible, illiberal, oppressive.

autograph ▶ noun fans pestered him for his autograph: SIGNATURE; *N Amer informal* John Hancock. ▶ verb Jack autographed copies of his book: SIGN.

automatic ▶ adjective ① automatic garage doors: MECHANIZED, mechanical, automated, computerized, electronic, robotic; self-activating. ② an automatic reaction: INSTINCTIVE, involuntary, unconscious, reflex, knee-jerk, instinctual, subconscious; spontaneous, impulsive, unthinking; mechanical; *informal* gut. ③ he is the automatic choice for the team: INEVITABLE, unavoidable, inescapable, mandatory, compulsory; certain, definite, undoubted, assured. —OPPOSITES manual, deliberate.

autonomous ▶ adjective SELF-GOVERNING, self-ruling, self-determining, independent, sovereign, free.

autonomy ▶ noun SELF-GOVERNMENT, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, independence, sovereignty, freedom.

autopsy ▶ noun POST-MORTEM, PM, necropsy.

auxiliary ▶ adjective ① an auxiliary power source: ADDITIONAL, supplementary, supplemental, extra, reserve, back-up, emergency, fallback, other. ② auxiliary nursing staff: ANCILLARY, assistant, support.

▶ noun a nursing auxiliary: ASSISTANT, helper, ancillary.

avail ▶ verb ① guests can avail themselves of the facilities: USE, take advantage of, utilize, employ. ② his arguments cannot avail him: HELP, aid, assist, benefit, profit, be of service. ■ to no avail IN VAIN, without success, unsuccessfully, fruitlessly, for nothing.

available ▶ adjective ① refreshments will be available: OBTAINABLE, accessible, to/at hand, at one's disposal, handy, convenient; on sale, procurable; untaken, unengaged, unused; *informal* up for grabs, on tap, gettable. ② I'll see if he's available: FREE, unoccupied; present, in attendance; contactable. —OPPOSITES busy, engaged.

avalanche ▶ noun ① SNOWSLIDE, icefall; rockslide, landslide, landslip; *Brit.* snow-slip.

② an avalanche of press comment: BARRAGE, volley, flood, deluge, torrent, tide, shower, wave.

avant-garde ▶ adjective INNOVATIVE, innovative, original, experimental, left-field, inventive, ahead of the times, new, modern, advanced, forward-looking, state-of-the-art, trend-setting, pioneering, progressive, groundbreaking, trailblazing, revolutionary; unfamiliar, unorthodox, unconventional; *informal* off-beat, way-out. —OPPOSITES conservative.

avarice ▶ noun GREED, acquisitiveness, cupidity, covetousness, rapacity, materialism, mercenariness, Mammonism; *informal* money-grubbing. —OPPOSITES generosity.

avenge ▶ verb REQUITE, punish, repay, pay back, take revenge for, get even for.

avenue ▶ noun ① tree-lined avenues: ROAD, street, drive, parade, boulevard, Broadway, thoroughfare. ② possible avenues of research: LINE, path; method, approach.

aver ▶ verb (formal) DECLARE, maintain, claim, assert, state, swear, avow, vow; *rare* asseverate.

average ▶ noun the price is above the national average: MEAN, median, mode; norm, standard, rule, par.

▶ adjective ① the average temperature in May: MEAN, median, modal. ② a woman of average height: ORDINARY, standard, normal, typical, regular. ③ a very average director: MEDIOCRE, second-rate, undistinguished, ordinary, middle-of-the-road, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, unmemorable, indifferent, pedestrian, lacklustre, forgettable, amateurish; *informal* OK, so-so, fair-to-middling, no great shakes, not up to much; *Brit. informal* not much cop; *N. Amer informal* bush-league; *NZ informal* half-pie. —OPPOSITES outstanding, exceptional.

■ on average NORMALLY, usually, ordinarily, generally, in general, for the most part, as a rule, typically; overall, by and large, on the whole.

averse ▶ adjective OPPOSED, against, antipathetic, hostile, ill-disposed, resistant; disinclined, reluctant, loath; *informal* anti. —OPPOSITES keen.

aversion ▶ noun DISLIKE, antipathy, distaste, abhorrence, hatred, loathing, detestation, hostility; reluctance, disinclination; *archaic* disrel-ish. —OPPOSITES liking.

avert ▶ verb ① she averted her head: TURN ASIDE, turn away. ② an attempt to avert political chaos: PREVENT, avoid, stave off, ward off, forestall, preclude.

aviator ▶ noun (dated) PILOT, airman/woman, flyer; dated aeronaut. See list at PILOT.

avid ▶ adjective KEEN, eager, enthusiastic, ardent, passionate, zealous; devoted, dedicated, wholehearted, earnest; *Brit. informal* as keen as mustard. —OPPOSITES apathetic.

avoid ▶ verb ① I avoid situations that stress me: KEEP AWAY FROM, steer clear of, give a wide berth to, fight shy of. ② he is trying to avoid responsibility: EVADE, dodge, sidestep, escape, run away from; *informal* duck, wriggle out of, get out of, cop out of; *Austral./NZ informal* duck-shove.

① she moved to avoid a blow: DODGE, duck, get out of the way of. ② you've been avoiding me all evening: SHUN, stay away from, evade, keep one's distance, elude, hide from; ignore. ③ he should avoid drinking alcohol: REFRAIN FROM, abstain from, desist from, eschew.

—OPPOSITES confront, face up to, seek out.

avoidable ▶ adjective PREVENTABLE, stoppable, avertable, escapable.

—OPPOSITES inescapable.

avow ▶ verb ASSERT, declare, state, maintain, swear, vow, insist; rare asseverate; formal aver.

avowed ▶ adjective SELF-CONFESSED, self-declared, acknowledged, admitted; open, overt.

await ▶ verb ① Peter was awaiting news: WAIT FOR, expect, anticipate. ② many dangers await them: BE IN STORE FOR, lie ahead of, lie in wait for, be waiting for.

awake ▶ verb ① she awoke the following morning: WAKE (UP), awaken, stir, come to, come round; poetic/literary waken. ② the alarm awoke him at 7.30: WAKE (UP), awaken, rouse, arouse; Brit. informal knock up. ③ they finally awoke to the extent of the problem: REALIZE, become aware of, become conscious of; informal get wise to.

▶ adjective ① she was still awake: WAKEFUL, sleepless, restless, restive; archaic watchful; rare insomolent. ② too few are awake to the dangers: AWARE OF, conscious of, mindful of, alert to; formal cognizant of; archaic ware of.

—OPPOSITES asleep, oblivious.

awaken ▶ verb ① I awakened early | the jolt awakened her. See AWAKE senses 1, 2. ② he had awakened strong emotions in her: AROUSE, rouse, bring out, engender, evoke, trigger, stir up, stimulate, kindle; revive; poetic/literary enkindle.

award ▶ verb the society awarded him a silver medal: GIVE, grant, accord, assign; confer on, bestow on, present to, endow with, decorate with.

▶ noun ① an award for high-quality service: PRIZE, trophy, medal, decoration; reward; informal gong. ② a libel award: PAYMENT, settlement, compensation. ③ the Arts Council gave him an award of £1,500: GRANT, scholarship, endowment; Brit. bursary. ④ the award of an honorary doctorate: CONFERRAL, conferment, bestowal, presentation.

aware ▶ adjective ① she is aware of the dangers: CONSCIOUS OF, mindful of, informed about, acquainted with, familiar with, alive to, alert to; informal wise to, in the know about, hip to; formal cognizant of; archaic ware of. ② we need to be more environmentally aware: KNOWLEDGEABLE, enlightened, well informed, au fait; informal clued up, genned up; Brit. informal switched-on.

—OPPOSITES ignorant.

awareness ▶ noun CONSCIOUSNESS, recognition, realization; understanding, grasp, appreciation, knowledge, insight; familiarity; formal cognizance.

awash ▶ adjective ① the road was awash: FLOODED, under water, submerged, submersed. ② the city was awash with journalists: INUNDATED, flooded, swamped, teeming, overflowing, overrun; informal knee-deep in.

away ▶ adverb ① she began to walk away: OFF, from here, from there. ② stay away from the trouble: AT A DISTANCE FROM, apart from. ③ Bernice pushed him away: ASIDE, off, to one side.

④ we'll be away for two weeks: ELSEWHERE, abroad; gone, absent; on holiday, on vacation.

awe ▶ noun WONDER, wonderment; admiration, reverence, respect; dread, fear.

awe-inspiring ▶ adjective. See AWESOME.

awesome ▶ adjective BREATHTAKING, awe-inspiring, magnificent, amazing, stunning, staggering, imposing, stirring, impressive; formidable, fearsome; informal mind-boggling, mind-blowing; poetic/literary wondrous; archaic awful.

—OPPOSITES unimpressive.

awestruck ▶ adjective AWED, wonderstruck, amazed, lost for words, open-mouthed; reverential; terrified, afraid, fearful.

awful ▶ adjective ① the place smelled awful: DISGUSTING, nasty, terrible, dreadful, ghastly, horrible, vile, foul, revolting, repulsive, repugnant, odious, sickening, nauseating; informal yucky, sick-making, gross; Brit. informal beastly; poetic/literary noisome. ② an awful book: DREADFUL, terrible, frightful, atrocious, execrable; inadequate, inferior, substandard, lamentable; informal crummy, pathetic, rotten, woeful, lousy, appalling, abysmal, dire, poxy; Brit. informal duff, rubbish. ③ an awful accident: SERIOUS, grave, bad, terrible, dreadful. ④ you look awful—go and lie down: ILL, unwell, sick, peaky, queasy, nauseous; Brit. off colour, poorly; informal rough, lousy, rotten, terrible, dreadful; Brit. informal grotty, ropy; Scottish informal wabbit, peely-wally; Austral./NZ informal crook; dated queer, seedy. ⑤ I felt awful for getting so angry: REMORSEFUL, guilty, ashamed, contrite, sorry, regretful, repentant, self-reproachful. ⑥ (archaic) the awful sights of nature: AWE-INSPIRING, awesome, impressive; dread, fearful.

—OPPOSITES wonderful.

awfully ▶ adverb ① (informal) an awfully nice man: VERY, extremely, really, immensely, exceedingly, thoroughly, dreadfully, exceptionally, remarkably, extraordinarily; N. English right; informal terrifically, terribly, devilishly, seriously, majorly; Brit. informal jolly, ever so, dead, well; N. Amer. informal real, mighty, awful; informal, dated frightfully; archaic exceeding. ② (informal) thanks awfully: VERY MUCH, a lot; informal a million. ③ we played awfully: VERY BADLY, terribly, dreadfully, atrociously, appallingly, execrably; informal abysmally, pitifully, diabolically.

awhile ▶ adverb FOR A MOMENT, for a (little) while, for a short time; informal for a bit.

awkward ▶ adjective ① the box was awkward to carry: DIFFICULT, tricky, cumbersome, lumbering, unwieldy; Brit. informal fiddly. ② an awkward time: INCONVENIENT, inappropriate, inopportune, unseasonable, difficult. ③ he put her in a very awkward position: EMBARRASSING, uncomfortable, unpleasant, delicate, tricky, problematic(al), troublesome, thorny; humiliating, compromising; informal sticky, dicey, hairy; Brit. informal dodgy. ④ she felt awkward alone with him: UNCOMFORTABLE, uneasy, tense, nervous, edgy, unquiet; self-conscious, embarrassed. ⑤ his awkward movements: CLUMSY, ungainly, uncoordinated, graceless, inelegant, gauche, gawky, wooden, stiff; unskilful, maladroit, inept, blundering; informal clodhopping, ham-fisted, ham-handed, cack-handed; Brit. informal all (fingers and) thumbs. ⑥ (Brit.) you're being damned awkward.

a

ward: UNREASONABLE, uncooperative, unhelpful, disobliging, difficult, obstructive; contrary, perverse; stubborn, obstinate; *Brit. informal* bloody-minded, bolshie; *N. Amer. informal* balky; *formal* refractory.

—**OPPOSITES** easy, convenient, at ease, graceful, amenable.

awning ▶ **noun** CANOPY, shade, sunshade, shelter, cover; *Brit.* blind, sunblind.

awry ▶ **adjective** ① *something was awry:* AMISS, wrong; *informal* up. ② *his wig looked awry:* ASKEW, crooked, lopsided, tilted, skewed, skew, squint, to one side, off-centre, uneven; *informal* cock-eyed; *Brit. informal* skew-whiff, wonky.

—**OPPOSITES** straight.

axe ▶ **noun** HATCHET, cleaver, tomahawk, adze, poleaxe; *Brit.* chopper; *historical* battleaxe.

▶ **verb** ① *the show was axed:* CANCEL, withdraw, drop, scrap, discontinue, terminate, end; *informal*

ditch, dump, pull the plug on. ② *500 staff were axed:* DISMISS, make redundant, lay off, let go, discharge, get rid of; *informal* sack, fire, give someone the sack, give someone the bullet, give someone their marching orders; *Brit. informal* give someone their cards.

axiom ▶ **noun** ACCEPTED TRUTH, general truth, dictum, truism; maxim, adage, aphorism, apophthegm, gnome.

axis ▶ **noun** ① *the earth revolves on its axis:* CENTRE LINE, vertical, horizontal. ② *the Anglo-American axis:* ALLIANCE, coalition, bloc, union, confederation, confederacy, league.

axle ▶ **noun** SHAFT, spindle, rod, arbor, mandrel, pivot.

azure ▶ **adjective** SKY-BLUE, bright blue, blue; *poetic/literary* cerulean; *rare* cyanic.

Bb

babble ▶ **verb** ① *Betty babbled away:* PRATTLE, rattle on, gabble, chatter, jabber, twitter, go on, run on, prate, ramble, burble, blather, blether; *informal* gab, yak, yabber, yatter, yammer, blabber, jaw, gas, shoot one's mouth off; *Brit. informal* witter, rabbit, chunter, natter, waffle; *N. Amer. informal* run off at the mouth. ② *a brook babbled gently:* BURBLE, murmur, gurgle, purl, tinkle; *poetic/literary* plash.

▶ **noun** *his inarticulate babble:* PRATTLE, gabble, chatter, jabber, prating, rambling, blather, blether; *informal* gab, yak, yabbering, yatter; *Brit. informal* wittering, waffle, natter, chuntering.

babe ▶ **noun** (*poetic/literary*). See **BABY** noun.

babel ▶ **noun** CLAMOUR, din, racket, confused noise, tumult, uproar, hubbub; babble, babbling, shouting, yelling, screaming; *informal* hulabaloo; *Brit. informal* row.

baby ▶ **noun** *a newborn baby:* INFANT, newborn, child, tot, little one; *Scottish & N. English* bairn; *informal* sprog, tiny; *poetic/literary* babe, babe in arms; *technical* neonate.

—RELATED TERMS infantile.

▶ **adjective** *baby carrots:* MINATURE, mini, little, small, small-scale, scaled-down, toy, pocket, midget, dwarf; *Scottish* wee; *N. Amer.* vest-pocket; *informal* teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weeny, itty-bitsy, itty-bitty, tiddly, bite-sized; *Brit. informal* titchy; *N. Amer. informal* little-bitty.

—OPPOSITES large.

▶ **verb** *her aunt babied her:* PAMPER, mollycoddle, spoil, cosset, coddle, indulge, overindulge, pet, nanny, pander to.

babyish ▶ **adjective** CHILDISH, immature, infantile, juvenile, puerile, adolescent.

—OPPOSITES mature.

back ▶ **noun** ① *she's broken her back:* SPINE, backbone, spinal column, vertebral column. See list at VERTEBRA. ② *the back of the house:* REAR, rear side, other side; *Nautical* stern. ③ *the back of the queue:* END, tail end, rear end, tail; *N. Amer.* tag end. ④ *the back of a postcard:* REVERSE, other side, underside; verso; *informal* flip side.

—RELATED TERMS dorsal, lumbar.

—OPPOSITES front, head, face.

▶ **adverb** ① *he pushed his chair back:* BACKWARDS, behind one, to one's rear, rearwards; away, off. ② *a few months back:* AGO, earlier, previously, before, in the past.

—OPPOSITES forward.

▶ **verb** ① *the record companies backed the scheme with a few hundred pounds:* SPONSOR, finance, put up the money for, fund, subsidize, underwrite, be a patron of, act as guarantor of; *informal* foot the bill for, pick up the tab for; *N. Amer. informal* bankroll, stake. ② *most people backed the idea:* SUPPORT, endorse, sanction, approve of, give one's blessing to, smile on, favour, advocate, promote, uphold, champion; vote for, ally oneself with, stand behind, side with, be on the side of, defend, take up the cudgels for; second; *informal* throw one's weight behind. ③ *he backed the horse at 33-1:* BET ON, gamble on, stake money on. ④ *he backed over:* REVERSE

draw back, step back, move backwards, back off, pull back, retreat, withdraw, give ground, backtrack, retrace one's steps.

—OPPOSITES oppose, advance.

▶ **adjective** ① *the back seats:* REAR, rearmost, hind, hindmost, hinder, posterior. ② *a back copy:* PAST, old, previous, earlier, former, out of date.

—OPPOSITES front, future.

■ **back down** GIVE IN, concede defeat, surrender, yield, submit, climb down, concede, reconsider; backtrack, back-pedal.

■ **back out of** RENEGE ON, go back on, withdraw from, pull out of, retreat from, fail to honour, abandon, default on, repudiate, back-pedal on.

■ **back something up** SUBSTANTIATE, corroborate, confirm, support, bear out, endorse, bolster, reinforce, lend weight to.

■ **back someone up** SUPPORT, stand by, give one's support to, side with, be on someone's side, take someone's side, take someone's part; vouch for.

■ **behind someone's back** SECRETLY, without someone's knowledge, on the sly, slyly, sneakily, covertly, surreptitiously, furtively.

backbiting ▶ **noun** MALICIOUS TALK, spiteful talk, slander, libel, defamation, abuse, character assassination, disparagement, denigration; slurs, aspersions; *informal* bitching, bitchiness, cattiness, mud-slinging, bad-mouthing; *Brit. informal* slagging off, rubbishing.

backbone ▶ **noun** ① *an injured backbone:* SPINE, spinal column, vertebral column, vertebrae; back; *Anatomy* dorsum, rachis. See list at VERTEBRA. ② *infantry are the backbone of most armies:* MAINSTAY, cornerstone, foundation, chief support, buttress, pillar. ③ *he has enough backbone to see us through:* STRENGTH OF CHARACTER, strength of will, firmness of purpose, firmness, resolution, resolve, grit, determination, fortitude, mettle, spirit; *informal* guts, spunk; *Brit. informal* bottle.

—RELATED TERMS spinal.

back-breaking ▶ **adjective** GRUELLING, arduous, strenuous, onerous, punishing, crushing, demanding, exacting, taxing, exhausting, draining; *informal* killing; *Brit. informal* knacker; *archaic* toilsome.

—OPPOSITES easy.

backchat ▶ **noun** (*Brit. informal*) IMPUDENCE, impertinence, cheek, cheekiness, effrontery, insolence, rudeness, rude retorts; answering back, talking back; *informal* mouth, lip; *N. Amer. informal* sass, smart mouth, back talk; *rare* contumely.

backer ▶ **noun** ① *£3 million was provided by the project's backers:* SPONSOR, investor, underwriter, financier, patron, benefactor, benefactress; *informal* angel. ② *the backers of the proposition:* SUPPORTER, defender, advocate, promoter, proponent; second; *N. Amer.* booster.

backfire ▶ **verb** *Bernard's plan backfired on him:* REBOUND, boomerang, come back; fail, miscarry, go wrong; *informal* blow up in someone's face; *archaic* rebound on

background ▶ noun ① a background of palm trees: BACKDROP, backcloth, surrounding(s), setting, scene. ② students from many different backgrounds: SOCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES, family circumstances; environment, class, culture, tradition; upbringing. ③ her nursing background: EXPERIENCE, record, history, past, training, education, grounding, knowledge. ④ the political background: CIRCUMSTANCES, context, conditions, situation, environment, milieu, scene, scenario. —OPPOSITES foreground.

■ in the background maybe there was a sugar daddy in the background: BEHIND THE SCENES, out of the public eye, out of the spotlight, out of the limelight, backstage; inconspicuous, unobtrusive, unnoticed.

backhanded ▶ adjective INDIRECT, ambiguous, oblique, equivocal; double-edged, two-edged; tongue-in-cheek.

—OPPOSITES direct.

backing ▶ noun ① he has the backing of his colleagues: SUPPORT, help, assistance, aid; approval, endorsement, sanction, blessing. ② financial backing: SPONSORSHIP, funding, patronage; money, investment, funds, finance; grant, contribution, subsidy. ③ musical backing: ACCOMPANIMENT; harmony, obligato.

backlash ▶ noun ADVERSE REACTION, adverse response, counterblast, comeback; retaliation, reprisal.

backlog ▶ noun ACCUMULATION, logjam, pile-up.

back-pedal ▶ verb the government has back-pedalled on its plans: CHANGE ONE'S MIND, go into reverse, backtrack, back down, climb down, do an about-face, do a U-turn, renege, go back on, back out of, fail to honour, withdraw, take back, default on; *Brit.* do an about-turn.

backslide ▶ verb many things can cause slimmers to backslide: RELAPSE, lapse, regress, retrogress, weaken, lose one's resolve, give in to temptation, go astray, leave the straight and narrow. —OPPOSITES persevere.

backslider ▶ noun REGIDIVIST, regressor; apostate, fallen angel.

back-up ▶ noun HELP, support, assistance, aid; reinforcements, reserves, additional resources.

backward ▶ adjective ① a backward look: REARWARD, to/towards the rear, to/towards the back, behind one, reverse. ② the decision was a backward step: RETROGRADE, retrogressive, regressive, for the worse, in the wrong direction, downhill, negative. ③ an economically backward country: UNDERDEVELOPED, undeveloped; primitive, benighted. ④ he was not backward in displaying his talents: HESITANT, reticent, reluctant; shy, diffident, bashful, timid; unwilling, afraid, loath, averse.

—OPPOSITES forward, progressive, advanced, confident.

▶ adverb the car rolled slowly backward. See BACKWARDS.

backwards ▶ adverb ① Penny glanced backwards: TOWARDS THE REAR, rearwards, backward, behind one. ② count backwards from twenty to ten: IN REVERSE, in reverse order. —OPPOSITES forwards.

backwash ▶ noun ① a ship's backwash: WAKE, wash, slipstream, backflow. ② the backwash of the Cuban missile crisis: REPERCUSSIONS, reverberations, after-effects, aftermath, fallout.

backwoods ▶ plural noun THE BACK OF BEYOND, remote areas, the wilds, the hinterlands, a backwater; *N. Amer.* the backcountry, the backland; *informal* the middle of nowhere, the sticks; *N. Amer. informal* the boondocks, the boonies; *Austral./NZ informal* beyond the black stump.

bacteria ▶ plural noun MICRO-ORGANISMS, microbes, germs, bacilli, pathogens; *informal* bugs.

bad ▶ adjective ① bad workmanship: SUBSTANDARD, poor, inferior, second-rate, second-class, unsatisfactory, inadequate, unacceptable, not up to scratch, not up to par, deficient, imperfect, defective, faulty, shoddy, amateurish, careless, negligent, miserable, sorry; incompetent, inept, inexpert, ineffectual; *informal* crummy, rotten, pathetic, useless, woeful, bum, lousy, ropy, not up to snuff; *Brit. informal* duff, rubbish. ② the alcohol had a really bad effect on me: HARMFUL, damaging, detrimental, injurious, hurtful, inimical, destructive, ruinous, deleterious; unhealthy, unwholesome. ③ the bad guys: WICKED, sinful, immoral, evil, morally wrong, corrupt, base, black-hearted, reprobate, amoral; criminal, villainous, nefarious, iniquitous, dishonest, dishonourable, unscrupulous, unprincipled; *informal* crooked, bent, dirty; *dated* dastardly. ④ you bad girl! NAUGHTY, badly behaved, disobedient, wayward, wilful, self-willed, defiant, unruly, insubordinate, undisciplined. ⑤ bad news: UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, unwelcome; unfortunate, unlucky, unfavourable; terrible, dreadful, awful, grim, distressing. ⑥ a bad time to arrive: INAUSPICIOUS, unfavourable, inopportune, unpropitious, unfortunate, disadvantageous, adverse, inappropriate, unsuitable, untoward. ⑦ a bad accident: SEVERE, serious, grave, critical, acute; *formal* grievous. ⑧ the meat's bad: ROTTEN, off, decayed, decomposed, decomposing, putrid, putrefied, mouldy, mouldering; sour, rancid, rank, unfit for human consumption; addled. ⑨ if you still feel bad, stay in bed. See ILL adjective sense 1. ⑩ a bad knee: INJURED, wounded, diseased; *Brit. informal* gammy, knackered; *Austral./NZ informal* crook. ⑪ I felt bad about leaving them: GUILTY, conscience-stricken, remorseful, guilt-ridden, ashamed, contrite, sorry, full of regret, regretful, shamefaced. ⑫ a bad cheque: INVALID, worthless; counterfeit, fake, false, bogus, fraudulent; *informal* phoney, dud. ⑬ bad language: OFFENSIVE, vulgar, crude, foul, obscene, rude, coarse, smutty, dirty, filthy, indecent, indecorous; blasphemous, profane. —OPPOSITES good, beneficial, virtuous, well behaved, minor, slight, fresh, unrepentant.

■ not bad ALL RIGHT, adequate, good enough, reasonable, fair, decent, average, tolerable, acceptable, passable, middling, moderate, fine; *informal* OK, so-so, fair-to-middling.

badge ▶ noun ① a name badge: pin, brooch; *N. Amer.* button. ② a badge of success: SIGN, symbol, indication, signal, mark; hallmark, trademark.

badger ▶ noun. See LIST at WEASEL.

▶ verb PESTER, harass, bother, plague, torment, hound, nag, chivvy, harry, keep on at, go on at; *informal* hassle, bug.

badinage ▶ noun BANTER, repartee, witty conversation, raillery, wordplay, cut and thrust; witticisms, bons mots, ripostes, sallies, quips; *N. Amer. informal* josh.

badly ▶ adverb ① the job had very been badly done: POORLY, incompetently, ineptly, inexpertly, in-

efficiently, imperfectly, deficiently, defectively, unsatisfactorily, inadequately, incorrectly, faultily, shoddily, amateurishly, carelessly, negligently; *informal* crummily, pitifully, woefully.

② *try not to think badly of me*: UNFAVOURABLY, ill, critically, disapprovingly. ③ *stop behaving badly*: NAUGHTILY, disobediently, wilfully, reprehensibly, mischievously. ④ *he had been badly treated*: CRUELLY, wickedly, unkindly, harshly, shamefully; unfairly, unjustly, wrongly, improperly. ⑤ *it turned out badly*: UNSUCCESSFULLY, unfavourably, adversely, unfortunately, unhappily, unlikably. ⑥ *some of the victims are badly hurt*: SEVERELY, seriously, gravely, acutely, critically; *formal* grievously. ⑦ *she badly needs help*: DESPERATELY, sorely, intensely, seriously, very much, greatly, exceedingly.

—OPPOSITES well, slightly.

bad-tempered ▶ *adjective* IRRITABLE, irascible, tetchy, testy, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, in a (bad) mood, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, having got out of bed on the wrong side, cross, as cross as two sticks, fractious, pettish, crabby; *informal* snappish, on a short fuse; *Brit. informal* shirty, stropky, ratty; *N. Amer. informal* cranky, ornery; *Austral./NZ informal* snaky; *informal, dated* miffy.

—OPPOSITES good-humoured, affable.

baffle ▶ *verb* PERPLEX, puzzle, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound, nonplus; *informal* flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox, make someone scratch their head, be all Greek to, floor; *N. Amer. informal* discombobulate, buffalo.

—OPPOSITES enlighten.

baffling ▶ *adjective* PUZZLING, BEWILDERING, perplexing, mystifying, bemusing, confusing, unclear, inexplicable, incomprehensible, impenetrable, cryptic, opaque.

—OPPOSITES clear, comprehensible.

bag ▶ *noun* ① *I dug around in my bag for my lipstick*: HANDBAG, shoulder bag, clutch bag, evening bag, pochette; *N. Amer.* pocketbook, purse; *historical* reticule, scrip. ② *she began to unpack her bags*: SUITCASE, case, valise, portmanteau, hold-all, grip, overnighter; backpack, rucksack, knapsack, haversack, kitbag, duffel bag; satchel; (*bags*) luggage, baggage.

▶ *verb* ① *locals bagged the most fish*: CATCH, land, capture, trap, snare, ensnare; kill, shoot. ② *he bagged seven medals*: GET, secure, obtain, acquire, pick up; win, achieve, attain; commandeer, grab, appropriate, take; *informal* get one's hands on, land, net.

baggage ▶ *noun* LUGGAGE, suitcases, cases, bags.

baggy ▶ *adjective* LOOSE-FITTING, loose, roomy, generously cut, full, ample, voluminous, billowing; oversized, shapeless, ill-fitting, tent-like, sack-like.

—OPPOSITES tight.

ball ▶ *noun* *he was released on bail*: SURETY, security, assurance, indemnity, indemnification; bond, guarantee, pledge; *archaic* gage.

■ *ball out the pilot bailed out*: EJECT, parachute to safety.

■ *ball someone/something out*: RESCUE, save, relieve; finance, help (out), assist, aid; *informal* save someone's bacon/neck/skin.

bait ▶ *noun* ① *the fish let go of the bait*: LURE, decoy, fly, troll, jig, plug. ② *was she the bait to*

lure him into a trap? ENTICEMENT, lure, decoy, snare, trap, siren, carrot, attraction, draw, magnet, incentive, temptation, inducement; *informal* come-on.

▶ *verb* *he was baited at school*: TAUNT, tease, goad, pick on, torment, persecute, plague, harry, harass, hound; *informal* needle; *Brit. informal* wind up, nark.

bake ▶ *verb* ① *bake the fish for 15–20 minutes*: COOK, oven-bake, roast, dry-roast, pot-roast; *rare* oven. ② *the earth was baked by the sun*: SCORCH, burn, sear, parch, dry (up), desiccate; *N. Amer.* broil.

balance ▶ *noun* ① *I tripped and lost my balance*: STABILITY, equilibrium, steadiness, footing. ② *political balance in broadcasting*: FAIRNESS, justice, impartiality, egalitarianism, equal opportunity; parity, equity, equilibrium, equipoise, evenness, symmetry, correspondence, uniformity, equality, equivalence, comparability. ③ *this stylistic development provides a balance to the rest of the work*: COUNTERBALANCE, counterweight, stabilizer, compensation. ④ *the food was weighed on a balance*: SCALE(s), weighing machine, weigh-bridge. ⑤ *the balance of the rent*: REMAINDER, outstanding amount, rest, residue, difference, remaining part.

—OPPOSITES instability.

▶ *verb* ① *she balanced the book on her head*: STEADY, stabilize, poise, level. ② *he balanced his radical remarks with more familiar declarations*: COUNTERBALANCE, balance out, offset, even out/up, counteract, compensate for, make up for. ③ *their income and expenditure do not balance*: CORRESPOND, agree, tally, match up, concur, coincide, be in agreement, be consistent, equate, be equal. ④ *you need to balance cost against benefit*: WEIGH, weigh up, compare, evaluate, consider, assess, appraise, judge.

■ *in the balance*: UNCERTAIN, undetermined, unsettled, unresolved, unsure, pending, in limbo, up in the air, at a turning point, critical, at a critical stage, at a crisis.

■ *on balance*: OVERALL, all in all, all things considered, taking everything into consideration/account, by and large, on average.

balanced ▶ *adjective* ① *a balanced view*: FAIR, equitable, just, unbiased, unprejudiced, objective, impartial, dispassionate. ② *a balanced diet*: MIXED, varied; healthy, sensible. ③ *a balanced individual*: LEVEL-HEADED, well balanced, well adjusted, mature, stable, sensible, practical, realistic, with both feet on the ground, pragmatic, reasonable, rational, sane, even-tempered, commonsensical, full of common sense; *informal* together.

—OPPOSITES partial, unhealthy, neurotic.

balcony ▶ *noun* ① *the balcony of the villa*: veranda, loggia, terrace, patio. ② *the applause from the balcony*: GALLERY, upper circle; *informal* the gods.

bald ▶ *adjective* ① *a bald head*: HAIRLESS, smooth, shaven, depilated; bald-headed. ② *a few bald bushes*: LEAFLESS, bare, uncovered. ③ *a bald statement*: PLAIN, simple, unadorned, unvarnished, unembellished, undisguised, unveiled, stark, severe, austere, brutal, harsh; blunt, direct, forthright, plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, candid, honest, truthful, realistic, frank, outspoken; *informal* upfront.

—OPPOSITES hairy, lush, vague.

Ball Games

American football
Association Football
Australian Rules

football
bagatelle
baseball
basketball
beach volleyball
billiards
bocce
boule or boules
bowling
bowls

Canadian football
caram billiards
clock golf
cricket
croquet

crown-green bowls
Eton fives
five-a-side football
fivepin bowling
fives

flat-green bowls
football
French cricket
Gaelt football
goalball

golf
handball
hockey
hurling
jai alai
karball

lacrosse
lawn tennis
netball
ninepins
paddleball
paddle tennis
pail-mail

pelota
pétanque
polo
pool
racquets

raquetball
real tennis
roller hockey
rounders
Rugby fives

rugby league
rugby union
shirley
short tennis
skittles

snooker
soccer
softball
speedball
squash

stoelball
table tennis
tennis
tampin bowling
touch football
volleyball
water polo

balderdash ▶ noun. See NONSENSE sense 1

baldness ▶ noun HAIR LOSS, hairlessness, *Medicine* alopecia

bale¹ ▶ noun a bale of cotton BUNDLE, truss, bunch, pack, package, parcel

bale²
a bale out. See BAIL

baleful ▶ adjective MENACING, threatening, unfriendly, hostile, antagonistic, evil, evil intentioned, vindictive, malevolent, malicious, malignant, malign, sinister, harmful, injurious, dangerous, noxious, pernicious, deadly, venomous, poisonous, *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent
-OPPOSITES benevolent, friendly

balk ▶ verb. See BALK

ball¹ ▶ noun ① a ball of dough | a cricket ball SPHERE, globe, orb, globule, spherule, spheroid, ovoid See list ② a musket ball BULLET, pellet, slug, projectile

ball² ▶ noun a fancy-dress ball DANCE, dinner dance, masked ball, masquerade, *N Amer* hoe down, prom, *informal* hop, disco, bop

ballad ▶ noun SONG, folk song, shanty, ditty canzone, poem, tale, saga

ballet ▶ noun See *lists*

Ballet Steps and Positions

arabesque
assemblé
attitude
balancé
ballon
ballonné
ballotté
battement
battement frappé
battement tendu
batterie
bourrée
brisé
brisé volé
cabriole
chaîné
changement (de pieds)
chassé
dégagé
développé
écarté
échappé
elevation
enchaînement
entrechat
fifth position
first position
fondu
fouetté
fourth position
frappé

glissade
glissé
grand battement
grand batterie
grand jeté
jeté
pas de basque
pas de bourrée
pas de chat
pas de cheval
pas de deux
petit battement
petit batterie
petit jeté
piqué
pirouette
plié
pointe work
port de bras
relevé
retiré
rond de jambe à terre
rond de jambe en l'air
sauté
second position
sissonne
soubresaut
temps
temps levé
third position
tour en l'air

balloon ▶ noun hot air balloon barrage balloon, airship, dirigible, Zeppelin, envelope, gas bag, *informal* blump

▶ verb ① her long skirt ballooned in the wind SWELL (out), puff out/up, bulge (out), bag, belly (out), fill (out), billow (out) ② the company's debt has ballooned INCREASE RAPIDLY, soar, rocket, shoot up, escalate, mount, surge, spiral, *informal* go through the roof, skyrocket
-OPPOSITES plummet

ballot ▶ noun VOTE, poll, election, referendum, plebiscite, show of hands

ballyhoo ▶ noun (*informal*) PUBLICITY, advertising, promotion, marketing, propaganda, push, puffery, build-up, boosting; fuss, excitement, *informal* hype, spiel, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, splash

Ballet Dancers

Akshon, Frederick (English)

Alban, George (English)

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balm ▶ noun ① a skin balm: OINTMENT, lotion, cream, salve, liniment, embrocation, rub, gel, emollient, unguent, balsam, moisturizer; dated pomade; technical demulcent, humectant; archaic unction. ② balm for troubled spirits: RELIEF, comfort, ease, succour, consolation, cheer, solace; poetic/literary easement.
—OPPOSITES astringent, misery.

balmy ▶ adjective MILD, gentle, temperate, summery, calm, tranquil, clement, fine, pleasant, benign, soothing, soft.
—OPPOSITES harsh, wintry.

bamboozle ▶ verb (informal). See TRICK verb.

ban ▶ verb ① smoking was banned: PROHIBIT, forbid, veto, proscribe, disallow, outlaw, make illegal, embargo, bar, debar, block, stop, suppress, interdict; Law enjoin, restrain. ② Gary was banned from the playground: EXCLUDE, banish, expel, eject, evict, drive out, force out, oust, remove, get rid of; informal boot out, kick out; Brit. informal turf out.
—OPPOSITES permit, admit.

▶ noun ① a ban on smoking: PROHIBITION, veto, prescription, embargo, bar, suppression, stoppage, interdict, interdiction, moratorium, injunction. ② a ban from international football: EXCLUSION, banishment, expulsion, ejection, eviction, removal.
—OPPOSITES permission, admission.

banal ▶ adjective TRITE, hackneyed, clichéd, platitudinous, vapid, commonplace, ordinary, common, stock, conventional, stereotyped, overused, overdone, overworked, stale, worn out, time-worn, tired, threadbare, hoary, hack, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninteresting, dull; informal old hat, corny, played out; N. Amer. informal cornball, dime-store.
—OPPOSITES original.

banality ▶ noun ① the banality of most sitcoms: TRITENESS, platitudinousness, vapidity, staleness, unimaginativeness, lack of originality, prosaicism, dullness; informal corniness. ② they exchanged banalities: PLATITUDE, cliché, truism, commonplace, old chestnut, bromide.
—OPPOSITES originality, epigram, witticism.

band¹ ▶ noun ① a band round her waist: BELT, sash, girdle, strap, tape, ring, hoop, loop, circlet, circle, cord, tie, string, thong, ribbon, fillet, strip; poetic/literary cincture. ② the green band round his pullover: STRIPE, strip, streak, line, bar, belt, swathe; technical stria, striation.

band² ▶ noun ① a band of robbers: GROUP, gang, mob, pack, troop, troupe, company, party, crew, body, working party, posse; team, side, line-up; association, society, club, circle, fellowship, partnership, guild, lodge, order, fraternity, confraternity, sodality, brotherhood, sisterhood, sorority, union, alliance, affiliation, institution, league, federation, clique, set, coterie; informal bunch. ② the band played on: (MUSICAL) GROUP, pop group, ensemble, orchestra; informal combo.

▶ verb local people banded together: JOIN (UP), team up, join forces, pool resources, club together, get together; amalgamate, unite, form an alliance, form an association, affiliate, federate.
—OPPOSITES split up.

bandage ▶ noun she had a bandage on her foot: DRESSING, covering, gauze, compress, plaster, tourniquet; trademark Elastoplast, Band-Aid.

▶ verb she bandaged my knee: BIND, bind up, dress, cover, wrap, swaddle, strap (up).

bandit ▶ noun they were robbed by bandits: ROBBER, thief, raider, mugger; freebooter, outlaw, hijacker, looter, marauder, gangster; dated desperado; poetic/literary brigand; historical rustler, highwayman, footpad, reaver; Scottish historical mossrooper.

bandy¹ ▶ adjective bandy legs: BOWED, curved, bent; bow-legged, bandy-legged.
—OPPOSITES straight.

bandy² ▶ verb ① lots of figures were banded about: SPREAD (ABOUT/AROUND), put about, toss about, discuss, rumour, mention, repeat; poetic/literary bruit about/abroad. ② I'm not going to bandy words with you: EXCHANGE, swap, trade.

bane ▶ noun SCOURGE, plague, curse, blight, pest, nuisance, headache, nightmare, trial, hardship, cross to bear, burden, thorn in one's flesh/side, bitter pill, affliction, trouble, misery, woe, tribulation, misfortune; informal pain.

bang ▶ noun ① the door slammed with a bang: THUD, thump, bump, crack, crash, smack, boom, clang, clap, knock, tap, clunk, clonk; stamp, stomp, clump, clomp; report, explosion, detonation; informal wham, whump, whomp. ② a nasty bang on the head: BLOW, knock, thump, bump, hit, smack, crack; informal bash, whack, thwack.

▶ verb ① he banged the table with his fist: HIT, strike, beat, thump, hammer, knock, rap, pound, thud, punch, bump, smack, crack, slap, slam, welt, cuff, pummel, buffet; informal bash, whack, thwack, clobber, clout, clip, wallop, belt, biff, bop, sock, lam, whomp; Brit. informal slosh; N. Amer. informal boff, bust, slug, whale. ② fireworks banged in the air: GO BANG, thud, thump, boom, clap, pound, crack, crash, explode, detonate, burst, blow up.

▶ adverb (informal) ① bang in the middle of town | bang on time: PRECISELY, exactly, right, directly, immediately, squarely, dead; promptly, prompt, dead on, on the stroke of —, on the dot of —; sharp, on the dot; informal smack, slap, slap bang, plumb; N. Amer. informal on the button, on the nose, smack dab, spang. ② bang up to date: COMPLETELY, absolutely, totally, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, in all respects, utterly, perfectly, quite, altogether, one hundred per cent.

bang³ ▶ noun BRACELET, wristlet, anklet, arm-let.

banish ▶ verb ① he was banished for his crime: EXILE, expel, deport, eject, expatriate, extradite, repatriate, transport; cast out, oust, evict, throw out, exclude, shut out, ban. ② he tried to banish his fear: DISPEL, dismiss, disperse, scatter, dissipate, drive away, chase away, shut out, quell, allay.
—OPPOSITES admit, engender.

banister ▶ noun HANDRAIL, railing, rail; baluster; balustrade.

bank¹ ▶ noun ① the banks of Lake Michigan: EDGE, side, embankment, levee, border, verge, boundary, margin, rim, fringe; poetic/literary marge, bourn, skirt. ② a grassy bank: SLOPE, rise, incline, gradient, ramp; mound, ridge, hillock, hummock, knoll; bar, reef, shoal, shelf; accumulation, pile, heap, mass, drift. ③ a bank of switches: ARRAY, row, line, tier, group, series.

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—RELATED TERMS riparian, riverain.

► **verb** ① *they banked up the earth*: PILE (UP), heap (up), stack (up); accumulate, amass, assemble, put together. ② *the aircraft banked*: TILT, LEAN, tip, slant, incline, angle, slope, list, camber, pitch, dip, cant.

bank^a ► **noun** ① *money in the bank*: FINANCIAL INSTITUTION, merchant bank, savings bank, finance company, finance house; *Brit.* building society; *N. Amer.* savings and loan (association), thrift. ② *a blood bank*: STORE, reserve, accumulation, stock, stockpile, supply, pool, fund, cache, hoard, deposit; storehouse, reservoir, repository, depository.

► **verb** ① *I banked the money*: DEPOSIT, pay in. ② *they bank with Barclays*: HAVE AN ACCOUNT AT, deposit one's money with, use, be a customer of.

■ **bank on** RELY ON, depend on, count on, place reliance on, bargain on, plan on, reckon on, calculate on; anticipate, expect; be confident of, be sure of, pin one's hopes/faith on; *N. Amer. informal* figure on.

banknote ► **noun** NOTE; *N. Amer.* bill; *US informal* greenback; *US & historical* Treasury note; (**bank-notes**) paper money.

bankrupt ► **adjective** ① *the company was declared bankrupt*: INSOLVENT, failed, ruined, in debt, owing money, in the red, in arrears; *Brit.* in administration, in receivership; *informal* bust, belly up, gone to the wall, broke, flat broke; *informal, dated* smashed; *Brit. informal* skint, stony broke, in Queer Street; *Brit. informal, dated* in Carey Street. ② *this government is bankrupt of ideas*: BEREFT, devoid, empty, destitute; completely lacking, without, in need of, wanting; *informal* minus, sans.

—OPPOSITES solvent, teeming with.

► **verb** *the strike nearly bankrupted the union*: RUIN, impoverish, reduce to penury/destitution, bring to ruin, bring someone to their knees, wipe out, break, pauperize; *rare* beggar.

bankruptcy ► **noun** *many companies were facing bankruptcy*: INSOLVENCY, liquidation, failure, (financial) ruin; *Brit.* administration, receivership.

—OPPOSITES solvency.

banner ► **noun** ① *students waved banners*: FLAG, sign, poster, notice. ② *banners fluttered above the troops*: FLAG, standard, ensign, colour(s), pennant, banderole, guidon; *Brit.* pendant; *Nautical* burgee.

banquet ► **noun** FEAST, dinner; *informal* spread, blowout; *Brit. informal* nosh-up, slap-up meal; *Brit. informal, dated* tuck-in.

—OPPOSITES snack.

banter ► **noun** *a brief exchange of banter*: REPARTEE, witty conversation, rillery, wordplay, cut and thrust, badinage; *N. Amer. informal* josh.

► **verb** *sightseers were bantering with the guards*: JOKE, jest, quip; *informal* josh, wisecrack.

baptism ► **noun** ① *the baptism ceremony*: CHRISTENING, naming; *rare* lustration. ② *his baptism as a politician*: INITIATION, debut, introduction, inauguration, launch, rite of passage.

baptize ► **verb** ① *he was baptized as a baby*: CHRISTEN; *rare* lustrate. ② *they were baptized into the church*: ADMIT, initiate, enrol, recruit, convert. ③ *he was baptized Enoch*: NAME, give the name, call, dub; *formal* denominate.

bar ► **noun** ① *an iron bar*: ROD, pole, stick, baton, shaft, rail, paling, spar, strut, crosspiece, beam. ② *a bar of chocolate*: BLOCK, slab, cake, tablet, brick, loaf, wedge, ingot. ③ *your drinks are on the bar*: COUNTER, table, buffet, stand. ④ *she had a drink in a bar*: HOSTELRY, tavern, inn, taproom; *Brit.* pub, public house; *informal* watering hole; *Brit. informal* local, boozer; *dated* alehouse; *N. Amer. historical* saloon. ⑤ *a bar to promotion*: OBSTACLE, impediment, hindrance, obstruction, block, hurdle, barrier, stumbling block. ⑥ (*Brit.*) *members of the Bar*: BARRISTERS, advocates, counsel. ⑦ *the bar across the river mouth*: SANDBANK, shoal, shallow, reef.

—OPPOSITES aid.

► **verb** ① *they have barred the door*: BOLT, lock, fasten, secure, block, barricade, obstruct. ② *I was barred from entering*: PROHIBIT, debar, preclude, forbid, ban, interdict, inhibit; exclude, keep out; obstruct, hinder, block; *Law* enjoin.

—OPPOSITES open, admit.

► **preposition** *everyone bar me*. See EXCEPT preposition.

barb ► **noun** ① *the hook has a nasty barb*: SPIKE, prong, spur, thorn, needle, prickle, spine, quill. ② *the barbs from his critics*: INSULT, sneer, jibe, cutting remark, shaft, slight, brickbat, slur, jeer, taunt; (**barbs**) abuse, disparagement, scoffing, scorn, sarcasm, goading; *informal* dig, put-down.

barbarian ► **noun** *the city was besieged by barbarians*: SAVAGE, heathen, brute, beast, wild man/woman; ruffian, thug, lout, vandal, hoodlum, hooligan; *informal* roughneck; *Brit. informal* yobbo, yob, lager lout.

► **adjective** *the barbarian hordes*: SAVAGE, uncivilized, barbaric, primitive, heathen, wild, brutish, Neanderthal.

—OPPOSITES civilized.

barbaric ► **adjective** ① *barbaric crimes*: BRUTAL, barbarous, brutish, bestial, savage, vicious, wicked, cruel, ruthless, merciless, villainous, murderous, heinous, monstrous, vile, inhuman, infernal, dark, fiendish, diabolical. ② *barbaric cultures*: SAVAGE, barbarian, primitive, heathen, wild, brutish, Neanderthal.

—OPPOSITES civilized.

barbarity ► **noun** ① *the barbarity of slavery*: BRUTALITY, brutality, cruelty, bestiality, barbarism, barbarousness, savagery, viciousness, wickedness, villainy, baseness, inhumanity. ② *the barbarities of the last war*: ATROCITY, act of brutality, act of savagery, crime, outrage, enormity.

—OPPOSITES benevolence.

barbarous ► **adjective**. See BARBARIC sense 1.

barbecue ► **noun** *she held a barbecue*: MEAL COOKED OUTDOORS, — roast; *N. Amer.* cookout; *informal* barbie, BBQ.

► **verb** *they barbecued some steaks*: COOK OUTDOORS, grill, spit-roast; *N. Amer.* broil, charbroil.

barbed ► **adjective** HURTFUL, wounding, cutting, stinging, mean, spiteful, nasty, cruel, vicious, unkind, snide, scathing, pointed, bitter, acid, caustic, sharp, vitriolic, venomous, poisonous, hostile, malicious, malevolent, vindictive; *informal* bitchy, catty.

—OPPOSITES kindly.

bard ► **noun** (*poetic/literary*). See POET.

bare ► **adjective** ① *he was bare to the waist*: NAKED, unclothed, undressed, uncovered, stripped, with nothing on, nude, in the nude, stark

naked; *informal* without a stitch on, in one's birthday suit, in the raw, in the altogether, in the buff; *Brit. informal* starkers; *Scottish informal* in the scud; *N. Amer. informal* buck naked. ② a bare room: EMPTY, unfurnished, cleared; stark, austere, spartan, unadorned, unembellished, unornamented, plain. ③ a cupboard bare of food: EMPTY, devoid, bereft; without, lacking, wanting, free from. ④ a bare landscape: BARREN, bleak, exposed, desolate, stark, arid, desert, lunar, treeless, deforested. ⑤ the bare facts: BASIC, essential, fundamental, plain, straightforward, simple, pure, stark, bald, cold, hard, brutal, harsh. ⑥ a bare minimum: MERE, no more than, simple; slim, slight, slender, paltry, minimum.

—OPPOSITES clothed, furnished, embellished, lush.

► **verb** he bared his arm: UNCOVER, strip, lay bare, undress, unclothe, denude, expose.
—OPPOSITES cover.

barefaced ► **adjective** FLAGRANT, blatant, glaring, obvious, undisguised, unconcealed, naked; shameless, unabashed, unashamed, impudent, audacious, unblushing, brazen, brass-necked.

barely ► **adverb** HARDLY, scarcely, just, only just, narrowly, by the skin of one's teeth, by a hair's breadth; almost not; *informal* by a whisker.
—OPPOSITES easily.

bargain ► **noun** ① I'll make a bargain with you: AGREEMENT, arrangement, understanding, deal; contract, pact, compact; pledge, promise. ② this binder is a bargain at £1.98: (GOOD) VALUE FOR MONEY, surprisingly cheap; *informal* good buy, cheap buy, snip, steal, giveaway.
—OPPOSITES rip-off.

► **verb** they bargained over the contract: HAGGLE, negotiate, discuss terms, hold talks, deal, barter, dicker; *formal* treat.

■ **bargain for/on** EXPECT, anticipate, be prepared for, allow for, plan for, reckon with, take into account/consideration, contemplate, imagine, envisage, foresee, predict; count on, rely on, depend on, bank on, plan on, reckon on; *N. Amer. informal* figure on.

■ **into the bargain** ALSO, as well, in addition, additionally, besides, on top (of that), over and above that, to boot, for good measure; *N. Amer.* in the bargain.

barge ► **noun** lighter, canal boat; *Brit.* narrowboat, wherry; *N. Amer.* scow.

► **verb** he barged us out of the way: PUSH, shove, force, elbow, shoulder, jostle, bulldoze, muscle.
■ **barge in** BURST IN, break in, butt in, cut in, interrupt, intrude, encroach; gatecrash; *informal* horn in.

bark¹ ► **noun** the bark of a dog: WOOF, yap, yelp, bay.

► **verb** ① the dog barked: WOOF, yap, yelp, bay. ② 'Okay, outside!' he barked: SAY BRUSQUELY, say abruptly, say angrily, snap; shout, bawl, cry, yell, roar, bellow, thunder; *informal* holler.
—OPPOSITES whisper.

bark² ► **noun** the bark of a tree: RIND, skin, peel, covering; integument; cork; *technical* cortex.
—RELATED TERMS corticate.

► **verb** he barked his shin: SCRAPE, graze, scratch, abrade, scuff, rasp, skin.

barmy ► **adjective** (*Brit. informal*). See FOOLISH.

barn ► **noun** OUTBUILDING, shed, outhouse, shelter; stable, stall; *Brit.* byre; *archaic* grange, garner.

baron ► **noun** ① he was created a baron: LORD, noble, nobleman, aristocrat, peer. ② a press baron: MAGNATE, tycoon, mogul, captain of industry, nabob, mandarin.

baroque ► **adjective** ① the baroque exuberance of his printed silk shirts: ORNATE, fancy, overelaborate, extravagant, rococo, fussy, busy, ostentatious, showy. ② baroque prose: FLOWERY, florid, flamboyant, high-flown, high-sounding, magniloquent, grandiloquent, orotund, overblown, convoluted, pleonastic; *informal* highfalutin, purple; *rare* fustian.

—OPPOSITES plain.

barrack ► **verb** (*Brit & Austral/NZ*) JEER, heckle, shout at/down; interrupt, boo, hiss.

—OPPOSITES applaud.

barracks ► **plural noun** GARRISON, camp, encampment, depot, billet, quarters, fort, cantonment.

barrage ► **noun** ① an artillery barrage: BOMBARDMENT, cannonade; gunfire, shelling; salvo, volley, fusillade; *historical* broadside. ② a barrage of criticism: DELUGE, stream, storm, torrent, onslaught, flood, spate, tide, avalanche, hail, blaze; abundance, mass, profusion. ③ a barrage across the river: DAM, barrier, weir, dyke, embankment, wall.

barrel ► **noun** CASK, keg, butt, vat, tun, drum, hogshead, kilderkin, pin, pipe; *historical* firkin.

barren ► **adjective** ① barren land: UNPRODUCTIVE, infertile, unfruitful, sterile, arid, desert. ② (*archaic*) a barren woman: INFERTILE, sterile, childless; *technical* infecund. ③ a barren exchange of courtesies: POINTLESS, futile, worthless, profitless, valueless, unrewarding, purposeless, useless, vain, aimless, hollow, empty, vacuous, vapid.

—OPPOSITES fertile.

barricade ► **noun** a barricade across the street: BARRIER, roadblock, blockade; obstacle, obstruction.

► **verb** they barricaded the building: SEAL (UP), close up, block off, shut off/up; defend, protect, fortify, occupy.

barrier ► **noun** ① the barrier across the entrance: FENCE, railing, barricade, hurdle, bar, blockade, roadblock. ② a barrier to international trade: OBSTACLE, obstruction, hurdle, stumbling block, bar, block, impediment, hindrance, curb.

barring ► **preposition** EXCEPT FOR, with the exception of, excepting, if there is/are no, bar, discounting, short of, apart from, but for, other than, aside from, excluding, omitting, leaving out, save for, saving; *informal* outside of.

barrister ► **noun** COUNSEL, Queen's Counsel, QC, lawyer; *Scottish* advocate; *N. Amer.* attorney, counselor(-at-law); *informal* brief; (*barristers*) *Brit.* the Bar.

barter ► **verb** ① they bartered grain for salt: TRADE, swap, exchange, sell. ② you can barter for souvenirs: HAGGLE, bargain, negotiate, discuss terms, deal, dicker; *formal* treat.

► **noun** an economy based on barter: TRADING, trade, exchange, business, commerce, buying and selling, dealing.

base¹ ► **noun** ① the base of the tower: FOUNDATION, bottom, foot, support, stand, pedestal,

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plinth. ② *the system uses existing technology as its base*: BASIS, foundation, bedrock, starting point, source, origin, root(s), core, key component, heart, backbone. ③ *the troops returned to their base*: HEADQUARTERS, camp, site, station, settlement, post, centre, starting point.

—OPPOSITES top.

► **verb** ① *he based his idea on a movie*: FOUND, build, construct, form, ground, root; use as a basis; (be based on) derive from, spring from, stem from, originate in, have its origin in, issue from. ② *the company was based in London*: LOCATE, situate, position, install, station, site, establish, garrison.

base² ► **adjective** *base motives*: SORDID, ignoble, low, low-minded, mean, immoral, improper, unseemly, unscrupulous, unprincipled, dishonest, dishonourable, shameful, bad, wrong, evil, wicked, iniquitous, sinful.

—OPPOSITES noble.

baseless ► **adjective** *baseless accusations*: GROUNDLESS, unfounded, ill-founded, without foundation; unsubstantiated, unproven, unsupported, uncorroborated, unconfirmed, unverified, unattested; unjustified, unwarranted; speculative, conjectural; unsound, unreliable, spurious, specious, trumped up, fabricated, untrue.

—OPPOSITES valid.

basement ► **noun** CELLAR, vault, crypt, undercroft; *Brit* lower ground floor; *Scottish* dunny.

bash (*informal*) ► **verb** ① *she bashed him with her stick*: STRIKE, hit, beat, thump, slap, smack, clip, bang, knock, batter, pound, pummel; *informal* wallop, clout, belt, whack, thwack, clobber, bop, biff, sock; *archaic* smite. ② *they bashed into one another*: CRASH, run, bang, smash, slam, cannon, knock, bump; collide with, hit, meet head-on.

► **noun** ① *a bash on the head*: BLOW, rap, hit, knock, bang, slap, crack, thump, tap, clip; *informal* wallop, clout, belt, whack, thwack, bop, biff, sock; *archaic* smite. ② *Harry's birthday bash*. See PARTY noun sense 1. ③ (*Brit*) I'll have a bash at it. See ATTEMPT.

bashful ► **adjective** SHY, reserved, diffident, inhibited, retiring, reticent, reluctant, shrinking; hesitant, timid, apprehensive, nervous, wary.

—OPPOSITES bold, confident.

basic ► **adjective** ① *basic human rights*: FUNDAMENTAL, essential, primary, principal, cardinal, elementary, elemental, quintessential, intrinsic, central, pivotal, critical, key, focal; vital, necessary, indispensable. ② *basic cooking facilities*: PLAN, simple, unsophisticated, straightforward, adequate; unadorned, undecorated, unornamented, without frills; spartan, stark, severe, austere, limited, meagre, rudimentary, patchy, sketchy, minimal; unfussy, homely, homespun; rough (and ready), crude, makeshift; *informal* bog-standard.

—OPPOSITES secondary, unimportant, elaborate.

basically ► **adverb** FUNDAMENTALLY, essentially, in essence; firstly, first of all, first and foremost, primarily; at heart, at bottom, au fond; principally, chiefly, above all, most of all, mostly, mainly, on the whole, by and large, substantially; intrinsically, inherently; *informal* at the end of the day, when all is said and done.

basics ► **plural noun** FUNDAMENTALS, essentials, rudiments, (first) principles, foundations, preliminaries, groundwork; essence, basis, core; *informal* nitty-gritty, brass tacks, nuts and bolts, ABC.

basin ► **noun** ① *she poured water into the basin*: BOWL, dish, pan. ② *a basin among low hills*: VALLEY, hollow, dip, depression.

basis ► **noun** ① *the basis of his method*: FOUNDATION, support, base; reasoning, rationale, defence; reason, grounds, justification, motivation. ② *the basis of discussion*: STARTING POINT, base, point of departure, beginning, premise, fundamental point/principle, principal constituent, main ingredient, cornerstone, core, heart, thrust, essence, kernel, nub. ③ *on a part-time basis*: FOOTING, condition, status, position; arrangement, system, method.

bask ► **verb** ① *I basked in the sun*: LAZE, lie, lounge, relax, sprawl, loll; sunbathe, sun oneself. ② *she's basking in all the glory*: REVEL, delight, luxuriate, wallow, take pleasure, rejoice, glory, indulge oneself; enjoy, relish, savour, lap up.

basket ► **noun** WICKERWORK BOX, hamper, creel, pannier, punnet, trug.

bass ► **adjective** LOW, deep, low-pitched, resonant, sonorous, rumbling, booming, resounding; baritone.

—OPPOSITES high.

bastard ► **noun** ① (*archaic*) *he had fathered a bastard*: ILLEGITIMATE CHILD, child born out of wedlock; *dated* love child; *Brit. dated* by-blow; *archaic* natural child/son/daughter. ② (*informal*) *he's a real bastard*. See SCOUNDREL.

► **adjective** ① (*archaic*) *a bastard child*: ILLEGITIMATE, born out of wedlock; *archaic* natural. ② *a bastard Darwinism*: ADULTERATED, alloyed, impure, inferior; hybrid, mongrel, patchwork.

bastardize ► **verb** ADULTERATE, corrupt, contaminate, weaken, dilute, taint, pollute, debase, distort.

bastion ► **noun** ① *the town wall and bastions*: PROJECTION, outwork, breastwork, barbican; *Architecture* bartizan. ② *a bastion of respectability*: STRONGHOLD, bulwark, defender, support, supporter, guard, protection, protector, defence, prop, mainstay.

bat ► **noun**. See list.

—RELATED TERMS chiropteran.

batch ► **noun** GROUP, quantity, lot, bunch, mass, cluster, raft, set, collection, bundle, pack; consignment, shipment.

bath ► **noun** ① *he lay soaking in the bath*: BATH-TUB, tub, hot tub, whirlpool, sauna, steam bath, Turkish bath; *trademark* jacuzzi. ② *she had a quick bath*: WASH, soak, dip; shower.

—RELATED TERMS balneal, balneary.

► **verb** *have you bathed?* | *he would bath the baby*: BATHE, have/take a bath, give someone a bath, wash; shower.

bathe ► **verb** ① *she bathed and dressed*. See BATH verb. ② *I bathed in the local swimming pool*: SWIM, go swimming, take a dip. ③ *they bathed his wounds*: CLEAN, wash, rinse, wet, soak, immerse. ④ *the room was bathed in light*: SUFFUSE, permeate, pervade, envelop, flood, cover, wash, fill.

► **noun** *we had a bathe*: SWIM, dip, paddle.

Bats

barbastelle	mouse-eared bat
blossom bat	mouse-tailed bat
bulldog bat	mustached bat
butterfly bat	myotis
Daubenton's bat	naked bat
disk-wing bat	Natterer's bat
epauletted fruit bat	noctule
false vampire	painted bat
fisherman bat	particoloured bat
flower bat	pipistrelle
flying fox	roussette
free-tailed bat	sac-winged bat
fruit bat	serotine bat
funnel-eared bat	sheath-tailed bat
ghost bat	short-tailed bat
golden bat	slit-faced bat
hairless bat	smoky bat
hammer-headed bat	spotted bat
hog-nosed bat	sucker-footed bat
hollow-faced bat	tomb bat
horseshoe bat	Trident bat
leaf-nosed bat	tube-nosed bat
Leisler's bat	vampire bat
long-eared bat	whiskered bat
mastiff bat	white bat

bathing costume (Brit) ▶ noun SWIMSUIT, bathing suit; swimming trunks, bikini; swimwear; Brit swimming costume; informal cossie; Austral./NZ informal bathers.

bathos ▶ noun ANTICLIMAX, let-down, disappointment, disillusionment; absurdity; informal comedown.

baton ▶ noun ① the conductor's baton: STICK, rod, staff, wand. ② police batons: TRUNCHEON, club, cudgel, bludgeon, stick, mace, shillelagh; N Amer nightstick, blackjack; Brit informal cosh.

battalion ▶ noun ① an infantry battalion: regiment, brigade, force, division, squadron, squad, company, section, detachment, contingent, legion, corps, cohort. ② a battalion of supporters. See CROWD noun sense 1.

batten ▶ noun a timber batten: BAR, bolt, rail, shaft; board, strip.

▶ verb Stephen was battening down the shutters: FASTEN, fix, secure, clamp, lash, make fast, nail, seal.

batter ▶ verb PUMMEL, pound, hit repeatedly, rain blows on, buffet, belabour, thrash, beat up; informal knock about/around, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a good hiding, lay into, lace into, do over, rough up.

battered ▶ adjective DAMAGED, shabby, run down, worn out, falling to pieces, falling apart, dilapidated, rickety, ramshackle, crumbling, the worse for wear, on its last legs.

battery ▶ noun ① a flat battery: CELL, accumulator. ② a gun battery: EMPLACEMENT, artillery unit; cannonry, ordnance. ③ a battery of equipment: ARRAY, set, bank, group, row, line, line-up, collection. ④ a battery of tests: SERIES, sequence, cycle, string, succession. ⑤ assault and battery: VIOLENCE, assault, mugging; Brit grievous bodily harm, GBH, actual bodily harm, ABH.

battle ▶ noun ① he was killed in the battle: FIGHT, armed conflict, clash, struggle, skirmish, en-

gagement, fray, duel; war, campaign, crusade; fighting, warfare, combat, action, hostilities; informal scrap, dogfight, shoot-out. See lists here and at SIEGE, WAR. ② a legal battle: CONFLICT, clash, contest, competition, struggle; disagreement, argument, altercation, dispute, controversy.

▶ verb ① he has been battling against illness: FIGHT, combat, contend with; resist, withstand, stand up to, confront; war, feud; struggle, strive, work. ② Mark battled his way to the bar: FORCE, push, elbow, shoulder, fight; struggle, labour.

Battles

See also SIEGE.

Aboukir Bay	Falkirk	Nile
Actium	Flodden	Omdurman
Agincourt	Gazala	Oudenarde
Antietam	Gettysburg	Paschendale
Arbela	Guadalcanal	Pharsalus
Arnhem	Hastings	Plains of Abraham
Atlantic	Imphal	Plassey
Austerlitz	Inkerman	Plataan
Ayacucho	Issus	Prestonpans
Balaclava	Jena	Princeton
Barnockburn	Jutland	Quatre Bras
Blenheim	Killiecrankie	Ramillies
Borodino	Leipzig	River Plate
Bosworth	Lepanto	Roncesvalles
(Field)	Lexington	Sadowa
Boyerne	Leyte Gulf	Salamis
Britain	Little	Sedan
Bulge	Bighorn	Sedgemoor
Bunker Hill	Malplaquet	Somme
Cambray	Marathon	Stalingrad
Cape St Vincent	Marne	Tannenberg
Cerro Gordo	Marston	Tewkesbury
Corunna	Moor	Thermopylae
Crécy	Megiddo	Trafalgar
Culloden	Midway	Verdun
Edgehill	Mohács	Waterloo
El Alamein	Mons	Xuzhou
El Mansûra	Naseby	Ypres
Erzurum	Navarino	Zama
	Nechansmare	

battleaxe ▶ noun ① a severe blow from a battle-axe: POLEAXE, axe, pike, halberd, tomahawk, war mattock. ② (informal) she's a real battleaxe. See HARRIDAN.

battle cry ▶ noun ① the army's battle cry: WAR CRY, war whoop, rallying call/cry. ② the battle cry of the feminist movement: SLOGAN, motto, watchword, catchphrase.

battlefield ▶ noun BATTLEGROUND, field of battle, field of operations, combat zone, theatre (of war), front.

battlement ▶ noun CASTELLATION, crenellation, parapet, rampart, wall.

batty ▶ adjective (informal). See MAD sense 1.

bauble ▶ noun TRINKET, knick-knack, ornament, frippery, gewgaw, gimcrack, bibelot; N Amer. kickshaw; N Amer. informal tchotchke.

baulk ▶ verb ① I baulk at paying that much: BE UNWILLING TO, draw the line at, jib at, be reluctant to, hesitate over; eschew, resist, scruple to, refuse to, take exception to; draw back from, flinch from, shrink from, recoil from, demur from, not like to, hate to. ② they were baulked by traffic: IMPEDE, obstruct, thwart, hin-

b

der, prevent, check, stop, curb, halt, bar, block, forestall, frustrate.

—OPPOSITES accept, assist.

bawdy ► **adjective** RIBALD, indecent, risqué, racy, rude, spicy, sexy, suggestive, titillating, naughty, improper, indelicate, indecorous, off colour, earthy, broad, locker-room, Rabelaisian; pornographic, obscene, vulgar, crude, coarse, gross, lewd, dirty, filthy, smutty, unseemly, salacious, prurient, lascivious, licentious, near the bone, near the knuckle; *informal* X-rated, blue, raunchy, nudge-nudge; *euphemistic* adult.

—OPPOSITES clean, innocent.

bawl ► **verb** ① 'Come on!' he bawled: SHOUT, yell, roar, bellow, screech, scream, shriek, howl, whoop, bark, trumpet, thunder; *informal* yammer, holler. ② the children continued to bawl: CRY, sob, weep, shed tears, wail, whine, howl, squall, ululate; *Scottish informal* greet.

—OPPOSITES whisper.

► **noun** a terrifying bawl: SHOUT, yell, roar, bellow, screech, scream, howl, whoop; *informal* holler.

—OPPOSITES whisper.

■ **bawl someone out** (*informal*). See REPRIMAND.

bay¹ ► **noun** ships were anchored in the bay: COVE, inlet, indentation, gulf, bight, basin, fjord, arm; natural harbour, anchorage.

bay² ► **noun** there was a bay let into the wall: AL COVE, recess, niche, nook, opening, hollow, cavity, inglenook.

bay³ ► **verb** ① the hounds bayed: HOWL, bark, yelp, yap, cry, bellow, roar. ② the crowd bayed for an encore: CLAMOUR, shout, call, press, yell, scream, shriek, roar; demand, insist on.

■ **at bay** AT A DISTANCE, away, off, at arm's length.

bayonet ► **noun** a man armed with a bayonet: sword, knife, blade, spear, lance, pike, javelin; poetic/literary brand.

► **verb** stragglers were bayoneted: STAB, spear, knife, gore, spike, stick, impale, run through, transfix, gash, slash.

bazaar ► **noun** ① a Turkish bazaar: MARKET, market place, souk, mart, exchange. ② the church bazaar: FÊTE, fair, carnival; fund-raiser, charity event; *Brit* jumble sale, bring-and-buy sale, car boot sale; *N Amer* tag sale.

be ► **verb** ① there was once a king: EXIST, have being, have existence; live, be alive, have life, breathe, draw breath, be extant. ② is there a café here? BE PRESENT, be around, be available, be near, be nearby, be at hand. ③ the trial is tomorrow at half past one: OCCUR, happen, take place, come about, arise, crop up, transpire, fall, materialize, ensue; poetic/literary come to pass, befall, betide. ④ the bed is over there: BE SITUATED, be located, be found, be present, be set, be positioned, be placed, be installed. ⑤ it has been like this for hours: REMAIN, stay, last, continue, survive, endure, persist, prevail; wait, linger, hold on, hang on; formal obtain. ⑥ I'm at college: ATTEND, go to, be present at, take part in; frequent, haunt, patronize.

beach ► **noun** a sandy beach: SEASIDE, seashore, shore, coast, coastline, coastal region, littoral, seaboard, foreshore, water's edge; sands, lido; dated plage; poetic/literary strand.

► **verb** they beached the boat: LAND, ground, strand, run aground, run ashore.

beachcomber ► **noun** SCAVENGER, forager, collector; *informal* scrounger.

beached ► **adjective** STRANDED, grounded, aground, ashore, marooned, high and dry, stuck.

beacon ► **noun** WARNING LIGHT/FIRE, signal (light/fire), danger signal, bonfire; lighthouse, light-tower.

bead ► **noun** ① a string of beads: BALL, pellet, pill, globule, sphere, spheroid, oval, ovoid, orb, round; (beads) necklace, rosary, chaplet. ② beads of sweat: DROPLET, drop, blob, dot, dew-drop, teardrop.

■ **draw/get a bead on** AIM AT, fix on, focus on, zero in on, sight.

beak ► **noun** ① a bird's beak: BILL, nib, mandible; *Scottish & N English* neb. ② (informal) he blew his beak loudly. See NOSE noun sense 1.

beaker ► **noun** CUP, tumbler, glass, mug, drinking vessel.

beam ► **noun** ① an oak beam: JOIST, lintel, rafter, purlin; spar, girder, baulk, timber, plank; support, strut; scantling, transom, stringer. ② a beam of light coming from the window: RAY, shaft, stream, streak, pencil, finger; flash, gleam, glow, glimmer, glint, flare. ③ the beam on her face: GRIN, smile, happy expression, bright look.

—OPPOSITES frown.

► **verb** ① the signal is beamed out: BROADCAST, transmit, relay, send/put out, disseminate; direct, aim. ② the sun beamed down: SHINE, radiate, give off light, glare, gleam. ③ he beamed broadly GRIN, smile, smirk; *informal* be all smiles.

—OPPOSITES frown.

■ **off beam** (*informal*) MISTAKEN, incorrect, inaccurate, wrong, erroneous, off target, out, on the wrong track, wide of the mark, awry.

■ **on the beam** (*informal*) CORRECT, right, accurate, true, on the straight and narrow, on the right track, on the right lines; *informal* on the money, on the mark; *Brit informal* spot on.

bean ► **noun**. See LIST.

Beans, Pulses, and Peas

adzuki/adulid bean	French bean	pea bean
asparagus bean	garbanzo bean	petit pois
pea	bean	pinto bean
black bean	garden pea	puy lentil
black-eyed bean	haricot bean	red bean
bean	horbebean	runner bean
borlotti bean	jack bean	scarlet runner
broad bean	kidney bean	snap bean
butter bean	lentil	snow pea
campbell bean	lima bean	soybean
bean	mungbean	string bean
chickpea	narrowleaf pea	sugar bean
cowpea	pea	sugar pea
four bean	mangetout	sugar snap pea
four bean	mangetout	tick bean
four bean	mangetout	vegetable bean
four bean	mangetout	vegetable bean
four bean	mangetout	vegetable bean

bear¹ ► **verb** ① she was bearing a box of cookies: CARRY, bring, transport, move, convey, take, fetch, deliver; *informal* tote. ② the bag bore my name: DISPLAY, exhibit, be marked with, show, carry, have. ③ will it bear his weight? SUPPORT, carry, hold up, prop up. ④ they can't bear the

cost alone: SUSTAIN, carry, support, shoulder, absorb, take on. ② *she bore no grudge*: HARBOUR, foster, entertain, cherish, nurse, nurture, brood over. ③ *such a solution does not bear close scrutiny*: WITHSTAND, stand up to, stand, put up with, take, cope with, handle, sustain, accept. ④ *I can't bear having him around*: ENDURE, tolerate, put up with, stand, abide, submit to, experience, undergo, go through, countenance, brave, weather, stomach, support; *Scottish thole*; *informal hack*, swallow; *Brit. informal stick*, wear, be doing with; *formal brook*; *archaic suffer*. ⑤ *she bore a son*: GIVE BIRTH TO, bring forth, deliver, be delivered of, have, produce, spawn; *N. Amer. birth*; *informal drop*; *poetic/literary beget*. ⑥ *a shrub that bears yellow berries*: PRODUCE, yield, give forth, give, grow, provide, supply. ⑦ *bear left at the junction*: VEER, curve, swerve, fork, diverge, deviate, turn, bend.

■ **bear oneself** CONDUCT ONESELF, carry oneself, acquit oneself, act, behave, perform; *formal comport oneself*.

■ **bear down on** ADVANCE ON, close in on, move in on, converge on.

■ **bear fruit** YIELD RESULTS, get results, succeed, meet with success, be successful, be effective, be profitable, work, go as planned; *informal pay off*, come off, pan out, do the trick, do the business.

■ **bear something in mind** TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, take into consideration, remember, consider, be mindful, mind, mark, heed.

■ **bear on** BE RELEVANT TO, appertain to, pertain to, relate to, have a bearing on, have relevance to, apply to, be pertinent to.

■ **bear something out** CONFIRM, corroborate, substantiate, endorse, vindicate, give credence to, support, ratify, warrant, uphold, justify, prove, authenticate, verify.

■ **bear up** REMAIN CHEERFUL, grin and bear it; cope, manage, get by, muddle through; *informal hack it*.

■ **bear with** BE PATIENT WITH, show forbearance towards, make allowances for, tolerate, put up with, endure.

■ **bear witness/testify to** TESTIFY TO, be evidence of, be proof of, attest to, evidence, prove, vouch for, demonstrate, show, establish, indicate, reveal, bespeak.

bear² ▶ noun. See list.

—RELATED TERMS ursine.

Bears

black bear	grizzly bear	red panda
brown bear	honey bear	sloth bear
cinnamon bear	Kodiak bear	spectacled bear
giant panda	musquaw	sun bear
	polar bear	

bearable ▶ adjective TOLERABLE, endurable, supportable, sustainable.

beard ▶ noun a black beard: FACIAL HAIR, whiskers, stubble, designer stubble, five o'clock shadow, bristles; goatee, imperial, Vandyke.

▶ verb I bearded him when he was on his own: CONFRONT, face, challenge, brave, come face to face with, meet head on; defy, oppose, stand up against, square up to, dare, throw down the gauntlet to.

bearded ▶ adjective UNSHAVEN, whiskered, whiskery, bewhiskered; stubbly, bristly.
—OPPOSITES clean shaven.

bearer ▶ noun ① a lantern-bearer: CARRIER, porter. ② the bearer of bad news: MESSENGER, agent, conveyor, carrier, emissary. ③ the bearer of the documents: HOLDER, possessor, owner.

bearing ▶ noun ① a man of military bearing: POSTURE, stance, carriage, gait; *Brit. deportment*; *formal comportment*. ② a rather regal bearing: DEMEANOUR, manner, air, aspect, attitude, behaviour, mien, style. ③ this has no bearing on the matter: RELEVANCE, pertinence, connection, appositeness, germaneness, importance, significance, application. ④ a bearing of 015°: DIRECTION, orientation, course, trajectory, heading, tack, path, line, run. ⑤ he tormented her beyond bearing: ENDURANCE, tolerance, toleration. ⑥ I lost my bearings: ORIENTATION, sense of direction; whereabouts, location, position.

beast ▶ noun ① the beasts of the forest: ANIMAL, creature, brute; *N. Amer. informal critter*. ② he is a cruel beast: MONSTER, brute, savage, barbarian, animal, swine, pig, ogre, fiend, sadist, demon, devil.

—RELATED TERMS bestial.

beastly ▶ adjective (*Brit. informal*) ① politics is a beastly profession: AWFUL, horrible, rotten, nasty, foul, objectionable, unpleasant, disagreeable, offensive, vile, hateful, detestable; *informal terrible*, God-awful. ② he was beastly to her: UNKIND, malicious, mean, nasty, unpleasant, unfriendly, spiteful, cruel, vicious, base, foul, malevolent, despicable, contemptible; *informal horrible*, horrid, rotten.

—OPPOSITES pleasant, kind.

beat ▶ verb ① they were beaten with truncheons: HIT, strike, batter, thump, bang, hammer, punch, knock, thrash, pound, pummel, slap, rain blows on; assault, attack, abuse; cudgel, club, birch; *informal wallop*, belt, bash, whack, thwack, clout, clobber, slug, tan, biff, bop, sock, deck, plug, beat the living daylight out of, give someone a good hiding. ② the waves beat all along the shore: BREAK ON/AGAINST, dash against; lash, strike, lap, wash; splash, ripple, roll; *poetic/literary plash*, lave. ③ the metal is beaten into a die: HAMMER, forge, form, shape, mould, work, stamp, fashion, model. ④ her heart was still beating: PULSATE, pulse, palpitate, vibrate, throb; pump, pound, thump, thud, hammer, drum; pitter-patter, go pit-a-pat. ⑤ the eagle beat its wings: FLAP, flutter, thresh, thrash, wave, vibrate, oscillate. ⑥ beat the cream into the mixture: WHISK, mix, blend, whip. ⑦ she beat a path through the grass: TREAD, tramp, trample, wear, flatten, press down. ⑧ the team they need to beat: DEFEAT, conquer, win against, get the better of, vanquish, trounce, rout, overpower, overcome, subdue; *informal lick*, thrash, whip, wipe the floor with, clobber. ⑨ he beat the record: SURPASS, exceed, better, improve on, go one better than, eclipse, transcend, top, trump, cap.

▶ noun ① the song has a good beat: RHYTHM, pulse, metre, time, measure, cadence; stress, accent. ② the beat of hooves: POUNDING, banging, thumping, thudding, booming, hammering, battering, crashing. ③ the beat of her heart: PULSE, pulsating, vibration, throb, palpitation, reverberation; pounding, thump, thud, hammering, drumming; pit-a-pat. ④ a policeman on his beat:

CIRCUIT, round, route, way, path.

adjective (informal) *phew, I'm beat!* See EXHAUSTED sense 1.

■ **beat** a (hasty) retreat. See RETREAT verb sense 1.

■ **beat** it (informal). See RUN verb sense 2.

■ **beat someone/something off** REPEL, fight off, fend off, stave off, repulse, drive away/back, force back, beat back, push back, put to flight.

■ **beat someone up** ASSAULT, attack, mug, thrash; informal knock about/around, do over, work over, rough up, fill in, lay into, lace into, sail into, beat the living daylight out of, let someone have it; *Brit. informal* duff someone up; *N. Amer. informal* beat up on.

beatific ► **adjective** ① a beatific smile: RAPTUROUS, joyful, ecstatic, seraphic, blissful, serene, happy, beaming. ② a beatific vision: BLESSED, exalted, sublime, heavenly, holy, divine, celestial, paradisaical, glorious.

beatify ► **verb** CANONIZE, bless, sanctify, hallow, consecrate, make holy.

beatitude ► **noun** BLESSEDNESS, benediction, grace; bliss, ecstasy, exaltation, supreme happiness, divine joy/rapture; saintliness, sainthood.

beau ► **noun** (dated) ① Sally and her beau: BOY FRIEND, sweetheart, lover, darling, partner, significant other, escort, young man, admirer, suitor. ② an eighteenth-century beau: DANDY, fop, man about town; informal, dated swell; dated pop-injay; archaic coxcomb.

Beaufort scale ► **noun**. See list at WIND.

beautiful ► **adjective** ATTRACTIVE, pretty, handsome, good-looking, alluring, prepossessing; lovely, charming, delightful, appealing, engaging, winsome; ravishing, gorgeous, stunning, arresting, glamorous, bewitching, beguiling; graceful, elegant, exquisite, aesthetic, artistic, decorative, magnificent; *Scottish & N. English* bonny; informal tasty, divine, knockout, drop-dead gorgeous, fanciable; *Brit. informal* smashing; *N. Amer. informal* cute, foxy; *Austral./NZ informal* beaut, spunky; poetic/literary beauteous; archaic comely, fair.

—OPPOSITES ugly.

beautify ► **verb** ADORN, embellish, enhance, decorate, ornament, garnish, gild, smarten, prettify, enrich, glamorize, spruce up, deck (out), trick out, grace; informal get up, do up, do out, tart up.

—OPPOSITES spoil, uglify.

beauty ► **noun** ① the great beauty of the scenery: ATTRACTIVENESS, prettiness, good looks, comeliness, allure; loveliness, charm, appeal, heavenliness; winsomeness, grace, elegance, exquisiteness; splendour, magnificence, grandeur, impressiveness, decorativeness; gorgeousness, glamour; *Scottish & N. English* bonniness; poetic/literary beauteousness, pulchritude. ② she is a beauty: BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, belle, vision, Venus, goddess, beauty queen, English rose, picture; informal looker, good looker, lovely, stunner, knockout, bombshell, dish, cracker, peach, eye-ful, bit of all right; *Brit. informal* smasher. ③ the beauty of this plan: ADVANTAGE, attraction, strength, benefit, boon, blessing, good thing, strong point, virtue, merit, selling point.

—OPPOSITES ugliness, drawback.

beaver

■ **beaver away** (informal). See SLOG verb sense 1.

becalmed ► **adjective** MOTIONLESS, still, at a standstill, at a halt, unmoving, stuck.

because ► **conjunction** SINCE, as, in view of the fact that, owing to the fact that, seeing that/as; informal on account of; poetic/literary for.

—OPPOSITES despite.

■ **because of** ON ACCOUNT OF, as a result of, as a consequence of, owing to, due to; thanks to, by/in virtue of; formal by reason of.

beckon ► **verb** ① the guard beckoned to Benny: GESTURE, signal, wave, gesticulate, motion. ② the countryside beckons you: ENTICE, invite, tempt, coax, lure, charm, attract, draw, call.

become ► **verb** ① she became rich: GROW, get, turn, come to be, get to be; poetic/literary wax. ② he became a tyrant: TURN INTO, change into, be transformed into, be converted into. ③ he became Foreign Secretary: BE APPOINTED (AS), be assigned as, be nominated, be elected (as), be made. ④ the dress becomes her: SUIT, flatter, look good on; set off, show to advantage; informal do something for. ⑤ it ill becomes him to preach the gospel: BEFIT, suit; formal behave.

■ **become of** HAPPEN TO, be the fate of, be the lot of, overtake; poetic/literary befall, betide.

becoming ► **adjective** FLATTERING, fetching; attractive, lovely, pretty, handsome; stylish, elegant, chic, fashionable, tasteful; archaic comely.

bed ► **noun** ① she got into bed: couch, cot, cradle, berth, billet; informal the sack, the hay; *Brit. informal* one's pit; *Scottish informal* one's kip. See list. ② a flower bed: PATCH, plot, border, strip. ③ built on a bed of stones: BASE, foundation, support, prop, substructure, substratum. ④ a river bed: BOTTOM, floor, ground.

► **verb** ① the tiles are bedded in mortar: EMBED, set, fix, insert, inlay, implant, bury, base, plant, settle. ② time to bed out the seedlings: PLANT (OUT), transplant.

■ **bed down**. See GO TO BED.

■ **go to bed** RETIRE, call it a day; go to sleep, have/take a nap, have a doze, get some sleep; informal hit the sack, hit the hay, turn in, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye; *Brit. informal* have a kip, get some kip, hit the pit; *N. Amer. informal* catch some Zs.

Beds

bassinet	feather bed	shakedown
berth	four-poster	sleeping
bunk bed	bed	sleigh bed
camp bed	futon	sofa bed
cane/cot	hammock	table
chaise longue	half-timber	trundle bed
cot	king-size bed	trundle bed
cradle	palace	waterbed
cub	palace	Z-bed
daybed	pine berth	
divan	roadway	

bedaub ► **verb** (poetic/literary) SMEAR, daub, bespatter, spatter, splatter, cover, coat; poetic/literary besmirch, begrime.

bedclothes ► **plural noun** BEDDING, sheets and blankets; bed linen; bedcovers, covers.

bedding ► **noun**. See BEDCLOTHES.

bedeck ▶ verb DECORATE, adorn, ornament, embellish, furnish, garnish, trim, deck, grace, enrich, dress up, trick out; *swathe, wreath, festoon; informal get up, do out; poetic/literary fur-below.*

bedevil ▶ verb AFFLICT, torment, beset, assail, beleaguer, plague, blight, rack, oppress, harry, curse, dog; harass, distress, trouble, worry, torture.

bedlam ▶ noun UPROAR, pandemonium, commotion, mayhem, confusion, disorder, chaos, anarchy, lawlessness; *furor, upheaval, hubbub, hurly-burly, turmoil, riot, ruckus, rumpus, tumult; informal hullabaloo, ructions, snafu.*
—OPPOSITES calm.

bedraggled ▶ adjective DISHEVELLED, disordered, untidy, unkempt, tousled, disarranged, in a mess; *N. Amer. informal mussed.*
—OPPOSITES neat, clean, dry.

bedridden ▶ adjective CONFINED TO BED, immobilized; *informal laid up, flat on one's back.*

bedrock ▶ noun *this fact is the bedrock of our authority:* CORE, basis, base, foundation, roots, heart, backbone, principle, essence, nitty-gritty; *informal nuts and bolts.*

bedspread ▶ noun BEDCOVER, coverlet, quilt, throwover, blanket; *Brit. eiderdown; N. Amer. throw, spread, comforter; dated counterpane.*

bee
—RELATED TERMS apian.

beef (informal) ▶ noun ① *there's plenty of beef on him:* MUSCLE, brawn, bulk; strength, power. ② *his beef was about the cost.* COMPLAINT, criticism, objection, cavil, quibble, grievance, grumble, grouse; *informal gripe, grouch, moan, whinge.*

▶ verb *security was being beefed up:* TOUGHEN UP, strengthen, build up, reinforce, consolidate, invigorate, improve.

beefy ▶ adjective (informal) MUSCULAR, brawny, hefty, burly, hulking, strapping, well built, solid, strong, powerful, heavy, robust, sturdy; *informal hunky, husky.*
—OPPOSITES puny.

beer ▶ noun ALE, brew; *Brit. informal wallop, pint, jar; Austral./NZ informal hop, sherbet. See list.*

Beers

ale	ice beer	pale ale
barley wine	india pale	Pils
bitter	ale (IPA)	Pilsner/Pilsener
bock	lag beer	porter
blown ale	lager	Rauchbier
cask beer	lambic	real ale
chicha	light ale	shandy
craft beer	lim	stout
draught beer	microbrew	wheat beer
guinness	mild	
hotch	milk stout	

beetle ▶ noun. See list at INSECT.

—RELATED TERMS coleopteran, coleopterous.

▶ verb (informal) *he beetled past:* SCURRY, scamper, scuttle, bustle, hurry, hasten, rush, dash; *informal scoot, zip.*

beetling ▶ adjective PROJECTING, protruding, prominent, overhanging, sticking out, jutting out.

befall ▶ verb (poetic/literary) ① *the same fate befell him:* HAPPEN TO, overtake, come upon, be visited on. ② *tell us what befell:* HAPPEN, OCCUR, take place, come about, transpire, materialize; ensue, follow, result; *N. Amer. informal go down; poetic/literary come to pass, betide; formal eventuate.*

befitting ▶ preposition IN KEEPING WITH, as fits, appropriate to, fit for, suitable for, suited to, proper to, right for, compatible with, consistent with, in character with; *archaic meet for.*

befogged ▶ adjective CONFUSED, muddled, fuddled, befuddled, groggy, dizzy, muzzy; *informal dopey, woozy, not with it.*
—OPPOSITES lucid.

before ▶ preposition ① *he dressed up before going out:* PRIOR TO, previous to, earlier than, preparatory to, in preparation for, preliminary to, in anticipation of, in expectation of, in advance of, ahead of, leading up to, on the eve of; *rare anterior to.* ② *he appeared before the judge:* IN FRONT OF, in the presence of, in the sight of. ③ *death before dishonour:* IN PREFERENCE TO, rather than, sooner than.
—RELATED TERMS pre.
—OPPOSITES after.

▶ adverb ① *she has ridden before:* PREVIOUSLY, before now/then, until now/then, up to now/then; earlier, formerly, hitherto, in the past, in days gone by; *formal heretofore.* ② *a small party went on before:* AHEAD, in front, in advance.
—OPPOSITES behind.

beforehand ▶ adverb IN ADVANCE, in readiness, ahead of time; before, before now/then, earlier (on), previously, already, sooner.
—OPPOSITES afterwards.

befriend ▶ verb MAKE FRIENDS WITH, make a friend of; look after, help, protect, stand by.

befuddled ▶ adjective CONFUSED, muddled, addled, bewildered, disorientated, all at sea, fazed, perplexed, dazed, dizzy, stupefied, groggy, muzzy, foggy, fuzzy, dopey, woozy; *informal mixed up; N. Amer. informal discombobulated.*
—OPPOSITES clear.

beg ▶ verb ① *he begged on the streets:* ASK FOR MONEY, seek charity, seek alms; *informal sponge, cadge, scrounge, bum; Brit. informal scab; N. Amer. informal mooch; Austral./NZ informal bludge.* ② *we begged for mercy:* ASK FOR, request, plead for, appeal for, call for, sue for, solicit, seek, press for. ③ *he begged her not to go:* IMPORE, entreat, plead with, appeal to, supplicate, pray to, importune; ask, request, call on, petition; *poetic/literary beseech.*

beget ▶ verb (poetic/literary) ① *he beget a son:* FATHER, sire, have, bring into the world, give life to, bring into being, spawn. ② *violence begets violence:* CAUSE, give rise to, lead to, result in, bring about, create, produce, generate, engender, spawn, occasion, bring on, precipitate, prompt, provoke, kindle, trigger, spark off, touch off, stir up, whip up, induce, inspire, promote; *poetic/literary enkindle.*

beggar ▶ noun ① *he never turned any beggar from his kitchen door:* TRAMP, beggarman, beggarwoman, vagrant, vagabond, mendicant; *N. Amer. hobo; informal scrounger, sponger, cadger, free-loader; Brit. informal dossier; N. Amer. informal bum, moocher, mooch, schnorrer; Austral./NZ informal*

b

bagman, bludger; *rare* clochard. ② (*informal*) the lucky beggar! See PERSON.

► **verb** the fare beggared her for a week: IMPOVERISH, make poor, reduce to penury, bankrupt, make destitute, pauperize, ruin, wipe out, break, cripple; bring someone to their knees.

beggary ► **adjective** ① a beggarly sum: MEAGRE, paltry, pitiful, miserable, miserly, ungenerous, scant, scanty, skimpy, puny, inadequate, insufficient, insubstantial; *informal* measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling, piffling, mingly; *formal* exiguous. ② in beggarly circumstances: WRETCHED, miserable, sordid, squalid, shabby, mean; poor, poverty-stricken, impoverished, distressed, needy, destitute.

—OPPOSITES considerable, affluent.

beggary ► **noun** POVERTY, penury, destitution, ruin, ruination, indigence, impecuniousness, impoverishment, need, privation, pauperism, mendicity, want, hardship, reduced circumstances, straitened circumstances, debt, financial ruin; *rare* pauperdom.

begin ► **verb** ① we began work: START, commence, set about, go about, embark on, launch into, get down to, take up; initiate, set in motion, institute, inaugurate, get ahead with; *informal* get cracking on, get going on. ② he began by saying hello: OPEN, lead off, get under way, get going, get off the ground, start (off), go ahead, commence; *informal* start the ball rolling, kick off, get the show on the road, fire away, take the plunge. ③ when did the illness begin? APPEAR, arise, become apparent, make an appearance, spring up, crop up, turn up, come into existence, come into being, originate, start, commence, develop; *poetic/literary* come to pass.

—RELATED TERMS incipient, inceptive, inchoate, embryonic.

—OPPOSITES finish, end, disappear.

beginner ► **noun** NOVICE, starter, (raw) recruit, newcomer, tyro, fledgling, neophyte, initiate, fresher, freshman, cub, probationer; postulant, novitiate; *N. Amer.* tenderfoot; *informal* rookie, new kid (on the block), newbie, newbie; *N. Amer. informal* greenhorn, probie.

—OPPOSITES expert, veteran.

beginning ► **noun** ① the beginning of socialism: DAWN, birth, inception, conception, origination, genesis, emergence, rise, start, commencement, starting point, launch, onset, outset; day one; *informal* kick-off. ② the beginning of the article: OPENING, start, commencement, first part, introduction, preamble, opening statement. ③ the therapy has its beginnings in China: ORIGIN, source, roots, starting point, birthplace, fons et origo, cradle, spring, early stages, fountainhead; genesis, creation; *poetic/literary* fount, well spring.

—OPPOSITES end, conclusion.

begrimed ► **verb** (*poetic/literary*) DIRTY, soil, sully, stain, mark, muddy; smear, daub, spatter, bespatter, splatter; *poetic/literary* besmirk, bedaub.

begrudge ► **verb** ① she begrudged Brian his affluence: ENVY, grudge; resent, be jealous of, be envious of. ② don't begrudge the cost: RESENT, feel aggrieved about, feel bitter about, be annoyed about, be resentful of, grudge, mind, object to, take exception to, regret; give unwillingly, give reluctantly.

beguile ► **verb** ① she was beguiled by its beauty: CHARM, attract, enchant, entrance, win over, woo, captivate, bewitch, spellbind, dazzle, hypnotize, mesmerize, seduce. ② the programme has been beguiling children for years: ENTERTAIN, amuse, delight, please, occupy, absorb, engage, distract, divert, fascinate, enthrall, engross.

—OPPOSITES repel, bore.

beguiling ► **adjective** CHARMING, enchanting, entrancing, charismatic, captivating, bewitching, spellbinding, hypnotizing, mesmerizing, magnetic, alluring, enticing, tempting, inviting, seductive, irresistible; *informal* come-hither.

—OPPOSITES unappealing.

behalf

■ on behalf of/on someone's behalf ① I am writing on behalf of my client: AS A REPRESENTATIVE OF, as a spokesperson for, for, in the name of, in place of, on the authority of, at the behest of. ② a campaign on behalf of cycling: IN THE INTERESTS OF, in support of, for, for the benefit of, for the good of, for the sake of.

behave ► **verb** ① she behaved badly: CONDUCT ONESELF, act, acquit oneself, bear oneself; *formal* comport oneself; *archaic* deport oneself. ② the children behaved themselves: ACT CORRECTLY, act properly, conduct oneself well, be well behaved, be good; be polite, show good manners, mind one's manners, mind one's Ps and Qs.

—OPPOSITES misbehave.

behaviour ► **noun** ① his behaviour was inexcusable: CONDUCT, bearing, etiquette; actions, doings; manners, ways; *N. Amer.* deportment; *formal* comportment. ② the behaviour of these organisms: FUNCTIONING, action, performance, operation, working, reaction, response.

behead ► **verb** DECAPITATE, cut someone's head off, guillotine.

behest ► **noun** (*poetic/literary*) INSTRUCTION, requirement, demand, insistence, bidding, request, wish, desire, will; command, order, decree, ruling, directive; *informal* say-so.

behind ► **preposition** ① he hid behind a tree: AT THE BACK/REAR OF, beyond, on the far/other side of; *N. Amer.* in back of. ② a guard ran behind him: AFTER, following, at the back/rear of, hard on the heels of, in the wake of. ③ you are behind the rest of the class: LESS ADVANCED THAN, slower than, weaker than, inferior to. ④ he was behind the bombings: RESPONSIBLE FOR, at the bottom of, the cause of, the source of, the organizer of; to blame for, culpable of, guilty of. ⑤ they have the nation behind them: SUPPORTING, backing, for, on the side of, in agreement with; financing; *informal* rooting for.

—OPPOSITES in front of, ahead of.

► **adverb** ① a man followed behind: AFTER, afterwards, at the back/end, in the rear. ② I looked behind: OVER ONE'S SHOULDER, to/towards the back, to/towards the rear, backwards. ③ we're behind, so don't stop: (RUNNING) LATE, behind schedule, behindhand, not on time, behind time. ④ he was behind with his subscription: IN ARREARS, overdue; late, unpunctual, behindhand.

—OPPOSITES in front, ahead.

► **noun** (*informal*) he sat on his behind. See BOTTOM noun sense 6.

■ put something behind one CONSIGN TO THE PAST, put down to experience, regard as water under the bridge, forget about, ignore.

behindhand ► **adverb** BEHIND, behind schedule/time; late, belated, unpunctual, slow.
—**OPPOSITES** ahead.

behold ► **verb** (*poetic/literary*) *no eyes beheld them*: SEE, observe, view, look at, watch, survey, gaze at/upon, regard, contemplate, inspect, eye; catch sight of, glimpse, spot, spy, notice; *informal* clap eyes on, have/take a gander at, get a load of; *Brit. informal* have/take a dekho at, have/take a butcher's at, have/take a shufti at, clock; *N. Amer. informal* eyeball; *poetic/literary* espy, descry.

► **exclamation** (*archaic*) behold, here I am! LOOK, see; *archaic* lo.

beholden ► **adjective** INDEBTED, in someone's debt, obligated, under an obligation; grateful, owing a debt of gratitude.

behave ► **verb** (*formal*) ① *it behoves me to go*: BE INCUMBENT ON, be obligatory for, be required of, be expected of, be appropriate for. ② *it ill behoves them to comment*: BEFIT, become, suit.

beige ► **adjective** FAWN, pale brown, buff, sand, sandy, oatmeal, biscuit, coffee, coffee-coloured, café au lait, camel, ecru.

being ► **noun** ① *she is warmed by his very being*: EXISTENCE, living, life, reality, actuality, essential nature, lifeblood, vital force; *Philosophy* esse. ② *God is alive in the being of man*: SOUL, spirit, nature, essence, inner being, inner self, psyche; heart, bosom, breast; *Philosophy* quiddity, pneuma. ③ *an enlightened being*: CREATURE, life form, living entity, living thing, (living) soul, individual, person, human (being).

belabour ► **verb** ① *he belaboured the driver about the head*: BEAT, hit, strike, smack, batter, pummel, pound, buffet, rain blows on, thrash; *N. Amer.* beat up on; *informal* wallop, whack, clout, clobber, bop, biff, sock, plug; *N. Amer. informal* whale; *archaic* smite. ② *he was belaboured in the press*: CRITICIZE, attack, berate, censure, condemn, denounce, denigrate, revile, pillory, flay, lambaste, savage, tear/pull to pieces, run down; *informal* knock, slam, pan, bash, take apart, crucify, hammer, lay into, roast; *Brit. informal* slate, rubbish, slag off; *N. Amer. informal* pummel, cut up; *formal* castigate, excoriate. ③ *don't belabour the point*: OVER-ELABORATE, labour, dwell on, harp on about, hammer away at; overdo, overplay, over-dramatize, make too much of, place too much emphasis on; *informal* flog to death, drag out, make a big thing of, blow out of all proportion.

—**OPPOSITES** praise, understate.

belated ► **adjective** LATE, overdue, behindhand, behind time, behind schedule, delayed, tardy, unpunctual.

—**OPPOSITES** early.

belch ► **verb** ① *onions make me belch*: bring up wind; *informal* BURP; *Scottish & N. English informal* rift. ② *the furnace belched flames*: EMIT, give off, give out, pour out, discharge, disgorge, spew out, spit out, vomit, cough up; *poetic/literary* disembogue.

► **noun** *he gave a loud belch*: *informal* BURP; *Scottish & N. English informal* rift; *formal* eructation.

beleaguered ► **adjective** ① *the beleaguered garrison*: BESIEGED, under siege, blockaded, surrounded, encircled, hemmed in, under attack. ② *a beleaguered government*: HARD-PRESSED, troubled, in difficulties, under pressure, under

stress, with one's back to the wall, in a tight corner, in a tight spot; *informal* up against it.

belie ► **verb** ① *his eyes belied his words*: CONTRADICT, be at odds with, call into question, give the lie to, show/prove to be false, disprove, debunk, discredit, controvert, negative; *formal* confute. ② *his image belies his talent*: CONCEAL, cover, disguise; misrepresent, falsify, give a false idea/account of.

—**OPPOSITES** testify to, reveal.

belief ► **noun** ① *it's my belief that age is irrelevant*: OPINION, view, conviction, judgement, thinking, way of thinking, idea, impression, theory, conclusion, notion. ② *belief in God*: FAITH, trust, reliance, confidence, credence. ③ *traditional beliefs*: IDEOLOGY, principle, ethic, tenet, canon; doctrine, teaching, dogma, article of faith, creed, credo.

—**OPPOSITES** disbelief, doubt.

believable ► **adjective** CREDIBLE, plausible, tenable, able to hold water, conceivable, likely, probable, possible, feasible, reasonable, with a ring of truth.

—**OPPOSITES** inconceivable.

believe ► **verb** ① *I don't believe you*: BE CONVINCED BY, trust, have confidence in, consider honest, consider truthful. ② *do you believe that story?* REGARD AS TRUE, accept, be convinced by, give credence to, credit, trust, put confidence in; *informal* swallow, buy, go for. ③ *I believe he worked for you*: THINK, be of the opinion that, have an idea that, imagine, suspect, suppose, assume, presume, take it, conjecture, surmise, conclude, deduce, understand, be given to understand, gather, fancy, guess, dare say; *informal* reckon, figure; *archaic* ween.

—**OPPOSITES** doubt.

► **believe in** ① *she believed in God*: BE CONVINCED OF THE EXISTENCE OF, be sure of the existence of. ② *I believe in lots of exercise*: HAVE FAITH IN, pin one's faith on, trust in, have every confidence in, cling to, set (great) store by, value, be convinced by, be persuaded by; subscribe to, approve of; *informal* swear by, rate.

believer ► **noun** DEVOTEE, adherent, disciple, follower, supporter, upholder, worshipper.

—**OPPOSITES** infidel, sceptic.

belittle ► **verb** DISPARAGE, denigrate, run down, deprecate, depreciate, downgrade, play down, trivialize, minimize, make light of, treat lightly; *informal* do down, pooch-pooch; *formal* derogate; *rare* misprize.

—**OPPOSITES** praise, magnify.

belle ► **noun** BEAUTY, vision, picture, pin-up, beauty queen, English rose, goddess, Venus; *informal* looker, good looker, lovely, stunner, knockout, bombshell, dish, cracker, bobby-dazzler, peach, honey, eyeful, sight for sore eyes, bit of all right; *Brit. informal* smasher.

bellicose ► **adjective** BELLIGERENT, aggressive, hostile, antagonistic, pugnacious, truculent, confrontational, contentious, militant, combative; *informal* spoiling for a fight; *Brit. informal* stropky, bolshie; *N. Amer. informal* scrappy; *rare* oppugnant.

—**OPPOSITES** peaceable.

belligerent ► **adjective** ① *a belligerent stare*: HOSTILE, aggressive, threatening, antagonistic, pugnacious, bellicose, truculent, confrontational, contentious, militant, combative; *informal*

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spoiling for a fight; *Brit. informal* strotty, bolshie; *N. Amer. informal* scrappy; *rare* oppugnant. ② the belligerent states: *WARRING*, at war, combatant, fighting, battling.
-OPPOSITES peaceable, neutral.

bellow ▶ verb she bellowed in his ear: ROAR, shout, bawl, thunder, trumpet, boom, bark, yell, shriek, howl, scream; raise one's voice; *informal* holler.

-OPPOSITES whisper.

▶ noun a bellow of pain: ROAR, shout, bawl, bark, yell, yelp, shriek, howl, scream; *informal* holler.
-OPPOSITES whisper.

belly ▶ noun he scratched his belly: STOMACH, abdomen, paunch, middle, midriff, girth; *informal* tummy, tum, gut, guts, insides, pot, pot belly, beer belly, beer gut, bread basket; *Scottish informal* kyte; *N. Amer. informal* bay window; *dated* corporation.

▶ verb her skirt belled out: BILLOW (OUT), bulge (out), balloon (out), bag (out), fill (out); distend.
-OPPOSITES sag, flap.

belong ▶ verb ① the house belongs to his mother: BE OWNED BY, be the property of, be the possession of, be held by, be in the hands of. ② I belong to a trade union: BE A MEMBER OF, be in, be affiliated to, be allied to, be associated with, be linked to, be an adherent of. ③ the garden belongs to the basement flat: BE PART OF, be attached to, be an adjunct of, go with. ④ these creatures belong with bony fish: BE CLASSED, be classified, be categorized, be included, have a place, be located, be situated, be found, lie. ⑤ she doesn't belong here: FIT IN, be suited to, have a rightful place, have a home; *informal* go, click.

belonging ▶ noun AFFILIATION, acceptance, association, attachment, integration, closeness; rapport, fellow feeling, fellowship.
-OPPOSITES alienation.

belongings ▶ plural noun POSSESSIONS, effects, worldly goods, chattels, property; *informal* gear, tackle, kit, things, stuff, bits and pieces, bits and bobs; *Brit. informal* clobber, gubbins.

beloved ▶ adjective her beloved brother: DARLING, dear, dearest, precious, adored, much loved, cherished, treasured, prized, highly regarded, admired, esteemed, worshipped, revered, venerated, idolized.

-OPPOSITES hated.

▶ noun he watched his beloved: SWEETHEART, love, darling, dearest, lover, girlfriend, boyfriend, young lady, young man, lady friend, man friend; *informal* steady, baby, angel, honey, pet; *poetic/literary* swain; *dated* beau; *archaic* paramour, doxy.

below ▶ preposition ① the water rushed below them: BENEATH, under, underneath, further down than, lower than. ② the sun is below average: LESS THAN, lower than, under, not as much as, smaller than. ③ a captain is below a major: LOWER THAN, under, inferior to, subordinate to, subservient to.

-RELATED TERMS hypo-, sub-.

-OPPOSITES above, over, more than.

▶ adverb ① I could see what was happening below: FURTHER DOWN, lower down, in a lower position, underneath, beneath. ② the statements below: UNDERNEATH, following, further on, at a later point.

belt ▶ noun ① the belt of her coat: GIRDLE, sash, strap, cummerbund, band; *poetic/literary* cincture; *historical* baldric. ② farmers in the cotton belt: REGION, area, district, zone, sector, territory; tract, strip, stretch. ③ (informal) a belt across the face: BLOW, punch, smack, crack, slap, bang, thump, knock, box; *informal* clout, bash, clip, biff, whack, thwack, wallop, sock, swipe; *Brit. informal* slosh; *N. Amer. informal* boff, bust, slug, whale; *archaic* smite.

▶ verb ① she belted the children in: FASTEN, tie, bind; *poetic/literary* gird. ② (informal) a guy belted him in the face: HIT, strike, smack, slap, bang, beat, punch, thump, welt; *informal* clout, bash, biff, whack, thwack, wallop, sock, slog, clobber, bop, lam, larrup; *N. Amer. informal* boff, bust, slug, whale; *archaic* smite. ③ (informal) he belted down the hill. See SPEED verb sense 1.

■ below the belt UNFAIR, unjust, unacceptable, inequitable; unethical, unprincipled, immoral, unscrupulous, unsporting, sneaky, dishonourable, dishonest, underhand; *informal* low-down, dirty; *Brit. informal* out of order, off, a bit thick, not cricket.

■ belt up (informal) BE QUIET, quieten down, be silent, fall silent, hush, stop talking, hold your tongue; *informal* shut up, shut your face/mouth/trap, button your lip, pipe down, cut the cackle, put a sock in it; *Brit. informal* shut your gob, wrap up; *N. Amer. informal* save it.

bemoan ▶ verb LAMENT, bewail, mourn, grieve over, sorrow over, cry over; deplore, complain about; *archaic* plain over.

-OPPOSITES rejoice at, applaud.

bemused ▶ adjective BEWILDERED, confused, puzzled, perplexed, baffled, mystified, nonplussed, muddled, dumbfounded, at sea, at a loss, taken aback, disoriented, disconcerted; *informal* flummoxed, bamboozled, clueless, fazed; *N. Amer. informal* discombobulated.

bemusement ▶ noun BEWILDERMENT, confusion, puzzlement, perplexity, bafflement, befuddlement, stupefaction, mystification, disorientation; *informal* bamboozlement; *N. Amer. informal* discombobulation.

bench ▶ noun ① he sat on a bench: PEW, form, stall, settle. ② a laboratory bench: WORKBENCH, work table, worktop, work surface, counter. ③ the bench heard the evidence: JUDGES, magistrates, judiciary; court.

benchmark ▶ noun STANDARD, point of reference, gauge, criterion, specification, canon, convention, guide, guideline, guiding principle, norm, touchstone, yardstick, barometer, indicator, measure, model, exemplar, pattern.

bend ▶ verb ① the frames can be bent to fit your face: CURVE, crook, flex, angle, hook, bow, arch, buckle, warp, contort, distort, deform. ② the highway bent to the left: TURN, curve, incline, swing, veer, deviate, diverge, fork, change course, curl, loop. ③ he bent down to tie his shoe: STOOP, bow, crouch, hunch, lean down/over. ④ they want to bend me to their will: MOULD, shape, manipulate, direct, force, press, influence, incline, sway. ⑤ he bent his mind to the question: DIRECT, turn, train, steer, set.

-OPPOSITES straighten.

▶ noun he came to a bend in the road: CURVE, turn, corner, kink, angle, arc, crescent, twist, crook, deviation, deflection, loop; *dogleg*, oxbow, zig-

zag; *Brit.* hairpin bend, hairpin turn, hairpin; rare incurvation.

—OPPOSITES straight.

■ **bend over backwards** (*informal*) TRY ONE'S HARDEST, do one's best, do one's utmost, do all one can, give one's all, make every effort; *informal* do one's damndest, go all out, pull out all the stops, bust a gut, move heaven and earth.

beneath ▶ **preposition** ① we sat beneath the trees: UNDER, underneath, below, at the foot of, at the bottom of; lower than. ② the rank beneath theirs: INFERIOR TO, below, not so important as, lower in status than, subordinate to, subservient to. ③ such an attitude was beneath her: UNWORTHY OF, unbecoming to, degrading to, below.

—OPPOSITES above.

▶ **adverb** sand with rock beneath: UNDERNEATH, below, further down, lower down.

—OPPOSITES above.

benediction ▶ **noun** ① the priest said a benediction: BLESSING, prayer, invocation; grace. ② filled with heavenly benediction: BLESSEDNESS, beatitude, bliss, grace.

benefactor, benefactress ▶ **noun** PATRON, supporter, backer, sponsor; donor, contributor, subscriber; *informal* angel.

beneficent ▶ **adjective** BENEVOLENT, charitable, altruistic, humanitarian, neighbourly, public-spirited, philanthropic; generous, magnanimous, munificent, unselfish, unstinting, open-handed, liberal, lavish, bountiful; *poetic/literary* bounteous.

—OPPOSITES unkind, mean.

beneficial ▶ **adjective** ADVANTAGEOUS, favourable, helpful, useful, of use, of benefit, of assistance, valuable, of value, profitable, rewarding, gainful.

—OPPOSITES disadvantageous.

beneficiary ▶ **noun** HEIR, heiress, inheritor, legatee; recipient; *Law* devisee, cestui que trust; *Scottish Law* heritor.

benefit ▶ **noun** ① for the benefit of others: GOOD, sake, welfare, well-being, advantage, comfort, ease, convenience; help, aid, assistance, service. ② the benefits of working for a large firm: ADVANTAGE, reward, merit, boon, blessing, virtue; bonus; value; *informal* perk; *formal* perquisite. ③ state benefit: SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS, public assistance allowance, welfare; charity, donations, gifts, financial assistance; *informal* the dole; *Scottish informal* the buroo, the broo.

—OPPOSITES detriment, disadvantage.

▶ **verb** ① the deal benefited them both: BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO, be beneficial to, be of advantage to, be to the advantage of, profit, do good to, be of service to, serve, be useful to, be of use to, be helpful to, be of help to, help, aid, assist, be of assistance to; better, improve, strengthen, boost, advance, further. ② they may benefit from drugs: PROFIT, gain, reap benefits, reap reward, make money; make the most of, exploit, turn to one's advantage, put to good use, do well out of; *informal* cash in, make a killing.

—OPPOSITES damage, suffer.

benevolence ▶ **noun** KINDNESS, kind-heartedness, big-heartedness, goodness, goodwill, charity, altruism, humanitarianism, compassion, philanthropism; generosity, magnanimity, munificence, unselfishness, open-handedness,

beneficence; *poetic/literary* bounty, bounteousness.

—OPPOSITES spite, miserliness.

benevolent ▶ **adjective** ① a benevolent patriarch: KIND, kindly, kind-hearted, big-hearted, good-natured, good, benign, compassionate, caring, altruistic, humanitarian, philanthropic; generous, magnanimous, munificent, unselfish, open-handed, beneficent; *poetic/literary* bounteous. ② a benevolent institution: CHARITABLE, non-profit-making, non-profit, not-for-profit; *formal* eleemosynary.

—OPPOSITES unkind, tight-fisted.

benighted ▶ **adjective** IGNORANT, unenlightened, uneducated, uninformed, backward, simple; primitive, uncivilized, unsophisticated, philistine, barbarian, barbaric, barbarous; *poetic/literary* nescient; *archaic* rude.

—OPPOSITES enlightened.

benign ▶ **adjective** ① a benign grandfatherly role: KINDLY, kind, warm-hearted, good-natured, friendly, warm, affectionate, agreeable, genial, congenial, cordial, approachable, tender-hearted, gentle, sympathetic, compassionate, caring, well disposed, benevolent. ② a benign climate: TEMPERATE, mild, gentle, balmy, soft, pleasant; healthy, wholesome, salubrious. ③ (*Medicine*) a benign tumour: HARMLESS, non-malignant, non-cancerous, innocent; *Medicine* benignant.

—OPPOSITES unfriendly, hostile, unhealthy, unfavourable, malignant.

bent ▶ **adjective** ① the bucket had a bent handle: TWISTED, crooked, warped, contorted, deformed, misshapen, out of shape, irregular; bowed, arched, curved, angled, hooked, kinked; *N. Amer. informal* pretzeled. ② (*Brit. informal*) a bent policeman. See CORRUPT adjective sense 1. ③ (*Brit. informal*). See HOMOSEXUAL adjective.

—OPPOSITES straight, law-abiding, heterosexual.

▶ **noun** an artistic bent: INCLINATION, leaning, tendency; talent, gift, flair, aptitude, facility, skill, capability, capacity; predisposition, disposition, instinct, orientation, predilection, proclivity, propensity.

■ **bent on** INTENT ON, determined on, set on, insistent on, resolved on, hell-bent on; committed to, single-minded about, obsessed with, fanatical about, fixated on.

benumbed ▶ **adjective** NUMB, unfeeling, insensible, stupefied, groggy, foggy, fuzzy, muzzy, dazed, dizzy; befuddled, fuddled, disoriented, confused, bewildered, all at sea; *informal* dopey, woozy, mixed up; *N. Amer. informal* discombobulated.

—OPPOSITES perceptive.

bequeath ▶ **verb** LEAVE (IN ONE'S WILL), will, make over, pass on, hand on/down, entrust, grant, transfer; donate, give; endow on, bestow on, confer on; *Law* demise, devise, convey.

bequest ▶ **noun** LEGACY, inheritance, endowment, settlement; estate, heritage; bestowal, bequeathal; *Law* devise; *Law, dated* hereditament.

berate ▶ **verb** SCOLD, rebuke, reprimand, reproach, reprove, admonish, chide, criticize, upbraid, take to task, pull up, read someone the Riot Act, haul over the coals; *informal* tell off, give someone a talking-to, give someone a telling-off, give someone a dressing-down, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles,

b

send someone away with a flea in their ear, bawl out, come down on, tear into, put on the mat, slap down, blast; *Brit. informal* tick off, have a go at, carpet, give someone a rocket, give someone a rollicking, tear someone off a strip; *Brit. informal, dated* give someone a wiggling; *N. Amer. informal* chew out, ream out, take to the woodshed; *Austral. informal* monster; *formal* castigate; *dated* call down, rate; *rare* reprehend, ob-jurgate.

—OPPOSITES praise.

bereaved ▶ *adjective* orphaned, widowed; mourning, grieving.

bereavement ▶ *noun* DEATH IN THE FAMILY, loss, passing (away), demise; *formal* decease.

bereft ▶ *adjective* DEPRIVED, robbed, stripped, devoid, bankrupt; wanting, in need of, lacking, without; *informal* minus, sans, clean out of.

berry ▶ *noun*. See list at FRUIT.

berserk ▶ *adjective* MAD, crazy, insane, out of one's mind, hysterical, frenzied, crazed, demented, maniacal, manic, frantic, raving, wild, out of control, amok, on the rampage; *informal* off one's head, off the deep end, ape, bananas, bonkers, nuts, hyper; *Brit. informal* spare, crack-ers, barmy; *N. Amer. informal* postal.

berth ▶ *noun* ① a 4-berth cabin: BUNK, bed, cot, couch, hammock. ② the vessel left its berth: MOORING, dock.

▶ *verb* ① the ship berthed in London Docks: DOCK, moor, land, tie up, make fast. ② the boats each berth six: ACCOMMODATE, sleep.

■ give someone/something a wide berth AVOID, shun, keep away from, stay away from, steer clear of, keep at arm's length, have nothing to do with; dodge, sidestep, circumvent, skirt round.

beseech ▶ *verb* (*poetic/literary*) IMPLORE, beg, entreat, plead with, appeal to, call on, supplicate, importune, pray to, ask, request, petition.

beset ▶ *verb* ① he is beset by fears: PLAGUE, bedevil, assail, beleague, afflict, torment, rack, oppress, trouble, worry, harass, dog. ② they were beset by enemy forces: SURROUND, besiege, hem in, shut in, fence in, box in, encircle, ring round.

beside ▶ *preposition* ① Kate walked beside him: ALONGSIDE, by/at the side of, next to, parallel to, abreast of, at someone's elbow; adjacent to, next door to, cheek by jowl with; bordering, abutting, neighbouring. ② beside Paula, she felt dumsy: COMPARED WITH/TO, in comparison with/to, by comparison with, next to, against, contrasted with, in contrast to/with.

—RELATED TERMS para-.

■ beside oneself DISTRAUGHT, overcome, out of one's mind, frantic, desperate, distracted, at one's wits' end, frenzied, wound up, worked up; hysterical, unhinged, mad, crazed, berserk, demented.

■ beside the point. See POINT¹.

besides ▶ *preposition* who did you ask besides Mary? IN ADDITION TO, as well as, over and above, above and beyond, on top of; apart from, other than, aside from, but for, save for, not counting, excluding, not including, except, with the exception of, excepting, leaving aside; *N. Amer. informal* outside of; *archaic* forbye.

▶ *adverb* ① there's a lot more besides: IN ADDITION, as well, too, also, into the bargain, on top of that,

to boot; *archaic* therewithal. ② besides, he's a man: FURTHERMORE, moreover, further; anyway, anyhow, in any case, be that as it may; *informal* what's more; *N. Amer. informal* anyways.

besiege ▶ *verb* ① the English army besieged Leth: LAY SIEGE TO, beleague, blockade, surround; *archaic* invest. ② fans besieged his hotel: SURROUND, mob, crowd round, swarm round, throng round, ring round, encircle. ③ guilt besieged him: OPPRESS, torment, torture, rack, plague, afflict, haunt, harrow, beset, beleague, trouble, bedevil, prey on. ④ he was besieged with requests: OVERWHELM, inundate, deluge, flood, swamp, snow under; bombard.

besmirch ▶ *verb* (*poetic/literary*) SULLY, tarnish, blacken, drag through the mud/mire, stain, taint, smear, disgrace, dishonour, bring discredit to, damage, ruin.

—OPPOSITES honour, enhance.

besotted ▶ *adjective* INFATUATED, smitten, in love, head over heels in love, obsessed; doting on, greatly enamoured of; *informal* bowled over by, swept off one's feet by, struck on, crazy about, mad about, wild about, gone on, carrying a torch for; *Brit. informal* potty about.

bespatter ▶ *verb* SPLATTER, spatter, splash, speck, fleck, spot; dirty, soil; *Scottish & Irish* slabber; *informal* splotch, splodge, splosh.

bespeak ▶ *verb* ① a tree-lined road which bespoke money: INDICATE, be evidence of, be a sign of, denote, point to, testify to, evidence, reflect, demonstrate, show, manifest, display, signify; reveal, betray; *informal* spell; *poetic/literary* be-token. ② he had bespoken a room: ORDER, reserve, book; *informal* bag.

—OPPOSITES belie.

best ▶ *adjective* ① the best hotel in Paris: FINEST, greatest, top, foremost, leading, pre-eminent, premier, prime, first, chief, principal, supreme, of the highest quality, superlative, par excellence, unrivalled, second to none, without equal, nonpareil, unsurpassed, peerless, matchless, unparalleled, unbeaten, unbeatable, optimum, optimal, ultimate, incomparable, ideal, perfect; highest, record-breaking; *informal* star, number-one, a cut above the rest, top-drawer; *formal* unexampled. ② do whatever you think best: MOST ADVANTAGEOUS, most useful, most suitable, most fitting, most appropriate; most prudent, most sensible, most advisable.

—OPPOSITES worst.

▶ *adverb* ① the best-dressed man: TO THE HIGHEST STANDARD, in the best way. ② the food he liked best: MOST, to the highest/greatest degree. ③ this is best done at home: MOST ADVANTAGEOUSLY, most usefully, most suitably, most fittingly, most appropriately; most sensibly, most prudently, most wisely; better.

—OPPOSITES worst, least.

▶ *noun* ① only the best will do: FINEST, choicest, top, cream, choice, prime, elite, crème de la crème, flower, jewel in the crown, nonpareil; *informal* tops, pick of the bunch. ② she dressed in her best: BEST CLOTHES, finery, Sunday best; *informal* best bib and tucker, glad rags. ③ give her my best: BEST WISHES, regards, kind/kindest regards, greetings, compliments, felicitations, respects; love.

▶ *verb* (*informal*) she was not to be bested: DEFEAT, beat, get the better of, outdo, outwit, outsmart, worst, be more than a match for, prevail over,

vanquish, trounce, triumph over; surpass, outclass, outshine, put someone in the shade, overshadow, eclipse; *informal* lick, get one over on.

■ **at one's best** ON TOP FORM, at one's peak, in one's prime, in the pink, in the best of health.

■ **do one's best** DO ONE'S UTMOST, try one's hardest, make every effort, do all one can, give one's all; *informal* bend over backwards, do one's damndest, go all out, pull out all the stops, bust a gut, break one's neck, move heaven and earth.

■ **had best** OUGHT TO, should.

bestial ► *adjective* ① *Stanley's bestial behaviour*: SAVAGE, brutish, brutal, barbarous, barbaric, cruel, vicious, violent, inhuman, subhuman; depraved, degenerate, perverted, immoral, warped. ② *man's bestial ancestors*: ANIMAL, beast-like, animalistic; *rare* zoic.

—OPPOSITES civilized, humane.

bestir

■ **bestir oneself** EXERT ONESELF, make an effort, rouse oneself, get going, get moving, get on with it; *informal* shake a leg, look lively, get cracking, get weaving, get one's finger out, get off one's backside; *Brit. informal, dated* stir one's stumps.

bestow ► *verb* CONFER ON, grant, accord, afford, endow someone with, vest in, present, award, give, donate, entrust with, vouchsafe.

bestride ► *verb* ① *the oilfield bestrides the border*: EXTEND ACROSS, lie on both sides of, straddle, span, bridge. ② *he bestrode his horse*: STRADDLE, sit/stand astride. ③ *Italy bestrode Europe in opera*: DOMINATE, tower over/above.

best-seller ► *noun* great success, brand leader; *informal* hit, smash (hit), blockbuster, chart-topper, chartbuster.

—OPPOSITES failure, flop.

best-selling ► *adjective* VERY SUCCESSFUL, very popular; *informal* number-one, chart-topping, hit, smash.

bet ► *verb* ① *he bet £10 on the favourite*: WAGER, gamble, stake, risk, venture, hazard, chance; put/lay money, speculate; *informal* punt; *Brit. informal* have a flutter, chance one's arm. ② (*informal*) *I bet it was your idea*: BE CERTAIN, be sure, be convinced, be confident; expect, predict, forecast, guess; *Brit. informal* put one's shirt on.

► *noun* ① *a £20 bet*: WAGER, gamble, stake, ante; *Brit. informal* flutter, punt. ② (*informal*) *my bet is that they'll lose*: PREDICTION, forecast, guess; opinion, belief, feeling, view, theory. ③ (*informal*) *your best bet is to go early*: OPTION, choice, alternative, course of action, plan.

bête noire ► *noun* BUGBEAR, pet hate, bogey; a thorn in one's flesh/side, the bane of one's life; *N. Amer.* bugaboo.

—OPPOSITES favourite.

betide ► *verb* (*poetic/literary*) HAPPEN, OCCUR, take place, come about, transpire, arise, chance; result, ensue, follow, develop, supervene; *N. Amer. informal* go down; *formal* eventuate; *poetic/literary* come to pass, befall; *archaic* hap, bechance.

betoken ► *verb* (*poetic/literary*) ① *a small gift betokening regret*: INDICATE, be a sign of, be evidence of, evidence, manifest, mean, signify, denote, represent, show, demonstrate, bespeak; *informal* spell. ② *the blue sky betokened a day of good weather*: FORETELL, signal, give notice of,

herald, proclaim, prophesy, foreshadow, presage, be a harbinger of, portend, augur, be an omen of, be a sign of, be a warning of, warn of, bode; *poetic/literary* foretoken, forebode.

betray ► *verb* ① *he betrayed his own brother*: BREAK ONE'S PROMISE TO, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, break faith with, play someone false; inform on/against, give away, denounce, sell out, stab in the back; *informal* split on, rat on, peach on, stitch up, do the dirty on, sell down the river, squeal on; *Brit. informal* grass on, shop, sneak on; *N. Amer. informal* rat out, drop a/the dime on, finger; *Austral./NZ informal* dob on, point the bone at. ② *he betrayed a secret*: REVEAL, disclose, divulge, tell, give away, leak; unmask, expose, bring out into the open; let slip, let out, let drop, blurt out; *informal* blab, spill.

—OPPOSITES be loyal to, hide.

betrayal ► *noun* DISLOYALTY, treachery, bad faith, faithlessness, falseness, Punic faith; duplicity, deception, double-dealing; breach of faith, breach of trust, stab in the back; double-cross, sell-out; *poetic/literary* perfidy.

—OPPOSITES loyalty.

betrayor ► *noun* TRAITOR, back-stabber, Judas, double-crosser; renegade, quisling, double agent, collaborator, informer, mole, stool pigeon; turncoat, defector; *informal* snake in the grass, rat, scab; *Brit. informal* grass, supergrass, nark; *N. Amer. informal* fink, stoolie.

betrothal ► *noun* (*dated*) ENGAGEMENT, marriage contract; *archaic* espousal.

betrothed ► *adjective* (*dated*) ENGAGED (TO BE MARRIED), promised/pledged in marriage, attached; *informal* spoken for; *poetic/literary* affianced; *archaic* plighted, espoused.

—OPPOSITES unattached.

better ► *adjective* ① *better facilities*: SUPERIOR, finer, of higher quality; preferable; *informal* a cut above, streets ahead, head and shoulders above, ahead of the pack/field. ② *there couldn't be a better time*: MORE ADVANTAGEOUS, more suitable, more fitting, more appropriate, more useful, more valuable, more desirable. ③ *are you better?* HEALTHIER, fitter, stronger; well, cured, healed, recovered; recovering, on the road to recovery, making progress, improving, on the mend.

—OPPOSITES worse, inferior.

► *adverb* ① *I played better today*: TO A HIGHER STANDARD, in a superior/finer way. ② *this may suit you better*: MORE, to a greater degree/extent. ③ *the money could be better spent*: MORE WISELY, more sensibly, more suitably, more fittingly, more advantageously.

► *verb* ① *he bettered the record*: SURPASS, improve on, beat, exceed, top, cap, trump, eclipse. ② *refugees who want to better their lot*: IMPROVE, ameliorate, raise, advance, further, lift, upgrade, enhance.

—OPPOSITES worsen.

betterment ► *noun* IMPROVEMENT, amelioration, advancement, furtherance, upgrading, enhancement.

between ► *preposition* ① *Philip stood between his parents*: IN THE SPACE SEPARATING, in the middle of, with one on either side; *archaic* betwixt. ② *the bond between her and her mother*: CONNECTING, linking, joining; uniting, allying.

—RELATED TERMS inter-.

bevel ► noun SLOPE, slant, angle, cant, chamfer.

beverage ► noun. See DRINK noun sense 1.

bevy ► noun GROUP, crowd, herd, flock, horde, army, galaxy, assemblage, gathering, band, body, pack; knot, cluster; *informal* bunch, gaggle, posse.

bewail ► verb LAMENT, bemoan, mourn, grieve over, sorrow over, cry over; deplore, complain about; *archaic* plain over.
—OPPOSITES rejoice at, applaud.

beware ► verb BE ON YOUR GUARD, watch out, look out, mind out, be alert, be on the lookout, keep your eyes open/peeled, keep an eye out, keep a sharp lookout, be on the qui vive; take care, be careful, be cautious, have a care, watch your step; *Brit school slang*, dated cave; *Golf fore*; *Hunting* ware.

bewilder ► verb BAFFLE, mystify, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, confuse, confound, nonplus; *informal* flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox, make someone scratch their head, be all Greek to, floor; *N Amer informal* discombobulate, buffalo.
—OPPOSITES enlighten.

bewildered ► adjective BAFLED, mystified, bemused, perplexed, puzzled, confused, nonplussed, at sea, at a loss, disorientated, taken aback; *informal* flummoxed, bamboozled; *N Amer informal* discombobulated.

bewitch ► verb ① *that evil woman bewitched him*: CAST/PUT A SPELL ON, enchant; possess, witch, curse; *N Amer*, hex, hoodoo; *Austral* point the bone at. ② *she was bewitched by her surroundings*: CAPTIVATE, enchant, entrance, enrapture, charm, beguile, delight, fascinate, enthrall.
—OPPOSITES repel.

beyond ► preposition ① *beyond the trees*: ON THE FAR SIDE OF, on the other side of, further away than, behind, past, after. ② *beyond six o'clock*: LATER THAN, past, after. ③ *inflation beyond 10 per cent*: GREATER THAN, more than, exceeding, in excess of, above, over and above, above and beyond, upwards of. ④ *little beyond food was provided*: APART FROM, except, other than, besides; *informal* outside of, *formal* save.

► **adverb** *a house with a garden beyond*: FURTHER AWAY, further off.

bias ► noun ① *he accused the media of bias*: PREJUDICE, partiality, partisanship, favouritism, unfairness, one-sidedness; bigotry, intolerance, discrimination, a jaundiced eye; leaning, tendency, inclination, predilection. ② *a dress cut on the bias*: DIAGONAL, cross, slant, angle.
—OPPOSITES impartiality.

► **verb** *this may have biased the result*: PREJUDICE, influence, colour, sway, weight, predispose; distort, skew, slant.

biased ► adjective PREJUDICED, partial, partisan, one-sided, blinkered; bigoted, intolerant, discriminatory; jaundiced, distorted, warped, twisted, skewed.
—OPPOSITES impartial.

Bible ► noun ① *he read the Bible*: THE (HOLY) SCRIPTURES, Holy Writ, the Good Book, the Book of Books. See *list*. ② *(informal) the taxi driver's bible*: HANDBOOK, manual, ABC, companion, guide, vade mecum.

Books of the Bible

OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis
Exodus
Leviticus
Numbers
Deuteronomy
Joshua
Judges
Ruth
Samuel I
Samuel II
Kings I
Kings II
Chronicles I
Chronicles II
Ezra
Nehemiah
Esther
Job
Psalms
Proverbs
Ecclesiastes
Song of Solomon
Isaiah
Jeremiah
Lamentations
Ezekiel
Daniel
Hosea
Joel
Amos
Obadiah
Jonah
Micah
Nahum
Habakkuk
Zephaniah
Haggai
Zechariah
Malachi

NEW TESTAMENT

Matthew
Mark

Luke
John
Acts
Romans
Corinthians I
Corinthians II
Galatians
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
Thessalonians I
Thessalonians II
Timothy I
Timothy II
Titus
Philemon
Hebrews
James
Peter I
Peter II
John I
John II
John III
Jude
Revelation

APOCRYPHA

Esdras I
Esdras II
Tobit
Judith
Additions to the Book of Esther
Wisdom of Solomon
Ecclesiasticus
Baruch
Letter of Jeremiah
Song of the Three Holy Children
Susanna
Bel and the Dragon
Prayer of Manasses
Maccabees I
Maccabees II

bibliophile ► noun BOOK LOVER, avid reader; *informal* bookworm; *rare* bibliomaniac.

bicker ► verb SQUABBLE, argue, quarrel, wrangle, fight, disagree, dispute, spar, have words, be at each other's throats, lock horns; *informal* scrap, arguify, spat; *archaic* altercation.
—OPPOSITES agree.

bicycle ► noun CYCLE, two-wheeler, pedal cycle; *informal* bike, pushbike. See *list*.

bid¹ ► verb ① *United bid £1 million for the striker*: OFFER, make an offer of, put in a bid of, put up, tender, proffer, propose. ② *she is bidding for a place in the England team*: TRY TO OBTAIN, try to get, make a pitch for, make a bid for.

► **noun** ① *a bid of £3,000*: OFFER, tender, proposal. ② *a bid to cut crime*: ATTEMPT, effort, endeavour, try; *informal* crack, go, shot, stab; *formal* essay.

bid² ► verb ① *she bid him farewell*: WISH; utter. ② *(poetic/literary) I did as he bade me*: ORDER, command, tell, instruct, direct, enjoin, charge. ③ *(poetic/literary) he bade his companions enter*: INVITE TO, ask to, request to.

Parts of a Bicycle

brake	dynamo	anti-swing
brake block	fork	parallel
brake caliper	frame	pedal
carrier	finest	reflector
cassette	freewheel	saddle
chain	hub	spoke
chain gear	gear	sprocket
chainring	gearwheel	stabilizers
crank	grain	tee clip
crossbar	handgrip	test grip
derailleur	headset	tyre
drop	hub	wheel
handbars	inner tube	

biddable ► adjective OBEDIENT, acquiescent, compliant, tractable, amenable, complaisant, cooperative, dutiful, submissive; *rare* persuasible.

—OPPOSITES disobedient, uncooperative.

bidding ► noun COMMAND, order, instruction, decree, injunction, demand, mandate, direction, summons, call; wish, desire; request; *poetic/literary* behest; *archaic* hest.

big ► adjective ① *a big building*: LARGE, sizeable, substantial, great, huge, immense, enormous, extensive, colossal, massive, mammoth, vast, tremendous, gigantic, giant, monumental, mighty, gargantuan, elephantine, titanic, mountainous, Broddingnagian; towering, tall, high, lofty; outside, oversized; goodly; capacious, voluminous, spacious; king-size(d), man-size, family-size(d), economy-size(d); *informal* jumbo, whopping, thumping, bumper, mega, humongous, monster, astronomical, almighty, dirty great, socking great; *Brit. Informal* whacking, ginormous; *formal* commodious. ② *a big man*: WELL BUILT, sturdy, brawny, burly, broad-shouldered, muscular, muscly, rugged, lusty, Herculean, bulky, hulking, strapping, thickset, stocky, solid, hefty; tall, huge, gigantic; fat, stout, portly, plump, fleshy, paunchy, corpulent, obese; *informal* hunky, beefy, husky; *poetic/literary* thewy, stark. ③ *my big brother*: GROWN-UP, adult, mature, grown; elder, older. ④ *a big decision*: IMPORTANT, significant, major, momentous, weighty, consequential, far-reaching, key, vital, critical, crucial. ⑤ (*informal*) *a big man in the government*: POWERFUL, important, prominent, influential, high-powered, leading; *N. Amer.* major-league. ⑥ (*informal*) *he has big plans*: AMBITIOUS, far-reaching, grandiose, on a grand scale. ⑦ *she's got a big heart*: GENEROUS, kind, kindly, caring, compassionate, loving. ⑧ (*informal*) *African bands are big in Britain*: POPULAR, successful, in demand, sought-after, all the rage; *informal* hot, in, cool, trendy, now, hip; *Brit. Informal*, dated all the go.

—OPPOSITES small, minor, modest.

too big for one's boots (*informal*) CONCEITED, full of oneself, swollen-headed, cocky, arrogant, cocksure, above oneself, self-important; vain, self-satisfied, pleased with oneself, smug, complacent; *informal* big-headed; *poetic/literary* vainglorious.

big-headed ► adjective (*informal*) CONCEITED, full of oneself, swollen-headed, cocky, arrogant, cocksure, above oneself, self-important; vain, self-satisfied, pleased with oneself, smug, com-

placent; *informal* too big for one's boots; *poetic/literary* vainglorious.

—OPPOSITES modest.

big-hearted ► adjective GENEROUS, magnanimous, munificent, open-handed, bountiful, unstinting, unselfish, altruistic, charitable, philanthropic, benevolent; kind, kindly, kind-hearted; *poetic/literary* bounteous.

—OPPOSITES mean.

bigot ► noun DOGMATIST, partisan, sectarian; racist, sexist, chauvinist, jingoist.

bigoted ► adjective PREJUDICED, biased, partial, one-sided, sectarian, discriminatory; opinionated, dogmatic, intolerant, narrow-minded, blinkered, illiberal; racist, sexist, chauvinistic, jingoistic; jaundiced, warped, twisted, distorted.

—OPPOSITES open-minded.

bigotry ► noun PREJUDICE, bias, partiality, partisanship, sectarianism, discrimination; dogmatism, intolerance, narrow-mindedness; racism, sexism, chauvinism, jingoism.

—OPPOSITES open-mindedness.

bigwig ► noun (*informal*) VIP, important person, notable, dignitary, grandee; celebrity; *informal* somebody, heavyweight, big shot, big noise, big gun, big cheese, big fish; *Brit. Informal* brass hat; *N. Amer. Informal* big wheel.

—OPPOSITES nonentity.

bijou ► adjective SMALL, little, compact, snug, cosy.

blige ► noun (*informal*). See NONSENSE sense 1.

bilious ► adjective ① *I felt bilious*: NAUSEOUS, sick, queasy, nauseated, green about the gills; *N. Amer. Informal* barfy. ② *his bilious disposition*: BAD-TEMPERED, irritable, irascible, tetchy, testy, crotchety, ill-tempered, ill-natured, ill-humoured, peevish, fractious, pettish, crabby, waspish, prickly, crusty, shrewish, quick-tempered; *N. Amer. Informal* cranky, ornery. ③ *a bilious green and pink colour scheme*: LURID, garish, loud, violent; sickly, nauseating.

—OPPOSITES well, good-humoured, muted.

blik ► verb (*informal*). See SWINDLE verb.

bill ► noun ① *a bill for £6*: INVOICE, account, statement, list of charges; *N. Amer.* check; *humorous* the damage; *N. Amer. Informal* tab; *archaic* reckoning, score. ② *a parliamentary bill*: DRAFT LAW, proposed piece of legislation, proposal, measure. ③ *she was top of the bill*: PROGRAMME (OF ENTERTAINMENT), line-up; *N. Amer.* playbill. ④ (*N. Amer.*) *a \$10 bill*: BANKNOTE, note; *US Informal* greenback; *US & historical* Treasury note. ⑤ *he had been posting bills*: POSTER, advertisement, public notice, announcement; flyer, leaflet, handbill; *Brit.* fly-poster; *N. Amer.* dodger; *informal* ad; *Brit. Informal* advert.

► verb ① *please bill me for the work*: INVOICE, charge, debit, send a statement to. ② *the concert went ahead as billed*: ADVERTISE, announce; schedule, programme, timetable; *N. Amer.* slate. ③ *he was billed as the new Sean Connery*: DESCRIBE, call, style, label, dub; promote, publicize, talk up; *informal* hype.

bill ► noun a bird's bill: BEAK; *Scottish & N. English* neb; *technical* mandibles.

billet ► noun the troops' billets: QUARTERS, rooms; accommodation, lodging, housing; barracks, cantonment.

Birds

See also FOWL, GAME BIRDS.

b

eccentor	bristlebird	corn bunting	fig parrot	greylag goose
accipiter	broadbill	cornrake	finch	grey parrot
adjutant bird	broga	coscoroba swan	finfoot	griffon vulture
albatross	bronze wing	cotinga	fireback	grosbeak
amazon	brown owl	coucal	firecrest	ground dove
American eagle	brubru	courser	firefinch	grouse
ani	brush turkey	cowbird	fish eagle	guan
Anna's hummingbird	budgerigar	crab plover	flamingo	gull
antbird	buffalo weaver	crake	flamulated owl	guineafowl
ant-thrush	bufflehead	crane	flatbill	gull
apostlebird	bulbul	crested tit	flicker	gyrfalcon
aracari	bullfinch	crocodile bird	florian	hadada
Arctic tern	bunting	crombec	flowerpecker	hammerkop
argus pheasant	burrowing owl	crossbill	flufftail	hardhead
asity	bushchat	crow	flycatcher	harlequin duck
auk	bush-hen	crowned crane	fody	harpy eagle
auklet	bush-tit	crowned pigeon	forktail	harrier
avadavat	bustard	crow-pheasant	francolin	Harris' hawk
avocet	butcher-bird	cuckoo	frierbird	Hawaiian goose
babbler	buteo	cuckoo-roller	frigate bird	hawfinch
bald eagle	button-quail	cuckoo-shrike	frogmouth	hawk
Baltimore oriole	buzzard	curassow	fruitcrow	hawk eagle
bananquait	cacique	curlew	fruit dove	hawk owl
barbet	cahow	cut-throat weaver	fruit pigeon	hedge sparrow
barnacle goose	calandra	dabbling duck	fulmar	helmet bird
barn owl	Canada goose	dabchick	gadwall	hen
barwing	canary	darter	galah	hen harrier
bateleur	canvasback	Dartford warbler	gallinule	hermit thrush
baya weaver	Cape Barren goose	demoiselle crane	gannet	heron
baza	Cape hen	diamond bird	gardener	herring gull
bean goose	capercaille	clckckissel	garden warbler	hillstar
bearded tit	Cape sparrow	dipper	garganey	hoatzin
becard	caracara	diver	gentoo penguin	hobby
bee-eater	cardinal	diving duck	giant petrel	honeybird
belbird	Carolina parakeet	diving petrel	gibberbird	honey buzzard
Bewick's Swan	carrion crow	dollarbird	glaucous gull	honeycreeper
bird of paradise	cassowary	dotterel	glossy starling	honeyeater
bishop bird	catbird	dove	gnatcatcher	honeyguide
bittern	cattle egret	dowitcher	godwit	honeysucker
blackbird	Cetti's warbler	drongo	goldcrest	hooded crow
blackcap	chachalaca	duck	goldenback	hoopoe
black grouse	chaffinch	dunlin	golden eagle	hoot owl
black guillemot	chat	dunnock	goldeneye	hornbill
black ibis	chickadee	eagle	golden oriole	horned owl
blackpoll	chicken	eagle owl	golden pheasant	hornero
black swan	chiffchaff	egret	golden plover	houbara
black vulture	chimney swift	Egyptian goose	goldfinch	house finch
bleeding heart	chipping sparrow	Egyptian plover	gonolek	house martin
dove	chough	Egyptian vulture	goosander	house sparrow
bluebill	chuck-will's-widow	elder duck	goose	hula
bluebird	chukar	Eleonora's falcon	goshawk	hummingbird
bluebonnet	cicadabird	elf owl	grackle	ibis
blue crane	cirl bunting	emperor penguin	grassbird	ibisbill
blue jay	cisticola	emu	grasshopper	thrush
bluetthroat	citril	emu wren	warbler	imperial pigeon
blue tit	clapper rail	erne	grass parrot	inca
boathill	coal tit	Eskimo curlew	grassquitt	indigobird
bobolink	cochlea	fairy bluebird	great crested	ioia
bobwhite quail	cockatiel	fairy penguin	grake	jabiru
boobialla	cockatoo	fairy tern	great tit	jacamar
boobook	cock-of-the-rock	fairy wren	grake	jacana
booby	collared dove	falcon	greenish	jackdaw
boubou	condor	fantail	greenish	jacksnipe
bovina	conure	fanzibird	greenlet	jacky winter
brainer bird	coot	ferruginous duck	greenish	jacana
brantling	corall	fieldfare	greenish	jacana
brant goose	corcorant	figbird	greenish	jacana

bishop ► noun diocesan, metropolitan, suffragan, *formal* prelate.

—RELATED TERMS episcopal.

bishopric ► noun DIOCESE, *see*.

bit ► noun ① a bit of bread: PIECE, portion, segment, section, part; chunk, lump, hunk, slice, fragment, scrap, shred, crumb, grain, speck, spot, drop, pinch, dash, soupçon, modicum; morsel, mouthful, bite, sample, iota, jot, tittle, whit, atom, particle, trace, touch, suggestion, hint, tinge, snippet, snatch, *informal* smidgen, tad. ② wait a bit MOMENT, minute, second, (little) while; *informal* sec, jiffy, *Brit informal* mo, tick —OPPOSITES lot

■ a bit RATHER, fairly, slightly, somewhat, quite, moderately, *informal* pretty, sort of, kind of

■ bit by bit GRADUALLY, little by little, in stages, step by step, piecemeal, slowly

■ In a bit SOON, in a (little) while, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, shortly, *informal* anon, in a jiffy, in two shakes; *Brit informal* in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo; *N Amer informal* in a snap; *dated* directly, *poetic/literary* ere long

bitch ► noun (*informal*) ① she's such a bitch SHREW, vixen, she-devil, hellcat, *informal* cow, cat, *archaic* grimalkin ② a bitch of a job NIGHTMARE, *informal* bastard, bummer, — from hell, swine, pig, stinker

► verb ① big men bitched about the price of oil COMPLAIN, whine, grumble, grouse; *informal* whinge, moan, grouch, gripe ② he's always bitching about colleagues BE SPITEFUL ABOUT, criticize, run down, speak ill of, slander, malign, *informal* knock, pull to pieces, take apart, bad-mouth, do a hatchet job on, *N Amer informal* trash, *Brit informal* slag off

■ bitch something up (*informal*) MAKE A MESS OF, mess up, spoil, ruin, wreck, bungle, *informal* botch, muck up, make a hash of, screw up, louse up, muff, *Brit informal* make a pig's ear of, cock up, *N Amer informal* flub, goof up

bitchy ► adjective (*informal*). *See* SPITEFUL.

bite ► verb ① the dog bit his arm. SINK ONE'S TEETH INTO, chew, munch, crunch, champ, tear at ② the acid bites into the copper CORRODE, eat into, eat away at, burn (into), etch, dissolve ③ my boots failed to bite GRIP, hold, get a purchase ④ the measures begin to bite TAKE EFFECT, have an effect, be effective, work, act, have results. ⑤ a hundred or so retailers should bite ACCEPT, agree, respond, be lured, be enticed, be tempted, take the bait.

► noun ① he took a bite at his sandwich CHEW, munch, nibble, gnaw, nip, snap. ② he ate it in two bites MOUTHFUL, piece, bit, morsel ③ do you fancy a bite? SNACK, light meal, mouthful, soupçon; refreshments, *informal* a little something. ④ the appetizer had a fiery bite: PIQUANCY, pungency, spiciness, strong flavour, tang, zest, sharpness, tartness; *informal* kick, punch, zing.

biting ► adjective ① biting comments. VICIOUS, harsh, cruel, savage, cutting, sharp, bitter, scathing, caustic, acid, acrimonious, acerbic, stinging; vitriolic, hostile, spiteful, venomous, mean, nasty; *informal* bitchy, catty ② the biting wind: FREEZING, icy, arctic, glacial; bitter, piercing, penetrating, raw, wintry. —OPPOSITES mild.

bitter ► adjective ① bitter coffee: SHARP, acid, acidic, acrid, tart, sour, biting, unsweetened,

vinegary, *N Amer* acerb; *technical* acerbic ② a bitter woman: RESENTFUL, embittered, aggrieved, grudge-bearing, begrudging, rancorous, spiteful, jaundiced, ill-disposed, sullen, sour, churlish, morose, petulant, peevish; *informal* with a chip on one's shoulder. ③ a bitter blow PAINFUL, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, cruel, awful, distressing, upsetting, harrowing, heartbreaking, heart-rending, agonizing, traumatic, tragic, chilling; *formal* grievous. ④ a bitter wind: FREEZING, icy, arctic, glacial, biting, piercing, penetrating, raw, wintry ⑤ a bitter row: ACRIMONIOUS, virulent, angry, rancorous, spiteful, vicious, vitriolic, savage, ferocious, hate-filled, venomous, poisonous, acrid, nasty, ill-natured. —OPPOSITES sweet, magnanimous, content, welcome, warm, amicable

bitterness ► noun ① the bitterness of the medicine: SHARPNESS, acidity, acridity, tartness, sourness, harshness, vinegariness, *technical* acerbity ② his bitterness grew. RESENTMENT, rancour, indignation, grudge, spite, sullenness, sourness, churlishness, moroseness, petulance, pique, peevishness ③ the bitterness of war TRAUMA, pain, agony, grief, unpleasantness, disagreeableness, nastiness, heartache, heartbreak, distress, desolation, despair, tragedy ④ there was no bitterness between them ACRIMONY, hostility, antipathy, antagonism, enmity, animus, friction, rancour, vitriol, hatred, loathing, venom, poison, nastiness, ill feeling, ill will, bad blood —OPPOSITES sweetness, magnanimity, contentment, warmth, goodwill

bitty ► adjective (*informal*) DISJOINTED, incoherent, fragmented, fragmentary, scrappy, piecemeal, inconsistent, unsystematic, jumbled, uneven, erratic, patchy —OPPOSITES coherent

bizarre ► adjective STRANGE, peculiar, odd, funny, curious, outlandish, outré, eccentric, unconventional, unorthodox, queer, extraordinary, *informal* weird, wacky, oddball, way out, freaky, off the wall, offbeat, *Brit informal* rum; *N Amer informal* wacko —OPPOSITES normal

blab ► verb (*informal*) ① she blabbed to the press. TALK, give the game away, *informal* let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans, *Brit informal* blow the gaff, cough ② I do not blab secrets BLURT OUT, let slip, let out, tell, reveal, betray, disclose, give away, divulge, leak; *informal* let on, spill.

blabber ► verb (*informal*) *See* CHAT verb

blabbermouth ► noun (*informal*) TALKER, chatterer, prattler, *N Amer* blatherskite, *informal* chatterbox, windbag, gasbag; *Brit informal* natterer

black ► adjective ① a black horse: DARK, pitch-black, jet-black, coal-black, inky, *Heraldry* sable; *rare* nigrescent. ② a black night. UNLIT, dark, starless, moonless, *poetic/literary* tenebrous, Stygian ③ the blackest day of the war: TRAGIC, disastrous, calamitous, catastrophic, cataclysmic, fateful, wretched, woeful, awful, terrible, *formal* grievous ④ Mary was in a black mood MISERABLE, unhappy, sad, wretched, broken-hearted, heartbroken, grief-stricken, grieving, sorrowful, sorrowing, anguished, desolate, despairing, disconsolate, downcast, dejected, cheerless, melancholy, morose, gloomy, glum, mournful, doleful, funereal, dismal, forlorn, woeful, ab-

b

ject; informal blue; poetic/literary dolorous. ⑥ *black humour*: CYNICAL, macabre, weird, unhealthy, ghoulish, morbid, perverted, gruesome, informal sick. ⑦ a black look. See ANGRY sense 1 ⑧ (archaic) a black deed. See WICKED sense 1

—RELATED TERMS melan—

—OPPOSITES white, clear, bright, joyful.

► **verb** ① the steps of the houses were neatly blacked. BLACKEN, darken; dirty, make sooty, make smoky, stain, grime, soil ② she blacked his eye BRUISE, contuse, hit, punch, injure. ③ (Brit dated) trade union members blacked the work: BOYCOTT, embargo, blacklist, proscribe

■ **black out** FAINT, lose consciousness, pass out, swoon, informal flake out, go out.

■ **black something out** DARKEN, shade, turn off the lights in; keep the light out of.

■ **in the black** IN CREDIT, in funds, debt-free, out of debt, solvent, financially sound, able to pay one's debts, creditworthy; rare unindebted

■ **black and white** ① a black-and-white picture MONOCHROME, greyscale. ② I wish to see the proposals in black and white. IN PRINT, printed, written down, set down, on paper, recorded, on record, documented. ③ in black-and-white terms CATEGORICAL, unequivocal, absolute, uncompromising, unconditional, unqualified, unambiguous, clear, clear-cut

blackball ► **verb** REJECT, debar, bar, ban, vote against, blacklist, exclude, shut out.
—OPPOSITES admit.

blacken ► **verb** ① they blackened their faces BLACK, darken; dirty, make sooty, make smoky, stain, grime, soil ② the sky blackened GROW/BECOME BLACK, darken, dim, grow dim, cloud over ③ someone has blackened my name: SULLY, tarnish, besmirch, drag through the mud/mire, stain, taint, smear, disgrace, dishonour, bring discredit to, damage, ruin, slander, defame
—OPPOSITES whiten, clean, lighten, brighten, clear

blackguard ► **noun** (archaic) See VILLAIN

blacklist ► **verb** BOYCOTT, ostracize, avoid, embargo, steer clear of, ignore, refuse to employ, Brit dated black

black magic ► **noun** SORCERY, witchcraft, wizardry, necromancy, the black arts, devilry, malediction, voodoo, witching, witchery

blackmail ► **noun** he was accused of blackmail EXTORTION, demanding money with menaces, informal hush money; formal exaction

► **verb** ① he was blackmailing the murderer: EXTORT MONEY FROM, threaten, hold to ransom, informal demand hush money from ② she blackmailed me to work for her: COERCE, pressurize, pressure, force, informal lean on, put the screws on, twist someone's arm.

blackout ► **noun** ① a power blackout: POWER CUT, power failure, failure of the electricity supply; brown-out. ② a news blackout: SUPPRESSION, silence, censorship, reporting restrictions. ③ he had a blackout: FAINTING FIT, faint, loss of consciousness, passing out, swoon, collapse; Medicine syncope.

blame ► **verb** ① he always blames others: HOLD RESPONSIBLE, hold accountable, condemn, accuse, find/consider guilty, assign fault/liability/guilt to; archaic inculpate. ② they blame youth crime on unemployment: ASCRIBE TO, attribute to, impute to, lay at the door of, put down to; informal pin.

—OPPOSITES absolve

► **noun** he was cleared of all blame: RESPONSIBILITY, guilt, accountability, liability, culpability, fault.

blameless ► **adjective** INNOCENT, guiltless, above reproach, irreproachable, unimpeachable, in the clear, exemplary, perfect, virtuous, pure, impeccable; informal squeaky clean.

—OPPOSITES blameworthy

blameworthy ► **adjective** CULPABLE, reprehensible, indefensible, inexcusable, guilty, criminal, delinquent, wrong, evil, wicked; to blame, at fault, reproachable, responsible, answerable, erring, errant, in the wrong

—OPPOSITES blameless.

blanch ► **verb** ① the moon blanches her hair. TURN PALE, whiten, lighten, wash out, fade, blench, etiolate ② his face blanched. PALE, turn pale, turn white, whiten, lose its colour, lighten, fade, blench ③ blanch the spinach leaves SCALD, boil briefly.

—OPPOSITES colour, darken

bland ► **adjective** ① bland food TASTELESS, flavourless, insipid, weak, watery, spiceless, wishy-washy ② a bland film: UNINTERESTING, dull, boring, tedious, monotonous, dry, drab, dreary, wearisome, unexciting, unimaginative, uninspiring, uninspired, lacklustre, vapid, flat, stale, trite, vacuous, wishy-washy ③ a bland expression UNEMOTIONAL, emotionless, dispassionate, passionless, unexpressive, cool, impassive, expressionless, blank, wooden, stony, deadpan, hollow, undemonstrative, imperturbable
—OPPOSITES tangy, interesting, emotional

blandishments ► **plural noun** FLATTERY, cajolery, coaxing, wheedling, persuasion, honeyed words, smooth talk, blarney, informal sweet talk, soft soap, buttering up

blank ► **adjective** ① a blank sheet of paper EMPTY, unmarked, unused, clear, free, bare, clean, plain ② a blank face EXPRESSIONLESS, deadpan, wooden, stony, impassive, unresponsive, poker-faced, vacuous, empty, glazed, fixed, lifeless, inscrutable. ③ 'What?' said Maxim, looking blank: BAFFLED, mystified, puzzled, perplexed, stumped, at a loss, stuck, bewildered, nonplussed, bemused, lost, uncomprehending, (all) at sea, confused; informal flummoxed, bamboozled ④ a blank refusal OUTRIGHT, absolute, categorical, unqualified, complete, flat, straight, positive, certain, explicit, unequivocal, clear, clear-cut.

—OPPOSITES full, expressive, qualified

► **noun** SPACE, gap, lacuna

blanket ► **noun** a blanket of cloud: COVERING, layer, coating, carpet, overlay, cloak, mantle, veil, pall, shroud

► **adjective** blanket coverage: complete, total, comprehensive, overall, general, mass, umbrella, inclusive, all-inclusive, all-round, wholesale, outright, across the board, sweeping, indiscriminate, thorough; universal, global, worldwide, international, nationwide, countrywide, coast-to-coast.

—OPPOSITES partial, piecemeal.

► **verb** ① snow blanketed the mountains: COVER, coat, carpet, overlay; cloak, shroud, swathe, envelop; poetic/literary mantle. ② double glazing blankets the noise a bit: MUFFLE, deaden, soften, mute, silence, quieten, smother, dampen.

—OPPOSITES amplify.

blare ▶ **verb** *sirens blared* **BLAST**, sound loudly, trumpet, clamour, boom, roar, thunder, bellow, resound.

—OPPOSITES murmur

▶ **noun** *the blare of the stren* **BLAST**, trumpeting, clamour, boom, roar, thunder, bellow

—OPPOSITES murmur

blarney ▶ **noun** **BLANDISHMENTS**, honeyed words, smooth talk, flattery, cajolery, coaxing, wheedling, persuasion; charm offensive; *informal* sweet talk, soft soap, smarm, buttering up

blasé ▶ **adjective** **INDIFFERENT**, unconcerned, uncaring, casual, nonchalant, offhand, uninterested, apathetic, unimpressed, unmoved, unresponsive, phlegmatic, *informal* laid-back, *rare* pococurante

—OPPOSITES concerned, responsive

blaspheme ▶ **verb** **SWEAR**, curse, take the Lord's name in vain, *informal* cuss, *archaic* excrete

blasphemous ▶ **adjective** **SACRILEGIOUS**, profane, irreverent, irreverent, impious, ungodly, godless

—OPPOSITES reverent

blasphemy ▶ **noun** **PROFANITY**, sacrilege, irreligion, irreverence, taking the Lord's name in vain, swearing, curse, cursing, impiety, desecration, *archaic* execration

—OPPOSITES reverence

blast ▶ **noun** ① *the blast from the bomb* **SHOCK WAVE**, pressure wave ② *Friday's blast killed two people* **EXPLOSION**, detonation, discharge, burst ③ *a sudden blast of cold air* **GUST**, rush, gale, squall, wind, draught, waft, puff, flurry ④ *the shrill blast of the trumpets* **BLARE**, wail, roar, screech, shriek, hoot, honk, beep ⑤ (*informal*) *I braced myself for the inevitable blast* See **REPRIMAND** **noun**

▶ **verb** ① *bombers were blasting enemy airfields* **BLOW UP**, bomb, blow (to pieces), dynamite, explode ② *guns were blasting away* **FIRE**, shoot, blaze, let fly, discharge ③ *he blasted his horn* **HONK**, beep, toot, sound ④ *radios blasting out pop music* **BLARE**, boom, roar, thunder, bellow, pump, shriek, screech ⑤ *Fowler was blasted with an air gun* **SHOOT**, gun down, mow down, cut down, put a bullet in, *informal* pot, plug ⑥ (*informal*) *he blasted the pupils for being late* See **REPRIMAND** **verb** ■ **blast off** **BE LAUNCHED**, take off, lift off, leave the ground, become airborne, take to the air

blasted ▶ **adjective** (*informal*). See **DAMNED** sense 2

blast-off ▶ **noun** **LAUNCH**, lift-off, take-off, ascent, firing

—OPPOSITES touchdown.

blatant ▶ **adjective** **FLAGRANT**, glaring, obvious, undisguised, unconcealed, open, shameless, barefaced, unabashed, unashamed, unblushing, brazen, brass-necked.

—OPPOSITES inconspicuous, shamefaced

blather ▶ **verb** *he just blathered on*: **PRATTLE**, babble, chatter, twitter, prate, go on, run on, rattle on, yap, jibber-jabber, maunder, ramble, burble, drivel; *informal* yak, yatter; *Brit. informal* witter, rabbit, chunter, waffle.

▶ **noun** *mindless blather*: **PRATTLE**, chatter, twitter, babble, prating, gabble, jabber, rambling; *informal* yatter, twaddle; *Brit. informal* wittering, chuntering.

blaze ▶ **noun** ① *firemen fought the blaze*: **FIRE**, flames, conflagration, inferno, holocaust ② *a*

blaze of light: **GLARE**, gleam, flash, burst, flare, streak, radiance, brilliance, beam. ③ *a blaze of anger*: **OUTBURST**, burst, eruption, flare-up, explosion, outbreak, blast, attack, fit, spasm, paroxysm, access, rush, storm.

▶ **verb** ① *the fire blazed merrily*: **BURN**, be alight, be on fire, be in flames, flame. ② *headlights blazed*: **SHINE**, flash, flare, glare, gleam, glint, dazzle, glitter, glisten ③ *soldiers blazed away*: **FIRE**, shoot, blast, let fly.

blazon ▶ **verb** ① *their name is blazoned across the sails*: **DISPLAY**, exhibit, present, spread, emblazon, plaster ② *the newspapers blazoned the news abroad*. **PUBLICIZE**, make known, make public, announce, report, communicate, spread, circulate, give out, publish, broadcast, trumpet, proclaim, promulgate

bleach ▶ **verb** ① *the blinds had been bleached by the sun* **TURN WHITE**, whiten, turn pale, blanch, lighten, fade, decolour, decolorize, peroxide ② *they saw bones bleaching in the sun* **TURN WHITE**, whiten, turn pale, pale, blanch, lose its colour, lighten, fade.

—OPPOSITES darken

bleak ▶ **adjective** ① *a bleak landscape* **BARE**, exposed, desolate, stark, desert, lunar, open, empty, windswept, treeless, without vegetation, denuded ② *the future is bleak* **UNPROMISING**, unfavourable, unpropitious, inauspicious, discouraging, disheartening, depressing, dim, gloomy, black, dark, grim, hopeless

—OPPOSITES lush, promising

bleary ▶ **adjective** **BLURRED**, blurry, unfocused, fogged, clouded, dull, misty, watery, rheumy, *archaic* blear

—OPPOSITES clear

bleat ▶ **verb** ① *the sheep were bleating* **BAA**, *N Amer informal* blat ② *don't bleat to me about fairness* **COMPLAIN**, grouse, carp, fuss, snivel; *Scottish & Irish* gurn, *informal* gripe, beef, whinge, belly-ache, moan, go on, *N English informal* mither, *N Amer informal* kvetch.

bleed ▶ **verb** ① *his arm was bleeding* **LOSE BLOOD**, haemorrhage. ② *the doctor bled him* **DRAW BLOOD FROM**; *Medicine* exsanguinate; *archaic* phlebotomize ③ *one colour bled into another* **FLOW**, run, seep, filter, percolate, leach. ④ *sap was bleeding from the trunk* **FLOW**, run, ooze, seep, exude, weep ⑤ *the country was bled dry by poachers* **DRAIN**, sap, deplete, milk, exhaust. ⑥ *my heart bleeds for them*: **GRIEVE**, ache, sorrow, mourn, lament, feel, suffer; sympathize with, pity

blemish ▶ **noun** ① *not a blemish marred her skin*: **IMPERFECTION**, flaw, defect, fault, deformity, discoloration, disfigurement, bruise, scar, pit, pock, scratch, cut, gash; mark, streak, spot, smear, speck, blotch, smudge, smut, birthmark; *Medicine* stigma ② *government is not without blemish*. **DEFECT**, fault, failing, flaw, imperfection, foible, vice; shortcoming, weakness, deficiency, limitation; taint, stain, dishonour, disgrace.

—OPPOSITES virtue.

▶ **verb** ① *nothing blemished the coast*: **MAR**, spoil, impair, disfigure, blight, deface, mark, scar; ruin. ② *his reign has been blemished by controversy*: **SULLY**, tarnish, besmirch, blacken, blot, taint, spoil, mar, ruin, disgrace, damage, undermine, degrade, dishonour; *formal* vitiate.

—OPPOSITES enhance

blench ▶ **verb** FLINCH, start, shy (away), recoil, shrink, pull back, cringe, wince, quail, cower.

blend ▶ **verb** ① blend the ingredients until smooth MIX, mingle, combine, merge, fuse, meld, coalesce, integrate, intermix, stir, whisk, fold in, technical admix, poetic/literary commingle. ② the new buildings blend with the older ones: HARMONIZE, go (well), fit (in), be in tune, be compatible, coordinate, match, complement

▶ **noun** a blend of bananas, raisins, and ginger MIXTURE, mix, combination, amalgamation, amalgam, union, marriage, fusion, meld, synthesis, technical admixture

bless ▶ **verb** ① the chaplain blessed the couple ASK/INVOKe GOD'S FAVOUR FOR, give a benediction for ② the Cardinal blessed the memorial plaque CONSECRATE, sanctify, dedicate (to God), make holy, make sacred, formal hallow. ③ bless the name of the Lord. PRAISE, worship, glorify, honour, exalt, pay homage to, venerate, reverence, hallow, archaic magnify ④ the gods blessed us with magical voices ENDOW, bestow, furnish, accord, give, favour, grace, confer on, poetic/literary endue ⑤ I bless the day you came here GIVE THANKS FOR, be grateful for, thank, appreciate ⑥ the government refused to bless the undertaking: SANCTION, consent to, endorse, agree to, approve, back, support; informal give the thumbs up to, give the green light to, OK

—OPPOSITES curse, trouble, rue, oppose

blessed ▶ **adjective** ① a blessed place HOLY, sacred, hallowed, consecrated, sanctified, ordained, canonized, beatified ② blessed are the meek FAVOURED, fortunate, lucky, privileged, enviable ③ the fresh air made a blessed change WELCOME, pleasant, agreeable, refreshing, favourable, gratifying, heartening, much needed —OPPOSITES cursed, wretched, unwelcome.

blessing ▶ **noun** ① may God give us his blessing PROTECTION, favour ② a special blessing from the priest BENEDICTION, invocation, prayer, intercession; grace ③ she gave the plan her blessing: SANCTION, endorsement, approval, approbation, favour, consent, assent, agreement, backing, support, informal the thumbs up ④ it was a blessing they didn't have far to go: BOON, godsend, advantage, benefit, help, bonus, plus, stroke of luck, windfall, poetic/literary benison —OPPOSITES condemnation, affliction

blight ▶ **noun** ① potato blight: DISEASE, canker, infestation, fungus, mildew, mould. ② the blight of aircraft noise: AFFLICTION, scourge, bane, curse, plague, menace, misfortune, woe, trouble, ordeal, trial, nuisance, pest. —OPPOSITES blessing.

▶ **verb** ① a tree blighted by leaf curl: INFECT, mildew, kill, destroy. ② scandal blighted the careers of several politicians: RUIN, wreck, spoil, mar, frustrate, disrupt, undo, end, scotch, destroy, shatter, devastate, demolish; informal mess up, foul up, put paid to, put the kibosh on, stymie; Brit. informal scupper; archaic bring to naught

blind ▶ **adjective** ① he has been blind since birth SIGHTLESS, unsighted, visually impaired, visionless, unseeing; partially sighted, purblind; informal as blind as a bat. ② she was ignorant, but not blind: IMPERCEPTIVE, unperceptive, insensitive, slow, obtuse, uncomprehending; stupid, unintelligent; informal dense, dim, thick, dumb, dopey; Brit. informal dozy; Scottish & N. English informal glaikit. ③ you should be blind to failure: UN-

MINDFUL OF, mindless of, careless of, heedless of, oblivious to, insensible to, unconcerned about, indifferent to ④ blind acceptance of conventional opinion UNCRITICAL, unreasoned, unthinking, unconsidered, mindless, undiscerning, indiscriminate ⑤ a blind rage. IMPETUOUS, impulsive, uncontrolled, uncontrollable, unrestrained, immoderate, intemperate, wild, irrational, unbridled ⑥ a blind alley WITHOUT EXIT, blocked, closed, barred, impassable, dead end

—OPPOSITES sighted, perceptive, mindful, discerning

▶ **verb** ① he was blinded in a car crash MAKE BLIND, deprive of sight, render sightless, put someone's eyes out. ② scaffolding blinded the windows OBSCURE, cover, blot out, mask, shroud, block, eclipse, obstruct. ③ he was blinded by his faith DEPRIVE OF JUDGEMENT, deprive of perception, deprive of reason, deprive of sense ④ they try to blind you with science: OVERAWE, intimidate, daunt, deter, discourage, cow, abash, subdue, dismay, disquiet, discomfit, unsettle, disconcert, confuse, bewilder, confound, perplex, overwhelm, informal faze, psych out

▶ **noun** ① a window blind. SCREEN, shade, sunshade, curtain, awning, canopy; louver, jalousie, shutter. ② some crook had sent the card as a blind DECEPTION, camouflage, smokescreen, front, facade, cover, pretext, masquerade, feint, trick, ploy, ruse, machination

blindly ▶ **adverb** ① he stared blindly ahead SIGHTLESSLY, unseeingly ② he ran blindly upstairs IMPETUOUSLY, impulsively, recklessly, heedlessly, uncontrolledly ③ they blindly followed US policy UNCRITICALLY, unthinkingly, mindlessly, indiscriminately

blink ▶ **verb** ① his eyes did not blink flutter, flicker, wink, bat, technical nictitate, nictate ② several red lights began to blink: FLASH, flicker, wink. ③ no one even blinks at the 'waitresses' in drag BE SURPRISED, look twice, informal boggle

blinkered ▶ **adjective** NARROW-MINDED, inward-looking, parochial, provincial, insular, small-minded, close-minded, short-sighted, hide-bound, inflexible, entrenched, prejudiced, bigoted, Brit parish-pump.

—OPPOSITES broad-minded.

bliss ▶ **noun** ① she gave a sigh of bliss: JOY, happiness, pleasure, delight, ecstasy, elation, rapture, euphoria ② religions promise perfect bliss after death BLESSEDNESS, benediction, beatitude, glory, heavenly joy, divine happiness: heaven, paradise —OPPOSITES misery, hell.

blissful ▶ **adjective** ECSTATIC, euphoric, joyful, elated, rapturous, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven; delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, joyous, informal over the moon, on top of the world; Austral informal wrapped

blister ▶ **noun** ① a blister on each heel. bleb, Medicine bulla, pustule, vesicle, vesication. ② check for blisters in the roofing felt: BUBBLE, swelling, bulge, protuberance.

blistering ▶ **adjective** ① blistering heat: INTENSE, extreme, ferocious, fierce; SCORCHING, searing, blazing, burning, fiery; informal boiling, baking, roasting, sweltering. ② a blistering attack on the government: SAVAGE, vicious, fierce, bitter, harsh, scathing, devastating, caustic, searing,

vitriolic. ① a blistering pace: VERY FAST, break-neck; informal blinding.

—OPPOSITES mild, leisurely.

blithe ► adjective ① a blithe disregard for the rules CASUAL, indifferent, unconcerned, unworried, untroubled, uncaring, careless, heedless, thoughtless; nonchalant, blasé ② (poetic/literary) his blithe, smiling face HAPPY, cheerful, jolly, merry, joyful, joyous, blissful, ecstatic, euphoric, elated; poetic/literary blithesome; dated gay.

—OPPOSITES thoughtful, sad

blitz ► noun the 1940 blitz on London. BOMBARDMENT, bombing, onslaught, barrage, attack, assault, raid, strike, blitzkrieg

► verb the town was blitzed in the war BOMBARD, attack, bomb, shell, torpedo, strafe; destroy, devastate, ravage

blizzard ► noun SNOWSTORM, white-out

bloated ► adjective SWOLLEN, distended, tumefied, bulging, inflated, enlarged, expanded, dilated

blob ► noun ① a blob of cold gravy DROP, droplet, globule, bead, bubble; informal glob ② a blob of ink SPOT, dab, blotch, blot, dot, smudge, informal splotch, splodge

► verb masking fluid is blobbed on freely DAUB, dab, spot, slop

bloc ► noun ALLIANCE, coalition, federation, confederation, league, union, partnership, axis, body, association, group

block ► noun ① a block of cheese CHUNK, hunk, lump, wedge, cube, brick, slab, piece, Brit informal wodge ② an apartment block BUILDING, complex, structure, development ③ a block of shares: BATCH, group, set, quantity ④ a sketching block: PAD, notepad, sketchpad, jotter, tablet ⑤ a block to Third World development OBSTACLE, bar, barrier, impediment, hindrance, check, hurdle, stumbling block, handicap, deterrent ⑥ a block in the pipe BLOCKAGE, obstruction, stoppage, congestion, occlusion, clot

—OPPOSITES aid

► verb ① weeds can block drainage ditches: CLOG (UP), stop up, choke, plug, obstruct, gum up, dam up, bung up, congest, jam, close, Brit informal gunge up; technical occlude ② picket lines blocked access to the factory HINDER, hamper, obstruct, impede, inhibit, restrict, limit; halt, stop, bar, check, prevent ③ he blocked a shot on the goal line. PARRY, stop, deflect, fend off, hold off, repel, repulse.

—OPPOSITES facilitate

■ block something off CLOSE UP, shut off, seal off, barricade, bar, obstruct

■ block something out ① trees blocked out the light: CONCEAL, keep out, blot out, exclude, obliterate, blank out, stop. ② block out an area in charcoal: ROUGH OUT, sketch out, outline, delineate, draft

blockade ► noun ① a naval blockade of the island: SIEGE; rare besiegement ② they erected blockades in the streets: BARRICADE, barrier, road-block; obstacle, obstruction.

► verb rebels blockaded the capital: BARRICADE, block off, shut off, seal; BESIEGE, surround.

blockage ► noun OBSTRUCTION, stoppage, block, occlusion, congestion.

bloke ► noun (Brit. informal). See FELLOW sense 1.

blonde, blond ► adjective FAIR, light, yellow, flaxen, tow-coloured, golden, platinum, ash

blonde, strawberry blonde; bleached, peroxide.

—OPPOSITES dark.

blood ► noun ① he had lost too much blood. gore, vital fluid; poetic/literary lifeblood, ichor. See list ② a woman of noble blood: ANCESTRY, lineage, bloodline, descent, parentage, family, birth, extraction, origin, genealogy, heritage, stock, kinship

—RELATED TERMS haemal, haemic, haematic, sanguineous

Types of Blood Cell

acidophil
basophil
eosinophil
erythrocyte or
red blood cell
granulocyte
killer cell
leucocyte or
white blood cell
lymphocyte

macrophage
megakaryocyte
microcyte
monocyte
neutrophil
platelet
plasma cell
reticulocyte

blood-curdling ► adjective TERRIFYING, frightening, spine-chilling, chilling, hair-raising, horrifying, alarming; eerie, sinister, horrible; Scottish eldritch, informal scary.

bloodless ► adjective ① a bloodless revolution NON-VIOLENT, peaceful, peaceable, pacifist ② his face was bloodless ANAEMIC, pale, wan, pallid, ashen, colourless, chalky, waxen, white, grey, pasty, drained, drawn, deathly ③ a bloodless Hollywood mogul HEARTLESS, unfeeling, cruel, ruthless, merciless, pitiless, uncharitable, cold, hard, stony-hearted, cold-blooded, callous. ④ a bloodless chorus FEEBLE, spiritless, lifeless, listless, half-hearted, unenthusiastic, lukewarm.

—OPPOSITES bloody, ruddy, charitable, powerful.

bloodshed ► noun SLAUGHTER, massacre, killing, wounding; carnage, butchery, bloodletting, bloodbath, violence, fighting, warfare, battle, poetic/literary slaying.

bloodthirsty ► adjective MURDEROUS, homicidal, violent, vicious, barbarous, barbaric, savage, brutal, cut-throat, fierce, ferocious, inhuman

bloody ► adjective ① his bloody nose: BLEEDING ② bloody medical waste: BLOODSTAINED, blood-soaked, gory; archaic sanguinary ③ a bloody civil war: VICIOUS, ferocious, savage, fierce, brutal, murderous, gory; archaic sanguinary. ④ (informal) a bloody nuisance! See DAMNED.

bloody-minded ► adjective (Brit informal) UNCO-OPERATIVE, awkward, disobliging, recalcitrant, unaccommodating, inflexible, uncompromising, contrary, perverse, obstinate, stubborn; difficult; informal pig-headed, Brit informal bolshie, stroppy.

—OPPOSITES compliant.

bloom ► noun ① orchid blooms FLOWER, blossom, floweret, floret ② a girl in the bloom of youth: PRIME, perfection, acme, peak, height, heyday; salad days. ③ the bloom of her skin: RADIANCE, lustre, sheen, glow, freshness; BLUSH, rosininess, pinkness, colour.

► verb ① the geraniums bloomed: FLOWER, blossom, open; mature. ② the children bloomed in the Dev-

onshire air. FLOURISH, thrive, prosper, progress, burgeon; *informal* be in the pink
-OPPOSITES wither, decline

blossom ▶ noun pink blossoms FLOWER, bloom, floweret, floret

▶ verb ① the snowdrops have blossomed: BLOOM, flower, open, unfold; mature ② the whole region had blossomed DEVELOP, grow, mature, progress, evolve; flourish, thrive, prosper, bloom, burgeon

-OPPOSITES fade, decline

■ in blossom IN FLOWER, flowering, blossoming, blooming, in (full) bloom, open, out

blot ▶ noun ① an ink blot SPOT, dot, mark, blotch, smudge, patch, dab, *informal* splotch; *Brit informal* splodge. ② the only blot on a clean campaign: BLEMISH, taint, stain, blight, flaw, fault, disgrace, dishonour ③ a blot on the landscape EYESORE, monstrosity, carbuncle, mess; *informal* sight.

▶ verb ① blot the excess water SOAK UP, absorb, sponge up, mop up, dry up/out; dab, pat ② the writing was messy and blotted: SMUDGE, smear, blotch, mark ③ he had blotted our name forever TARNISH, taint, stain, blacken, sully, mar, dishonour, disgrace, besmirch

-OPPOSITES honour

■ blot something out ① Mary blotted out her picture ERASE, obliterate, delete, efface, rub out, blank out, expunge, cross out, strike out ② clouds were starting to blot out the stars CONCEAL, hide, obscure, exclude, obliterate, shadow, eclipse ③ he urged her to blot out the memory. ERASE, efface, eradicate, expunge, wipe out

blotch ▶ noun ① pink flowers with dark blotches PATCH, smudge, dot, spot, blot, dab, daub; *informal* splotch, *Brit informal* splodge. ② his face was covered in blotches: PATCH, mark, freckle, birthmark, discoloration, eruption, naevus

▶ verb her face was blotched and swollen SPOT, mark, smudge, streak, blemish

blotchy ▶ adjective MOTTLED, dappled, blotched, patchy, spotty, spotted, smudged, marked; *informal* splotchy, *Brit informal* splodgy.

blow¹ ▶ verb ① the icy wind blew around us GUST, puff, flurry, blast, roar, bluster, rush, storm ② his ship was blown on to the rocks. SWEEP, carry, toss, drive, push, force ③ leaves blew across the road: DRIFT, flutter, waft, float, glide, whirl, move ④ he blew a smoke ring: EXHALE, puff, emit, expel, discharge, issue ⑤ Uncle Albert was puffing and blowing WHEEZE, puff, pant, gasp ⑥ he blew a trumpet SOUND, blast, toot, pipe, trumpet, play. ⑦ a rear tyre had blown: BURST, explode, blow out, split, rupture, puncture ⑧ the bulb had blown: FUSE, short-circuit, burn out, break, go. ⑨ (informal) he blew his money on gambling: SQUANDER, waste, misspend, throw away, fritter away, go through, lose, lavish, dissipate, use up; spend recklessly; *informal* splurge, *Brit. informal*, dated blue. ⑩ (informal) don't blow this opportunity. SPOIL, ruin, bungle, mess up, fudge, waste, lose, squander; *informal* botch, muff, screw up, foul up; *Brit. informal* cock up, bodge ⑪ his cover was blown: EXPOSE, reveal, uncover, disclose, divulge, unveil, betray, leak.

▶ noun ① a severe blow: GALE, storm, tempest, hurricane; wind, breeze, gust, draught, flurry. ② a blow on the guard's whistle: TOOT, blast, blare; whistle.

■ blow out ① the matches will not blow out in a strong wind: BE EXTINGUISHED, go out, be put out, stop burning ② the front tyre blew out See verb sense 7 ③ the windows blew out SHATTER, rupture, crack, smash, splinter, disintegrate, burst, explode, fly apart; *informal* bust

■ blow something out EXTINGUISH, put out, snuff, douse, quench, smother

■ blow over ABATE, subside, drop off, lessen, ease (off), let up, diminish, fade, dwindle, slacken, recede, tail off, peter out, pass, die down, fizzle out

■ blow up ① a lorryload of shells blew up EXPLODE, detonate, go off, ignite, erupt ② he blows up at whoever's in his way: LOSE ONE'S TEMPER, get angry, rant and rave, go berserk, flare up, erupt, *informal* go mad, go crazy, go wild, go ape, hit the roof, fly off the handle ③ a crisis blew up. BREAK OUT, erupt, flare up, boil over, emerge, arise

■ blow something up ① they blew the plane up BOMB, blast, destroy, explode, detonate ② blow up the balloons. INFLATE, pump up, fill up, puff up, swell, expand, aerate ③ things get blown up out of all proportion EXAGGERATE, overstate, overstress, overestimate, magnify, amplify, aggrandize, embellish, elaborate ④ I blew the picture up on a photocopier ENLARGE, magnify, expand, increase

blow² ▶ noun ① a blow on the head: KNOCK, BANG, hit, punch, thump, smack, crack, rap, *informal* whack, thwack, bash, clout, sock, wallop. ② losing his wife must have been a blow SHOCK, surprise, bombshell, thunderbolt, jolt, calamity, catastrophe, disaster, upset, setback

blowout ▶ noun ① the steering is automatic in the event of blowouts. PUNCTURE, flat tyre, burst tyre, *informal* flat ② (informal) this meal is our last real blowout FEAST, banquet, celebration, party, *informal* shindig, do, binge, *Brit informal* beanfeast, bunfight, nosh-up.

blowsy ▶ adjective UNTIDY, sloppy, scruffy, messy, dishevelled, unkempt, frowzy, slovenly, coarse, RED-FACED, ruddy, florid, raddled
-OPPOSITES tidy, respectable

blowy ▶ adjective WINDY, windswept, blustery, gusty, breezy, stormy, squally
-OPPOSITES still.

blubber¹ ▶ noun whale blubber FAT, fatty tissue

blubber² ▶ verb (informal) she started to blubber CRY, sob, weep, howl, snivel, *informal* blub, boo-hoo.

bludgeon ▶ noun hooligans wielding bludgeons: CUDGEL, club, stick, truncheon, baton, N. Amer. nightstick, blackjack, *Brit informal* cosh.

▶ verb ① he was bludgeoned to death. BATTER, cudgel, club, beat, thrash; *informal* clobber. ② I let him bludgeon me into marriage: COERCE, force, compel, pressurize, pressure, bully, browbeat, hector, dragoon, steamroller; *informal* strong-arm, railroad.

blue ▶ adjective ① bright blue eyes: sky-blue, azure, cobalt, sapphire, navy, Oxford blue, Cambridge blue, ultramarine, aquamarine, cyan; poetic/literary cerulean. ② (informal) Mum was feeling a bit blue. DEPRESSED, down, sad, unhappy, melancholy, miserable, gloomy, dejected, downhearted, downcast, despondent, low, glum; *informal* down in the dumps, down in the mouth, fed up. ③ (informal) a blue movie: PORNO-

GRAPHIC, racy, risqué, naughty, spicy, indecent, dirty, lewd, smutty, filthy, obscene, sordid, erotic, arousing, sexy, titillating, explicit, *informal* porn, porno, X-rated, raunchy, *euphemistic* adult

—OPPOSITES happy, clean

blueprint ▶ **noun** ① *blueprints of the aircraft*. PLAN, design, diagram, drawing, sketch, map, layout, representation ② *a blueprint for similar measures in other countries*: MODEL, plan, template, framework, pattern, example, guide, prototype, pilot

blues ▶ **plural noun** (*informal*) *a fit of blues* DEPRESSED, sadness, unhappiness, melancholy, misery, sorrow, gloom, dejection, despondency, despair, the doldrums

bluff ▶ **noun** *this offer was denounced as a bluff* DECEPTION, subterfuge, pretence, sham, fake, deceit, feint, hoax, fraud, charade, trick, ruse, scheme, machination, *informal* put-on

▶ **verb** ① *they are bluffing to hide their guilt* PRETEND, sham, fake, feign, lie, hoax, pose, posture, masquerade, dissemble ② *I managed to bluff the board into believing me* DECEIVE, delude, mislead, trick, fool, hoodwink, dupe, hoax, beguile, gull, *informal* con, kid, have on

bluff ▶ **adjective** *a bluff man* PLAIN-SPOKEN, straightforward, blunt, direct, no-nonsense, frank, open, candid, forthright, unequivocal, hearty, genial, good-natured; *informal* upfront

bluff ▶ **noun** *an impregnable high bluff* CLIFF, promontory, headland, crag, bank, peak, escarpment, scarp

blunder ▶ **noun** *he shook his head at his blunder* MISTAKE, error, gaffe, slip, oversight, faux pas, *informal* botch, slip-up, boo-boo, *Brit informal* clanger, boob, *N Amer informal* blooper

▶ **verb** ① *the government admitted it had blundered* MAKE A MISTAKE, err, miscalculate, bungle, trip up, be wrong, *informal* slip up, screw up, blow it, goof, *Brit informal* boob ② *she blundered down the steps* STUMBLE, lurch, stagger, flounder, struggle, fumble, grope

blunt ▶ **adjective** ① *a blunt knife* UNSHARPENED, dull, worn, edgeless ② *the leaf is broad with a blunt tip* ROUNDED, flat, obtuse, stubby ③ *a blunt message*. STRAIGHTFORWARD, frank, plain-spoken, candid, direct, bluff, forthright, unequivocal; BRUSQUE, abrupt, curt, terse, bald, brutal, harsh, stark, undisguised, unvarnished, *informal* upfront.

—OPPOSITES sharp, pointed, subtle

▶ **verb** ① *ebony blunts tools very rapidly* DULL, make less sharp. ② *age hasn't blunted my passion for life* DULL, deaden, dampen, numb, weaken, sap, cool, temper, allay, abate; diminish, reduce, decrease, lessen, deplete.

—OPPOSITES sharpen, intensify

blur ▶ **verb** ① *she felt tears blur her vision*: CLOUD, fog, obscure, dim, make hazy, unfocus, soften, poetic/literary bedim; archaic blear ② *films blur the difference between villains and victims*: OBSCURE, make vague, confuse, muddle, muddy, obfuscate, cloud, weaken. ③ *memories of the picnic had blurred*: BECOME DIM, dull, numb, deaden, mute, lessen, decrease, diminish.

—OPPOSITES sharpen, focus.

▶ **noun** *a blur on the horizon*: INDISTINCT SHAPE, smudge; haze, cloud, mist.

blurred ▶ **adjective** INDISTINCT, blurry, fuzzy, hazy, misty, foggy, shadowy, faint; unclear, vague, indefinite, unfocused, obscure, nebulous

blurt

■ **blurt something out** BURST OUT WITH, exclaim, call out, DIVULGE, disclose, reveal, betray, let slip, give away, *informal* blab, gush, let on, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag; dated ejaculate

blush ▶ **verb** *Joan blushed at the compliment*: REDDEN, turn/go pink, turn/go red, flush, colour, burn up, feel shy, feel embarrassed

▶ **noun** *the darkness hid her fiery blush*. FLUSH, rosi-ness, pinkness, bloom, high colour

bluster ▶ **verb** ① *he started blustering about the general election* RANT, thunder, bellow, sound off; be overbearing; *informal* throw one's weight about/around ② *storms bluster in from the sea* BLAST, gust, storm, roar, rush

▶ **noun** *his bluster turned to cooperation* RANTING, thundering, hectoring, bullying, bombast, bumptiousness, braggadocio

blustery ▶ **adjective** STORMY, gusty, blowy, windy, squally, wild, tempestuous, turbulent; howling, roaring

—OPPOSITES calm

board ▶ **noun** ① *a wooden board* PLANK, beam, panel, slat, batten, timber, lath ② *the board of directors* COMMITTEE, council, panel, directorate, commission, group ③ *your room and board will be free* FOOD, meals, provisions, refreshments, diet, table, bread, keep, maintenance, *informal* grub, nosh, eats, chow, *Brit informal* scoff

▶ **verb** ① *he boarded the aircraft*. GET ON, go aboard, enter, mount, ascend, embark, emplane, entrain, catch, *informal* hop on ② *a number of students boarded with them* LODGE, live, reside, be housed, *N Amer* room, *informal* put up, have digs ③ *they run a facility for boarding dogs* ACCOMMODATE, lodge, take in, put up, house, keep, feed, cater for

■ **board something up/over** COVER UP/OVER, close up, shut up, seal

board game ▶ **noun**. See list

Board Games

backgammon

checkers

chess

Chinese chequers

Chinese chess

Cluedo (trademark)

draughts

fox and geese

go

halma

kriegspiel

ludo

mancala

Monopoly (trademark)

nine men's morris

pachisi

peggotty

Pictionary (trademark)

Risk (trademark)

Scrabble (trademark)

shogi

snakes and ladders

solitaire

Trivial Pursuit

(trademark)

war

wei ch'i

boast ▶ **verb** ① *his mother had been boasting about him*: BRAG, crow, swagger, swank, gloat, show off; exaggerate, overstate, *informal* talk big, lay it on thick; *Austral/NZ informal* skate. ② *the hotel boasts a fine restaurant*: POSSESS, have, own, enjoy, pride oneself/itself on.

▶ **noun** ① *the government's main boast seemed un-*



done. BRAG, self-praise; exaggeration, overstatement, fanfaronade, *informal* swank; *Austral/NZ informal* skate ② *the hall is the boast of the county* PRIDE, joy, wonder, delight, treasure, gem.

boastful ▶ **adjective** BRAGGING, swaggering, bumptious, puffed up, full of oneself, cocky, conceited, arrogant, egotistical, *informal* swanky, big-headed; *N Amer informal* blowhard; *poetic/literary* vainglorious
—OPPOSITES modest

boat ▶ **noun** a rowing boat VESSEL, craft, watercraft, ship; *poetic/literary* keel, barque See lists at SAILING SHIP, SHIP

▶ **verb** he insisted on boating into the lake: SAIL, yacht, cruise.

bob ▶ **verb** ① *their yacht bobbed about*: MOVE UP AND DOWN, bounce, toss, skip, dance, jounce, wobble, jiggle, joggle, jolt, jerk ② *the bookie's head bobbed*: NOD, incline, dip; wag, waggle ③ *the maid bobbed and left the room*. CURTSY, bow

▶ **noun** ① a bob of his head NOD, inclination, dip, wag, waggle ② *the maid scurried away with a bob* CURTSY, bow, obeisance

bode ▶ **verb** AUGUR, portend, herald, be a sign of, warn of, foreshadow, be an omen of, presage, indicate, signify, promise, threaten, spell, denote, foretell; prophesy, predict, *poetic/literary* betoken, forebode.

bodily ▶ **adjective** bodily sensations: PHYSICAL, corporeal, corporal, somatic, fleshly, concrete, real, actual, tangible

—OPPOSITES spiritual, mental

▶ **adverb** he hauled her bodily from the van FORCE FULLY, forcibly, violently, wholly, completely, entirely

body ▶ **noun** ① *the human body*: FIGURE, frame, form, physique, anatomy, skeleton; soma; *informal* bod. See lists at BONE, DIGESTION, EAR, EYE, GLAND, MUSCLE, NERVE, TOOTH, VEIN, VERTEBRA ② *he was hit by shrapnel in the head and body* TORSO, trunk ③ *the bodies were put in the fire* CORPSE, carcass, skeleton, remains; *informal* stiff; *Medicine* cadaver ④ *the body of the article*: MAIN PART, central part, core, heart, hub. ⑤ *the body of the ship*. BODYWORK, hull, fuselage ⑥ *a body of water*: EXPANSE, mass, area, stretch, tract, sweep, extent ⑦ *a growing body of evidence*: QUANTITY, amount, volume, collection, mass, corpus. ⑧ *the representative body of the employers*: ASSOCIATION, organization, group, party, company, society, circle, syndicate, guild, corporation, contingent. ⑨ *a heavenly body*: OBJECT, entity. ⑩ *add body to your hair*: FULLNESS, thickness, substance, bounce, lift, shape.

■ **body and soul** COMPLETELY, entirely, totally, utterly, fully, thoroughly, wholeheartedly, unconditionally, to the hilt.

bodyguard ▶ **noun** MINDER, guard, protector, guardian, defender; *informal* heavy.

boffin ▶ **noun** (*Brit informal*) EXPERT, specialist, authority, genius, mastermind; SCIENTIST, technician, inventor; *informal* egghead, Einstein.

bog ▶ **noun** MARSH, swamp, mire, quagmire, morass, slough, fen, wetland; *Brit. carr*; *Scottish & N. English* moss.

■ **bog someone/something down** MIRE, stick, entangle, ensnare, embroil; hamper, hinder, impede, delay, stall, detain; swamp, overwhelm.

bogey ▶ **noun** ① *water bogies frighten children from pools*: EVIL SPIRIT, bogle, spectre, phantom, hobgoblin, demon; *informal* spook. ② *the guild is the bogey of bankers*: BUGBEAR, pet hate, bane, anathema, abomination, nightmare, horror, dread, curse; *N Amer* bugaboo.

boggle ▶ **verb** (*informal*) ① *this data makes the mind boggle* MARVEL, wonder, be astonished, be overwhelmed, be staggered, gape, goggle, *informal* gawk ② *you never boggle at plain speaking*: DEMUR, balk, shrink from, shy away from, be shy about; hesitate, waver, falter; *informal* be cagey about

boggy ▶ **adjective** MARSHY, swampy, miry, fenny, muddy, waterlogged, wet, soggy, sodden, squelchy, spongy, heavy, sloughy

bogus ▶ **adjective** FAKE, spurious, false, fraudulent, sham, deceptive, COUNTERFEIT, forged, feigned, make-believe, dummy, pseudo, *informal* phoney, pretend

—OPPOSITES genuine

bohemian ▶ **noun** he is an artist and a real bohemian: NONCONFORMIST, avant-gardist, free spirit, dropout, hippy, beatnik.

—OPPOSITES conservative

▶ **adjective** a bohemian student life: UNCONVENTIONAL, nonconformist, unorthodox, avant-garde, irregular, alternative, artistic, *informal* arty-farty, way-out, offbeat

—OPPOSITES conventional.

boil¹ ▶ **verb** ① *boil the potatoes*. BRING TO THE BOIL, simmer; cook ② *the soup is boiling* SIMMER, bubble, stew ③ *a huge cliff with the sea boiling below* CHURN, seethe, froth, foam, *poetic/literary* roil ④ *she boiled at his lack of consideration*: FUME, seethe, rage, smoulder, bristle, be angry, be furious; get worked up, *informal* see red, get steamed up

▶ **noun** bring the stock to the boil: BOILING POINT, 100 degrees centigrade

■ **boil something down** CONDENSE, reduce, concentrate, thicken

■ **boil down to** COME DOWN TO, amount to, add up to, be in essence.

boil² ▶ **noun** a boil on her neck. SWELLING, SPOT, pimple, blister, pustule, eruption, carbuncle, wen, abscess, ulcer; *technical* furuncle

boiling ▶ **adjective** ① *boiling water* AT BOILING POINT, at 100 degrees centigrade, very hot, piping hot, bubbling. ② (*informal*) *it was a boiling day*: VERY HOT, scorching, blistering, sweltering, sultry, torrid, *informal* roasting, baking

—OPPOSITES freezing.

boisterous ▶ **adjective** ① *a boisterous game of handball*: LIVELY, animated, exuberant, spirited, rowdy, unruly, wild, uproarious, unrestrained, undisciplined, uninhibited, uncontrolled, rough, disorderly, riotous; noisy, loud, clamorous; *informal* rumbustious. ② *a boisterous wind*. BLUSTERY, gusty, windy, stormy, wild, squally, tempestuous; howling, roaring; *informal* blowy.

—OPPOSITES restrained, calm.

bold ▶ **adjective** ① *bold adventurers*: DARING, intrepid, brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, fearless, dauntless, audacious, daredevil; adventurous, heroic, plucky, spirited, confident, assured; *informal* gutsy, spunky, feisty. ② *a bold pattern*: STRIKING, vivid, bright, strong, eye-catching, prominent; gaudy, lurid, garish. ③ *de-*

parture times are in bold type **HEAVY**, thick, pronounced.

—OPPOSITES timid, pale

bolshie ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) UNCOOPERATIVE, awkward, disobliging, unhelpful, recalcitrant, contrary, perverse, obstinate, stubborn, difficult, unreasonable, exasperating, trying, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, stropky.

—OPPOSITES compliant

bolster ▶ **noun** the bed was strewn with bolsters
PILLOW, cushion, pad

▶ **verb** a break would bolster her morale **STRENGTHEN**, reinforce, boost, fortify, renew, support, buoy up, shore up, maintain, aid, help, augment, increase

—OPPOSITES undermine.

bolt ▶ **noun** ① the bolt on the shed door **BAR**, **LOCK**, catch, latch, fastener. ② nuts and bolts **RIVET**, pin, peg, screw. ③ a bolt whirled over my head **ARROW**, quarrel, dart, shaft, poetic/literary reed. ④ a bolt of lightning **FLASH**, shaft, streak, burst, flare. ⑤ Mark made a bolt for the door **DASH**, dart, run, sprint, leap, bound. ⑥ a bolt of cloth **ROLL**, reel, spool, quantity, amount

▶ **verb** ① he bolted the door **LOCK**, bar, latch, fasten, secure. ② the lid was bolted down **RIVET**, pin, peg, screw, fasten, fix. ③ Anna bolted from the room. **DASH**, dart, run, sprint, hurtle, rush, fly, shoot, bound, flee, *informal* tear, scoot, leg it. ④ he bolted down his breakfast **GOBBLE**, gulp, wolf, guzzle, devour, *informal* demolish, polish off, shovel down, *Brit informal* shift, gollop, scoff, *N Amer informal* scarf, snarf

■ a bolt from/out of the blue **SHOCK**, surprise, bombshell, thunderbolt, revelation, *informal* turn-up for the books

■ bolt upright **STRAIGHT**, rigidly, stiffly

bomb ▶ **noun** ① bombs burst on the runway See list. ② the world has lived with the bomb **NUCLEAR WEAPONS**, nuclear bombs, atom bombs, A-bombs. ③ (*Brit informal*) a new superstore will cost a bomb See **FORTUNE** sense 5

▶ **verb** ① their headquarters were bombed. **BOMBARD**, blast, shell, blitz, strafe, pound, attack, assault, blow up, destroy, demolish, flatten, devastate. ② (*Brit informal*) she bombed across Texas See **SPEED** verb sense 1. ③ (*informal*) the film bombed at the box office See **FAIL** sense 1

bombard ▶ **verb** ① gun batteries bombarded the islands **SHELL**, pound, blitz, strafe, bomb, assail, attack, assault, batter, blast, pelt. ② we were bombarded with information **INUNDATE**, swamp, flood, deluge, snow under, besiege, overwhelm

bombast ▶ **noun** **BLUSTER**, pomposity, empty talk, humbug, turgidity, verbosity, verbiage, pretentiousness, ostentation, grandiloquence, *informal* hot air, *rare* fustian

bombastic ▶ **adjective** **POMPOUS**, blustering, turgid, verbose, orotund, high-flown, high-sounding, overwrought, pretentious, ostentatious, grandiloquent; *informal* highfalutin; *rare* fustian.

bona fide ▶ **adjective** **AUTHENTIC**, genuine, real, true, actual, legal, legitimate, lawful, valid, proper; *informal* legit, pukka, the real McCoy.

—OPPOSITES bogus.

bonanza ▶ **noun** **WINDFALL**, godsend, boon, blessing, bonus, stroke of luck; *informal* jackpot.

bond ▶ **noun** ① the women forged a close bond. **FRIENDSHIP**, relationship, fellowship, partner-

Bombs and Mines

See also **EXPLOSIVE**, **PROJECTILE**.

A-bomb	laser-guided bomb
acoustic mine	letter bomb
atom/atomic bomb	limpet mine
Bangalore torpedo	magnetic mine
blockbuster	Mills bomb
car bomb	mine
cluster bomb	missile
daisy-cutter	Molotov cocktail
depth charge	napalm bomb
doodlebug	neutron bomb
firebomb	nuclear bomb/device
flying bomb	parcel bomb
fragmentation bomb	petard
fuel-air bomb	petrol bomb
fusion bomb	shell
gas shell	smart bomb
gellignite	smoke bomb
grenade	stick grenade
hand grenade	thermonuclear bomb/ device
H-bomb	time bomb
hydrogen bomb	torpedo
incendiary bomb	vacuum bomb
JAM (joint direct attack munition)	V-1
landmine	V-2

ship, association, affiliation, alliance, attachment. ② the prisoner struggled with his bonds **CHAINS**, fetters, shackles, manacles, irons, restraints. ③ I've broken my bond: **PROMISE**, pledge, vow, oath, word (of honour), guarantee, assurance, agreement, contract, pact, bargain, deal.

▶ **verb** the extensions are bonded to your hair **JOIN**, fasten, fix, affix, attach, secure, bind, stick, fuse

bondage ▶ **noun** **SLAVERY**, enslavement, servitude, subjugation, subjection, oppression, domination, exploitation, persecution, *historical* serfdom, vassalage, *archaic* enthrallment

—OPPOSITES liberty

bone ▶ **noun**. See lists here and at **FRACTURE**.

—RELATED TERMS **OSSEOUS**, **OSTEO**.

bonhomie ▶ **noun** **GENIALITY**, affability, conviviality, cordiality, amiability, sociability, friendliness, warmth, joviality.

—OPPOSITES coldness

bon mot ▶ **noun** **WITTICISM**, quip, pun, pleasantery, jest, joke, *informal* wisecrack, one-liner.

bonny ▶ **adjective** (*Scottish & N English*) **BEAUTIFUL**, attractive, pretty, gorgeous, fetching, prepossessing, lovely, nice, sweet, cute, appealing, endearing, adorable, lovable, charming, winsome, *informal* divine, *Austral/NZ informal* beaut; *poetic/literary* beauteous, *archaic* fair, comely.

—OPPOSITES unattractive

bonus ▶ **noun** ① the extra work's a real bonus **BENEFIT**, advantage, boon, blessing, godsend, stroke of luck, asset, plus, pro, attraction; *informal* perk; *formal* perquisite. ② she's on a good salary and she gets a bonus: **GRATUITY**, handout, gift, present, reward, prize, incentive, inducement, *informal* perk, sweetener; *formal* perquisite.

—OPPOSITES disadvantage.

bon vivre, bon vivant ▶ **noun** **HEDONIST**, pleasure-seeker, sensualist, sybarite, voluptuary; epicure, gourmet, gastronome.

b

Human Bones

See also VERTEBRA.

astragalus	palatine bone
calcaneum (or heel bone)	parietal bone
carpal	patella (or kneecap)
carpus	pelvis
capitata	phalanx
cheekbone	pisiform bone
clavicle (or collarbone)	pubis
concha	rachis
costa	radius
cranium	rib
cuboid	sacrum
cuneiform bones	scaphoid
ethmoid	scapula (or shoulder blade)
femur (or thigh bone)	sesamoid bone
fibula	skull
floating rib	sphenoid
frontal bone	spinal column
hallux	spine (or backbone)
hamate	stapes (or stirrup)
humerus	sternum (or breastbone)
hyoid	talus (or ankle bone)
ilium	tarsal
incus (or anvil)	tarsus
innominate bone	temporal bone
ischium	tibia (or shin bone)
jawbone	trapezium
lacrimal	trapezoid
lunate bone	triquetral
malleus (or hammer)	ulna
mandible	vertebra
maxilla	vertebral column
metacarpal	vomer
metatarsal	zygomatic bone
navicular bone	
occipital bone	

-OPPOSITES puritan.

bony ► **adjective** GAUNT, ANGULAR, skinny, thin, lean, spare, spindly, skin and bone, skeletal, emaciated, underweight; *informal* like a bag of bones

-OPPOSITES plump

booby ► **noun**. See IDIOT

book ► **noun** ① *he published his first book in 1610* VOLUME, tome, publication, title, novel, storybook, treatise, manual, paperback, hardback, softback. See list at NOVEL ② *he scribbled in his book* NOTEPAD, notebook, pad, memo pad, exercise book, logbook, ledger, journal, diary; *Brit* jotter, pocketbook; *N Amer* scratch pad. ③ *the council had to balance its books*. ACCOUNTS, records; account book, record book, ledger, balance sheet.

► **verb** ① *she booked a table at the restaurant* RESERVE, make a reservation for, pre-arrange, order; *informal* bag; *formal* bespeak. ② *we booked a number of events in the Festival*. ARRANGE, programme, schedule, timetable, line up, lay on. *N. Amer.* slate.

■ **by the book** ACCORDING TO THE RULES, within the law, lawfully, legally, legitimately; honestly, fairly; *informal* on the level, fair and square.

■ **book in** REGISTER, check in, enrol.

booking ► **noun** RESERVATION, pre-arrangement; appointment, date.

bookish ► **adjective** STUDIOUS, scholarly, academic, intellectual, highbrow, erudite, learned, educated, knowledgeable, cerebral, serious, earnest, thoughtful.

booklet ► **noun** PAMPHLET, brochure, leaflet, handbill, flyer, tract; *N. Amer.* folder, mailer

boom ► **noun** ① *the boom of the waves on the rocks* REVERBERATION, resonance, thunder, echoing, crashing, drumming, pounding, roar, rumble ② *an unprecedented boom in sales*: UPTURN, upsurge, upswing, increase, advance, growth, boost, escalation, improvement.

-OPPOSITES slump

► **verb** ① *thunder boomed overhead* REVERBERATE, resound, resonate, rumble, thunder, blare, echo, crash, roll, clap, explode, bang ② *a voice boomed at her* BELLOW, roar, thunder, shout, bawl, *informal* holler. ③ *the market continued to boom* FLOURISH, burgeon, thrive, prosper, progress, improve, pick up, expand, mushroom, snowball.

-OPPOSITES whisper, slump.

boomerang ► **verb** BACKFIRE, recoil, reverse, rebound, come back, ricochet, be self-defeating, *informal* blow up in one's face.

booming ► **adjective** ① *a booming voice* RESONANT, sonorous, ringing, resounding, reverberating, carrying, thunderous; strident, stentorian, strong, powerful. ② *booming business* FLOURISHING, burgeoning, thriving, prospering, prosperous, successful, strong, buoyant, profitable, fruitful, lucrative, expanding

boon¹ ► **noun** *their help was such a boon* BLESSING, godsend, bonus, plus, benefit, advantage, help, aid, asset, stroke of luck, *informal* perk, *formal* perquisite.

-OPPOSITES curse

boon² ► **adjective** *a boon companion* CLOSE, intimate, bosom, inseparable, faithful, favourite, best

boor ► **noun** LOU, oaf, ruffian, thug, barbarian, Neanderthal, brute, beast, *informal* clod, yahoo, roughneck, peasant, pig; *Brit informal* yobbo, yob, oik.

boorish ► **adjective** COARSE, uncouth, rude, ill-bred, ill-mannered, uncivilized, unrefined, common, rough, thuggish, loutish; vulgar, unsavoury, gross, brutish, Neanderthal, *informal* cloddish, plebby; *Brit informal* yobbish, *Austral informal* ocker.

-OPPOSITES refined.

boost ► **noun** ① *a boost to one's morale* UPLIFT, lift, spur, encouragement, help, inspiration, stimulus, filip. ② *a boost in sales*: INCREASE, expansion, upturn, upsurge, upswing, rise, escalation, improvement, advance, growth, boom; *informal* hike.

-OPPOSITES decrease

► **verb** ① *he phones her to boost her morale*: IMPROVE, raise, uplift, increase, enhance, encourage, heighten, help, promote, foster, stimulate, invigorate, revitalize; *informal* buck up ② *they used advertising to boost sales*: INCREASE, raise, escalate, improve, strengthen, inflate, push up, promote, advance, foster, stimulate; facilitate, help, assist, aid; *informal* hike, bump up.

-OPPOSITES decrease.

boot¹ ► **noun** ① *muddy boots*: GUMBOOT, wellington, wader, walking boot, riding boot, moon boot, thigh boot, ankle boot, pixie boot, desert



boot; informal welly; trademark Doc Martens; historical top boot. See list at FOOTWEAR. ② (informal) a boot in the stomach. KICK, blow, knock.

► **verb** ① his shot was booted away by the goalkeeper: KICK, punt, bunt, tap; propel, drive, knock ② boot up your computer: START UP, fire up

■ **boot someone out** (informal). See DISMISS sense 1

■ **give someone the boot** (informal). See DISMISS sense 1

boot²

■ **to boot** AS WELL, also, too, besides, into the bargain, in addition, additionally, on top, what's more, moreover, furthermore, informal and all

booth ► **noun** ① booths for different traders: STALL, stand, kiosk ② a phone booth CUBICLE, kiosk, box, enclosure, cabin

bootleg ► **adjective** ILLEGAL, illicit, unlawful, unauthorized, unlicensed, pirated, contraband, smuggled, black-market

bootless ► **adjective** (archaic) See FRUITLESS.

bootlicker ► **noun** (informal) SYCOPHANT, toady, fawner, flatterer, creep, crawler, lickspittle, truckler, groveller, kowtowner, informal yes-man, archaic toad-eater

booty ► **noun** LOOT, plunder, pillage, haul, spoils, stolen goods, ill-gotten gains, pickings, informal swag

booze (informal) ► **noun** fill him up with food and booze ALCOHOL, alcoholic drink, (intoxicating) liquor, drink, spirits, intoxicants, informal grog, firewater, rotgut, the hard stuff, the bottle, Dutch courage, hooch, moonshine, Brt informal bevies, N Amer informal juice, the sauce

► **verb** I was boozing with my mates DRINK (ALCOHOL), tippie, imbibe, indulge, informal hit the bottle, knock a few back, swill, Brt informal bevvy, N Amer informal bend one's elbow

boozer ► **noun** ① (informal) he's a notorious boozier DRINKER, drunk, drunkard, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, tippler, imbiber, sot, inebriate, informal lush, alky, dipso, soak, tosspot, wino, sponge, barfly; Austral/NZ informal hophead, archaic toper ② (Brt informal) I'm off down the boozier BAR, wine bar, inn, roadhouse, Brt pub, public house, N Amer tavern; informal watering hole; Brt informal local; dated alehouse; N Amer historical saloon, archaic hostelry

bop ► **noun** (Brt informal) ① I fancy a bop DANCE, informal boogie, jive. ② a college bop DISCO-THEQUE; informal disco, hop

► **verb** (informal) they were bopping to disco music DANCE, jig; informal boogie, jive, groove, disco, rock, stomp, hoof it; N Amer informal get down, cut a/the rug.

bordello ► **noun** (N Amer) BROTHEL, whorehouse; Law disorderly house, Brt informal knocking shop; N Amer informal cathouse; euphemistic massage parlour; archaic bawdy house, house of ill fame, house of ill repute

border ► **noun** ① the border of a medieval manuscript: EDGE, MARGIN, perimeter, circumference, periphery; rim, fringe, verge; sides. ② the Soviet border: FRONTIER, boundary, borderline, perimeter; marches, bounds.

► **verb** ① the fields were bordered by hedges: SURROUND, enclose, encircle, circle, edge, fringe, bound, flank. ② the straps are bordered with gold braid: EDGE, fringe, hem, trim, pipe, finish.

③ the forest bordered on Broadmoor ADJOIN, abut, be next to, be adjacent to, be contiguous with, touch, join, meet, reach.

■ **border on** VERGE ON, approach, come close to, be comparable to, approximate to, be tantamount to, be similar to, resemble.

borderline ► **noun** the borderline between old and antique: DIVIDING LINE, divide, division, demarcation line, line, cut-off point; threshold, margin, border, boundary

► **adjective** borderline cases: MARGINAL, uncertain, indefinite, unsettled, undecided, doubtful, indeterminate, unclassifiable, equivocal, questionable, debatable, controversial, contentious, problematic; informal iffy

bore¹ ► **verb** bore a hole in the ceiling: DRILL, pierce, perforate, puncture, punch, cut, tunnel, burrow, mine, dig, gouge, sink

► **noun** ① a well bore BOREHOLE, hole, well, shaft, pit ② the canon has a bore of 890 millimetres CALIBRE, diameter, gauge

bore² ► **verb** the television news bored Philip STULTIFY, pall on, stupefy, weary, tire, fatigue, send to sleep, leave cold; bore to death, bore to tears, informal turn off

—OPPOSITES interest

► **noun** you can be such a bore: TEDIOUS PERSON/THING, tiresome person/thing, bother, nuisance, pest, annoyance, trial, vexation, thorn in one's flesh/side, informal drag, pain (in the neck), headache, hassle; N Amer informal nudnik

boredom ► **noun** WEARINESS, ennui, apathy, unconcern, accidie, frustration, dissatisfaction, restlessness, restiveness, tedium, dullness, monotony, repetitiveness, flatness, dreariness, informal deadliness

boring ► **adjective** TEDIOUS, dull, monotonous, repetitive, unrelieved, unvaried, unimaginative, uneventful; characterless, featureless, colourless, lifeless, insipid, uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, unstimulating, jejune, flat, bland, dry, stale, tired, banal, lacklustre, stodgy, dreary, humdrum, mundane, mind-numbing, soul-destroying, wearisome, tiring, tiresome, irksome, trying, frustrating, informal deadly, not up to much, Brt informal samey, N Amer informal dullsville

borrow ► **verb** ① we borrowed a lot of money: LOAN, take as a loan, lease, hire; informal cadge, scrounge, bum; Brt informal scab; N Amer informal mooch, Austral/NZ informal bludge. ② (informal) they 'borrowed' all of his tools. TAKE, help oneself to, appropriate, commandeer, abscond with, carry off, steal, purloin; informal filch, rob, swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', snaffle; Brt informal nick, pinch, half-inch, whip, knock off; N Amer informal heist, glom. ③ adventurous chefs borrow foreign techniques ADOPT, take on, acquire, embrace

—OPPOSITES lend.

bosom ► **noun** ① the gown was set low over her bosom: BUST, chest; breasts, mammary glands, mammae; informal boobs, knockers, bobbies; Brt informal bristols, charlies; N Amer informal bazooms; archaic embonpoint. ② (poetic/literary) the family took Gill into its bosom: PROTECTION, shelter, safety, refuge; heart, core; poetic/literary midst. ③ love was kindled within his bosom: HEART, breast, soul, core, spirit.

► **adjective** bosom friends: CLOSE, boon, intimate, in-

separable, faithful, constant, devoted, good, best, firm, favourite

boss (informal) ▶ noun the boss of a large company HEAD, chief, principal, director, president, chief executive, chair, manager(ess); supervisor, foreman, overseer, controller; employer, owner, proprietor, patron; informal number one, kingpin, top dog, bigwig; *Brit* informal gaffer, governor; *N Amer* informal head honcho, padrone, sachem, big kahuna

▶ verb you have no right to boss me about ORDER ABOUT/AROUND, dictate to, lord it over, bully, push around/about, domineer, dominate, pressurize, browbeat; call the shots, lay down the law; informal bulldoze, walk all over, railroad.

bossy ▶ adjective (informal) DOMINEERING, pushy, overbearing, imperious, officious, high-handed, authoritarian, dictatorial, controlling, informal high and mighty.

—OPPOSITES submissive

botch (informal) ▶ verb examiners botched the marking BUNGLE, mismanage, mishandle, make a mess of, informal mess up, make a hash of, muff, fluff, foul up, screw up, *Brit* informal bodge, cock up, *N Amer* informal flub

▶ noun I've made a botch of things: MESS, blunder, failure, wreck, fiasco, debacle, informal hash; *Brit* informal bodge, cock-up, pig's ear
—OPPOSITES success.

bother ▶ verb ① no one bothered her DISTURB, trouble, inconvenience, pester, badger, harass, molest, plague, nag, hound, harry, annoy, upset, irritate; informal hassle, bug, get up someone's nose, get in someone's hair; *N English* informal mither, *N Amer* informal rde ② the incident was too small to bother about. MIND, care, concern oneself, trouble oneself, worry oneself, informal give a damn, give a hoot. ③ there was something bothering him: WORRY, trouble, concern, perturb, disturb, disquiet, disconcert, unnerve, fret, upset, distress, agitate, gnaw at, weigh down, informal rattle

▶ noun ① I don't want to put you to any bother TROUBLE, effort, exertion, inconvenience, fuss, pains, informal hassle. ② the food was such a bother to cook: NUISANCE, pest, palaver, rigmarole, job, trial, bind, bore, drag, inconvenience, trouble, problem, informal hassle, headache, pain (in the neck) ③ a spot of bother in the public bar: DISORDER, fighting, trouble, ado, disturbance, agitation, commotion, uproar; *NZ* bobsy-die, informal hoo-ha, aggro, argy-bargy, kerfuffle.

bothersome ▶ adjective ANNOYING, irritating, vexatious, maddening, exasperating; tedious, wearisome, tiresome; troublesome, trying, taxing, awkward; informal aggravating, pesky, pestilential.

bottle ▶ noun ① a bottle of whisky: carafe, flask, decanter, pitcher, flagon, carboy, demijohn. See list at WINE. ② (informal) a world blurred by the bottle. ③ (*Brit*, informal) no one had the bottle to stand up to McGregor: COURAGE, bravery, valour, nerve, confidence, daring, audacity, pluck, spirit, grit, mettle, spine, backbone; informal guts, spunk, gumption; *N Amer* informal moxie.

▶ bottle something up SUPPRESS, repress, restrain, withhold, hold in, rein in, inhibit, smother, stifle, contain, conceal, hide; informal keep a lid on.

bottleneck ▶ noun TRAFFIC JAM, jam, congestion, hold-up, gridlock, tailback; constriction,

narrowing, restriction, obstruction, blockage; informal snarl-up

bottom ▶ noun ① the bottom of the stairs FOOT, lowest part, lowest point, base; foundation, substructure, underpinning. ② the bottom of the car: UNDERSIDE, underneath, undersurface, undercarriage, underbelly. ③ the bottom of Lake Ontario FLOOR, bed, depths ④ the bottom of his garden: FARTHEST POINT, far end, extremity ⑤ the bottom of his class: LOWEST LEVEL, lowest position ⑥ (*Brit*) I've got a tattoo on my bottom: REAR (END), rump, seat; buttocks, cheeks, informal behind, backside, BTM, sit-upon, derrière, *Brit* informal bum, botty, jacksie, *N Amer* informal butt, fanny, tush, tail, buns, booty, heimie, humorous fundament, posterior, stern; *Anatomy* nates ⑦ police got to the bottom of the mystery ORIGIN, cause, root, source, basis, foundation, heart, kernel; reality, essence.

—OPPOSITES top, surface

▶ adjective she sat on the bottom step LOWEST, last, bottommost, technical basal

—OPPOSITES top

▶ from top to bottom THOROUGHLY, fully, extensively, completely, comprehensively, rigorously, exhaustively, scrupulously, meticulously

bottomless ▶ adjective ① the bottomless pits of hell FATHOMLESS, unfathomable, endless, infinite, immeasurable ② George's appetite was bottomless: UNLIMITED, limitless, boundless, infinite, inexhaustible, endless, never-ending, everlasting, vast, huge, enormous

—OPPOSITES limited

bough ▶ noun BRANCH, limb, arm, offshoot

boulder ▶ noun ROCK, stone, *Austral* / *NZ* gibber

boulevard ▶ noun AVENUE, street, road, drive, lane, parade, Broadway, thoroughfare

bounce ▶ verb ① the ball bounced: REBOUND, spring back, ricochet, jounce, *N Amer* carom ② William bounced down the stairs: BOUND, leap, jump, spring, bob, hop, skip, trip, prance.

▶ noun ① he reached the door in a single bounce BOUND, leap, jump, spring, hop, skip ② the pitch's uneven bounce: SPRINGINESS, resilience, elasticity, give ③ she had lost her bounce VITALITY, vigour, energy, vivacity, liveliness, animation, sparkle, verve, spirit, enthusiasm, dynamism, cheerfulness, happiness, buoyancy, optimism; informal get-up-and-go, pep, zing

▶ bounce back RECOVER, revive, rally, pick up, be on the mend; perk up, cheer up, brighten up, liven up, informal buck up

bouncing ▶ adjective VIGOROUS, thriving, flourishing, blooming; HEALTHY, strong, robust, fit, in fine fettle, informal in the pink

bouncy ▶ adjective ① a bouncy bridge: SPRINGY, flexible, resilient, elastic, stretchy, rubbery. ② a rather bouncy ride: BUMPY, jolting, jerky, jarring, rough; informal jumpy. ③ she was always bouncy LIVELY, energetic, perky, frisky, jaunty, dynamic, vital, vigorous, vibrant, animated, spirited, buoyant, bubbly, sparkling, vivacious; enthusiastic, upbeat; informal peppy, zingy, chirpy.

bound' ▶ adjective ① he raised his bound ankles: TIED, chained, fettered, shackled, secured. ② she seemed bound to win: CERTAIN, sure, very likely, destined. ③ you're bound by the Official Secrets Act to keep quiet: OBLIGATED, obliged, compelled, required, constrained. ④ religion and morality are

bound up with one another: CONNECTED, linked, tied, united, allied

bound² ▶ verb hares bound in the fields: LEAP, jump, spring, bounce, hop; skip, bob, dance, prance, gambol, gallop.

▶ noun he crossed the room with a single bound LEAP, jump, spring, bounce, hop.

bound³ ▶ verb ① corporate freedom is bounded by law: LIMIT, restrict, confine, circumscribe, demarcate, delimit ② the heath is bounded by a hedge: ENCLOSE, surround, encircle, circle, border; close in/off, hem in ③ the garden was bounded by Mill Lane: BORDER, adjoin, abut; be next to, be adjacent to.

boundary ▶ noun ① the boundary between Israel and Jordan: BORDER, frontier, borderline, partition. ② the boundary between art and advertising: DIVIDING LINE, divide, division, borderline, cut-off point ③ the boundary of his estate: BOUNDS, confines, limits, margins, edges, fringes; border, periphery, perimeter ④ the boundaries of accepted behaviour: LIMITS, parameters, bounds, confines, ambit, compass

boundless ▶ adjective LIMITLESS, unlimited, unbounded, untold, immeasurable, abundant, inexhaustible, endless, infinite, interminable, unending, ceaseless, everlasting
-OPPOSITES limited

bounds ▶ plural noun ① we keep rents within reasonable bounds: LIMITS, confines, proportions ② land within the forest bounds: BORDERS, boundaries, confines, limits, margins, edges, periphery, perimeter

■ out of bounds OFF LIMITS, restricted, forbidden, banned, proscribed, illegal, illicit, unlawful, unacceptable, taboo, informal no go

bountiful ▶ adjective ① their bountiful patron: GENEROUS, magnanimous, munificent, open-handed, unselfish, unstinting, lavish; benevolent, beneficent, charitable ② a bountiful supply of fresh food: ABUNDANT, plentiful, ample, copious, bumper, superabundant, inexhaustible, prolific, profuse, lavish, generous, handsome, rich; informal whopping, poetic/literary plenteous.
-OPPOSITES mean, meagre

bounty ▶ noun ① a bounty for each man killed: REWARD, prize, award, commission, premium, dividend, bonus, gratuity, tip, donation, hand-out; incentive, inducement; money, informal perk, sweetener; formal perquisite. ② (poetic/literary) I thank the Lord for all his bounty: GENEROSITY, magnanimity, munificence, bountifulness, largesse, lavishness; benevolence, beneficence, charity, goodwill; blessings, favours.

bouquet ▶ noun ① her bridal bouquet: BUNCH OF FLOWERS, posy, nosegay, tussie-mussie, spray, corsage. ② bouquets go to Ann for a well-planned event: COMPLIMENT, commendation, tribute, accolade; praise, congratulations, applause. ③ the Chardonnay has a fine bouquet: AROMA, nose, smell, fragrance, perfume, scent, odour.

bourgeois ▶ adjective ① a bourgeois family: MIDDLE-CLASS, propertied; CONVENTIONAL, conservative, conformist; provincial, suburban, small-town. ② bourgeois decadence: CAPITALISTIC, materialistic, money-oriented, commercial.
-OPPOSITES proletarian, communist.

▶ noun a proud bourgeois: MEMBER OF THE MIDDLE CLASS, property owner.

bout ▶ noun ① a short bout of exercise: SPELL, period, time, stretch, stunt, session; burst, flurry, spurt ② a coughing bout: ATTACK, fit, spasm, paroxysm, convulsion, eruption, outburst ③ he is fighting only his fifth bout: CONTEST, match, round, heat, competition, event, meeting, fixture; fight, prizefight.

bovine ▶ adjective ① large, bovine eyes: COW-LIKE, calf-like, taunne ② an expression of bovine amazement: STUPID, slow, ignorant, unintelligent, imperceptive, half-baked, vacuous, mindless, witless, doltish; informal dumb, dense, dim, dim-witted, dopey, birdbrained, pea-brained; Bnt informal dozy, daft, Scottish & N. English informal glaikit.

▶ noun cow, heifer, bull, bullock, calf, ox; N Amer informal boss, bossy; Farming beef

bow¹ ▶ verb ① the officers bowed: INCLINE THE BODY, incline the head, nod, salaam, curtsy, bob ② the mast quivered and bowed: BEND, buckle, stoop, curve, flex, deform ③ the government bowed to foreign pressure: YIELD, submit, give in, surrender, succumb, capitulate, defer, conform, comply with, accept, heed, observe ④ a footman bowed her in: USHER, conduct, show, lead, guide, direct, steer, shepherd

▶ noun a perfunctory bow. OBEISANCE, salaam, bob, curtsy, nod, archaic reverence

■ bow out WITHDRAW, resign, retire, step down, pull out, back out; give up, quit, leave; informal pack in, chuck (in), Bnt informal jack in

bow² ▶ noun the bow of the tanker: PROW, front, stem, nose, head, cutwater; Bnt humorous sharp end.

bow³ ▶ noun ① she tied a bow in her hair: LOOP, knot, ribbon. ② he bent the rod into a bow: ARC, curve, bend, crescent, half-moon ③ an archer's bow: longbow, crossbow, Archery recurve

bowdlerize ▶ verb EXPURGATE, censor, blue-pencil, cut, edit, sanitize, water down, emasculate.

bowel ▶ noun ① a disorder of the bowels. INTES-TINE(s), small intestine, large intestine, colon, informal guts, insides. ② the bowels of the ship: INTERIOR, inside, core, belly; depths, recesses, informal innards.

bower ▶ noun ① a rose-scented bower: ARBOUR, pergola, grotto, alcove, sanctuary. ② (poetic/literary) the lady's bower: BEDROOM; historical boudoir; archaic bedchamber, chamber

bowl¹ ▶ verb ① he bowled a hundred or so balls: PITCH, throw, propel, hurl, toss, lob, loft, fling, launch, deliver; spin, roll; informal chuck, sling, bung, heave, buzz; dated shy. ② the car bowled along the roads: HURTLE, speed, shoot, sweep, career, hare, fly; informal belt, tear, scoot; Bnt informal bomb; N Amer informal clip.

■ bowl someone over ① the explosion bowled us over: KNOCK DOWN/OVER, fell, floor, prostrate ② (informal) I have been bowled over by your generosity: OVERWHELM, astound, astonish, overawe, dumbfound, stagger, stun, daze, shake, take aback, leave aghast, informal knock sideways, flabbergast, blow away; Bnt informal knock for six.

bowl² ▶ noun ① she cracked two eggs into a bowl: DISH, basin, pot, crock, crucible, mortar; container, vessel, receptacle; historical jorum, porringer. ② the town lay in a shallow bowl: VALLEY, hollow, dip, depression, trough, crater. ③ (N. Amer)



the Hollywood Bowl. STADIUM, arena, amphitheatre, colosseum, enclosure, ground, informal park.

box¹ ► **noun** ① a box of cigars CARTON, pack, packet, case, crate, chest, coffer, casket, container, receptacle ② a telephone box BOOTH, cubicle, kiosk, cabin, hut; compartment, carrel, alcove, bay, recess

► **verb** Muriel boxed up his clothes; PACKAGE, pack, parcel, bundle, bale, crate

■ **box something/someone in** HEM IN, fence in, close in, shut in, trap, confine, imprison, intern, surround, enclose, encircle, circle

box² ► **verb** ① he began boxing professionally FIGHT, prizefight, spar; battle, brawl, informal scrap. ② he boxed my ears CUFF, smack, strike, hit, thump, slap, swat, punch, jab, wallop, Scottish & N English skelp; informal belt, bop, biff, sock, clout, clobber, whack, plug, slug, Bnt informal slosh, dot, N Amer informal boff, bust

► **noun** a box on the ear CUFF, hit, thump, slap, smack, swat, punch, jab, hook, Scottish & N English skelp, informal belt, bop, biff, sock, clout, whack, plug, slug

boxer ► **noun** FIGHTER, pugilist, ringster, prizefighter, kick-boxer; informal bruiser, scrapper

boxing ► **noun** PUGILISM, the noble art, fighting, sparring, fisticuffs, kick-boxing, prizefighting, the (prize) ring See list

Boxing Weight Divisions

bantamweight
cruiserweight
featherweight
flyweight
heavyweight
junior lightweight
light flyweight

light heavyweight
light middleweight
lightweight
light welterweight
middleweight
welterweight

boy ► **noun** LAD, schoolboy, male child, youth, young man, stripling; Scottish & N English laddie; derogatory brat. See also CHILD

boycott ► **verb** they boycotted the elections SPURN, snub, shun, avoid, abstain from, wash one's hands of, turn one's back on, reject, veto —OPPOSITES support

► **noun** a boycott on the use of tropical timbers; BAN, veto, embargo, prohibition, sanction, restriction, avoidance, rejection, refusal

boyfriend ► **noun** LOVER, sweetheart, beloved, darling, dearest, young man, man friend, man, escort, suitor, PARTNER, significant other; informal fella, flame, fancy man, toy boy, sugar daddy; N Amer. informal squeeze, poetic/literary swain; dated beau; archaic paramour.

boyish ► **adjective** YOUTHFUL, young, childlike, adolescent, teenage; immature, juvenile, infantile, childish, babyish, puerile

brace ► **noun** ① the saw is best used with a brace: VICE, clamp, press. ② power drills run faster than a brace: DRILL, boring tool, rotary tool. ③ the aquarium is supported by wooden braces: PROP, beam, joist, batten, rod, post, strut, stay, support, stanchion, bracket ④ a brace on his right leg: SUPPORT, caliper. ⑤ a brace of partridges: PAIR, couple, duo, twosome; two. ⑥ (Printing) the term within braces: BRACKET, parenthesis.

► **verb** ① the plane's wing is braced by a system of rods: SUPPORT, shore up, prop up, hold up, but-

tress, underpin; strengthen, reinforce. ② he braced his hand on the railing: STEADY, secure, stabilize, fix, poise, tense, tighten. ③ brace yourself for disappointment: PREPARE, get ready, gear up, nerve, steel, galvanize, gird, strengthen, fortify, informal psych oneself up.

bracelet ► **noun** BANGLE, band, circlet, armlet, wristlet, manilla, rakhi, kara

bracing ► **adjective** INVIGORATING, refreshing, stimulating, energizing, exhilarating, reviving, restorative, rejuvenating, revitalizing, rousing, fortifying, strengthening, FRESH, brisk, keen

bracket ► **noun** ① each speaker is fixed on a separate bracket: SUPPORT, prop, stay, batten, joist, rest, mounting, rack, frame ② put the words in brackets PARENTHESIS, Printing brace ③ a higher tax bracket GROUP, category, grade, classification, set, division, order

► **verb** women were bracketed with minors GROUP, CLASSIFY, class, categorize, grade, list, sort, place, assign, couple, pair, twin, liken, compare

brackish ► **adjective** SLIGHTLY SALTY, saline, salt

brag ► **verb** BOAST, crow, swagger, swank, bluster, gloat, show off, blow one's own trumpet, sing one's own praises, informal talk big, lay it on thick, Austral/NZ informal skite

braggart ► **noun** he was a prodigious braggart and a liar BOASTER, bragger, swaggerer, poser, poseur, egotist, informal big-head, loudmouth, show-off, swank, N Amer informal showboat, blowhard; Austral/NZ informal skite, Bnt informal, dated swankpot

braid ► **noun** ① straps bordered with gold braid CORD, bullion, thread, tape, binding, rickrack, ribbon, cordon, torsade, Military slang scrambled egg ② his hair is in braids PLAIT, pigtail, twist, cornrows, dreadlocks

► **verb** ① she began to braid her hair: PLAIT, entwine, intertwine, interweave, weave, twist, twine ② the sleeves are braided in scarlet TRIM, edge, border, pipe, hem, fringe

brain ► **noun** ① the disease attacks certain cells in the brain CEREBRUM, cerebral matter, encephalon ② success requires brains as well as brawn IN TELLIGENCE, intellect, brainpower, cleverness, wit(s), reasoning, wisdom, acumen, discernment, judgement, understanding, sense; informal nous, grey matter, savvy; N Amer informal smarts ③ (informal) Janice is the brains of the family. CLEVER PERSON, intellectual, intellect, thinker, mind, scholar, genius, Einstein; informal egghead, bright spark; Bnt informal brainbox, clever clogs, N Amer. informal brainiac, rocket scientist —RELATED TERMS cerebral, encephalic. —OPPOSITES dunce.

brainless ► **adjective** STUPID, FOOLISH, witless, unintelligent, ignorant, idiotic, simple-minded, empty-headed, half-baked; informal dumb, half-witted, brain-dead, moronic, cretinous, thick, dopey, dozy, birdbrained, pea-brained, dippy, wooden-headed; Brit. informal divvy; Scottish & N. English informal glaukit; N Amer informal chowderheaded. —OPPOSITES clever.

brain-teaser ► **noun** (informal) PUZZLE, problem, riddle, conundrum, poser.

brainwash ► **verb** INDOCTRINATE, condition, re-educate, persuade, influence.

brainy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) CLEVER, intelligent, bright, brilliant, gifted, intellectual, erudite, academic, scholarly, studious, bookish, *informal* smart; *Brit. informal* swotty
-OPPOSITES stupid.

brake ▶ **noun** a brake on research: CURB, check, restraint, restriction, constraint, control, limitation

▶ **verb** she braked at the traffic lights SLOW (DOWN), decelerate, reduce speed
-OPPOSITES accelerate

branch ▶ **noun** ① the branches of a tree BOUGH, limb, arm, offshoot. ② a branch of the river TRIBUTARY, feeder, side stream. ③ the judicial branch of government DIVISION, subdivision, section, subsection, department, sector, part, side, wing. ④ the corporation's New York branch OFFICE, bureau, agency, subsidiary, offshoot, satellite

▶ **verb** ① the place where the road branches FORK, bifurcate, divide, subdivide, split. ② narrow paths branched off the road DIVERGE FROM, deviate from, split off from, fan out from, radiate from

■ **branch out** EXPAND, open up, extend, diversify, broaden one's horizons

brand ▶ **noun** ① a new brand of margarine MAKE, line, label, marque, type, kind, sort, variety, trade name, trademark, proprietary name. ② her particular brand of humour TYPE, kind, sort, variety, class, category, genre, style, ilk, *N Amer* stripe. ③ the brand on a sheep IDENTIFICATION, marker, earmark. ④ the brand of dipso-mania STIGMA, shame, disgrace, taint, blot, mark

▶ **verb** ① the letter M was branded on each animal MARK, stamp, burn, sear. ② the scene was branded on her brain ENGRAVE, stamp, etch, imprint. ③ the media branded us as communists. STIGMA TIZE, mark out, denounce, discredit, vilify, label

brandish ▶ **verb** FLOURISH, wave, shake, wield, swing, swish, display, flaunt

brash ▶ **adjective** ① a brash man SELF-ASSERTIVE, pushy, cocksure, cocky, self-confident, arrogant, bold, audacious, brazen, forward, impudent, insolent, rude. ② brash colours GARISH, gaudy, loud, flamboyant, showy, tasteless, *informal* flashy, tacky.

-OPPOSITES meek, muted

brass ▶ **noun.** See list

Brass Instruments

althorn	helicon	slide
baritone	horn	trombone
bombardon	lur	sousaphone
bugle	mellophone	trombone
cornet	ophicleide	trumpet
cornopean	post horn	tuba
euphonium	sackbut	Wagner tuba
flugelhorn	sarrusophone	zinke
French horn	saxhorn	
handhorn	saxotromba	

brassy ▶ **adjective** ① BRAZEN, forward, bold, self-assertive, pushy, cocksure, cocky, brash; shameless, immodest; loud, vulgar, showy, ostentatious; *informal* flashy. ② *brassy music*: LOUD, blaring, noisy, deafening, strident; raucous,

harsh, dissonant, discordant, cacophonous; tinny.

-OPPOSITES demure, soft.

brat ▶ **noun** (*derogatory*) RASCAL, wretch, imp; minx, chit; *informal* monster, horror, whipper-snapper.

bravado ▶ **noun** BOLDNESS, swaggering, bluster; machismo, boasting, bragging, bombast, braggadocio; *informal* showing off

brave ▶ **adjective** ① they put up a brave fight: COURAGEOUS, plucky, valiant, valorous, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, bold, fearless, daring, audacious, unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, doughty, mettlesome, stout-hearted, spinted, *informal* game, gutsy, spunky. ② (*poetic/literary*) his medals made a brave show SPLENDID, magnificent, impressive, fine, handsome

-OPPOSITES cowardly

▶ **noun** (*dated*) an Indian brave WARRIOR, soldier, fighter

▶ **verb** fans braved freezing temperatures to see them play ENDURE, put up with, bear, withstand, weather, suffer, go through, face, confront, defy

bravery ▶ **noun** COURAGE, pluck, valour, intrepidity, nerve, daring, fearlessness, audacity, boldness, dauntlessness, stout-heartedness, heroism, backbone, grit, spine, spirit, mettle, *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* moxie

bravo ▶ **exclamation** WELL DONE, congratulations, encore

bravura ▶ **noun** a display of bravura SKILL, brilliance, virtuosity, expertise, artistry, talent, ability, flair

▶ **adjective** a bravura performance VIRTUOSO, masterly, outstanding, excellent, superb, brilliant, first-class, *informal* mean, ace, A1

brawl ▶ **noun** a drunken brawl FIGHT, skirmish, scuffle, tussle, fray, melee, free-for-all, scrum; fisticuffs, *informal* scrap, dust-up, set-to; *Brit informal* punch-up, ruck, *Scottish informal* rammy; *N Amer informal* rough house, brannigan, *Law, dated* affray

▶ **verb** he ended up brawling with photographers FIGHT, skirmish, scuffle, tussle, exchange blows, grapple, wrestle, *informal* scrap; *N Amer informal* rough-house

brawn ▶ **noun** PHYSICAL STRENGTH, muscle(s), burliness, huskiness, toughness, power, might, *informal* beef, beefiness

brawny ▶ **adjective** STRONG, muscular, muscly, well built, powerful, mighty, Herculean, strapping, burly, sturdy, husky, rugged, bulky, hefty, meaty, solid, *informal* beefy, hunky, hulking

-OPPOSITES puny, weak

bray ▶ **verb** ① a donkey brayed NEIGH, whinny, hee-haw. ② Billy brayed with laughter: ROAR, bellow, trumpet.

brazen ▶ **adjective** ① brazen defiance. BOLD, SHAMELESS, unashamed, unabashed, unembarrassed; defiant, impudent, impertinent, cheeky, barefaced, blatant, flagrant, *Brit informal* saucy. ② (*poetic/literary*) brazen objects: BRASS.

-OPPOSITES timid.

■ **brazen it out** PUT ON A BOLD FRONT, stand one's ground, be defiant, be unrepentant, be unabashed.

b

breach ▶ noun ① a clear breach of the regulations CONTRAVENTION, violation, infringement, infraction, transgression, neglect; Law delict. ② a breach between government and Church: RIFT, schism, division, gulf, chasm, disunion, estrangement, discord, dissension, disagreement, split, break, rupture, scission; *Brit. informal* bust-up. ③ a breach in the sea wall: BREAK, rupture, split, crack, fracture; opening, gap, hole, fissure.

▶ verb ① the river breached its bank BREAK (THROUGH), burst, rupture; *informal* bust ② the changes breached union rules: BREAK, contravene, violate, infringe, defy, disobey, flout, fly in the face of; Law infract

bread ▶ noun ① a loaf of bread See list ② (*informal*) his job puts bread on the table See FOOD sense 1 ③ (*informal*) I hate doing this, but I need the bread. See MONEY sense 1

Bread and Bread Rolls

azyme	dampier	panettone
bagel	fari	panino
baguette	farmhouse	pan-loaf
banmock	loaf	paratha
bap	flatbread	petit pain
bara brith	focaccia	piklet
barmbrack	French stick	piki
barm cake	fruit loaf	pitta
barracouta	granary	platzel
bialy	bread	pone
billy-bread	(trademark)	poppadom
bloomer	hoagie	pumpnickel
boudy	injera	puri
bridge roll	johnnycake	quartern loaf
bricche	kaiser	roti
bun	kulcha	rye bread
challah	malt loaf	soda bread
chapatti	manchet	sourdough
ciabatta	matzo	split tin
cob	milk loaf	spoon bread
combread	muffin	stollen
cottage loaf	nan	stotty
crumpet	pan dulce	wholemeal

breadth ▶ noun ① a breadth of 100 metres: WIDTH, broadness, wideness, thickness, span, diameter. ② the breadth of his knowledge. RANGE, extent, scope, depth, reach, compass, scale, degree.

break ▶ verb ① the mirror broke: SHATTER, smash, crack, snap, fracture, fragment, splinter, fall to bits, fall to pieces, split, burst; *informal* bust. ② she had broken her leg: FRACTURE, crack. ③ the bite had barely broken the skin PIERCE, puncture, penetrate, perforate, cut ④ the coffee machine has broken. STOP WORKING, break down, give out, go wrong, malfunction, crash; *informal* go kaput, conk out, be on the blink, give up the ghost; *Brit informal* pack up ⑤ traders who break the law: CONTRAVENE, violate, infringe, breach; defy, flout, disobey, fly in the face of. ⑥ his concentration was broken: INTERRUPT, disturb, interfere with ⑦ they broke for coffee: STOP, pause, have a rest; *N. Amer.* recess, *informal* knock off, take five. ⑧ a pile of carpets broke his fall: CUSHION, soften the impact of, take the edge off. ⑨ the film broke box-office records: EXCEED, surpass, beat, better, cap, top, outdo, outstrip, eclipse; *informal* leave standing.

⑩ habits are very difficult to break: GIVE UP, relinquish, drop; *informal* kick, shake, pack in, quit ⑪ the strategies used to break the union: DESTROY, crush, quash, defeat, vanquish, overcome, overpower, overwhelm, suppress, cripple; weaken, subdue, cow, undermine. ⑫ her self-control finally broke GIVE WAY, crack, cave in, yield, go to pieces ⑬ four thousand pounds wouldn't break him BANKRUPT, ruin, pauperize ⑭ he tried to break the news gently REVEAL, disclose, divulge, impart, tell, announce, release. ⑮ he broke the encryption code DECIPHER, decode, decrypt, unravel, work out, *informal* figure out ⑯ the day broke fair and cloudless DAWN, begin, start, emerge, appear ⑰ a political scandal broke ERUPT, break out ⑱ the weather broke CHANGE, alter, shift ⑲ waves broke against the rocks CRASH, dash, beat, pound, lash ⑳ her voice broke as she relived the experience FALTER, quaver, quiver, tremble, shake
-OPPOSITES repair, keep, resume

▶ noun ① the magazine has been published without a break since 1950 INTERRUPTION, interval, gap, hiatus, discontinuation, suspension, disruption, cut-off, stop, stoppage, cessation ② a break in the weather CHANGE, alteration, variation ③ let's have a break: REST, respite, recess; stop, pause, interval, intermission; *informal* breather, time out, down time ④ a weekend break HOLIDAY, *N. Amer.* vacation, *Brit informal* vac ⑤ a break in diplomatic relations RIFT, schism, split, break-up, severance, rupture; *Brit informal* bust-up. ⑥ a break in the wall GAP, opening, space, hole, breach, chink, crack, fissure, tear, split ⑦ (*informal*) the actress got her first break in 1951 OPPORTUNITY, chance, opening

■ break away ① she attempted to break away from his grip ESCAPE, get away, run away, flee, make off; break free, break loose, get out of someone's clutches; *informal* leg it, cut and run ② a group broke away from the main party LEAVE, secede from, split off from, separate from, part company with, defect from; form a splinter group

■ break down ① his van broke down. See BREAK verb sense 4 ② pay negotiations broke down: FAIL, collapse, founder, fall through, disintegrate, *informal* fizzle out ③ Vicky broke down, sobbing loudly. BURST INTO TEARS, lose control, be overcome, go to pieces, crumble, disintegrate, *informal* crack up, lose it

■ break something down ① the police broke the door down: KNOCK DOWN, kick down, smash in, pull down, tear down, demolish. ② break big tasks down into smaller parts: DIVIDE, separate. ③ graphs show how the information can be broken down: ANALYSE, categorize, classify, sort out, itemize, organize; dissect

■ break in ① thieves broke in and took her cheque book: COMMIT BURGLARY, break and enter; force one's way in, burst in. ② 'I don't want to interfere,' Mrs Hendry broke in: INTERRUPT, butt in, cut in, interject, interpose, intervene, chime in; *Brit informal* chip in.

■ break someone in TRAIN, initiate; *informal* show someone the ropes.

■ break into ① thieves broke into a house in Perth Street: BURGLE, rob; force one's way into, burst into. ② Phil broke into the discussion: INTERRUPT, butt into, cut in on, intervene in. ③ he broke into a song: BURST INTO, launch into.

■ **break off** SNAP OFF, come off, become detached, become separated

■ **break something off** ① I broke off a branch from the tree SNAP OFF, pull off, sever, detach ② they threatened to break off diplomatic relations. END, terminate, stop, cease, call a halt to, finish, dissolve; SUSPEND, discontinue, informal pull the plug on

■ **break out** ① he broke out of the detention centre: ESCAPE FROM, abscond from, flee from, get free. ② fighting broke out FLARE UP, start suddenly, erupt, burst out.

■ **break up** ① the meeting broke up. END, finish, stop, terminate, adjourn, N Amer recess ② the crowd began to break up: DISPERSE, scatter, disband, part company ③ Danny and I broke up last year SPLIT UP, separate, part (company), divorce ④ (informal) the whole cast broke up. BURST OUT LAUGHING, dissolve into laughter, informal fall about, crack up, crease up, theatrical slang corpse

■ **break something up** ① police tried to break up the crowd. DISPERSE, scatter, disband ② I'm not going to let you break up my marriage WRECK, ruin, destroy

breakable ► adjective FRAGILE, delicate, flimsy, insubstantial, destructible, formal frangible

breakaway ► adjective a breakaway group SEPARATIST, secessionist, schismatic, splinter, rebel, renegade

breakdown ► noun ① the breakdown of the negotiations FAILURE, collapse, disintegration, foundering ② on the death of her father she suffered a breakdown NERVOUS BREAKDOWN, informal crack-up ③ the breakdown of the computer system: MALFUNCTION, failure, crash ④ a breakdown of the figures ANALYSIS, classification, examination, investigation, dissection

breaker ► noun WAVE, roller, comber, white horse, informal boomer, N Amer informal kahuna

break-in ► noun BURGLARY, robbery, theft, raid, informal smash-and-grab

breakneck ► adjective the breakneck pace of change EXTREMELY FAST, rapid, speedy, high-speed, lightning, whirlwind

■ **at breakneck speed** DANGEROUSLY FAST, at full tilt, flat out, ventre à terre, informal hell for leather, like the wind, like a bat out of hell, like greased lightning, Bnt informal like the clappers

breakthrough ► noun ADVANCE, development, step forward, success, improvement, discovery, innovation, revolution
—OPPOSITES setback

break-up ► noun ① the break-up of negotiations END, dissolution, breakdown, failure, collapse, disintegration. ② their break-up was very amicable. SEPARATION, split, parting, divorce, estrangement, rift; Bnt informal bust-up ③ the break-up of the Soviet Union: DIVISION, partition.

breakwater ► noun SEA WALL, jetty, mole, groyne, pier

breast ► noun ① the curve of her breasts: mammary gland, mamma; (breasts) BOSOM(s), bust, chest; informal boobs, knockers, bobbies; Bnt informal bristols, charlies; N Amer informal bazooms. ② feelings of frustration were rising up in his breast: HEART, bosom, soul, core.

breath ► noun ① I took a deep breath: INHALATION, inspiration, gulp of air; exhalation, expiration; Medicine respiration. ② I had barely

enough breath to reply: wind; informal puff. ③ a breath of wind: PUFF, waft, faint breeze. ④ a breath of scandal: HINT, suggestion, trace, touch, whisper, suspicion, whiff, undertone. ⑤ (archaic) there was no breath left in him LIFE (FORCE)

—RELATED TERMS respiratory.

■ **take someone's breath away** ASTONISH, astound, amaze, stun, startle, stagger, shock, take aback, dumbfound, jolt, shake up, awe, overawe, thrill; informal knock sideways, flabbergast, blow away, bowl over, Bnt informal knock for six

breathe ► verb ① she breathed deeply inhale and exhale, respire, draw breath, puff, pant, blow, gasp, wheeze, Medicine inspire, expire, poetic/literary suspire. ② at least I'm still breathing. BE ALIVE, be living, live ③ he would breathe new life into his firm INSTIL, infuse, inject, impart ④ 'Together at last,' she breathed. WHISPER, murmur, purr, sigh, say. ⑤ the room breathed an air of hygiene SUGGEST, indicate, have all the hallmarks of

breather ► noun (informal) BREAK, REST, respite, breathing space, pause, interval, recess

breathless ► adjective ① Will arrived flushed and breathless OUT OF BREATH, panting, puffing, gasping, wheezing, winded, puffed out, short of breath, informal out of puff ② the crowd were breathless with anticipation AGOG, open-mouthed, waiting with bated breath, on the edge of one's seat, on tenterhooks, in suspense, excited, impatient

brehtaking ► adjective SPECTACULAR, magnificent, wonderful, awe-inspiring, awesome, astounding, astonishing, amazing, stunning, incredible, thrilling, exciting, informal sensational, out of this world, poetic/literary wondrous

breed ► verb ① elephants breed readily in captivity REPRODUCE, produce offspring, procreate, multiply, mate ② she was born and bred in the village BRING UP, rear, raise, nurture ③ the political system bred discontent CAUSE, bring about, give rise to, lead to, produce, generate, foster, result in, stir up, poetic/literary beget

► noun ① a breed of cow VARIETY, stock, strain, type, kind, sort ② a new breed of journalist TYPE, kind, sort, variety, class, genre, generation, N Amer stripe

breeding ► noun ① individual birds pair for breeding REPRODUCTION, procreation, mating ② the breeding of rats REARING, raising, nurturing ③ her aristocratic breeding. UPBRINGING, rearing, parentage, family, pedigree, blood, birth ④ people of rank and breeding: (GOOD) MANNERS, gentility, refinement, cultivation, polish, urbanity, informal class

breeding ground ► noun the school is a breeding ground for communists NURSERY, cradle, nest, den; hotbed

breeze ► noun ① a breeze ruffled the leaves: GENTLE WIND, puff of air, gust; Meteorology light air(s), poetic/literary zephyr. ② (informal) travelling through London was a breeze: EASY TASK, five-finger exercise, walkover; child's play, nothing, informal doddle, piece of cake, cinch, kads' stuff, cakewalk, N Amer informal duck soup, snap; Austral / NZ informal bludge, dated snip

► verb (informal) Roger breezed into her office: SAUNTER, stroll, sail, cruise

breezy ▶ **adjective** ① a bright, breezy day WINDY, fresh, brisk, airy; blowy, blustery, gusty ② his breezy manner JAUNTY, CHEERFUL, cheery, brisk, carefree, easy, casual, relaxed, informal, light-hearted, lively, buoyant, sunny, informal upbeat, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, *dated* gay.

brevity ▶ **noun** ① the report is notable for its brevity CONCISENESS, concision, succinctness, economy of language, pithiness, incisiveness, shortness, compactness. ② the brevity of human life SHORTNESS, briefness, transience, ephemerality, impermanence
-OPPOSITES verbosity

brew ▶ **verb** ① this beer is brewed in Frankfurt FERMENT, make ② I'll brew some tea: PREPARE, infuse, make, stew, *Brit informal* mash ③ there's trouble brewing: DEVELOP, loom, impend, be imminent, be on the horizon, be in the offing, be just around the corner

▶ **noun** ① home brew BEER, ale ② a hot reviving brew: DRINK, beverage; tea, coffee ③ a dangerous brew of political turmoil and violent conflict MIXTURE, mix, blend, combination, amalgam

bribe ▶ **verb** he used his wealth to bribe officials BUY OFF, pay off, suborn, *informal* grease someone's palm, keep someone sweet, fix, square, *Brit informal* nobble

▶ **noun** he accepted bribes INDUCEMENT, incentive, carrot, douceur, *informal* backhander, pay-off, kickback, sweetener, *Brit informal* bung, *N Amer informal* schmeer

bribery ▶ **noun** SUBORNATION, *N Amer* payola, *informal* palm-greasing, graft, hush money

bric-a-brac ▶ **noun** ORNAMENTS, knick-knacks, trinkets, bibelots, gewgaws, gimcracks, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, odds and ends, things, stuff; *informal* junk.

brick ▶ **noun** ① bricks and mortar breeze block, adobe, clinker; header, stretcher, bondstone; *Brit* airbrick. ② a brick of ice cream. BLOCK, cube, bar, cake

bridal ▶ **adjective** the bridal party: WEDDING, nuptial, marriage, matrimonial, marital, conjugal.

bride ▶ **noun** WIFE, marriage partner, newlywed.

bridge ▶ **noun** ① a bridge over the river VIADUCT, flyover, overpass, aqueduct. See list ② a bridge between rival groups. LINK, connection, bond, tie

▶ **verb** ① a walkway bridged the motorway: SPAN, cross (over), extend across, traverse, arch over ② an attempt to bridge the gap between cultures JOIN, link, connect, unite; straddle, overcome, reconcile

Types of Bridge

Balley bridge
bascule bridge
cantilever bridge
catenary bridge
chain bridge
clapper bridge
drawbridge

girder bridge
floating bridge
humpback bridge
slow bridge
suspension bridge
swing bridge
transporter bridge

bridle ▶ **noun** a horse's bridle: HARNESS, headgear.
▶ **verb** ① she bridled at his tone: BRISTLE, take offence, take umbrage, be affronted, be offended, get angry ② he bridled his indignation: CURB, re-

strain, hold back, control, check, rein in/back; suppress, stifle; *informal* keep a/the lid on

brief ▶ **adjective** ① a brief account: CONCISE, succinct, short, pithy, incisive, abridged, condensed, compressed, abbreviated, compact, thumbnail, potted; *formal* compendious ② a brief visit: SHORT, flying, fleeting, hasty, hurried, quick, cursory, perfunctory; temporary, short-lived, momentary, transient; *informal* quickie ③ a pair of brief shorts: SKIMPY, scanty, short, revealing. ④ the boss was rather brief with him: BRUSQUE, abrupt, curt, short, blunt, sharp
-OPPOSITES lengthy.

▶ **noun** ① a barrister's brief SUMMARY, case, argument, contention, dossier ② (*informal*) his brief's eloquence saved him See LAWYER ③ a brief of our requirements OUTLINE, summary, synopsis, pre-cis, sketch, digest

▶ **verb** employees were briefed about the decision IN FORM, tell, update, notify, advise, apprise, prepare, prime, instruct, *informal* fill in, clue in, put in the picture

briefing ▶ **noun** ① a press briefing. CONFERENCE, meeting, interview, *N Amer* backgrounder. ② this briefing explains the systems INFORMATION, rundown, guidance, instructions, directions, guidelines

briefly ▶ **adverb** ① Henry paused briefly: MOMENTARILY, temporarily, for a moment, fleetingly ② briefly, the plot is as follows IN SHORT, in brief, to cut a long story short, in a word, in sum, in a nutshell, in essence

briefs ▶ **plural noun** UNDERPANTS, pants, knickers, Y-fronts, G-string, thong, *N Amer* shorts, undershorts, *informal* panties, undies, frillies, *Brit informal* kecks, smalls.

brigade ▶ **noun** ① a brigade of soldiers UNIT, contingent, battalion, regiment, division, squadron, company, platoon, section, corps, troop ② the volunteer ambulance brigade SQUAD, team, group, band, party, crew, force, outfit

brigand ▶ **noun** (*poetic/literary*). See BANDIT

bright ▶ **adjective** ① the bright surface of the metal: SHINING, brilliant, dazzling, beaming, glaring, sparkling, flashing, glittering, scintillating, gleaming, glowing, luminous, radiant, shiny, lustrous, glossy ② a bright morning. SUNNY, sunshiny, cloudless, clear, fair, fine ③ bright colours. VIVID, brilliant, intense, strong, bold, glowing, rich, gaudy, lurid, garish. ④ bright flowers COLOURFUL, brightly-coloured, vivid, vibrant; *dated* gay ⑤ a bright guitar sound. CLEAR, vibrant, pellucid, high-pitched. ⑥ a bright young graduate: CLEVER, intelligent, quick-witted, smart, canny, astute, intuitive, perceptive, ingenious, resourceful; gifted, brilliant, *informal* brainy. ⑦ a bright smile: HAPPY, cheerful, cheery, jolly, merry, sunny, beaming, lively, exuberant, buoyant, bubbly, bouncy, perky, chirpy; *dated* gay. ⑧ a bright future: PROMISING, rosy, optimistic, hopeful, favourable, propitious, auspicious, encouraging, good, golden.

-OPPOSITES dull, dark, stupid.

brighten ▶ **verb** ① sunshine brightened the room: ILLUMINATE, light up, lighten, make bright, make brighter, cast/shed light on. ② you can brighten up the shadiest of corners: ENHANCE, embellish, enrich, dress up, prettify, beautify; *informal* jazz up. ③ Sarah brightened up as she thought of Emily's words: CHEER UP, perk up, rally, be en-

livened, feel heartened, be uplifted, be encouraged, take heart; *informal* buck up, pep up.

brilliance ▶ **noun** ① a philosopher of great brilliance. GENIUS, talent, ability, prowess, skill, expertise, aptitude, flair, finesse, panache, greatness, distinction; intelligence, wisdom, sagacity, intellect ② the brilliance and beauty of Paris. SPLENDOUR, magnificence, grandeur, resplendence ③ the brilliance of the sunshine BRIGHTNESS, vividness, intensity, sparkle, glitter, glittering, glow, blaze, beam, luminosity, radiance

brilliant ▶ **adjective** ① a brilliant student GIFTED, talented, able, adept, skilful, bright, intelligent, clever, smart, astute, intellectual, elite, superior, first-class, first-rate, excellent, *informal* brainy ② his brilliant career SUPERB, glorious, illustrious, impressive, remarkable, exceptional ③ (Brit *informal*) we had a brilliant time. EXCELLENT, marvellous, superb, very good, first-rate, first-class, wonderful, splendid, *informal* great, terrific, tremendous, fantastic, sensational, fabulous, fab, ace, cool, awesome, magic, wicked, Brit *informal* smashing, brill, Austral/NZ *informal* bonzer ④ a shaft of brilliant light BRIGHT, shining, blazing, dazzling, vivid, intense, gleaming, glaring, luminous, radiant, poetic/literary irradiant, coruscating ⑤ brilliant green VIVID, intense, bright, bold, dazzling

—OPPOSITES stupid, bad, dark

brim ▶ **noun** ① the brim of his hat peak, visor, shield, shade ② the cup was filled to its brim RIM, lip, brink, edge

▶ **verb** ① the pan was brimming with water BE FULL (UP), be filled to the top; overflow, run over ② her eyes were brimming with tears FILL, fill up, overflow

brimful ▶ **adjective** FULL (UP), brimming, filled/full to the brim, filled to capacity, overfull, running over, *informal* chock-full
—OPPOSITES empty

brindle, brindled ▶ **adjective** TAWNY, brownish, brown; DAPPLED, streaked, mottled, speckled, flecked

bring ▶ **verb** ① he brought over a tray CARRY, fetch, bear, take, convey, transport, move, haul, shift ② Philip brought his bride to his mansion ESCORT, conduct, guide, lead, usher, show, shepherd ③ the wind changed and brought rain CAUSE, produce, create, generate, precipitate, lead to, give rise to, result in, stir up, whip up, promote; poetic/literary beget ④ the police contemplated bringing charges PUT FORWARD, prefer, lay, submit, present, initiate, institute ⑤ this job brings him a regular salary. EARN, make, fetch, bring in, yield, net, gross, return, produce, command, attract.

■ **bring something about** ① the affair that brought about her death CAUSE, produce, give rise to, result in, lead to, occasion, bring to pass; provoke, generate, engender, precipitate, formal effectuate ② he brought the ship about TURN (ROUND/AROUND), reverse, change the direction of

■ **bring something back** ① the smell brought back memories REMIND ONE OF, put one in mind of, bring/call to mind, conjure up, evoke, summon up; take one back. ② bring back capital punishment REINTRODUCE, reinstate, re-establish, revive, resurrect

■ **bring someone down** ① he was brought down by a clumsy challenge: TRIP, knock over/down,

foul. ② I couldn't bear to bring her down DEPRESS, sadden, upset, get down, dispirit, dishearten, discourage

■ **bring something down** ① we will bring down the price. DECREASE, reduce, lower, cut, drop; *informal* slash ② the unrest brought down the government UNSEAT, overturn, topple, overthrow, depose, oust

■ **bring something forward** PROPOSE, suggest, advance, raise, table, present, move, submit, lodge

■ **bring someone in** INVOLVE, include, count in

■ **bring something in** ① he brought in a private member's bill. INTRODUCE, launch, inaugurate, initiate, institute ② the event brings in one million pounds each year See BRING sense 5

■ **bring something off** ACHIEVE, accomplish, attain, bring about, pull off, manage, realize, complete, finish, execute, perform, discharge, formal effectuate

■ **bring something on.** See BRING SOMETHING ABOUT sense 1

■ **bring something out** ① they were bringing out a new magazine LAUNCH, establish, begin, start, found, set up, instigate, inaugurate, market, publish, print, issue, produce ② the shawl brings out the colour of your eyes ACCENTUATE, highlight, emphasize, accent, set off

■ **bring someone round** ① she administered artificial respiration and brought him round. WAKE UP, return to consciousness, rouse, bring to ② we would have brought him round, given time PER SUADE, convince, talk round, win over, sway, influence

■ **bring oneself to** FORCE ONESELF TO, make oneself, bear to

■ **bring someone up** REAR, raise, care for, look after, nurture, provide for

■ **bring something up** MENTION, allude to, touch on, raise, broach, introduce, voice, air, suggest, propose, submit, put forward, bring forward, table

brink ▶ **noun** ① the brink of the abyss EDGE, verge, margin, rim, lip, border, boundary, perimeter, periphery, limit(s) ② two countries on the brink of war VERGE, threshold, point, edge

brío ▶ **noun** VIGOUR, vivacity, gusto, verve, zest, enthusiasm, vitality, dynamism, animation, spirit, energy, *informal* pep, vim, get-up-and-go

brisk ▶ **adjective** ① a brisk pace QUICK, rapid, fast, swift, speedy, hurried, energetic, lively, vigorous, *informal* nippy ② the bar was doing a brisk trade BUSY, bustling, lively, hectic, good ③ his tone became brisk. NO-NONSENSE, decisive, businesslike, brusque, abrupt, short, sharp, curt, blunt, terse, gruff; *informal* snappy ④ a brisk breeze BRACING, fresh, crisp, invigorating, refreshing, stimulating, energizing; biting, keen, chilly, cold; *informal* nippy
—OPPOSITES slow, quiet

bristle ▶ **noun** ① the bristles on his chin HAIR, whisker; (bristles) stubble, five o'clock shadow; Zoology seta ② a hedgehog's bristles SPINE, prickle, quill, barb.

▶ **verb** ① the hair on the back of his neck bristled RISE, stand up, stand on end; poetic/literary horripilate. ② she bristled at his tone: BRIDLE, take offence, take umbrage, be affronted, be offended; get angry, be irritated. ③ the roof bristled with antennae ABOUND, overflow, be full, be

packed, be crowded, be jammed, be covered, *informal* be thick, be jam-packed, be chock-full

bristly ► **adjective** ① *bristly little bushes* PRICKLY, spiky, thorny, scratchy, brambly ② *the bristly skin of his cheek*: STUBBLY, hairy, fuzzy, unshaven, whiskered, whiskery, scratchy, rough, coarse, prickly, Zoology hispid
—OPPOSITES smooth

Britain ► **noun** THE UNITED KINGDOM, the UK, Great Britain, the British Isles, *Brit informal* Blighty, *poetic/literary* Albion See lists at ENGLAND, IRELAND, SCOTLAND, WALES

brittle ► **adjective** ① *glass is a brittle material* BREAKABLE, fragile, delicate; splintery, *formal* frangible ② *a brittle laugh*: HARSH, hard, sharp, grating ③ *a brittle young woman* EDGY, nervy, anxious, unstable, highly strung, tense, excitable, skittish, neurotic, *informal* uptight, jumpy
—OPPOSITES flexible, resilient, soft, relaxed

broach ► **verb** ① *I broached the matter with my parents* BRING UP, raise, introduce, talk about, mention, touch on, air ② *he broached a barrel of beer* PIERCE, puncture, tap, OPEN, uncork, *informal* crack open

broad ► **adjective** ① *a broad flight of steps* WIDE ② *the leaves are two inches broad* WIDE, across, in breadth, in width ③ *a broad expanse of prairie* EXTENSIVE, vast, immense, great, spacious, expansive, sizeable, sweeping, rolling. ④ *a broad range of opportunities* COMPREHENSIVE, inclusive, extensive, wide, all-embracing, eclectic, unlimited. ⑤ *this report gives a broad outline* GENERAL, non-specific, unspecific, rough, approximate, basic, loose, vague ⑥ *a broad hint* OBVIOUS, unsubtle, explicit, direct, plain, clear, straightforward, bald, patent, transparent, undisguised, overt ⑦ *his broad humour has been toned down* INDECENT, coarse, indelicate, ribald, risqué, racy, rude, suggestive, naughty, off colour, earthy, smutty, dirty, filthy, vulgar, *informal* blue, near the knuckle ⑧ *a broad Somerset accent* PRONOUNCED, noticeable, strong, thick ⑨ *he was attacked in broad daylight*: FULL, complete, total; clear, bright.

—OPPOSITES narrow, limited, detailed, subtle

broadcast ► **verb** ① *the show will be broadcast worldwide* TRANSMIT, relay, air, beam, show, televise, telecast, screen ② *the result was broadcast far and wide*. REPORT, announce, publicize, proclaim; spread, circulate, air, blazon, trumpet. ③ *don't broadcast too much seed* SCATTER, sow, disperse, sprinkle, spread, distribute
► **noun** radio and television broadcasts PROGRAMME, show, production, transmission, telecast, screening; *informal* prog.

broaden ► **verb** ① *her smile broadened* WIDEN, expand, stretch (out), draw out, spread; deepen. ② *the government tried to broaden its political base*: EXPAND, enlarge, extend, widen, swell, increase, augment, add to, amplify; develop, enrich, improve, build on.

broadly ► **adverb** ① *the pattern is broadly similar for men and women*: IN GENERAL, on the whole, as a rule, in the main, mainly, predominantly, loosely, roughly, approximately. ② *he was smiling broadly now*: WIDELY, openly.

broad-minded ► **adjective** LIBERAL, tolerant, open-minded, free-thinking, indulgent, progressive, permissive, unshockable; unprejudiced, unbiased, unbigoted.

—OPPOSITES intolerant

broadside ► **noun** ① (*historical*) *the gunners fired broadsides* SALVO, volley, cannonade, barrage, blast, fusillade ② *a broadside against the economic reforms* CRITICISM, censure, polemic, diatribe, tirade, attack, onslaught; *poetic/literary* philippic

brochure ► **noun** BOOKLET, prospectus, catalogue; pamphlet, leaflet, handbill, handout, *N Amer* folder

broil ► **verb** (*N Amer*) GRILL, toast, barbecue, bake, cook

broke ► **adjective** (*informal*). See PENNILESS

broken ► **adjective** ① *a broken bottle* SMASHED, shattered, fragmented, splintered, crushed, snapped, in bits, in pieces, destroyed, disintegrated, cracked, split, *informal* in smithereens ② *a broken arm*: FRACTURED, damaged, injured ③ *his video's broken* DAMAGED, faulty, defective, not working, malfunctioning, in disrepair, inoperative, out of order, broken-down, down, *informal* on the blink, kaput, bust, busted, conked out, acting up, done for, *Brit informal* knackered ④ *broken skin*: CUT, ruptured, punctured, perforated ⑤ *a broken marriage* FAILED, ended ⑥ *broken promises* FLOUTED, violated, infringed, contravened, disregarded, ignored ⑦ *he was left a broken man* DEFEATED, beaten, subdued, DEMORALIZED, dispirited, discouraged, crushed, humbled, dishonoured, ruined ⑧ *a night of broken sleep* INTERRUPTED, disturbed, fitful, disrupted, discontinuous, intermittent, unsettled, troubled ⑨ *he pressed on over the broken ground* UNEVEN, rough, irregular, bumpy, rutted, pitted ⑩ *she spoke in broken English* HALTING, hesitating, disjointed, faltering, imperfect
—OPPOSITES whole, working, uninterrupted, smooth, perfect

broken-down ► **adjective** ① *a broken-down hotel* DILAPIDATED, run down, ramshackle, tumbledown, in disrepair, battered, crumbling, deteriorated, gone to rack and ruin ② *a broken-down car* DEFECTIVE, broken, faulty, not working, malfunctioning, inoperative, non-functioning; *informal* kaput, conked out, clapped out, done for, *Brit informal* knackered
—OPPOSITES smart

broken-hearted ► **adjective** HEARTBROKEN, grief-stricken, desolate, devastated, inconsolable, miserable, depressed, melancholy, wretched, sorrowful, forlorn, heavy-hearted, woeful, doleful, downcast, woebegone, sad, down, *informal* down in the mouth, *poetic/literary* heartsick
—OPPOSITES overjoyed.

broker ► **noun** a top City broker DEALER, broker-dealer, agent; middleman, intermediary, mediator, factor, liaison, stockbroker.

► **verb** an agreement brokered by the secretariat: ARRANGE, organize, orchestrate, work out, settle, clinch, bring about; negotiate, mediate.

bronze ► **noun** Scotland won the bronze: BRONZE MEDAL, third prize.

bronzed ► **adjective** TANNED, suntanned, tan, bronze, brown, reddish-brown.

brooch ► **noun** BUSTPIN, pin, clip, badge.

brood ► **noun** ① *the bird flew to feed its brood*: OFFSPRING, young, progeny; family, hatch, clutch; *formal* progeniture. ② (*informal*) *Gill was the youngest of the brood*: FAMILY; children, offspring,

youngsters, progeny, *informal* kids.

► **verb** ① *once the eggs are laid the male broods them.* INCUBATE, hatch ② *he slumped in his armchair, brooding:* WORRY, fret, agonize, mope, sulk; think, ponder, contemplate, meditate, muse, ruminate.

brook¹ ► **noun** a babbling brook STREAM, streamlet, rill, brooklet, runnel, runlet, gill, *N English* beck, *Scottish & N English* burn, *S English* bourn, *N Amer & Austral/NZ* creek.

brook² ► **verb** (*formal*) we brook no violence: TOLERATE, allow, stand, bear, abide, put up with, endure; accept, permit, countenance; *informal* stomach, stand for, hack, *Brit informal* stick, *archaic* suffer

brothel ► **noun** WHOREHOUSE, *N Amer* bordello, *Brit informal* knocking shop, *N Amer informal* cathouse, creepjoint, *euphemistic* massage parlour; *Law* disorderly house, *archaic* bawdy house, house of ill fame, house of ill repute

brother ► **noun** ① *she had a younger brother* *informal* bro ② *they were brothers in crime* COLLEAGUE, associate, partner, comrade, fellow, friend, *informal* pal, chum; *Brit informal* mate ③ *a brother of the Order* MONK, cleric, friar, religious, monastic

—RELATED TERMS fraternal

brotherhood ► **noun** ① *the ideals of justice and brotherhood* COMRADESHIP, fellowship, brotherliness, fraternalism, kinship, camaraderie, friendship ② *a masonic brotherhood* SOCIETY, fraternity, association, alliance, union, league, guild, order, body, community, club, lodge, circle

brotherly ► **adjective** ① *brotherly rivalry* FRATERNAL, sibling ② *brotherly love* FRIENDLY, comradely, affectionate, amicable, kind, devoted, loyal

brow ► **noun** ① *the doctor wiped his brow* FOREHEAD, temple, Zoology frons ② *heavy black brows* EYEBROW ③ *the brow of the hill* SUMMIT, peak, top, crest, crown, head, pinnacle, apex

browbeat ► **verb** BULLY, hector, intimidate, force, coerce, compel, dragoon, bludgeon, pressure, pressurize, tyrannize, terrorize, menace, harass, harry, hound; *informal* bulldoze, railroad

brown ► **adjective** ① *she has brown eyes* hazel, chocolate-coloured, coffee-coloured, cocoa-coloured, nut-brown, brunette, sepia, mahogany, umber, burnt sienna; beige, buff, tan, fawn, camel, café au lait, caramel, chestnut ② *his skin was brown* TANNED, suntanned, browned, bronze, bronzed, dark, swarthy, dusky ③ *brown bread* WHOLEMEAL

► **verb** the grill browns food evenly. GRILL, toast, singe, sear, crisp (up); barbecue, bake, cook

browned off ► **adjective** (*informal*) IRRITATED, annoyed, irked, put out, peeved, disgruntled, disheartened, depressed; *informal* fed up, hacked off; *Brit informal* brassed off, cheesed off, narked.

browse ► **verb** ① *I browsed among the little shops.* LOOK AROUND/ROUND, window-shop, peruse. ② *she browsed through the newspaper:* SCAN, skim, glance, look, peruse; thumb, leaf, flick; dip into. ③ *three cows were browsing in the meadow:* GRAZE, feed, crop; ruminate

► **noun** this brochure is well worth a browse: SCAN, read, skim, glance, look.

bruise ► **noun** a bruise across her forehead: CONTUSION, lesion, mark, injury; swelling, lump,

bump, welt; *Medicine* ecchymosis.

► **verb** ① *her face was badly bruised:* CONTUSE, injure, mark, discolour. ② *every one of the apples is bruised:* MARK, discolour, blemish; damage, spoil ③ *Eric's ego was bruised:* UPSET, offend, insult, affront, hurt, wound, injure, crush.

brunette ► **adjective** BROWN-HAIRED, dark, dark-haired

brunt ► **noun** (FULL) FORCE, impact, shock, burden, pressure, weight, effect, repercussions, consequences

brush¹ ► **noun** ① *a dustpan and brush* BROOM, sweeper, besom, whisk ② *he gave the seat a brush with his hand* CLEAN, sweep, wipe, dust ③ *a fox's brush* TAIL ④ *the brush of his lips against her cheek* TOUCH, stroke, skim, graze, nudge, contact; kiss ⑤ *a brush with the law* ENCOUNTER, clash, confrontation, conflict, altercation, incident; *informal* run-in, to-do, *Brit informal* spot of bother

► **verb** ① *he spent his day brushing the floors* SWEEP, clean, buff, scrub ② *she brushed her hair* GROOM, comb, neaten, tidy, smooth, arrange, fix, do, curry ③ *she felt his lips brush her cheek* TOUCH, stroke, caress, skim, sweep, graze, contact, kiss ④ *she brushed a wisp of hair away* PUSH, move, sweep, clear

■ **brush something aside** DISREGARD, ignore, dismiss, shrug off, wave aside; overlook, pay no attention to, take no notice of, neglect, forget about, turn a blind eye to, reject, spurn, laugh off, make light of, trivialize, *informal* pooh-pooh

■ **brush someone off** REBUFF, dismiss, spurn, reject, slight, scorn, disdain, ignore, disregard, snub, cut, turn one's back on, give someone the cold shoulder, freeze out, jilt, cast aside, discard, throw over, drop, leave, *informal* knock back

■ **brush up (on)** REVISE, read up, go over, relearn, cram, study; improve, sharpen (up), polish up, hone, refine, perfect, *informal* bone up, *Brit informal* swot up, gen up

brush² ► **noun** an area covered in dense brush UNDERGROWTH, underwood, scrub, brushwood, shrubs, bushes, *N Amer* underbrush, chaparral

brush-off ► **noun** (*informal*) REJECTION, refusal, rebuff, repulse, snub, slight, cut, *informal* knock-back; *N Amer informal* kiss-off

brusque ► **adjective** CURT, abrupt, blunt, short, sharp, terse, brisk, peremptory, gruff, bluff; offhand, discourteous, impolite, rude; *informal* snappy

—OPPOSITES polite

brutal ► **adjective** ① *a brutal attack* SAVAGE, cruel, vicious, ferocious, barbaric, barbarous, wicked, murderous, bloodthirsty, cold-blooded, callous, heartless, merciless, sadistic; heinous, monstrous, abominable, atrocious. ② *brutal honesty.* UNSPARING, unstinting, unembellished, unvarnished, bald, naked, stark, blunt, direct, straightforward, frank, outspoken, forthright, plain-spoken, complete, total.

—OPPOSITES gentle

brutalize ► **verb** ① *the men were brutalized by life in the trenches:* DESENSITIZE, dehumanize, harden, toughen, inure. ② *they were brutalized by the police.* ATTACK, assault, beat, batter; abuse.

brute ► **noun** ① *a callous brute:* SAVAGE, beast, monster, animal, barbarian, fiend, ogre, sadist; thug, lout, ruffian; *informal* swine, pig. ② *the also-*

tian was a vicious-looking brute **ANIMAL**, beast, creature, *N Amer informal critter*

► **adjective** brute strength **PHYSICAL**, bodily, crude, violent

bubble ► **noun** ① the bubbles in his mineral water globule, bead, blister; air pocket, (**bubbles**) sparkle, fizz, effervescence, froth ② a bubble of confidence **ILLUSION**, delusion, fantasy, dream, chimera, castle in the air, *informal* pie in the sky.

► **verb** ① this wine bubbled nicely on the tongue **SPARKLE**, fizz, effervesce, foam, froth ② the milk was bubbling above the flame. **BOIL**, simmer, seethe, gurgle ③ she was bubbling over with enthusiasm **OVERFLOW**, brim over, be filled, gush

bubbly ► **adjective** ① a bubbly wine **SPARKLING**, bubbling, fizzy, effervescent, gassy, aerated, carbonated, spumante, pétillant, mousseux, frothy, foamy. ② she was bubbly and full of life **VIVACIOUS**, animated, ebullient, lively, high-spirited, zestful, sparkling, bouncy, buoyant, carefree, merry, happy, cheerful, perky, sunny, bright, *informal* upbeat, chirpy
-**OPPOSITES** still, listless

► **noun** (*informal*) a bottle of bubbly **CHAMPAGNE**, sparkling wine, vin mousseux, spumante, cava, *informal* champers, fizz

buccaneer ► **noun** (*archaic*) **PIRATE**, marauder, raider, freebooter, plunderer, cut-throat, privateer.

buck ► **verb** it takes guts to buck the system **RESIST**, oppose, defy, fight, kick against

■ **buck up** (*informal*) **CHEER UP**, perk up, take heart, pick up, bounce back.

■ **buck someone up** (*informal*) **CHEER UP**, buoy up, ginger up, perk up, hearten, uplift, encourage, enliven, give someone a lift, *informal* pep up

bucket ► **noun** ① a bucket of cold water **PAIL**, scuttle, can, tub ② (*informal*) everyone wept buckets. **FLOODS**, gallons, oceans

► **verb** (*Brit informal*) ① it was bucketing down **RAIN HEAVILY**, rain cats and dogs, rain hard, pour, pelt, lash, teem, *Brit* tip. ② the car came bucketing out of a side road. See **SPEED** verb sense 1

buckle ► **noun** a belt buckle **CLASP**, clip, catch, hasp, fastener

► **verb** ① he buckled the belt round his waist **FASTEN**, do up, hook, strap, secure, clasp, clip ② the front axle buckled: **WARP**, bend, twist, curve, distort, contort, deform, bulge, arc, arch, crumple, collapse, give way

■ **buckle down** **GET (DOWN) TO WORK**, set to work, get down to business, work hard, apply oneself, make an effort, be industrious, be diligent, focus; *informal* pull one's finger out, *Brit informal* get stuck in

bucolic ► **adjective** **RUSTIC**, rural, pastoral, country, countryside; *poetic/literary* Arcadian,ylvan, georgic.

bud ► **noun** fresh buds: **SPROUT**, shoot; *Botany* plumule.

► **verb** trees began to bud **SPROUT**, shoot, germinate, swell; *dated* vegetate.

budding ► **adjective** **PROMISING**, up-and-coming, rising, in the making, aspiring, future, prospective, potential, fledgling, developing; *informal* would-be, wannabe.

budge ► **verb** ① the horses wouldn't budge: **MOVE**, shift, stir, go ② I couldn't budge the door: **DISLodge**, shift, move, reposition. ③ they refuse to

budge on the issue. **GIVE WAY**, give in, yield, change one's mind, acquiesce, compromise, do a U-turn ④ our customers won't be budged on price alone. **INFLUENCE**, sway, convince, persuade, induce, entice, tempt, lure, cajole, bring round

■ **budge up/over** (*informal*) **MOVE UP/OVER**, shift up/over, make room, make space.

budget ► **noun** ① your budget for the week: **FINANCIAL PLAN**, forecast; accounts, statement. ② the defence budget **ALLOWANCE**, allocation, quota, grant, award, funds, resources, capital

► **verb** ① we have to budget £7,000 for the work **ALLOCATE**, allot, allow, earmark, designate, set aside ② budget your finances **SCHEDULE**, plan, cost, estimate, ration

► **adjective** a budget hotel **CHEAP**, inexpensive, economy, low-cost, low-price, cut-price, discount, bargain

-**OPPOSITES** expensive

buff¹ ► **adjective** a plain buff envelope **BEIGE**, yellowish, yellowish-brown, light brown, fawn, sandy, wheaten, biscuit, camel

► **verb** he buffed the glass **POLISH**, burnish, shine, clean, rub

■ **in the buff** (*informal*) See **NAKED** sense 1

buff² ► **noun** (*informal*) a film buff **ENTHUSIAST**, fan, devotee, lover, admirer, expert, aficionado, authority, pundit; *informal* freak, nut, fanatic, addict.

buffer ► **noun** a buffer against market fluctuations **CUSHION**, bulwark, shield, barrier, guard, safeguard

► **verb** a massage helped to buffer the strain **CUSHION**, absorb, soften, lessen, diminish, moderate, allay

-**OPPOSITES** intensify

buffet¹ ► **noun** ① a sumptuous buffet **COLD TABLE**, self-service meal, smorgasbord ② a station buffet **CAFE**, cafeteria, snack bar, canteen, restaurant ③ the plates are kept in the buffet **SIDEBOARD**, cabinet, cupboard

buffet² ► **verb** ① rough seas buffeted the coast **BATTER**, pound, lash, strike, hit ② he has been buffeted by bad publicity **AFFLICT**, trouble, harm, burden, bother, beset, harass, torment, blight, bedevil.

► **noun** ① (*dated*) I rained buffets on the door **BLOW**, punch, thump, box, knock, rap, *informal* whack, wallop, clout ② all the buffets of this world **SHOCK**, upset, setback, crisis, blow, misfortune, trouble, problem, hardship, adversity, affliction, sorrow, tribulation, tragedy, vicissitude.

buffoon ► **noun** he regarded the chaplain as a buffoon **FOOL**, idiot, dunce, ignoramus, simpleton, jackass; *informal* chump, blockhead, nincompoop, numbskull, dope, twit, nitwit, halfwit, clod, birdbrain, twerp

bug ► **noun** ① bugs were crawling everywhere. **INSECT**, mite; *informal* creepy-crawly, beastie. ② (*informal*) a stomach bug: **ILLNESS**, ailment, disorder, infection, disease, sickness, complaint, upset, condition; bacterium, germ, virus; *Brit informal* lurgy. ③ (*informal*) he caught the journalism bug: **OBSESSION**, enthusiasm, craze, fad, mania, passion, fixation. ④ the bug planted on his phone: **LISTENING DEVICE**, hidden microphone, wire, wiretap, tap. ⑤ the program developed a bug: **FAULT**, error, defect, flaw; virus; *informal* glitch, gremlin.

► **verb** ① her conversations were bugged: **RECORD**,

eavesdrop on, spy on, overhear, wiretap, tap, monitor. ② (informal) she really bugs me See ANNOY.

bugbear ▶ noun PET HATE, bête noire, bogey, bane, irritation, vexation, anathema, thorn in one's flesh/side, nightmare, horror, informal peeve, pain (in the neck), hang-up, *N Amer* bug-aboo.

build ▶ verb ① a supermarket had been built: CONSTRUCT, erect, put up, assemble ② they were building a snowman. MAKE, construct, form, create, fashion, model, shape ③ they are building a business strategy ESTABLISH, found, set up, institute, inaugurate, initiate

▶ noun a man of slim build PHYSIQUE, frame, body, figure, form, shape, stature, proportions, informal vital statistics

■ build something in/into INCORPORATE IN/INTO, include in, absorb into, subsume into, assimilate into

■ build on EXPAND ON, enlarge on, develop, elaborate, flesh out, embellish, amplify, refine, improve, perfect

■ build up INCREASE, grow, mount up, intensify, escalate, strengthen

■ build something up ① he built up a huge business ESTABLISH, set up, found, institute, start, create, develop, expand, enlarge ② he built up his stamina BOOST, strengthen, increase, improve, augment, raise, enhance, swell, informal beef up ③ I have built up a collection of prints AC CUMULATE, amass, collect, gather, stockpile, hoard

builder ▶ noun ① a canal builder DESIGNER, planner, architect, deviser, creator, maker, constructor ② the builders must finish the job in time CONSTRUCTION WORKER, bricklayer, labourer, *Brit* ganger, *Brit* dated navy

building ▶ noun ① a brick building STRUCTURE, construction, erection, pile, property, premises, establishment, formal edifice See lists at BRIDGE, HOME, TOWER ② the building of power stations CONSTRUCTION, erection, fabrication, assembly See lists at ARCHITECTURE
-RELATED TERMS tectonic

build-up ▶ noun ① the build-up of military strength INCREASE, growth, expansion, escalation, development, proliferation ② the build-up of carbon dioxide ACCUMULATION, accretion ③ the build-up for the World Cup. PUBLICITY, promotion, advertising, marketing, informal hype, ballyhoo

built-in ▶ adjective ① a built-in cupboard: FITTED, integral, integrated, incorporated ② built-in advantages INHERENT, intrinsic, inbuilt, essential, implicit, basic, fundamental, deep-rooted

bulb ▶ noun TUBER, corm, rhizome

bulbous ▶ adjective BULGING, protuberant, round, fat, rotund; swollen, tumid, distended, bloated

bulge ▶ noun ① a bulge in his pocket: SWELLING, bump, lump, protuberance, prominence. ② (informal) a bulge in the population: SURGE, upsurge, rise, increase, escalation.

▶ verb his eyes were bulging: SWELL, stick out, puff out, balloon (out), fill out, belly, distend, project, protrude, stand out.

bulk ▶ noun ① the sheer bulk of the bags: SIZE, volume, dimensions, proportions, mass, scale, magnitude, immensity, vastness. ② the bulk of

entrants were British: MAJORITY, generality, main part, major part, lion's share, preponderance, most, almost all.

-OPPOSITES minority

▶ verb some meals are bulked out with fat: EXPAND, pad out, fill out, eke out, augment, increase

■ bulk large BE IMPORTANT, loom large, dominate, be significant, be influential, be of consequence, carry weight; count, matter, signify

bulky ▶ adjective ① bulky items of refuse: LARGE, big, huge, sizeable, substantial, massive; king-size, outsize, oversized, considerable, CUMBER SOME, unmanageable, unwieldy, ponderous, heavy, weighty, informal jumbo, whopping, hulking, *Brit* informal ginormous ② a bulky man HEAVILY BUILT, stocky, thickset, sturdy, well built, burly, strapping, solid, heavy, hefty, meaty, stout, fat, plump, chubby, portly, rotund, round, chunky, overweight, obese, fleshy, corpulent, informal tubby, pudgy, roly-poly, beefy, porky, blubbery, *Brit* informal podgy
-OPPOSITES small, slight

bulldoze ▶ verb ① they plan to bulldoze the park DEMOLISH, knock down, tear down, pull down, flatten, level, raze, clear ② he bulldozed his way through: FORCE, push, shove, barge, elbow, shoulder, jostle, plunge, crash, sweep, bundle ③ (informal) she tends to bulldoze everyone BULLY, hector, browbeat, intimidate, steamroller, dragoon, bludgeon, domineer, pressurize, tyrannize, strong-arm, informal railroad, lean on, boss

bullet ▶ noun ball, shot, informal slug; (bullets) lead See list

Bullets and Shot

See also BOMB, PROJECTILE.

ball	dum-dum	round shot
baton round	bullet	rubber bullet
birdshot	dust shot	shell
buckshot	grapeshot	slug
cannonball	lead shot	soft-nosed bullet
case-shot	pellet	wadcutter
chain shot	plastic bullet	

bulletin ▶ noun ① a news bulletin: REPORT, dispatch, story, press release, newscast, flash, statement, announcement, message, communication, communiqué ② the society's monthly bulletin NEWSLETTER, news-sheet, proceedings, newspaper, magazine, digest, gazette, review

bullish ▶ adjective CONFIDENT, positive, assertive, self-assertive, assured, self-assured, bold, determined, optimistic, buoyant, sanguine, informal feisty, upbeat.

bully ▶ noun the village bully. PERSECUTOR, oppressor, tyrant, tormentor, intimidator, tough guy, bully boy, thug

▶ verb ① the others bully him PERSECUTE, oppress, tyrannize, browbeat, intimidate, strong-arm, dominate, informal push around/about. ② she was bullied into helping: COERCE, pressure, pressurize, press, push; force, compel; badger, goad, prod, browbeat, bludgeon, intimidate, dragoon, strong-arm; informal bulldoze, railroad, lean on.

bulwark ▶ noun ① ancient bulwarks: WALL, rampart, fortification, parapet, stockade, palisade, barricade, embankment, earthwork. ② a bulwark of liberty PROTECTOR, defender, protection.

guard, defence, supporter, buttress, mainstay, bastion, stronghold.

bum¹ ▶ noun (Brit informal) See BOTTOM noun sense 6.

bum² (informal) ▶ noun ① (N Amer) the bums sleeping on the sidewalk. See TRAMP noun sense 1 ② you lazy bum. IDLER, loafer, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, layabout, lounge, shurker, informal waster, loser, scrounger

▶ verb ① he bummed around Florida. LOAF, lounge, idle, moon, amble, wander, drift, meander, dawdle, informal mooch; N Amer informal lollygag ② they bummed money off him: BEG, borrow, informal scrounge, cadge, sponge, Brit informal scab, N Amer informal mooch, Austral/NZ informal bludge

▶ adjective a bum deal: BAD, poor, second-rate, third-rate, second-class, unsatisfactory, inadequate, unacceptable, dreadful, awful, terrible, deplorable, lamentable, informal crummy, rotten, pathetic, lousy, pitiful, dire, poxy, Brit informal duff, rubbish

—OPPOSITES excellent

bumble ▶ verb ① they bumbled around the house: BLUNDER, lurch, stumble, stagger, lumber, flounder, totter ② the speakers bumbled MUTTER, mumble, stumble, babble, burble, drivel, gibber

bumbling ▶ adjective BLUNDERING, bungling, inept, clumsy, maladroit, awkward, muddled, oafish, clodhopping, lumbering; crude; informal botched, ham-fisted, cack-handed

—OPPOSITES efficient

bump ▶ noun ① I landed with a bump JOLT, crash, smash, smack, crack, bang, thud, thump, informal whack, thwack, bash, wallop ② I was woken by a bump BANG, crack, boom, clang, knock, thud, thump, clunk, crash, smash, stomp, clump, clomp; informal whump ③ a bump in the road HUMP, lump, ridge, bulge, knob, protuberance ④ a bump on his head: SWELLING, lump, bulge, injury, contusion, outgrowth, growth, carbuncle, protuberance, Anatomy bulla.

▶ verb ① cars bumped into each other HIT, crash, smash, slam, bang, knock, run, plough, ram, collide with, strike, N Amer impact ② a cart bumping along the road: BOUNCE, jolt, jerk, rattle, shake.

■ bump into (informal) MEET (BY CHANCE), encounter, run into/across, come across, chance on, happen on.

■ bump someone off (informal). See KILL verb sense 1.

bumper ▶ adjective ABUNDANT, rich, bountiful, good, fine; large, big, huge, plentiful, profuse, copious, informal whopping, poetic/literary plentiful, bounteous.

—OPPOSITES meagre

bumpkin ▶ noun YOKEL, peasant, provincial, rustic, country cousin, countryman/woman; Irish informal culchie; N Amer. informal hayseed, hillbilly, hick; Austral. informal bushy.

bumptious ▶ adjective SELF-IMPORTANT, conceited, arrogant, self-assertive, pushy, swollen-headed, pompous, overbearing, cocky, swaggering, proud, haughty, overweening, egotistical; informal snooty, uppity.

—OPPOSITES modest.

bumpy ▶ adjective ① a bumpy road: UNEVEN, rough, rutted, pitted, potholed, holey; lumpy,

rocky. ② a bumpy ride BOUNCY, rough, uncomfortable, jolting, lurching, jerky, jarring, bone-shaking ③ a bumpy start INCONSISTENT, variable, irregular, fluctuating, intermittent, erratic, patchy, rocky, unsettled, unstable, turbulent, chaotic, full of ups and downs.

—OPPOSITES smooth

bunch ▶ noun ① a bunch of flowers BOUQUET, posy, nosegay, tussie-mussie, spray, corsage, wreath, garland. ② a bunch of keys. CLUSTER, clump, knot; group ③ (informal) a great bunch of people GROUP, set, circle, company, collection, bevy, band, informal gang, crowd, load ④ (N Amer informal) a whole bunch of things See LOT pronoun

▶ verb ① he bunched the reins in his hand. BUNDLE, clump, cluster, group, gather, pack ② his trousers bunched around his ankles GATHER, ruffle, pucker, fold, pleat. ③ the runners bunched up behind him CLUSTER, huddle, gather, congregate, collect, amass, group, crowd

bundle ▶ noun a bundle of clothes BUNCH, roll, clump, wad, parcel, sheaf, bale, bolt, pile, stack, heap, mass, informal load, wodge

▶ verb ① she bundled up her things. TIE, pack, parcel, wrap, roll, fold, bind, truss, bale ② she was bundled in furs WRAP, envelop, clothe, cover, muffle, swathe, swaddle, shroud, drape, enfold ③ (informal) he was bundled into a van HUSTLE, manhandle, frogmarch, hurry, rush, shove, push, thrust

bung ▶ noun STOPPER, plug, cork, spigot, spile, seal, N Amer stopple

bungle ▶ verb MISHANDLE, mismanage, mess up, spoil, ruin, informal botch, muff, fluff, make a hash of, foul up, screw up, Brit informal make a pig's ear of, cock up, N Amer informal flub, goof up

bungler ▶ noun BLUNDERER, incompetent, amateur, bungler, clown; informal botcher, butterfingers; Brit informal bodger, N Amer informal jack-leg.

bungling ▶ adjective INCOMPETENT, blundering, amateurish, inept, unskilful, clumsy, awkward, bungling, informal ham-fisted, cack-handed.

bunk¹ ▶ noun he slept in a bunk BERTH, cot, bed

bunk² (Brit informal) ▶ verb he bunked off school (PLAY) TRUANT FROM, skip, avoid, shirk; Brit informal skive off; N Amer informal play hookey from, goof off, cut; Austral/NZ informal wag.

■ do a bunk. See ABSCOND

bunk³ ▶ noun (informal) what bunk you talk! See NONSENSE sense 1

bunkum ▶ noun (informal, dated). See NONSENSE sense 1

buoy ▶ noun a mooring buoy. FLOAT, marker, beacon.

▶ verb the party was buoyed by an election victory. CHEER (UP), hearten, rally, invigorate, uplift, lift, encourage, stimulate, inspirit, informal pep up, perk up, buck up.

—OPPOSITES depress.

buoyancy ▶ noun ① the drum's buoyancy: ABILITY TO FLOAT, lightness, floatability. ② her natural buoyancy: CHEERFULNESS, happiness, light-heartedness, joy, bounce, sunniness, breeziness, jollity; liveliness, ebullience, high spirits, vivacity, vitality, verve, sparkle, zest; optimism; informal pep. ③ the buoyancy of the market: VIGOUR,

strength, resilience, growth, improvement, expansion.

buoyant ▶ **adjective** ① *a buoyant substance*: ABLE TO FLOAT, floating, floatable ② *a buoyant mood*: CHEERFUL, cheery, happy, light-hearted, care-free, bright, merry, joyful, bubbly, bouncy, sunny, jolly, lively, jaunty, high-spirited, perky, optimistic, confident, positive, *informal* peppy, upbeat ③ *sales were buoyant*: BOOMING, strong, vigorous, thriving, improving, expanding, mushrooming, snowballing

burble ▶ **verb** ① *the exhaust was burbling*: GURGLE, bubble, murmur, purr, whirr, drone, hum, rumble ② *he burbled on*: PRATTLE, blather, blether, babble, gabble, prate, drivel, rattle, ramble, maunder, go on, run on; *informal* jabber, blabber, yatter, gab, *Brit informal* rabbit, witter, waffle, chunter, *N Amer informal* run off at the mouth

burden ▶ **noun** ① *they shouldered their burdens*: LOAD, cargo, weight, pack, bundle ② *a financial burden*: RESPONSIBILITY, onus, charge, duty, obligation, liability, trouble, care, problem, worry, difficulty, strain, encumbrance ③ *the burden of his message*: GIST, substance, drift, thrust, meaning, significance, essence, import, message

▶ **verb** ① *he was burdened with a heavy pack*: LOAD, charge, weigh down, encumber, hamper, overload, overburden ② *avoid burdening them with guilt*: OPPRESS, trouble, worry, harass, upset, distress, haunt, afflict, strain, stress, tax, overwhelm

burdensome ▶ **adjective** ONEROUS, oppressive, troublesome, weighty, worrisome, stressful, vexatious, irksome, trying, difficult, arduous, strenuous, hard, laborious, exhausting, tiring, taxing, demanding, punishing, gruelling

bureau ▶ **noun** ① *an oak bureau*: DESK, writing table, secretaire, escritoire, *Brit* davenport ② *a marriage bureau*: AGENCY, service, office, business, company, firm ③ *the intelligence bureau*: DEPARTMENT, division, branch, section

bureaucracy ▶ **noun** ① *the ranks of the bureaucracy*: CIVIL SERVICE, government, administration, establishment, system, powers that be, ministries, authorities ② *unnecessary bureaucracy*: RED TAPE, rules and regulations, protocol, officialdom, paperwork

bureaucrat ▶ **noun** OFFICIAL, administrator, civil servant, minister, functionary, mandarin, *Brit* jack-in-office; *derogatory* apparatchik

bureaucratic ▶ **adjective** ① *bureaucratic structure*: ADMINISTRATIVE, official, governmental, ministerial, state, civic. ② *current practice is far too bureaucratic*: RULE-BOUND, rigid, inflexible, complicated

burgeon ▶ **verb** FLOURISH, thrive, prosper, improve, expand, escalate, swell, grow, boom, mushroom, snowball, rocket.

burglar ▶ **noun** HOUSEBREAKER, robber, cat burglar, thief, raider, looter, safe-breaker/cracker; intruder; *N Amer informal* yegg, *informal*, dated cracksman

burglary ▶ **noun** ① *a sentence for burglary*: HOUSEBREAKING, breaking and entering, theft, stealing, robbery, larceny, thievery, looting. ② *a series of burglaries*: BREAK-IN, theft, robbery, raid; *informal* smash and grab, *N. Amer informal* heist.

burgle ▶ **verb** ROB, loot, steal from, plunder, rifle, pillage; break into; *informal* do

burial ▶ **noun** BURYING, interment, committal, inhumation, entombment; funeral, obsequies, *formal* exequies; *archaic* sepulture.

—RELATED TERMS funeralary, sepulchral.

—OPPOSITES exhumation.

burial ground ▶ **noun** CEMETERY, graveyard, churchyard, necropolis, garden of remembrance, *Scottish* kirkyard; *N Amer* memorial park, *informal* boneyard; *historical* potter's field; *archaic* God's acre

burlesque ▶ **noun** PARODY, caricature, satire, lampoon, skit, *informal* send-up, take-off, spoof.

burly ▶ **adjective** STRAPPING, well built, sturdy, brawny, strong, muscular, muscly, thickset, big, hefty, bulky, stocky, Herculean, *informal* hunky, beefy, husky, hulking

—OPPOSITES puny

burn ▶ **verb** ① *the coal was burning*: BE ON FIRE, be alight, be ablaze, blaze, go up (in smoke), be in flames, be aflame, smoulder, glow ② *he burned the letters*: SET FIRE TO, set on fire, set alight, set light to, light, ignite, touch off; incinerate, *informal* torch ③ *I burned my dress with the iron*: SCORCH, singe, sear, char, blacken, brand, scald ④ *her face burned*: BE HOT, be warm, be feverish, be on fire, blush, redden, go red, flush, colour ⑤ *she was burning with curiosity*: BE CONSUMED, be eaten up, be obsessed, be tormented, be beside oneself ⑥ *Meredith burned to know the secret*: YEARN, long, ache, desire, want, wish, hanker, crave, hunger, thirst, *informal* have a yen, yen, itch, be dying ⑦ *the energy they burn up*: CONSUME, use up, expend, get/go through, eat up, dissipate.

burning ▶ **adjective** ① *burning coals*: BLAZING, flaming, fiery, ignited, glowing, red-hot, smouldering, raging, roaring ② *burning desert sands*: EXTREMELY HOT, red-hot, fiery, blistering, scorching, searing, sweltering, torrid; *informal* baking, boiling (hot), roasting, sizzling ③ *a burning desire*: INTENSE, passionate, deep-seated, profound, wholehearted, strong, ardent, fervent, urgent, fierce, eager, frantic, consuming, uncontrollable ④ *burning issues*: IMPORTANT, crucial, significant, vital, essential, pivotal, urgent, pressing, compelling, critical

burnish ▶ **verb** POLISH (UP), shine, buff (up), rub (up)

burp (*informal*) ▶ **verb** BELCH, bring up wind, *Scottish & N English informal* rift

▶ **noun** BELCH, wind, *Scottish & N English informal* rift, *formal* eructation

burrow ▶ **noun** a rabbits' burrow: WARREN, tunnel, hole, dugout, lair, set, den, earth

▶ **verb** *the mouse burrows a hole*: TUNNEL, dig (out), excavate, grub, mine, bore, channel, hollow out, gouge out.

burst ▶ **verb** ① *one balloon burst*: SPLIT (OPEN), rupture, break, tear ② *a shell burst*: EXPLODE, blow up, detonate, go off ③ *smoke burst through the hole*: BREAK, erupt, surge, gush, rush, stream, flow, pour, spill; spout, spurt, jet, spew. ④ *he burst into the room*: PLUNGE, charge, barge, plough, hurtle, career, rush, dash, tear. ⑤ *she burst into tears*: BREAK OUT IN, erupt in, have a fit of.

▶ **noun** ① *a burst in the tyre*: RUPTURE, puncture, breach, split, blowout. ② *mortar bursts*: EXPLO-

b

SION, detonation, blast, eruption, bang. ① a burst of gunfire VOLLEY, salvo, fusillade, barrage, discharge, hail, rain. ② a burst of activity. OUT-BREAK, eruption, flare-up, blaze, attack, fit, rush, gale, storm, surge, upsurge, spurt; informal splurt

■ **burst out** ① 'I don't care!' she burst out EX CLAIM, blurt, cry, shout, yell, *dated* ejaculate ② he burst out crying. SUDDENLY START

bury ► **verb** ① the dead were buried. INTER, lay to rest, entomb, informal put six feet under, plant, poetic/literary inhumate ② she buried her face in her hands HIDE, conceal, cover, enfold, engulf, tuck, cup, sink. ③ the bullet buried itself in the wood EMBED, sink, implant, submerge, drive into ④ he buried himself in his work ABSORB, engross, immerse, occupy, engage, busy, involve
-OPPOSITES exhume

bush ► **noun** ① a rose bush SHRUB, (bushes) undergrowth, shrubbery See lists at FLOWER, TREE ② the bush WILDS, wilderness; backwoods, hinterland(s), N Amer backcountry, backland(s), Austral/NZ outback, backblocks, booyay, N Amer informal boondocks, tall timbers, Austral/NZ informal Woop Woop, beyond the black stump

bushy ► **adjective** THICK, shaggy, fuzzy, bristly, fluffy, woolly, luxuriant, informal jungly
-OPPOSITES sleek, wispy.

busily ► **adverb** ACTIVELY, energetically, vigorously, enthusiastically, industriously, purposefully, diligently

business ► **noun** ① she has to smile in her business. WORK, line of work, occupation, profession, career, employment, job, position, vocation, calling; field, sphere, trade, craft, informal racket, game, archaic employ ② who do you do business with? TRADE, trading, commerce, dealing, traffic, merchandising, dealings, transactions, negotiations. ③ her own business FIRM, company, concern, enterprise, venture, organization, operation, undertaking; office, agency, franchise, practice, informal outfit, set-up. ④ none of your business. CONCERN, affair, responsibility, duty, function, obligation; problem, worry, informal pigeon, bawliwick, Brit informal lookout ⑤ an odd business. AFFAIR, matter, thing, case, circumstance, situation, event, incident, happening, occurrence, episode.
-RELATED TERMS corporate.

businesslike ► **adjective** PROFESSIONAL, efficient, slick, competent, methodical, disciplined, systematic, orderly, organized, structured, practical, pragmatic

businessman, businesswoman

► **noun** ENTREPRENEUR, business person, industrialist, manufacturer, tycoon, magnate, employer; dealer, trader, broker, merchant, buyer, seller, marketer, merchandiser, vendor, tradesman, retailer, supplier

bust¹ ► **noun** ① her large bust. CHEST, bosom; breasts, mammary glands, mammae, informal boobs, knockers, bobbies, Brit informal bristols, charlies; N Amer informal bazooms. ② a bust of Caesar: SCULPTURE, carving, effigy, statue; head and shoulders.

bust² (informal) ► **verb** ① the lock has bust. BREAK, crack, snap, smash, fracture, shatter, disintegrate; split, burst. ② he promised to bust the mafia: OVERTHROW, destroy, topple, bring down,

ruin, break, overturn, overcome, defeat, get rid of, oust, dislodge ③ they were busted for drugs See ARREST verb sense 1 ④ (N Amer) my apartment got busted. See RAID verb sense 3

■ **go bust** FAIL, collapse, fold, go under, founder; go bankrupt, go into receivership, go into liquidation, be wound up, informal crash, go broke, go to the wall, go belly up, flop.

bustle ► **verb** ① people bustled about: RUSH, dash, hurry, scurry, scuttle, scamper, scramble; run, tear, charge, informal scoot, beetle, buzz, zoom ② she bustled us into the kitchen HUSTLE, bundle, sweep, push, whisk.

► **noun** the bustle of the market ACTIVITY, action, liveliness, hustle and bustle, excitement, tumult, hubbub, whirl, informal toing and froing, comings and goings

bustling ► **adjective** BUSY, crowded, swarming, teeming, thronged, buzzing, hectic, lively
-OPPOSITES deserted

busy ► **adjective** ① they are busy raising money OC CUPIED (IN), engaged in, involved in, employed in, working at, hard at work (on), rushed off one's feet, hard-pressed, on the job, absorbed, engrossed, immersed, preoccupied, informal (as) busy as a bee, on the go, hard at it, Brit informal on the hop ② she is busy at the moment UNAVAIL-ABLE, engaged, occupied, working, in a meeting, on duty, informal tied up ③ a busy day HEC TIC, active, lively, full, eventful, energetic, tiring ④ the town was busy CROWDED, bustling, hectic, swarming, teeming, full, thronged ⑤ a busy design ORNATE, over-elaborate, overblown, overwrought, overdone, fussy, cluttered, over-worked
-OPPOSITES idle, free, quiet

► **verb** he busted himself with paperwork OCCUPY, involve, engage, concern, absorb, engross, immerse, preoccupy, distract, divert

busybody ► **noun** MEDDLER, interferer, mischief-maker, troublemaker, gossip, scandal-monger, eavesdropper, gawker; informal nosy parker, snoop, snooper, rubberneck, Brit informal gawper, informal, *dated* Paul Pry

but ► **conjunction** ① he stumbled but didn't fall. YET, nevertheless, nonetheless, even so, however, still, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, all the same, just the same, though, although ② I am clean but you aren't WHEREAS, conversely, but then, then again, on the other hand, by/in contrast, on the contrary. ③ one cannot but sympathize (DO) OTHER THAN, (do) otherwise than, except.

► **preposition** everyone but him EXCEPT (FOR), apart from, other than, besides, aside from, with the exception of, bar, excepting, excluding, leaving out, save (for), saving.

► **adverb** he is but a shadow of his former self: ONLY, just, simply, merely, no more than, nothing but; a mere, N English nobbut

■ **but for** EXCEPT FOR, if it were not for, were it not for, barring, notwithstanding.

butch ► **adjective** (informal) MASCULINE, manly; mannish, manlike, unfeminine, unladylike, informal macho.
-OPPOSITES effeminate.

butcher ► **noun** ① a butcher's shop: MEAT SELLER, meat trader; slaughterer; Scottish flesher. ② a Nazi butcher: MURDERER, slaughterer, killer, assassin; N. Amer. terminator; poetic/literary slayer; *dated* cut-throat, homicide.

► **verb** ① *the goat was butchered*: SLAUGHTER, cut up, carve up, joint ② *they butchered 150 people*: MASSACRE, murder, slaughter, kill, destroy, exterminate, assassinate; *N Amer* terminate, informal dispose of, poetic/literary slay ③ *the studio butchered the film*: SPOIL, ruin, mutilate, mangle, mess up, wreck; informal make a hash of, screw up

butchery ► **noun** ① *the butchery trade*: MEAT SELLING ② (*Brit*) *the cattle went to the butchery*: ABATTOIR, slaughterhouse ③ (*Brit*) *a butchery*: BUTCHER'S (SHOP), meat market, meat counter ④ *the butchery in the war*: SLAUGHTER, massacre, mass murder, poetic/literary slaying

butt¹ ► **verb** *she butted him*: RAM, headbutt, bunt, bump, buffet, push, shove; *N English* tup
■ **butt in** INTERRUPT, break in, cut in, chime in, interject, intervene, interfere, informal poke one's nose in, put one's oar in, *Brit* informal chip in.

butt² ► **noun** *the butt of a joke*: TARGET, victim, object, subject; laughing stock

butt³ ► **noun** ① *the butt of a gun*: STOCK, end, handle, hilt, haft, helve ② *a cigarette butt*: STUB, end, tail end, stump, remnant, informal fag end, dog end ③ (*N Amer* informal) *sitting on his butt*: See BOTTOM noun sense 6

► **verb** *the shop butts up against the house*: ADJOIN, abut, be next to, be adjacent to, border (on), neighbour, be connected to, join, touch

butt⁴ ► **noun** *a brandy butt*: BARREL, cask, keg, vat, tun, tub, bin, drum, canister

butter

■ **butter someone up** (informal) FLATTER, COURT, wheedle, persuade, barney, coax, get round, prevail on, be obsequious towards, be sycophantic towards, toady to, fawn on, make up to, play up to, ingratiate oneself with, rub up the right way, curry favour with, informal suck up to, be all over, keep someone sweet, sweet-talk, soft-soap

butterfly ► **noun** lepidopteran. See list

—RELATED TERMS lepidopterous, papilionaceous

buttocks ► **plural noun** CHEEKS, rear (end), rump, seat, *Brit* bottom, informal behind, backside, BTM, sit-upon, derrière, *Brit* informal bum, botty, jacksie; *N Amer* informal butt, fanny, tush, tail, buns, booty, heinie; humorous fundament, posterior, stern, Anatomy nates.

button ► **noun** ① *shirt buttons*: FASTENER, stud, toggle, hook, catch, clasp ② *press the button*: SWITCH, knob, control; lever, handle

buttonhole ► **verb** (informal) See ACCOST

buttress ► **noun** ① *stone buttresses*: PROP, support, abutment, shore, pier, reinforcement, stanchion. ② *a buttress against social collapse*: SAFEGUARD, defence, protection, guard; support, prop, bulwark.

► **verb** *authority was buttressed by religion*: STRENGTHEN, reinforce, fortify, support, bolster, shore up, underpin, cement, uphold, defend, back up.

buxom ► **adjective** LARGE-BREADED, big-breasted, bosomy, big-bosomed; shapely, ample, plump, rounded, full-figured, voluptuous, curvaceous, Rubenesque; informal busty, chesty, well endowed, curvy.

Butterflies

See also MOTH.

Adonis blue
alpine
angle wings
apollo
arctic
argus
azure
birdwing
blue
brimstone (butterfly)
brown
buckeye
cabbage white
Camberwell Beauty
chalkhill blue
checkerspot
cleopatra
clouded yellow
comma
copper
diana
dog face
dryad
Duke of Burgundy
dusky wing
elfin
emperor
festoon
fritillary
gatekeeper
grayling
hairstreak
julia
large blue

map butterfly
marbled white
mazarine blue
meadow brown
metamark
milkweed
monarch
morpho
mourning cloak
nettle-tree butterfly
nymph
orange tip
owl butterfly
painted lady
peacock butterfly
pearly eye
plain tiger
purple emperor
red admiral
ringlet
satyr
Scotch argus
silver-studded blue
skipper
snout butterfly
speckled wood
sulphur
swallowtail
tortoiseshell
two-tailed pasha
wall brown
white admiral
wood nymph
zebra

buy ► **verb** ① *they bought a new house*: PURCHASE, acquire, obtain, get, pick up, snap up, take, procure, pay for; invest in, informal get hold of, score ② *he could not be bought*: BRIBE, buy off, suborn, corrupt, informal grease someone's palm, give a backhander to, get at, fix, square, *Brit* informal nobble

—OPPOSITES sell

► **noun** (informal) *a good buy*: PURCHASE, investment, acquisition, gain, deal, bargain

buyer ► **noun** PURCHASER, customer, consumer, shopper, investor; (buyers) clientele, patronage, market, Law vendee

buzz ► **noun** ① *the buzz of the bees*: HUM, humming, buzzing, murmur, drone, *Brit* informal zizz ② *an insistent buzz from her control panel*: WARNING SOUND, PURR, ring, note, tone, beep, bleep, warble, alarm ③ (informal) *give me a buzz*: See CALL noun sense 3 ④ (informal) *the buzz is that he's gone*: See RUMOUR. ⑤ (informal) *get a buzz out of flying*: THRILL, stimulation, glow, tingle, informal kick; *N Amer* informal charge

► **verb** ① *bees buzzed*: HUM, drone, bumble, murmur; *Brit* informal zizz. ② *the intercom soon buzzed*. PURR, warble, sound, ring, beep, bleep ③ (informal) *he buzzed around*: BUSTLE, scurry, scuttle, hurry, rush, race, dash, tear, chase; informal scoot, beetle, whizz, zoom, zip ④ *the club is buzzing with excitement*: HUM, throb, vibrate, pulse, bustle

by ► **preposition** ① *I broke it by forcing the lid*: THROUGH, as a result of, because of, by dint of,

b

by way of, via, by means of, with the help of, with the aid of, by virtue of. ② *be there by mid-day*: NO LATER THAN, in good time for, at, before ③ *a house by the lake*: NEXT TO, beside, alongside, by/at the side of, adjacent to, side by side with, near, close to, neighbouring, adjoining, bordering, overlooking; connected to, contiguous with, attached to. ④ *go by the building*: PAST, in front of, beyond. ⑤ *all right by me*: ACCORDING TO, with, as far as — is concerned.

► **adverb** *people hurried by*: PAST, on, along

■ **by and by** EVENTUALLY, ultimately, finally, in the end, one day, some day, sooner or later, in time, in a while, in the long run, in the fullness of time, in time to come, at length, in the future, in due course

■ **by oneself** ALONE, on one's own, singly, separately, solitarily, unaccompanied, companionless, unattended, unescorted, solo, unaided, unassisted, without help, by one's own efforts, under one's own steam, independently, single-handed(ly), off one's own bat, on one's own initiative, *informal* by one's lonesome, *Brit informal* on one's tod, on one's Jack Jones

bygone ► **adjective** PAST, former, olden, earlier, previous, one-time, long-ago, of old, ancient, antiquated; departed, dead, extinct, defunct, out of date, outmoded, *poetic/literary* of yore

—OPPOSITES present, recent

by-law ► **noun** (*Brit*) LOCAL LAW, regulation, rule

bypass ► **noun** RING ROAD, detour, diversion, alternative route; *Brit* relief road.

► **verb** ① *bypass the farm*: GO ROUND, go past, make a detour round; avoid. ② *an attempt to bypass the problem*: AVOID, evade, dodge, escape, elude, circumvent, get round, skirt, sidestep, steer clear of; *informal* duck ③ *they bypassed the regulations*: IGNORE, pass over, omit, neglect, go over the head of, *informal* short-circuit

by-product ► **noun** SIDE EFFECT, consequence, entailment, corollary, ramification, repercussion, spin-off, fallout; fruits, *Brit* knock-on effect

bystander ► **noun** ONLOOKER, looker-on, passer-by, non-participant, observer, spectator, eyewitness, witness, watcher, *informal* gawper, rubberneck

byword ► **noun** ① *the office was a byword for delay*: PERFECT EXAMPLE, classic case, model, exemplar, embodiment, incarnation, personification, epitome, typification ② *reality was his byword*: SLOGAN, motto, maxim, mantra, catchword, watchword, formula, middle name

Cc

cab ► **noun** ① *she hailed a cab* TAXI, taxi cab, *Brit* minicab, hackney carriage; *N Amer* hack, *historical* fiacre ② *a truck driver's cab* (DRIVER'S) COMPARTMENT, cabin

cabal ► **noun** CLIQUE, faction, coterie, cell, sect, camarilla, pressure group, ginger group

cabaret ► **noun** ① *the evening's cabaret* ENTERTAINMENT, (floor) show, performance ② *the cabarets of Montreal* NIGHTCLUB, club, boîte, *N Amer* cafe, *informal* nightspot, niterie, clip joint, *N Amer* *informal* honky-tonk

cabin ► **noun** ① *a first-class cabin* BERTH, stateroom, deckhouse, *historical* roundhouse. ② *a cabin by the lake* HUT, log cabin, shanty, shack, chalet, *Scottish* bothy, *N Amer* cabana, *Austral* mia-mia, *archaic* cot, *N Amer* *archaic* shebang ③ *the driver's cabin*: CAB, compartment

cabinet ► **noun** ① *a walnut cabinet* See list at CUPBOARD ② *a cabinet meeting*, SENIOR MINISTERS, ministry, council, executive

cable ► **noun** ① *a thick cable moored the ship* ROPE, cord, line, guy, *Nautical* hawser, stay, bridle, topping lift, *N Amer* choker ② *electric cables* WIRE, lead, power line, *Brit* flex ③ (*historical*) *he immediately sent a cable* TELEGRAM, teletext, radiogram, *informal* wire, *historical* cablegram

► **verb** *the secretariat cabled a reply* RADIO, send, transmit, *informal* wire

cache ► **noun** ① *a cache of arms* HOARD, store, stockpile, stock, supply, reserve, arsenal, *informal* stash ② *a niche used as a cache* HIDING PLACE, secret place, *informal* hidey-hole, *informal*, *dated* stash

cachet ► **noun** PRESTIGE, prestigiousness, status, standing, kudos, snob value, stature, pre-eminence, eminence, street credibility.

cackle ► **verb** ① *the geese cackled at him* SQUAWK, cluck ② *Noel cackled with glee* LAUGH LOUDLY, guffaw, crow, chortle, chuckle

cacophonous ► **adjective** LOUD, noisy, ear-splitting, raucous, discordant, dissonant, inharmonious, unmelodious, unmusical, tuneless, *archaic* absonant
—OPPOSITES harmonious.

cacophony ► **noun** DIN, racket, noise, discord, dissonance, discordance.

cad ► **noun** (*dated*) See SCOUNDREL

cadaver ► **noun** (*Medicine*) CORPSE, (dead) body, remains, carcass; *informal* stiff; *archaic* corse

cadaverous ► **adjective** (DEATHLY) PALE, pallid, ashen, grey, whey-faced, etiolated, corpse-like, as thin as a rake, bony, skeletal, emaciated, skin and bone, haggard, gaunt, drawn, pinched, hollow-cheeked, hollow-eyed; *informal* like a bag of bones, anorexic; *archaic* starveling.
—OPPOSITES rosy, plump.

cadence ► **noun** RHYTHM, tempo, metre, beat, pulse; intonation, modulation, lilt.

cadge ► **verb** (*informal*) BORROW; *informal* scrounge, bum, touch someone for, sponge; *Brit*

informal scab, *N Amer* *informal* mooch; *Austral* / *NZ* *informal* bludge.

cadre ► **noun** CORPS, body, team, group

cafe ► **noun** SNACK BAR, cafeteria, buffet, coffee bar/shop, tea room/shop, bistro, brasserie, *N Amer* diner, *informal* eatery, noshery; *Brit* *informal* caff.

cafeteria ► **noun** SELF-SERVICE RESTAURANT, canteen, cafe, buffet

cage ► **noun** animals in cages ENCLOSURE, pen, pound, coop, hutch, birdcage, aviary, *N Amer* corral

► **verb** *many animals are caged* CONFINED, shut in/up, pen, coop up, immure, impound, *N Amer* corral

cagey ► **adjective** (*informal*) SECRETIVE, guarded, non-committal, tight-lipped, reticent, evasive, *informal* playing one's cards close to one's chest
—OPPOSITES open

cahoots

► **in cahoots** (*informal*) IN LEAGUE, colluding, in collusion, conspiring, collaborating, hand in glove

cajole ► **verb** PERSUADE, wheedle, coax, talk into, prevail on, blarney, *informal* sweet-talk, soft-soap, twist someone's arm, *archaic* blandish

cajology ► **noun** PERSUASION, wheedling, coaxing, inveiglement, cajolement, blandishments, blarney, *informal* sweet talk, soft soap, arm-twisting, *formal* suasion

cake ► **noun** ① *cream cakes* BUN, pastry, gâteau See list ② *a cake of soap*. BAR, tablet, block, slab, lump

► **verb** ① *boots caked with mud* COAT, encrust, plaster, cover ② *the blood was beginning to cake* CLOT, congeal, coagulate, solidify, set, inspissate

calamitous ► **adjective** DISASTROUS, catastrophic, cataclysmic, devastating, dire, tragic; *poetic/literary* direful

calamity ► **noun** DISASTER, catastrophe, tragedy, cataclysm, adversity, tribulation, affliction, misfortune, misadventure
—OPPOSITES godsend

calculate ► **verb** ① *the interest is calculated on a daily basis*. COMPUTE, work out, reckon, figure; add up/together, count up, tally, total; *Brit* tot up ② *his words were calculated to wound her*: INTEND, mean, design. ③ *we had calculated on a quiet Sunday* EXPECT, anticipate, reckon, bargain; *N Amer* *informal* figure on.

calculated ► **adjective** DELIBERATE, premeditated, planned, pre-planned, preconceived, intentional, intended; *Law*, *dated* prepenne.
—OPPOSITES unintentional.

calculating ► **adjective** CUNNING, crafty, wily, shrewd, scheming, devious, designing, Machiavellian; *informal* foxy; *archaic* subtle.
—OPPOSITES ingenuous.

calculation ► **noun** ① *the calculation of the overall cost*: COMPUTATION, reckoning, adding up, counting up, working out, figuring; *Brit* totting

Cakes, Puddings, and Desserts

See also BREAD.

almond cake	cream puff	gateau	pancake	soufflé
angel cake	crème brûlée	Genoa cake	pandowdy	sponge (cake)
angel food cake	crème caramel	gingerbread	parfite	sponge pudding
apfelstrudel	crêpe	granita	parfait	spotted dick
apple charlotte	crêpes Suzette	halwa	parkin	spumoni
apple pie	croquembouche	hasty pudding	pashka	steamed pudding
baba	cruller	hoecake	pavlova	strudel
baked Alaska	crumble	hot cross bun	peach Melba	suet pudding
Bakewell tart	cupcake	ice cream	petit fours	sujl
baklava	Danish pastry	jello	plum cake	summer pudding
banana split	death by chocolate	jelly	plum duff	sundae
banoffi pie	devil's food cake	Johnny cake	plum pudding	Swiss roll
Battenberg cake	Dobos torte	junket	popover	syllabub
bavarois	donut	khir	pound cake	tapioca pudding
Berliner	doughnut	kissel	profiteroles	tart
black bun	drop scone	Knickerbocker	queen cake	tartufo
Black Forest gateau	dumpling	Glory	queen of puddings	tea bread
blancmange	Dundee cake	koeksister	ras malai	tipsy cake
bombe	Eccles cake	lady's finger	rice pudding	tiramisu
brack	éclair	lamington	rock cake	torte
bread pudding	egg custard	lardy cake	roly-poly	trifle
bread-and-butter pudding	Eve's pudding	layer cake	Sachertorte	turnover
Brown Betty	fairy cake	macédoine	sago pudding	tutti-frutti
brownie	fancy	Madeira cake	Sally Lunn	upside-down cake
butterfly cake	firml	madeleine	sandwich (cake)	Victoria sponge
cabinet pudding	flapjack	marble cake	savarin	waffle
cassata	floating island	marquise	scone	water ice
charlotte	flummery	meringue	seed cake	whip
charlotte russe	fool	milk pudding	semolina	yogurt
cheesecake	frangipane	millefeuille	shoofly pie	yule log
cobbler	fruit cocktail	Mississippi mud pie	shortcake	zabaglione
college pudding	fruit salad	moon cake	simnel cake	
compote	frumenty	mousse	singing hinny	
	funnel cake	mousseline	snowball	
			sorbet	

up ② political calculations ASSESSMENT, judgement, forecast, projection, prediction

calendar ▶ noun ① ALMANAC See lists at CHINESE CALENDAR, MONTH, ZODIAC ② my social calendar SCHEDULE, programme, diary

calibre ▶ noun ① a man of his calibre. QUALITY, merit, distinction, stature, excellence, pre-eminence, ability, expertise, talent, capability, capacity, proficiency ② rugby of this calibre STANDARD, level, quality ③ the calibre of a gun BORE, diameter, gauge

call ▶ verb ① 'Wait for me!' she called. CRY (OUT), shout, yell, bellow, roar, bawl, scream, vociferate, informal holler ② Mum called me in the morning: WAKE (UP), awaken, rouse, Brit informal knock up, poetic/literary waken ③ I'll call you tomorrow. PHONE, telephone, get someone on the phone, give someone a call; Brit ring (up), give someone a ring; informal call up, give someone a buzz, Brit informal give someone a bell/tinkle, get someone on the blower; N Amer informal get someone on the horn. ④ Rose called a taxi: SUMMON, send for, order. ⑤ he called at Ashgrove Cottage: PAY A (BRIEF) VISIT TO, visit, pay a call on, call/drop/look in on, drop/stop by, pop into. ⑥ the prime minister called a meeting: CONVENE, summon, assemble; formal convoke. ⑦ they called their daughter Hannah. NAME, christen, baptize, designate, style, term, dub; formal denominate. ⑧ I would call him a friend: DESCRIBE AS, regard as, look on as, consider to be.

▶ noun ① I heard calls from the auditorium. CRY, shout, yell, roar, scream, exclamation, vociferation, informal holler ② the call of the water rail. CRY, song, sound ③ I'll give you a call tomorrow. PHONE CALL, telephone call, Brit ring; informal buzz, Brit informal bell, tinkle ④ he paid a call on Harold. VISIT, social call ⑤ a call for party unity. APPEAL, request, plea, entreaty ⑥ the last call for passengers on flight BA701. SUMMONS, request ⑦ there's no call for that kind of language. NEED, necessity, reason, justification, excuse ⑧ there's no call for expensive wine here. DEMAND, desire, market ⑨ the call of the Cairngorms. ATTRACTION, appeal, lure, allure, spell, pull, draw

■ **call for** ① desperate times call for desperate measures. REQUIRE, need, necessitate; justify, warrant ② I'll call for you around seven: PICK UP, collect, fetch

■ **call something off** CANCEL, abandon, scrap, drop, axe, informal scrub, nix, N Amer. informal redline

■ **call on** ① I might call on her later: VISIT, pay a call on, go and see, look/drop in on; N Amer visit with; informal look up, pop in on ② he called on the government to hold a plebiscite. APPEAL TO, ask, request, petition, urge. ③ we are able to call on qualified staff: HAVE RECOURSE TO, avail oneself of, draw on, make use of.

■ **call the shots** BE IN CHARGE, be in control, be at the helm/wheel, be in the driving seat, pull the strings; informal run the show, be the boss

■ **call to mind** ① *this calls to mind Cézanne's works: EVOKE, bring to mind, call up, conjure up* ② *I cannot call to mind where I have seen you* REMEMBER, recall, recollect

■ **call someone up** ① (*informal*) *Roland called me up* See CALL verb sense 3 ② *they called up the reservists: ENLIST, recruit, conscript, US draft* ③ *he was called up for the England team* SELECT, pick, choose, *Brit* cap

■ **on call** ON DUTY, on standby, available

call girl ► **noun** PROSTITUTE, whore, sex worker, fille de joie, *informal* tart, pro, working girl, *N Amer informal* hooker, hustler, euphemistic escort, masseuse, dated woman of the streets, *archaic* strumpet, harlot, trollop

calling ► **noun** PROFESSION, occupation, vocation, career, work, employment, job, business, trade, craft, line (of work); *archaic* employ

callous ► **adjective** HEARTLESS, unfeeling, uncaring, cold, cold-hearted, hard, as hard as nails, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, insensitive, lacking compassion, hardbitten, unsympathetic
-OPPOSITES kind, compassionate

callow ► **adjective** IMMATURE, inexperienced, juvenile, adolescent, naive, green, raw, untried, unworldly, unsophisticated, *informal* wet behind the ears
-OPPOSITES mature

calm ► **adjective** ① *she seemed very calm* SERENE, tranquil, relaxed, unruffled, unperturbed, unflustered, untroubled, equable, even-tempered, placid, unexcitable, unemotional, phlegmatic, composed, (cool, calm, and collected), cool-headed, self-possessed, *informal* unflappable, unfazed ② *the night was calm* WINDLESS, still, tranquil, quiet ③ *the calm waters of the lake* TRANQUIL, still, smooth, glassy, like a millpond, *poetic/literary* stilly

-OPPOSITES excited, nervous, stormy

► **noun** ① *calm prevailed* TRANQUILLITY, stillness, calmness, quiet, quietness, quietude, peace, peacefulness ② *his usual calm deserted him* COMPOSURE, coolness, calmness, self-possession, sangfroid, serenity, tranquillity, equanimity, equability, placidness, placidity, *informal* cool, unflappability

► **verb** ① *I tried to calm him down* SOOTHE, pacify, placate, mollify, appease, conciliate, *Brit* quieten (down), *Austral* square off; *poetic/literary* dulcify ② *she forced herself to calm down* COMPOSE ONESELF, recover/regain one's composure, control oneself, pull oneself together, simmer down, cool down/off, take it easy; *Brit* quieten down; *informal* get a grip, keep one's shirt on, wind down; *N Amer informal* chill out, hang/stay loose, decompress.
-OPPOSITES excite, upset

calumny ► **noun** SLANDER, defamation (of character), character assassination, libel, vilification, traducement, obloquy, verbal abuse, revilement, scurrility; *informal* mud-slinging; *formal* calumny; *archaic* contumely

camaraderie ► **noun** FRIENDSHIP, comradeship, fellowship, companionship, mutual support, team spirit, esprit de corps

camera ► **noun**. See list.

camouflage ► **noun** ① *pieces of turf served for camouflage: DISGUISE, concealment* ② *her indifference was merely camouflage: FACADE, (false) front, smokescreen, cover-up, mask, blind, screen,*

Cameras

APS camera
box camera
camcorder
cine camera
compact camera
digital camera
disc camera
Gatso
Instant camera
miniature camera
minicam
movie camera
pinhole camera

Polaroid (trademark)
camera
reflex camera
rostrum camera
single-lens reflex (SLR)
single-use camera
speed camera
Steadicam (trademark)
stereocamera
television camera
twin-lens reflex
video camera
webcam

masquerade, dissimulation, pretence

► **verb** *the caravan was camouflaged with branches* DISGUISE, hide, conceal, keep hidden, mask, screen, cover (up)

camp¹ ► **noun** ① *an army camp* BIVOUAC, encampment, campsite, camping ground ② *the liberal and conservative camps* FACTION, wing, group, lobby, caucus, bloc, coterie, sect, cabal
► **verb** *they camped in a field* PITCH TENTS, set up camp, encamp, bivouac

camp² (*informal*) ► **adjective** ① *a highly camp actor* EFFEMINATE, effete, mincing, *informal* campy, limp-wristed, *Brit informal* poncey ② *camp humour* EXAGGERATED, theatrical, affected, *informal* over the top, OTT, camped up
-OPPOSITES macho

■ **camp it up** POSTURE, behave theatrically/affectedly, overact, *informal* ham it up

campaign ► **noun** ① *Napoleon's Russian campaign* MILITARY OPERATION(S), manoeuvre(s), crusade, war, battle, offensive, attack ② *the campaign to reduce vehicle emissions* CRUSADE, drive, push, struggle, operation, strategy, battle plan
► **verb** ① *they are campaigning for political reform* CRUSADE, fight, battle, push, press, strive, struggle, lobby ② *she campaigned as a political outsider* RUN/STAND FOR OFFICE, canvass, electioneer, *N Amer* stump

campaigner ► **noun** CRUSADER, fighter, activist; champion, advocate, promoter

can ► **noun** TIN, canister; jerrycan, oilcan

Canada ► **noun**. See list

canal ► **noun** ① *barges chugged up the canal* IN LAND WATERWAY, watercourse ② *the ear canal* DUCT, tube, passage

cancel ► **verb** ① *the match was cancelled: CALL OFF, abandon, scrap, drop, axe, informal* scrub, nix; *N Amer informal* redline ② *his visa has been cancelled: ANNUL, invalidate, nullify, declare null and void, void; revoke, rescind, retract, countermand, withdraw, Law* vacate, discharge ③ *rising unemployment cancelled out earlier economic gains: NEUTRALIZE, counterbalance, counteract, balance (out), countervail; negate, nullify, wipe out, negative.*

cancer ► **noun** ① *most skin cancers are curable. MALIGNANT GROWTH, cancerous growth, tumour, malignancy; technical* carcinoma, sarcoma, melanoma, lymphoma, myeloma. ② *racism is a cancer. EVIL, blight, scourge, poison, canker, plague, archaic* pestilence.

-RELATED TERMS carcinomatous, carcin-

Provinces and Territories of Canada



PROVINCE	CAPITAL
Alberta	Edmonton
British Columbia	Victoria
Manitoba	Winnipeg
New Brunswick	Fredericton
Newfoundland and Labrador	St John's
Nova Scotia	Halifax
Ontario	Toronto
Prince Edward Island	Charlottetown
Quebec	Quebec
Saskatchewan	Regina
TERRITORY	CAPITAL
Northwest Territories	Yellowknife
Nunavut	Iqaluit
Yukon Territory	Whitehorse

candid ▶ adjective ① his responses were remarkably candid FRANK, outspoken, forthright, blunt, open, honest, truthful, sincere, direct, plain-spoken, bluff, informal upfront, on the level, *N Amer* informal on the up and up, archaic round, free-spoken. ② candid shots UNPOSED, informal, uncontrived, impromptu, natural
—OPPOSITES guarded

candidate ▶ noun ① candidates should be computer-literate (JOB) APPLICANT, job-seeker, interviewee; contender, nominee, possible, *Brit* informal runner ② A-level candidates EXAMINEE, entrant.

candour ▶ noun FRANKNESS, openness, honesty, candor, truthfulness, sincerity, forthrightness, directness, plain-spokenness, bluntness, bluntness, outspokenness, informal telling it like it is

candy ▶ noun (*N Amer*) See CONFECTIONERY.

cane ▶ noun ① a silver-topped cane: (WALKING) STICK, staff, alpenstock, crook, *Austral/NZ* waddy ② he the shoot to a cane: STICK, stake, upright, pole ③ he was been beaten with a cane STICK, rod, birch, *N Amer* informal paddle, historical ferule

▶ verb Matthew was caned for bullying: BEAT, strike, hit, flog, thrash, lash, birch, flagellate; informal give someone a hiding, larrup; *N Amer* informal whale

canker ▶ noun ① this plant is susceptible to canker. FUNGAL DISEASE, plant rot, blight. ② ear cankers: ULCER, ulceration, infection, sore, abscess ③ racism remains a canker See CANCER sense 2

cannabis ▶ noun MARIJUANA, hashish, bhang, hemp, kif, ganja, sinsemilla, skunkweed; informal hash, dope, grass, skunk, pot, blow, draw, the weed, reefer; *Brit* informal wacky baccy, *N Amer* informal locoweed

cannibal ▶ noun MANEATER, people-eater

cannon ▶ noun MOUNTED GUN, field gun, piece of artillery; mortar, howitzer; historical carronade, bombard, culverin, falconet, serpentinel; *Brit* historical pom-pom.

▶ verb the couple behind cannoned into us: COLLIDE WITH, hit, run into, crash into, plough into.

cannonade ▶ noun BOMBARDMENT, shelling, gunfire, artillery fire, barrage, pounding

canny ▶ adjective SHREWD, astute, smart, sharp, sharp-witted, discerning, penetrating, discriminating, perceptive, perspicacious, wise, sagacious, cunning, crafty, wily; *N Amer* as sharp as a tack; informal savvy; *Brit* informal suss, sussed; *N Amer* informal heads-up, dated long-headed; rare argute

—OPPOSITES foolish

canoe ▶ noun KAYAK, dugout, outrigger, bidarka, pirogue, waka

canon¹ ▶ noun ① the canons of fair play and equal opportunity PRINCIPLE, rule, law, tenet, precept, standard, convention, criterion, measure ② a set of ecclesiastical canons LAW, decree, edict, statute, dictate, decretal ③ the Shakespeare canon (LIST OF) WORKS, writings, oeuvre

canon² ▶ noun a canon assists the bishop PREBENDARY, minor canon

canonical ▶ adjective ① the canonical method RECOGNIZED, authoritative, authorized, accepted, sanctioned, approved, established, orthodox ② canonical rites ACCORDING TO ECCLESIASTICAL LAW, official, sanctioned See list
—OPPOSITES unorthodox

Canonical Hours

matins	terce	none	compline
lauds	sext	vespers	

canonize ▶ verb ① the saint was canonized BEATIFY, declare to be a saint ② we canonize freedom of speech GLORIFY, acclaim, regard as sacred, enshrine

canopy ▶ noun AWNING, shade, sunshade, baldachin, tester, chuppah, velarium

cant¹ ▶ noun ① religious cant HYPOCRISY, sanctimoniousness, sanctimony, humbug, pietism ② thieves' cant SLANG, jargon, idiom, argot, patois, speech, terminology, language, informal lingo, -speak, -ese

cant² ▶ verb the deck canted some twenty degrees TILT, lean, slant, slope, incline, tip, list, bank, heel

▶ noun the cant of the walls SLOPE, slant, tilt, angle, inclination

cantankerous ▶ adjective BAD-TEMPERED, irascible, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crusty, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, crabby, prickly, touchy, informal snappish, snappy, chippy; *Brit* informal shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty, *N Amer* informal cranky, ornery, *Austral/NZ* informal snaky; informal, dated miffy

—OPPOSITES affable

canteen ▶ noun ① the staff canteen. RESTAURANT, cafeteria, refectory, mess hall; *Brit* Military NAAFI; *N Amer* lunchroom. ② a canteen of water: CONTAINER, flask, bottle.

canvass ▶ verb ① he's canvassing for the Green Party: CAMPAIGN, electioneer; *N Amer* stump, *Brit* informal doorstep. ② they promised to canvass all members: POLL, question, ask, survey, interview. ③ they're canvassing support: SEEK, try to obtain. ④ early retirement was canvassed as a solution: PROPOSE, suggest, discuss, debate, consider.

canyon ▶ noun RAVINE, gorge, gully, defile, couloir, chasm, abyss, gulf; *N Amer* gulch, coulee.

cap ▶ noun ① a white plastic cap: LID, top, stopper, cork, bung, spile, *N Amer* stopple ② cap and gown MORTAR BOARD, academic cap, *Brit* square; dated trencher ③ the cap on spending (UPPER) LIMIT, ceiling; curb, check

▶ verb ① mountains capped with snow TOP, crown, cover, coat ② his innings capped a great day ROUND OFF, crown, be a fitting climax to ③ they tried to cap each other's stories BEAT, better, improve on, surpass, outdo, outshine, top, upstage ④ (*Brit*) he was capped for England CHOOSE, select, pick, give someone the nod ⑤ budgets will be capped. SET A LIMIT ON, limit, restrict, curb, control, peg

capability ▶ noun ABILITY, capacity, power, potential, competence, proficiency, accomplishment, adeptness, aptitude, faculty, experience, skill, skilfulness, talent, flair, *informal* know-how

capable ▶ adjective a very capable young woman COMPETENT, able, efficient, effective, proficient, accomplished, adept, handy, experienced, skilful, skilled, talented, gifted, *informal* useful, rare habile

—OPPOSITES incompetent

■ be capable of ① I'm quite capable of looking after myself HAVE THE ABILITY TO, be equal to (the task of), be up to, *informal* have what it takes to ② the strange events are capable of rational explanation BE OPEN/SUSCEPTIBLE TO, admit of, allow of

capacious ▶ adjective ROOMY, spacious, ample, big, large, sizeable, generous, *formal* commodious

—OPPOSITES cramped, small

capacity ▶ noun ① the capacity of the freezer VOLUME, size, magnitude, dimensions, measurements, proportions ② his capacity to inspire trust See CAPABILITY ③ in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief POSITION, post, job, office, role, function

cape¹ ▶ noun a woollen cape CLOAK, mantle, cope, wrap, stole, tippet, poncho, *historical* pelisse, pelerine, mantle

cape² ▶ noun the ship rounded the cape HEAD LAND, promontory, point, head, foreland, horn, hook, bill, ness, mull

caper ▶ verb children were capering about SKIP, dance, romp, frisk, gambol, cavort, prance, frolic, leap, hop, jump, *rare* curvet, rollick

▶ noun ① she did a little caper DANCE, skip, hop, leap, jump, curvet, gambado ② (*informal*) I'm too old for this kind of caper ESCAPE, stunt, prank, trick, mischief, antics, high jinks, skylarking, *informal* lark, shenanigans.

capital ▶ noun ① Warsaw is the capital of Poland FIRST CITY, seat of government, metropolis See list at COUNTRY. ② he had enough capital to pull off the deal: MONEY, finance(s), funds, the where-withal, the means, assets, wealth, resources, investment capital; *informal* dough, bread, loot; *Brit informal* dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks; *US informal* greenbacks; *N Amer informal* bucks; *Austral/NZ informal* Oscar ③ he wrote the name in capitals: CAPITAL LETTER, upper-case letter, block capital; *informal* cap.

▶ adjective ① capital letters UPPER-CASE, block.

② (*informal, dated*) he's a really capital fellow See SPLENDID sense 2.

capitalism ▶ noun PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, free enterprise, the free market
—OPPOSITES communism

capitalist ▶ noun FINANCIER, investor, industrialist; magnate, tycoon

capitalize ▶ verb the capacity to capitalize new ventures: FINANCE, fund, underwrite, provide capital for, back, *N Amer informal* bankroll, stake
■ capitalize on TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, profit from, make the most of, exploit, *informal* cash in on.

capitulate ▶ verb SURRENDER, give in, yield, concede defeat, give up the struggle, submit, lay down one's arms, raise/show the white flag, throw in the towel/sponge
—OPPOSITES resist, hold out

caprice ▶ noun ① his wife's caprices WHIM, whimsy, vagary, fancy, fad, quirk, eccentricity, foible ② the staff tired of his caprice FICKLENESS, changeableness, volatility, capriciousness, unpredictability

capricious ▶ adjective FICKLE, inconstant, changeable, variable, mercurial, volatile, unpredictable, temperamental, whimsical, fanciful, flighty, quirky, faddish
—OPPOSITES consistent

capsize ▶ verb OVERTURN, turn over, turn upside down, upend, flip/tip/keel over, turn turtle, *Nautical* pitchpole, *archaic* overset
—OPPOSITES right

capsule ▶ noun ① he swallowed a capsule PILL, tablet, lozenge, pastille, drop, *informal* tab ② the bottle's capsule COVER, seal, cap, top ③ a space capsule MODULE, craft, probe

captain ▶ noun ① the ship's captain COMMANDER, master, *informal* skipper ② the team's captain LEADER, head, *informal* boss, skipper ③ a captain of industry MAGNATE, tycoon, industrialist, chief, head, leader, principal, *informal* boss, number one, bigwig, big shot/gun, honcho, top dog, *N Amer informal* kahuna, top banana

▶ verb a vessel captained by a cut-throat COMMAND, run, be in charge of, control, manage, govern, *informal* skipper

caption ▶ noun TITLE, heading, wording, head, legend, rubric, slogan

captious ▶ adjective CRITICAL, fault-finding, quibbling, cavilling, hypercritical, pedantic, hair-splitting, *informal* nit-picking, pernicky
—OPPOSITES forgiving

captivate ▶ verb ENTHRAL, charm, enchant, bewitch, fascinate, beguile, entrance, enrapture, delight, attract, allure
—OPPOSITES repel, bore

captive ▶ noun release the captives PRISONER, convict, detainee, inmate, prisoner of war, POW, internee, *informal* jailbird, con; *Brit informal* (old) lag, *N Amer informal* yardbird

▶ adjective captive wild animals: CONFINED, caged, incarcerated, locked up, jailed, imprisoned, in prison, interned, detained, in captivity, under lock and key, behind bars.

captivity ▶ noun IMPRISONMENT, confinement, internment, incarceration, detention; *archaic* duress, durance.
—OPPOSITES freedom



captor ► **noun** JAILER, guard, incarcerator, keeper.

capture ► **verb** ① *the spy was captured in Moscow* CATCH, apprehend, seize, arrest; take prisoner/captive, imprison, detain, put/throw in jail, put behind bars, put under lock and key, incarcerate, *informal* nab, collar, lift, pick up, pull in, *Brit informal* nick ② *guerrillas captured a strategic district* OCCUPY, invade, conquer, seize, take (possession of) ③ *the music captured the atmosphere of a summer morning* EXPRESS, reproduce, represent, encapsulate ④ *the tales of pirates captured the children's imaginations* EN GAGE, attract, catch, seize, hold
—OPPOSITES free

► **noun** *he tried to evade capture* ARREST, apprehension, seizure, being taken prisoner/captive, imprisonment

car ► **noun** ① *he drove up in his car* MOTOR (CAR), automobile, *informal* wheels, *N Amer. informal* auto See list ② *the dining car* CARRIAGE, coach, *Brit* saloon. See list at TRAIN

Cars

automatic	kit car	soft top
bubble car	limousine	sports car
cabriolet	low-rider	sportster
compact	microcar	sport utility vehicle
concept car	multi-purpose vehicle	(SUV)
convertible	(MPV)	station wagon
coupé	notchback	stock car
cruiser	off-roader	stretch limo
dragster	people carrier	supercar
drophead	racing car	supermini
estate	ragtop	targa
fastback	rally car	taxi
four-wheel drive	roadster	tourer
GT	runabout	touring car
hardtop	saloon	
hatchback	sedan	
hot rod		

carafe ► **noun** FLASK, jug, pitcher, decanter, flagon.

caravan ► **noun** ① *a fishing holiday in a caravan* MOBILE HOME, camper, caravanette, *N Amer* trailer; *Brit trademark* Dormobile ② *a gypsy caravan* WAGON, covered cart ③ *a refugee caravan* CONVOY, procession, column, train

carbuncle ► **noun** BOIL, sore, abscess, pustule, wen, whitlow, *technical* furuncle

carcass ► **noun** ① *a lamb carcass* CORPSE, (dead) body, remains; *Medicine* cadaver; *informal* stiff; *archaic* corse. ② (*informal*) *shift your carcass*. BODY, self; *informal* backside; *N Amer informal* butt.

card ► **noun** ① *a piece of stiff card*: CARDBOARD, pasteboard, board ② *I'll send her a card*: GREETINGS CARD, postcard. ③ *she produced her card* IDENTIFICATION, ID, credentials; business card. ④ *she paid with her card*: CREDIT CARD, debit card, cash card, swipe card; *informal* plastic. ⑤ *the cards were dealt*: PLAYING CARD; (cards) pack of cards. See lists here and at POKER, SUIT. ⑥ (*informal, dated*) *he said she was a card*: ECCENTRIC, character; JOKER, wit, wag, jester, clown; *informal* laugh, scream, hoot, riot; *informal, dated* caution. ■ *give someone their cards* (*Brit informal*) DISMISS, get rid of, lay off, make redundant, let

someone go, discharge; *informal* sack, fire, kick/ boot out, give someone their marching orders, give someone the (old) heave-ho, give someone the elbow/push

■ **on the cards** (*informal*) LIKELY, possible, probable, expected, in the wind, in the offing

Card Games

all fours	old maid
auction bridge	ombre
baccarat	panguingue
beggar-my-neighbour	patience
bezique	Pedro Sancho
blackjack	Pelmanism
Black Maria	penry ante
Boston	pinochle
brag	piquet
bridge	pitch
canasta	poker
Canfield	pontoon
cheat	Pope Joan
chemin de fer	primero
cooncan	quinze
cribbage	racing demon
donkey	red dog
duplicate bridge	rouge et noir
écarté	rubber bridge
euchre	rummy
fan-tan	Russian Bank
faro	short whist
five hundred	skat
gin rummy	skin
happy families	snap
hearts	solitaire
high-low	solo whist
hoy	strip jack naked
klobbiyos	strip poker
Klondike	stud poker
lansquenét	thirty-one
loo	three-card monte
Michigan	trente et quarante
monte	twenty-one
nap`	twenty-five
napoleon	vingt-et-un
Newmarket	whist

cardinal ► **adjective** FUNDAMENTAL, basic, main, chief, primary, prime, principal, paramount, pre-eminent, highest, key, essential
—OPPOSITES unimportant.

care ► **noun** ① *the care of the child* SAFE KEEPING, supervision, custody, charge, protection, control, responsibility; guardianship, wardship ② *handle with care*: CAUTION, carefulness, heedfulness, heed, attention, attentiveness. ③ *she chose her words with care*: DISCRETION, judiciousness, forethought, thought, regard, heed, mindfulness, accuracy, precision ④ *the cares of the day*: WORRY, anxiety, trouble, concern, stress, pressure, strain; sorrow, woe, hardship. ⑤ *constant care for others*: CONCERN, consideration, thought, regard, solicitude.
—OPPOSITES neglect, carelessness.

► **verb** *the teachers didn't care about our work*: BE CONCERNED, worry (oneself), trouble/concern oneself, bother, mind, be interested; *informal* give a damn/hoot/rap.

■ **care for** ① *he cares for his children*: LOVE, be fond of, be devoted to, treasure, adore, dote on, think the world of, worship, idolize.



② *would you care for a cup of coffee?* LIKE, want, desire, fancy, feel like. ③ *the hospice cares for the terminally ill*: LOOK AFTER, take care of, tend, attend to, minister to, nurse; be responsible for, keep safe, keep an eye on.

career ▶ noun ① *a business career* PROFESSION, occupation, vocation, calling, employment, line (of work), walk of life, métier ② *a chequered career* EXISTENCE, life, course, passage, path.

▶ adjective *a career politician* PROFESSIONAL, permanent, full-time

▶ verb *they careered down the hill* RUSH, hurtle, streak, shoot, race, bolt, dash, speed, run, whizz, zoom, flash, blast, charge, hare, fly, pelt, go like the wind; *informal* belt, scoot, tear, zap, zip, whip, go like a bat out of hell, *Brit informal* bomb, bucket; *N Amer informal* hightail, clip

carefree ▶ adjective UNWORRIED, untroubled, blithe, airy, nonchalant, insouciant, happy-go-lucky, free and easy, easy-going, relaxed, *informal* laid-back

—OPPOSITES careworn

careful ▶ adjective ① *be careful when you go up the stairs* CAUTIOUS, heedful, alert, attentive, watchful, vigilant, wary, on guard, circumspect ② *Roland was careful of his reputation* MINDFUL, heedful, protective ③ *careful with money* PRUDENT, thrifty, economical, sparing, frugal, scrimping, abstemious, *informal* stingy ④ *careful consideration of the facts* ATTENTIVE, conscientious, painstaking, meticulous, diligent, assiduous, sedulous, scrupulous, punctilious, methodical, *informal* pernickety, *archaic* nice

—OPPOSITES careless, extravagant

careless ▶ adjective ① *careless motorists* INATTENTIVE, incautious, negligent, remiss, heedless, irresponsible, impetuous, reckless ② *careless work* SHODDY, slapdash, slipshod, scrappy, slovenly, sloppy, negligent, lax, slack, disorganized, hasty, hurried; *informal* slap-happy ③ *a careless remark* THOUGHTLESS, insensitive, indiscreet, unguarded, incautious, inadvertent ④ *she was very careless of investments* NEGLIGENT, heedless, improvident, unconcerned, indifferent, oblivious. ⑤ *careless masculine grace* UNSTUDIED, artless, casual, effortless, nonchalant, insouciant, languid

—OPPOSITES careful, meticulous

caress ▶ verb STROKE, touch, fondle, brush, skim, nuzzle.

caretaker ▶ noun JANITOR, attendant, porter, custodian, concierge, *N Amer* superintendent

▶ adjective *the caretaker manager*: TEMPORARY, short-term, provisional, substitute, acting, interim, pro tem, stand-in, fill-in, stopgap; *N Amer informal* pinch-hitting.

—OPPOSITES permanent

careworn ▶ adjective WORRIED, anxious, harassed, strained, stressed, drained, drawn, gaunt, haggard; *informal* hassled.

—OPPOSITES carefree.

cargo ▶ noun FREIGHT, load, haul, consignment, delivery, shipment; goods, merchandise; *archaic* lading.

caricature ▶ noun *a caricature of the Prime Minister*: CARTOON, parody, satire, lampoon, burlesque; *informal* send-up, take-off.

▶ verb *she has turned to caricaturing her fellow actors*:

PARODY, satirize, lampoon, make fun of, burlesque, *informal* send up, take off.

carling ▶ adjective KIND, kind-hearted, warm-hearted, tender, concerned, attentive, thoughtful, solicitous, considerate; affectionate, loving, doting, fond; sympathetic, understanding, compassionate, feeling

—OPPOSITES cruel

carnage ▶ noun SLAUGHTER, massacre, mass murder, butchery, bloodbath, bloodletting, holocaust, pogrom, ethnic cleansing

carnal ▶ adjective SEXUAL, sensual, erotic, lustful, lascivious, libidinous, lecherous, licentious, physical, bodily, corporeal, fleshly

—OPPOSITES spiritual

carnival ▶ noun ① *the town's carnival* FESTIVAL, fiesta, fête, gala, jamboree, celebration ② (*N Amer*) *he worked at a carnival* FUNFAIR, circus, fair, amusement show.

carnivorous ▶ adjective MEAT-EATING, predatory, of prey

—OPPOSITES herbivorous

carol ▶ noun *children sang carols* CHRISTMAS SONG, hymn, canticle

▶ verb *Boris carolled happily* SING, trill, warble, chirp, *archaic* wassail

carouse ▶ verb DRINK AND MAKE MERRY, go on a drinking bout, go on a spree; revel, celebrate, roister, *informal* booze, go boozing, binge, go on a binge, go on a bender, paint the town red, party, rave, make whoopee, whoop it up, *Brit informal* go on the bevvy; *archaic* wassail

carp ▶ verb COMPLAIN, cavil, grumble, grouse, whine, bleat, nag; *informal* gripe, grouch, beef, bellyache, moan, bitch, whinge, *Brit informal* be on at someone, *N English informal* mither, *N Amer informal* kvetch

—OPPOSITES praise

carpenter ▶ noun WOODWORKER, joiner, cabinet-maker, *Brit informal* chippy

carpet ▶ noun ① *a Turkish carpet* RUG, mat, matting, floor covering See list ② *a carpet of wild flowers* COVERING, blanket, layer, cover, cloak, mantle

▶ verb ① *the gravel was carpeted in moss* COVER, coat, overlay, overspread, blanket ② (*Brit informal*) *an officer was carpeted for leaking information* See REPRIMAND verb

Carpets and Rugs

Aubusson	kaross	shag
Axminster	Kidderminster	sheepskin
bearskin	kilim	Soumak
broadloom	Kirman	tiger-skin
Brussels	numdah	Turkish
dhurrie	Persian	Turkoman
drugget	prayer mat	twist
flokati	or rug	vase
hearthrug	runner	Wilton
ingrain	Savonnerie	Yarkand

carriage ▶ noun ① *a railway carriage*: COACH, car; *Brit* saloon. See list at TRAIN ② *a horse and carriage*: WAGON, hackney, hansom, gig, landau, trap. See list. ③ *the carriage of bikes on trains*: TRANSPORT, transportation, conveyance, carrying, movement, shipment. ④ *an erect carriage*:

POSTURE, bearing, stance, gait, attitude, manner, demeanour; *Bnt* deportment

Carriages and Carts



barouche	coupé	phaeton
brake	covered	post-chaise
breaking cart	wagon	prairie
britzka	curricule	schooner
brougham	dog cart	rickshaw
buckboard	dray	stagecoach
buggy	droshky	stanhope
cab	fiacre	sulky
cabriolet	fly	surrey
caleche	four-in-hand	tarantass
caravan	gharry	tilbury
carriole	gig	trailer
chaise	hackney	trap
chariot	handcart	trishaw
clarence	hansom	tumbrel
coach	haywain	unicorn
coach-and-four	jaunting car	Victoria
Conestoga	jinker	vis-à-vis
wagon	landau	wagon
	ox cart	wagonette

carrier ► noun BEARER, conveyor, transporter, porter, courier, haulier

carry ► verb ① she carried the box into the kitchen CONVEY, transfer, move, take, bring, bear, lug, fetch; *informal* cart, hump ② a coach operator carrying 12 million passengers a year TRANSPORT, convey, move, handle ③ satellites carry the signal over the Atlantic TRANSMIT, conduct, relay, communicate, convey, dispatch, beam ④ the dinghy can carry the weight of the baggage SUPPORT, sustain, stand; prop up, shore up, bolster ⑤ managers carry most responsibility UNDERTAKE, accept, assume, bear, shoulder, take on (oneself) ⑥ she was carrying his baby BE PREGNANT WITH, bear, expect, technical be gravid with ⑦ she carried herself with assurance CONDUCT, bear, hold, act, behave, acquit, formal comport, archaic deport ⑧ a resolution was carried APPROVE, vote for, accept, endorse, ratify, agree to, assent to, rubber-stamp, *informal* OK, give the thumbs up to ⑨ I carried the whole audience WIN OVER, sway, convince, persuade, influence, motivate, stimulate ⑩ today's paper carried an article on housing policy PUBLISH, print, communicate, distribute, broadcast, transmit ⑪ we carry a wide range SELL, stock, keep (in stock), offer, have (for sale), retail, supply ⑫ most toxins carry warnings. DISPLAY, bear, exhibit, show, be marked with ⑬ it carries a penalty of two years' imprisonment' ENTAIL, involve, result in, occasion, have as a consequence ⑭ his voice carried across the quay: BE AUDIBLE, travel, reach.

■ **be/get carried away** LOSE SELF-CONTROL, get overexcited, go too far; *informal* flip, lose it.

■ **carry someone off** KILL (OFF), cause the death of, take/end the life of, finish off; *informal* do in.

■ **carry something off** ① she carried off four awards. WIN, secure, gain, achieve, collect, *informal* land, net, bag, scoop. ② he has carried it off: SUCCEED, triumph, be victorious, be successful, do well, make good, *informal* crack it.

■ **carry on** ① they carried on arguing: CONTINUE, keep (on), go on; persist in, persevere in; *informal* stick with/at. ② (*informal*) the English way of

carrying on BEHAVE, act, conduct oneself, acquit oneself; formal comport oneself, archaic deport oneself ③ (*informal*) she was carrying on with other men: HAVE AN AFFAIR, commit adultery, have a fling, *informal* play around, mess about/around, *Bnt* *informal* play away, *N Amer* *informal* fool around ④ (*informal*) I was always carrying on MIS BEHAVE, behave badly, get up to mischief, cause trouble, get up to no good, be naughty, clown about/around, fool about/around, mess about/around, *informal* act up, *Bnt* *informal* muck about/around, play up

■ **carry something on** ENGAGE IN, conduct, undertake, be involved in, carry out, perform

■ **carry something out** ① they carried out a Caesarean CONDUCT, perform, implement, execute ② I carried out my promise to her FULFIL, carry through, honour, redeem, make good, keep, observe, abide by, comply with, adhere to, stick to, keep faith with.

carry-on ► noun (*Bnt* *informal*) FUSS, commotion, trouble, bother, excitement, palaver, *informal* hoo-ha, ballyhoo, song and dance, performance, kerfuffle

cart ► noun ① a horse-drawn cart WAGON, carriage, dray, archaic wain See list at CARRIAGE ② a man with a cart took their luggage HANDCART, pushcart, trolley, barrow

► verb (*informal*) he had the wreckage carted away TRANSPORT, convey, haul, move, shift, take, carry, lug, heft, *informal* hump

carton ► noun BOX, package, cardboard box, container, pack, packet

cartoon ► noun ① a cartoon of the Prime Minister: CARICATURE, parody, lampoon, satire, *informal* take-off, send-up ② he was reading cartoons. COMIC STRIP, comic, graphic novel ③ they watched cartoons on television ANIMATED FILM, animation ④ detailed cartoons for a full-size portrait SKETCH, rough, outline, preliminary drawing, underdrawing; Computing wireframe.

cartridge ► noun ① a toner cartridge CASSETTE, magazine, canister, container. ② a rifle cartridge BULLET, round, shell, charge, shot

carve ► verb ① he carved horn handles SCULPT, sculpture; cut, hew, whittle; form, shape, fashion. ② I carved my initials on the tree ENGRAVE, etch, incise, score ③ he carved the roast chicken SLICE, cut up, chop

■ **carve something up** DIVIDE, partition, apportion, subdivide, split up, break up, share out, dole out, *informal* divvy up

carving ► noun SCULPTURE, model, statue, statuette, figure, figurine
-RELATED TBRRMS glyptic

cascade ► noun WATERFALL, cataract, falls, rapids, white water

► verb rain cascaded from the roof POUR, gush, surge, spill, stream, flow, issue, spurt, jet

case ► noun ① a classic case of overreaction. INSTANCE, occurrence, manifestation, demonstration, exposition, exhibition, example, illustration, specimen, sample, exemplification. ② If that is the case I will have to find somebody else: SITUATION, position, state of affairs, the lie of the land; circumstances, conditions, facts, how things stand; *Bnt* state of play, *informal* score. ③ the officers on the case: INVESTIGATION, enquiry, examination, exploration, probe, search, inquest. ④ urgent cases: PATIENT, sick person, in-

valid, sufferer, victim. ③ *he lost his case* **LAW-SUIT**, (legal) action, legal dispute, suit, trial, legal/judicial proceedings, litigation ④ *a strong case*. **ARGUMENT**, contention, reasoning, logic, defence, justification, vindication, exposition, thesis

case² ▶ **noun** ① *a cigarette case* **CONTAINER**, box, canister, receptacle, holder, *dated* **ETUI** ② *a seed case* **CASING**, cover, covering, sheath, sheathing, envelope, sleeve, jacket, integument ③ (*BrE*) *she threw some clothes into a case*: **SUITCASE**, (travelling) bag, valise, portmanteau, (**cases**) luggage, baggage ④ *a case of wine* **CRATE**, box, pack. ⑤ *a glass display case* **CABINET**, cupboard

▶ **verb** ① *the rifle is cased in wood* **COVER**, surround, encase, sheathe, envelop ② (*informal*) *a thief casing the joint* **RECONNOITRE**, inspect, examine, survey, explore, *informal* **recce**, check out

cash ▶ **noun** ① *a wallet stuffed with cash* **MONEY**, currency, hard cash, (bank) notes, coins, change; *N Amer* bills, *informal* dough, bread, loot, moolah, *BrE* *informal* dosh, brass, lolly, readies, spondulicks, *US* *informal* greenbacks, *N Amer* *informal* bucks, dinero, *Austral/NZ* *informal* Oscar, *BrE* *dated* **1s d** ② *a lack of cash* **FINANCE**, money, resources, funds, assets, the means, the where-withal

—**OPPOSITES** cheque, credit

▶ **verb** *the bank cashed her cheque* **EXCHANGE**, change, convert into cash/money, honour, pay, accept, *BrE* encash

■ **cash in on** **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF**, exploit, milk, make money from, profit from, *informal* make a killing out of

cashier¹ ▶ **noun** *the cashier took the cheque* **CLERK**, bank clerk, teller, banker, treasurer, bursar, purser

cashier² ▶ **verb** (*Military*) *he was found guilty and cashiered*, **DISMISS**, discharge, expel, throw/cast out, get rid of, *informal* sack, fire, kick/boot out, give someone their marching orders, give someone the bullet, give someone the elbow/push.

casing ▶ **noun** **COVER**, case, shell, envelope, sheath, sheathing, sleeve, jacket, housing

casino ▶ **noun** **GAMBLING HOUSE**, gambling club, gambling den, *dated* gaming house

cask ▶ **noun** **BARREL**, keg, butt, tun, vat, drum, hogshead, *historical* puncheon, firkin

casket ▶ **noun** ① *a small casket* **BOX**, chest, case, container, receptacle ② (*N Amer*) *the casket of a dead soldier* **COFFIN**, *informal* box, humorous wooden overcoat

cast ▶ **verb** ① *he cast the stone into the stream* **THROW**, toss, fling, pitch, hurl, lob, *informal* chuck, sling, bung, *dated* shy ② *fishermen cast their nets* **SPREAD**, throw, open out. ③ *she cast a fearful glance over her shoulder*: **DIRECT**, shoot, throw, send ④ *each citizen cast a vote*. **REGISTER**, record, enter, file, vote ⑤ *the fire cast a soft light*: **EMIT**, give off, send out, radiate. ⑥ *the figures cast shadows*: **FORM**, create, produce; project, throw ⑦ *the stag's antlers are cast each year* **SHED**, lose, discard, slough off ⑧ *a figure cast by hand*. **MOULD**, fashion, form, shape, model; sculpt, sculpture, forge. ⑨ *they were cast as extras*: **CHOOSE**, select, pick, name, nominate.

▶ **noun** ① *a cast of the writer's hand*: **MOULD**, die, matrix, shape, casting, model. ② *a cast of the dice*: **THROW**, toss, fling, pitch, hurl, lob; *informal*

chuck, sling, bung, *dated* shy ③ *an enquiring cast of mind*: **TYPE**, sort, kind, character, variety, class, style, stamp, nature ④ *a cast in one eye*: **SQUINT**, strabismus ⑤ *the cast of 'The Barber of Seville'*: **ACTORS**, performers, players, company, *dramatis personae*, characters.

■ **cast something aside** **DISCARD**, reject, throw away/out, get rid of, dispose of, abandon

■ **cast someone away** **SHIPWRECK**, wreck; strand, leave stranded, maroon

■ **cast down** **DEPRESSED**, downcast, unhappy, sad, miserable, gloomy, down, low, dejected, dispirited, discouraged, disheartened, downhearted, demoralized, disconsolate, crestfallen, despondent; *informal* blue

caste ▶ **noun** (**SOCIAL**) **CLASS**, social order, rank, level, stratum, echelon, status, *dated* estate, station *See list*

Hindu Castes

Brahman	(priest)
Kshatriya	(warrior)
Vaisya	(merchant or farmer)
Sudra	(labourer)
Dalit or Harijan	('scheduled caste'; 'untouchables')

castigate ▶ **verb** (*formal*) **REPRIMAND**, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove, reproach, scold, berate, take to task, lambaste, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals, censure, *informal* tell off, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap someone on the knuckles, slap someone's wrist, dress down, bawl out, give someone hell, blow up at, pitch into, lay into, blast, *BrE* *informal* tick off, have a go at, carpet, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket, *N Amer* *informal* chew out, ream out; *Austral* *informal* monster; *dated* give someone a rapping, *rare* reprehend, oburgate

—**OPPOSITES** praise, commend

castle ▶ **noun** **FORTRESS**, fort, stronghold, fortification, keep, citadel

castrate ▶ **verb** **NEUTER**, geld, cut, desex, sterilize, fix, *N Amer* & *Austral* alter, *BrE* *informal* doctor, *archaic* emasculate.

casual ▶ **adjective** ① *a casual attitude to life*. **IN DIFFERENT**, apathetic, uncaring, unconcerned, lackadaisical, blasé, nonchalant, insouciant, offhand, flippant, easy-going, free and easy, blithe, carefree, devil-may-care, *informal* laid-back. ② *a casual remark* **OFFHAND**, spontaneous, unpremeditated, unthinking, unconsidered, impromptu, throwaway, unguarded, *informal* off-the-cuff ③ *a casual glance* **CURSORY**, perfunctory, superficial, passing, fleeting, hasty, brief, quick ④ *a casual acquaintance*: **SLIGHT**, superficial. ⑤ *casual work* **TEMPORARY**, part-time, free-lance, impermanent, irregular, occasional ⑥ *casual sex* **PROMISCUOUS**, recreational, extramarital, free. ⑦ *a casual meeting changed his life* **CHANCE**, accidental, unplanned, unintended, unexpected, unforeseen, unanticipated, fortuitous, serendipitous, adventitious. ⑧ *a casual shirt*. **INFORMAL**, comfortable, leisure, sportif, everyday; *informal* sporty. ⑨ *the inn's casual atmosphere*: **RELAXED**, friendly, informal, unceremonious, easy-going, free and easy; *informal* laid-back.

—OPPOSITES careful, planned, formal
► noun we employ ten casuals TEMPORARY WORKER, part-timer, freelance, freelancer; *informal* temp

casualty ► **noun** VICTIM, fatality, loss, MIA, (casualties) dead and injured, missing (in action)

casulstry ► **noun** SOPHISTRY, specious reasoning, speciousness

cat ► **noun** FELINE, tomcat, tom, kitten, mouser, *informal* pussy (cat), puss, kitty, *Bnt informal* moggie, mog, *archaic* grimalkin See lists

Domestic Cats

Abyssinian	Japanese	sealpoint
angora	Bobtail	Siamese
Balinese	Maine Coon	smoke
Birman	Maltese	Persian
Burmese	Manx	Somali
Burmilla	marmalade	Sphinx
chinchilla	cat	tabbypoint
colourpoint	Persian	Tiffanie
Cornish Rex	Ragdoll	Tonkinese
Devon Rex	Rex	Turkish Van
ginger cat	Russian Blue	

Wild Cats

bobcat	jaguar	Pallas's cat
caracal	jaguarundi	panther
catamountain	jungle cat	puma
cheetah	leopard	ringtail
civet	liger	sand cat
clouded	lion	serval
leopard	lynx	snow
cougar	manul	leopard
eyra	margay	Temminck's
fishing cat	mountain	golden cat
Geoffroy's	lion	tiger
cat	ocelot	tigon
golden cat	ounce	wildcat

cataclysm ► **noun** DISASTER, catastrophe, calamity, tragedy, devastation, holocaust, ruin, ruination, upheaval, convulsion

cataclysmic ► **adjective** DISASTROUS, catastrophic, calamitous, tragic, devastating, ruinous, terrible, violent, awful

catacombs ► **plural noun** UNDERGROUND CEMETERY, crypt, vault, tomb, ossuary.

catalogue ► **noun** ① a library catalogue DIRECTORY, register, index, list, listing, record, archive, inventory. ② a mail-order catalogue BROCHURE, magalogue, mailer, *N Amer informal* wish book

► **verb** the collection is fully catalogued CLASSIFY, categorize, systematize, index, list, archive, make an inventory of, inventory, record, itemize

catapult ► **noun** a boy fired the catapult: SLING, slingshot; *Austral/NZ* shanghai; *historical* ballista, trebuchet.

► **verb** Sam was catapulted into the sea: PROPEL, launch, hurl, fling, send flying, fire, blast, shoot.

cataract ► **noun** WATERFALL, cascade, falls, rapids, white water.

catastrophe ► **noun** DISASTER, calamity, cataclysm, holocaust, ruin, ruination, tragedy; adversity, blight, trouble, trial, tribulation.

catastrophic ► **adjective** DISASTROUS, calamitous, cataclysmic, ruinous, tragic, fatal, dire, awful, terrible, dreadful, *poetic/literary* direful.

catcall ► **noun** WHISTLE, boo, hiss, jeer, raspberry, hoot, taunt, (catcalls) scoffing, abuse, taunting, derision

catch ► **verb** ① he caught the ball SEIZE, grab, snatch, seize/grab/take hold of, grasp, grip, clutch, clench, receive, get, intercept ② we've caught the thief CAPTURE, seize; apprehend, arrest, take prisoner/captive, take into custody, trap, snare, ensnare, net, hook, land, *informal* nab, collar, run in, bust, *Bnt informal* nick ③ her heel caught in a hole BECOME TRAPPED, become entangled, snag ④ she caught the 7.45 bus. BE IN TIME FOR, make, get, board, get on, step aboard ⑤ they were caught siphoning petrol DISCOVER, find, come upon/across, stumble on, chance on, surprise, catch red-handed, catch in the act ⑥ it caught his imagination ENGAGE, capture, attract, draw, grab, grip, seize, hold, absorb, engross ⑦ she caught a trace of aftershave PERCEIVE, notice, observe, discern, detect, note, make out, *Bnt informal* clock. ⑧ I couldn't catch what she was saying HEAR, perceive, discern, make out, understand, comprehend, grasp, apprehend, *informal* get, get the drift of, figure out, *Bnt informal* twig, suss (out) ⑨ it caught the flavour of the sixties EVOKE, conjure up, call to mind, recall, encapsulate, capture ⑩ the blow caught her on the side of her face HIT, strike, slap, smack, bang ⑪ he caught malaria BECOME INFECTED WITH, contract, get, be taken ill with, develop, come down with, be struck down with, *Bnt* go down with, *informal* take ill with, *N Amer informal* take sick with ⑫ the kindling wouldn't catch IGNITE, start burning, catch fire, kindle ⑬ the generator caught immediately START (RUNNING), fire, begin working

—OPPOSITES drop, release, miss

► **noun** ① he inspected the catch HAUL, net, bag, yield ② (informal) Giles is a good catch ELIGIBLE MAN/WOMAN, marriage prospect ③ he slipped the catch LATCH, lock, fastener, clasp, hasp ④ he is always looking for the catch SNAG, disadvantage, drawback, stumbling block, hitch, fly in the ointment, pitfall, complication, problem, hiccup, difficulty, trap, trick, snare, *informal* con ⑤ a catch in her voice TREMOR, unevenness, shake, quiver, wobble.

■ **catch it** (informal) BE REPRIMANDED, be scolded, be rebuked, be taken to task, be chastised, get into trouble, be hauled over the coals, *informal* be told off, be for the high jump, be in hot water, get a dressing-down, get an earful, get a roasting, get a rap over the knuckles, get a slap on the wrist; *Bnt informal* be for it, *formal* be castigated.

■ **catch on** ① radio soon caught on: BECOME POPULAR/FASHIONABLE, take off, boom, flourish, thrive ② I caught on fast: UNDERSTAND, comprehend, learn, see the light; *informal* cotton on, latch on, get the picture/message, get wise.

■ **catch (someone) up** DRAW LEVEL (WITH), reach; gain on.

catching ► **adjective** (informal) INFECTIOUS, contagious, communicable, transmittable, transmissible; dated infective.

catchphrase ► **noun** SAYING, quotation, quote, slogan, catchword, *N Amer informal* tag line

catchword ► **noun** MOTTO, watchword, slogan, byword, catchphrase, *informal* buzzword.

catchy ► **adjective** MEMORABLE, unforgettable, appealing, popular, singable, melodious, tune-ful

catechize ► **verb** INTERROGATE, question, cross-examine, cross-question, quiz, sound out, give the third degree to, *informal* grill, pump

categorical ► **adjective** UNQUALIFIED, unconditional, unequivocal, absolute, explicit, unambiguous, definite, direct, downright, outright, emphatic, positive, point-blank, conclusive, without reservations, out-and-out, *formal* apodictic

—OPPOSITES qualified, equivocal

categorize ► **verb** CLASSIFY, class, group, grade, rate, designate, order, arrange, sort, rank, file, catalogue, list, index

category ► **noun** CLASS, classification, group, grouping, bracket, heading, set, type, sort, kind, variety, species, breed, brand, make, model, grade, order, rank

cater

■ **cater for** ① we cater for vegetarians PROVIDE FOOD FOR, feed, serve, cook for, *dated* victual ② a resort catering for older holidaymakers SERVE, provide for, meet the needs/wants of, accommodate ③ he seemed to cater for all tastes TAKE INTO ACCOUNT/CONSIDERATION, allow for, consider, bear in mind, make provision for, have regard for

■ **cater to** SATISFY, indulge, pander to, gratify, accommodate, minister to, give in to, fulfil

caterwaul ► **verb** HOWL, wail, bawl, cry, yell, scream, screech, yowl, ululate

catharsis ► **noun** PURGING, purgation, purification, cleansing, (emotional) release, relief, *Psychoanalysis* abreaction

catholic ► **adjective** DIVERSE, diversified, wide, broad, broad-based, eclectic, liberal; comprehensive, all-encompassing, all-embracing, all-inclusive

—OPPOSITES narrow

cattle ► **plural noun** COWS, bovines, oxen, bulls, stock, livestock See lists

—RELATED TERMS bovine

catty ► **adjective** (*informal*) a catty remark See SPITEFUL

caucus ► **noun** ① (in North America & NZ) caucuses will be held in eleven states: MEETING, assembly, gathering, congress, conference, convention, rally, convocation. ② (in the UK) the right-wing caucus FACTION, camp, bloc, group, set, band, ring, cabal, coterie, pressure group, ginger group

cause ► **noun** ① the cause of the fire SOURCE, root, origin, beginning(s), starting point, main-spring, base, basis, foundation, fountainhead; originator, author, creator, producer, agent; *formal* radix. ② there is no cause for alarm. REASON, grounds, justification, call, need, necessity, occasion, excuse, pretext. ③ the cause of human rights | a good cause: PRINCIPLE, ideal, belief, conviction; object, end, aim, objective, purpose, charity. ④ he went to plead his cause: CASE, suit, lawsuit, action, dispute.

Domestic Cattle

Aberdeen Angus	Jamaica Hope
Afrikander	Jersey
Andalusian	Kerry
Ayrshire	Kylee
Bangus	Limousin
Barrosa	Lincoln Red
beefalo	longhorn
Beef Shorthorn	Luing
Belgian Blue	Maine Anjou
Belted Galloway	Meuse-Rhine-IJssel
Belted Welsh	Miranda
Blonde d'Aquitaine	Mongolian
Brahmin	Murray Grey
British White	N'Dama
Brown Swiss	Pinzgauer
Charolais	Red-and-White Friesian
Chianina	Red Poll
Danish Red	Romagnola
Devon	Sahiwal
Dexter	Santa Gertrudis
Droughtmaster	Shetland
Durham	shorthorn
Friesian	Simmental
Galician Blond	South Devon
Galloway	Sussex
German Yellow	Swedish Red-and-White
Guernsey	Texas Longhorn
Hereford	Welsh Black
Highland	West Highland
Holstein	White Galloway
Illawarra Shorthorn	White Park
Irish Moiled	

Wild Cattle

anoa	gayal	takin
aurochs	kouprey	tsine
banteng	musk ox	water buffalo
bison	ox	yak
Brahmin	park cattle	zebu
buffalo	sapi-utan	
gaur	seladang	

—RELATED TERMS -genic, -facient.

—OPPOSITES effect, result

► **verb** this disease can cause blindness: BRING ABOUT, give rise to, lead to, result in, create, produce, generate, engender, spawn, bring on, precipitate, prompt, provoke, trigger, make happen, induce, inspire, promote, foster, *poetic/literary* beget, enkindle

—OPPOSITES result from

caustic ► **adjective** ① a caustic cleaner CORROSIVE, corroding, mordant, acid ② a caustic comment: SARCASTIC, cutting, biting, mordant, sharp, bitter, scathing, derisive, sardonic, ironic, scornful, trenchant, acerbic, vitriolic, acidulous, *Brit informal* sarky, *formal* mordacious.

cauterize ► **verb** (*Medicine*) BURN, sear, singe, scorch; disinfect, sterilize

caution ► **noun** ① proceed with caution CARE, carefulness, heedfulness, heed, attention, attentiveness, alertness, watchfulness, vigilance, circumspection, discretion, prudence. ② a first offender may receive a caution: WARNING, admonishment, injunction; reprimand, rebuke, reproof, scolding, *informal* telling-off, dressing-down,



talking-to; *Brit informal* ticking-off, carpeting
 ③ (*informal, dated*) her uncle's a caution. See CLOWN
 noun sense 2

► **verb** ① advisers cautioned against tax increases: ADVISE, warn, counsel, urge ② he was cautioned by the police WARN, admonish, reprimand, rebuke, reprove, scold; *informal* tell off, give someone a dressing-down, give someone a talking-to, *Brit informal* give someone a ticking-off, carpet

cautious ► **adjective** CAREFUL, heedful, attentive, alert, watchful, vigilant, circumspect, prudent
 -OPPOSITES reckless.

cavalcade ► **noun** PROCESSION, parade, motorcade, cortège; *Brit* march past

cavalier ► **noun** ① (*historical*) Cavaliers dying for King Charles ROYALIST, king's man ② (*archaic*) the lady and her cavalier ESCORT, gentleman, dated beau ③ (*archaic*) foot soldiers and cavaliers HORSEMAN, equestrian, cavalryman, trooper, knight

-OPPOSITES Roundhead

► **adjective** a cavalier disregard for danger OFFHAND, indifferent, casual, dismissive, insouciant, unconcerned; supercilious, patronizing, condescending, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous; *informal* couldn't-care-less

cavalry ► **plural noun** (*historical*) MOUNTED TROOPS, cavalrymen, troopers, horse, *historical* dragoons, lancers, hussars

cave ► **noun** CAVERN, grotto, pothole, underground chamber

-RELATED TERMS speleology, speleologist; *N Amer spelunking*

► **cave in** ① the roof caved in COLLAPSE, fall in/down, give (way), crumble, subside ② the manager caved in to their demands YIELD, surrender, capitulate, give in, back down, make concessions, throw in the towel/sponge

caveat ► **noun** WARNING, caution, admonition, proviso, condition, stipulation, provision, clause, rider, qualification.

caveman, cavewoman ► **noun** CAVE-DWELLER, troglodyte, primitive man/woman, prehistoric man/woman

cavern ► **noun** LARGE CAVE, grotto, underground chamber/gallery.

cavernous ► **adjective** VAST, huge, large, immense, spacious, roomy, airy, capacious, voluminous, extensive, deep; hollow, gaping, yawning; *formal* commodious
 -OPPOSITES small

cavil ► **verb** COMPLAIN, carp, grumble, grouse, whine, bleat, quibble, niggle; *informal* gripe, grouch, beef, bellyache, moan, bitch, whinge, kick up a fuss; *Brit informal* chunter, create; *N English informal* mither; *N Amer informal* kvetch

cavity ► **noun** SPACE, chamber, hollow, hole, pocket, pouch, orifice, aperture; socket, gap, crater, pit.

cavort ► **verb** SKIP, dance, romp, jig, caper, frisk, gambol, prance, frolic, lark, bounce, trip, leap, jump, bound, spring, hop; *rare* rollick.

cease ► **verb** ① hostilities had ceased: COME TO AN END, come to a halt, end, halt, stop, conclude, terminate, finish, draw to a close, be over. ② they ceased all military activity: BRING TO AN END, bring to a halt, end, halt, stop, conclude, ter-

minate, finish, wind up, discontinue, suspend, break off; *informal* leave off.

-OPPOSITES start, continue

► **without cease** CONTINUOUSLY, incessantly, unendingly, unremittingly, without a pause/break, on and on

ceaseless ► **adjective** CONTINUAL, constant, continuous, incessant, unceasing, unending, endless, never-ending, interminable, non-stop, uninterrupted, unremitting, relentless, unrelenting, unrelieved, sustained, persistent, eternal, perpetual

-OPPOSITES intermittent

cede ► **verb** SURRENDER, concede, relinquish, yield, part with, give up, hand over, deliver up, give over, make over, transfer, abandon, forgo, sacrifice, *poetic/literary* forsake

ceiling ► **noun** UPPER LIMIT, maximum, limitation

celebrate ► **verb** ① they were celebrating their wedding anniversary COMMEMORATE, observe, mark, keep, honour, remember, memorialize ② let's all celebrate! ENJOY ONESELF, make merry, have fun, have a good time, have a party, revel, roister, carouse, *N Amer* step out; *informal* party, go out on the town, paint the town red, whoop it up, make whoopee, live it up, have a ball ③ the priest celebrated mass: PERFORM, observe, officiate at ④ he was celebrated for his achievements PRAISE, extol, glorify, eulogize, reverence, honour, pay tribute to, *formal* laud, *archaic* emblazon

celebrated ► **adjective** ACCLAIMED, admired, highly rated, lionized, revered, honoured, esteemed, exalted, vaunted, well thought of, eminent, great, distinguished, prestigious, illustrious, pre-eminent, estimable, notable, of note, of repute; *formal* lauded
 -OPPOSITES unsung

celebration ► **noun** ① the celebration of his 50th birthday: COMMEMORATION, observance, marking, keeping ② a cause for celebration: JOLLIFICATION, merry-making, enjoying oneself, carousing, revelry, revels, festivities, *informal* partying. ③ a birthday celebration, PARTY, function, gathering, festivities, festival, fête, carnival, jamboree, *informal* do, bash, rave, *Brit informal* rave-up, knees-up, beanfeast, bunfight, beano. ④ the celebration of the Eucharist OBSERVANCE, performance, officiation, solemnization

celebrity ► **noun** ① his celebrity grew FAME, prominence, renown, eminence, pre-eminence, stardom, popularity, distinction, note, notability, prestige, stature, repute, reputation ② a sporting celebrity: FAMOUS PERSON, VIP, very important person, personality, (big) name, famous/household name, star, superstar; *informal* celeb, somebody, someone, megastar
 -OPPOSITES obscurity.

celestial ► **adjective** ① a celestial body. (IN) SPACE, heavenly, astronomical, extraterrestrial, stellar, planetary. ② celestial beings: HEAVENLY, holy, saintly, divine, godly, godlike, ethereal; immortal, angelic, seraphic, cherubic.
 -OPPOSITES earthly, hellish.

celibate ► **adjective** UNMARRIED, single, unwed, spouseless, chaste, virginal, virgin, maidenly, maiden, intact, abstinent, self-denying.

cell ► **noun** ① a prison cell: ROOM, cubicle, chamber; dungeon, oubliette, lock-up. ② each cell of

the honeycomb COMPARTMENT, cavity, hole, hollow, section ①terrorist cells UNIT, faction, arm, section, coterie, group

cellar ► noun BASEMENT, vault, underground room, lower ground floor, crypt, undercroft
-OPPOSITES attic

cement ► noun polystyrene cement ADHESIVE, glue, fixative, gum, paste, superglue, epoxy resin, *N Amer* mucilage, *N Amer informal* stickum

► verb he cemented the sample to a microscope slide
STICK, bond, fasten, fix, affix, attach, secure, bind, glue, gum, paste

cemetery ► noun GRAVEYARD, churchyard, burial ground, necropolis, *informal* boneyard, *historical* potter's field, *archaic* God's acre

censor ► noun the film censors EXPURGATOR, bowdlerizer, examiner, inspector, editor

► verb letters home were censored CUT, delete parts of, make cuts in, blue-pencil, edit, expurgate, bowdlerize, sanitize, *informal* clean up

censorious ► adjective HYPERCRITICAL, overcritical, disapproving, condemnatory, denunciatory, deprecatory, disparaging, reproachful, reproving, censuring, captious, *formal* castigatory
-OPPOSITES complimentary

censure ► verb he was censured for his conduct
See REPRIMAND verb

► noun a note of censure CONDEMNATION, criticism, attack, abuse, reprimand, rebuke, admonishment, reproof, reproval, upbraiding, disapproval, reproach, reprehension, obloquy, *formal* excommunication, castigation, *rare* objurgation
-OPPOSITES approval

central ► adjective ① occupying a central position MIDDLE, centre, halfway, midway, mid, median, medial, mean, *Anatomy* mesial ② central London INNER, innermost, middle, mid ③ their central campaign issue MAIN, chief, principal, primary, leading, foremost, first, most important, predominant, dominant, key, crucial, vital, essential, basic, fundamental, core, prime, premier, paramount, major, overriding, *informal* number-one
-OPPOSITES side, outer, subordinate

centralize ► verb CONCENTRATE, consolidate, amalgamate, condense, unify, streamline, focus, rationalize
-OPPOSITES devolve

centre ► noun the centre of the town MIDDLE, nucleus, heart, core, hub; middle point, midpoint, halfway point, mean, median
-OPPOSITES edge

► verb the story centres on a doctor FOCUS, concentrate, pivot, revolve, be based

centrepiece ► noun HIGHLIGHT, main feature, high point/spot, best part, climax, focus of attention, focal point, centre of attention/interest, magnet, cynosure

ceramics ► plural noun POTTERY, pots, china.
See list at POTTERY

cereal ► noun. See list

ceremonial ► adjective a ceremonial occasion. FORMAL, official, state, public; ritual, ritualistic, prescribed, stately, courtly, solemn.
-OPPOSITES informal.

► noun diplomatic ceremonial: RITUAL, ceremony, rite, formality, pomp, protocol; *formal* praxis

Cereal Crops

barley	millet	sorghum
corn	milo	spelt
durum	oats	teff
einkorn	pearl millet	triticale
emmer	rice	wheat
maize	rye	

ceremonious ► adjective DIGNIFIED, majestic, imposing, impressive, solemn, stately, formal, courtly, regal, imperial, elegant, grand, glorious, splendid, magnificent, resplendent, portentous, *informal* starchy

ceremony ► noun ① a wedding ceremony RITE, ritual, ceremonial, observance, service, sacrament, liturgy, worship, celebration ② the new Queen was proclaimed with due ceremony POMP, protocol, formalities, niceties, decorum, etiquette, punctilio, politesse

certain ► adjective ① I'm certain he's guilty SURE, confident, positive, convinced, in no doubt, satisfied, assured, persuaded ② it is certain that more changes are in the offing UNQUESTIONABLE, sure, definite, beyond question, not in doubt, indubitable, undeniable, irrefutable, indisputable, obvious, evident, recognized, confirmed, accepted, acknowledged, undisputed, undoubted, unquestioned, as sure as eggs is eggs ③ they are certain to win SURE, very likely, bound, destined ④ certain defeat INEVITABLE, assured, destined, predestined, unavoidable, inescapable, inexorable, ineluctable ⑤ there is no certain cure for this RELIABLE, dependable, trustworthy, foolproof, tried and tested, effective, guaranteed, sure, unfailing, infallible, *informal* sure-fire, *dated* sovereign ⑥ a certain sum of money DETERMINED, definite, fixed, established, precise ⑦ a certain lady PARTICULAR, specific, individual, special ⑧ to a certain extent that is true MODERATE, modest, medium, middling, limited, small
-OPPOSITES doubtful, possible, unlikely

certainly ► adverb ① this is certainly a late work UNQUESTIONABLY, surely, assuredly, definitely, beyond/without question, without doubt, indubitably, undeniably, irrefutably, indisputably, obviously, patently, evidently, plainly, clearly, unmistakably, undisputedly, undoubtedly, as sure as eggs is eggs ② our revenues are certainly lower ADMITTEDLY, without question, definitely, undoubtedly, without a doubt
-OPPOSITES possibly

► exclamation 'Shall we eat now?' 'Certainly' YES, definitely, absolutely, sure, by all means, indeed, of course, naturally, affirmative, *Brit dated* rather.

certainty ► noun ① she knew with certainty that he was telling the truth. CONFIDENCE, sureness, positiveness, conviction, certitude, assurance ② he accepted defeat as a certainty INEVITABILITY, foregone conclusion, *informal* sure thing, *Brit informal* cert, dead cert
-OPPOSITES doubt, possibility.

certificate ► noun GUARANTEE, certification, document, authorization, authentication, credentials, accreditation, licence, diploma.

certify ► verb ① the aircraft was certified as airworthy. VERIFY, guarantee, attest, validate, confirm, substantiate, endorse, vouch for, testify



to, provide evidence, give proof, prove, demonstrate. ② a certified hospital ACCREDIT, recognize, license, authorize, approve, warrant

certitude ► noun CERTAINTY, confidence, sureness, positiveness, conviction, assurance
—OPPOSITES doubt

cessation ► noun END, ending, termination, stopping, halting, ceasing, finish, finishing, stoppage, conclusion, winding up, discontinuation, abandonment, suspension, breaking off, cutting short
—OPPOSITES start, resumption

cession ► noun SURRENDER, surrendering, ceding, concession, relinquishment, yielding, giving up, handing over, transfer, abandonment, sacrifice; poetic/literary forsaking

cetacean ► noun. See list

Cetaceans (Whales and Dolphins)

Amazon dolphin
baleen whale
beaked whale
beluga
blue whale
bottlenose dolphin
bottlenose whale
bowhead whale
cachalot
dusky dolphin
finback whale
fin whale
grampus
Greenland right whale
grey whale
humpback whale
killer whale

minke whale
narwhal
orca
pilot whale
porpoise
right whale
Risso's dolphin
river dolphin
rorqual
sei whale
sperm whale
spinner dolphin
toothed whale
tucuxi
whalebone whale
white-sided dolphin
white whale

chafe ► verb ① the collar chafed his neck ABRASE, graze, rub against, gall, scrape, scratch; Medicine excoriate. ② I chafed her feet RUB, warm (up) ③ material chafed by the rock. WEAR AWAY/DOWN, erode, abrade, scour, scrape away ④ the bank chafed at the restrictions. BE ANGRY, be annoyed, be irritated, fume, be exasperated, be frustrated.

chaff ► noun ① separating the chaff from the grain: HUSKS, hulls, pods, shells, bran; N Amer shucks. ② the proposals were so much chaff RUBBISH, dross; N Amer garbage, trash, Austral/NZ mullock; informal junk

chaff ► noun good-natured chaff BANTER, repartee, teasing, ragging, joking, jesting, rallery, badinage, wisecracks, witticism(s); informal kidding, ribbing; formal persiflage.

► verb the pleasures of chaffing your mates TEASE, make fun of, poke fun at, rag; informal take the mickey out of, rib, josh, kid, have on, pull someone's leg; Brit informal wind up; N Amer informal goof on, rag on, razz, Austral/NZ informal poke mullock at, poke borak at; informal, dated twit; archaic make sport of

chagrin ► noun ANNOYANCE, irritation, vexation, exasperation, displeasure, dissatisfaction, discontent; anger, rage, fury, wrath, indignation, resentment; embarrassment, mortification, humiliation, shame.
—OPPOSITES delight.

chain ► noun ① he was held in chains FETTERS, shackles, irons, leg-irons, manacles, handcuffs, informal cuffs, bracelets, Brit archaic, informal darbies, historical bilboes, archaic gyves ② a chain of events. SERIES, succession, string, sequence, train, course ③ a chain of shops GROUP, multiple shop/store, multiple.

► verb she chained her bicycle to the railings SECURE, fasten, tie, tether, hitch, restrain, shackle, fetter, manacle, handcuff

chair ► noun ① he sat down on a chair: SEAT See list ② the chair of the committee See CHAIRMAN ③ a university chair PROFESSORSHIP ④ (N Amer) he was sent to the chair ELECTRIC CHAIR, electrocution, execution

► verb she chairs the economic committee PRESIDE OVER, take the chair of, lead, direct, run, manage, control, be in charge of

Chairs and Stools

armchair
barrel chair
bar stool
bath chair
bentwood chair
box seat
bucket seat
buffet
button-back chair
carver
chaise longue
chesterfield
club chair
comb-back
couch
deckchair
dining chair
divan
donkey stool
duchesse
easy chair
faldstool
footstool
high chair
ladder-back
lawn chair
Lloyd Loom chair
lounger
love seat
milking stool

Morris chair
music stool
nursing chair
panel-back chair
pew
pouffe
recliner
rocking chair or rocker
settee
settle
side chair
slingback chair
sofa
sofa-bed
spindle-back chair
stall
stool
studio couch
sugan
swivel chair
tabouret
tailor's chair
throne
tripod
tub chair
tuffet
wheelback chair
wheelchair
Windsor chair
wing chair

chairman, chairwoman ► noun CHAIR, chairperson, president, leader, convener, spokesperson, spokesman, spokeswoman.

chalk

—RELATED TERMS calcareous.

■ **chalk something up** ① he has chalked up another success: ACHIEVE, attain, accomplish, gain, earn, win, succeed in making, make, get, obtain, notch up, rack up ② I forgot completely—chalk it up to age: ATTRIBUTE, assign, ascribe, put down; blame on, pin on, lay at the door of.

chalky ► adjective ① chalky skin: PALE, bloodless, pallid, colourless, wan, ashen, white, pasty. ② chalky bits at the bottom of the glass POWDERY, gritty, granular; archaic pulverulent.

challenge ► noun ① he accepted the challenge: DARE, provocation; summons. ② a challenge to his leadership: TEST, questioning, dispute, stand,



opposition, confrontation. ③ *it was proving quite a challenge* PROBLEM, difficult task, test, trial.

► **verb** ① *we challenged their statistics*: QUESTION, disagree with, dispute, take issue with, protest against, call into question, object to. ② *he challenged one of my men to a duel*: DARE, summon, throw down the gauntlet to. ③ *changes that would challenge them* TEST, tax, strain, make demands on, stretch, stimulate, inspire, excite

challenging ► **adjective** DEMANDING, testing, taxing, exacting, stretching, exciting, stimulating, inspiring; difficult, tough, hard, formidable, onerous, arduous, strenuous, gruelling, formal exigent

—OPPOSITES easy, uninspiring.

chamber ► **noun** ① *a debating chamber* ROOM, hall, assembly room, auditorium ② (*archaic*) *we slept safely in our chamber*: BEDROOM, room, poetic/literary bower, historical boudoir; *archaic* bedchamber ③ *the left chamber of the heart*. COM PARTMENT, cavity, Anatomy auricle, ventricle

champagne ► **noun** SPARKLING WINE, VIN mousseux, spumante, sekt, cava, informal champers, bubbly, fizz.

champion ► **noun** ① *the world champion*. WINNER, title-holder, defending champion, gold medallist, prizewinner, victor (Iudorum); informal champ, number one ② *a champion of change* ADVOCATE, proponent, promoter, supporter, defender, upholder, backer, exponent, campaigner, lobbyist, crusader, apologist, *N Amer* booster ③ (*historical*) *the king's champion* KNIGHT, man-at-arms, warrior

► **verb** *championing the rights of tribal peoples* ADVOCATE, promote, defend, uphold, support, back, stand up for, take someone's part, campaign for, lobby for, fight for, crusade for, stick up for

—OPPOSITES oppose

chance ► **noun** ① *there was a chance he might be released*: POSSIBILITY, prospect, probability, likelihood, likeness, expectation, anticipation, risk, threat, danger ② *I gave her a chance to answer* OPPORTUNITY, opening, occasion, turn, time, window (of opportunity); *N Amer & Austral/NZ* show, informal shot, look-in. ③ *Nigel took an awful chance*. RISK, gamble, venture, speculation, long shot, leap in the dark ④ *pure chance*: ACCIDENT, coincidence, serendipity, fate, destiny, fortuity, providence, happenstance, good fortune, (good) luck, fluke

► **adjective** *a chance discovery* ACCIDENTAL, fortuitous, adventitious, fluky, coincidental, serendipitous; unintentional, unintended, inadvertent, unplanned

—OPPOSITES intentional.

► **verb** ① *I chanced to meet him* HAPPEN ② (*informal*) *she chanced another look*. RISK, hazard, venture, try; formal essay.

■ **by chance** FORTUITOUSLY, by accident, accidentally, coincidentally, serendipitously; unintentionally, inadvertently.

■ **chance on/upon** COME ACROSS/UPON, run across/into, happen on, light on, stumble on, find by chance, meet (by chance); informal bump into; *archaic* run against.

chancy ► **adjective** (*informal*) RISKY, unpredictable, uncertain, precarious; unsafe, insecure, tricky, high-risk, hazardous, perilous, parlous; informal dicey, hairy; *Brit. informal* dodgy.

—OPPOSITES predictable.

change ► **verb** ① *this could change the face of Britain* | *things have changed* ALTER, make/become different, adjust, adapt, amend, modify, revise, refine, reshape, refashion, redesign, restyle, revamp, rework, remodel, reorganize, reorder, vary, transform, transfigure, transmute, metamorphose, evolve; informal tweak; technical permute ② *he's changed his job*. EXCHANGE, substitute, swap, switch, replace, alternate, interchange

—OPPOSITES preserve, keep.

► **noun** ① *a change of plan*: ALTERATION, modification, variation, revision, amendment, adjustment, adaptation; remodelling, reshaping, rearrangement, reordering, restyling, reworking, metamorphosis, transformation, evolution, mutation, humorous transmutation. ② *a change of government* EXCHANGE, substitution, swap, switch, replacement, alternation, interchange ③ *I've no change*: COINS, loose/small change, (hard) cash, silver, coppers, specie.

■ **have a change of heart**. See HEART

changeable ► **adjective** ① *the weather will be changeable* | *changeable moods*: VARIABLE, inconstant, varying, changing, fluctuating, irregular; erratic, inconsistent, unstable, unsettled, turbulent, changeful, protean, fickle, capricious, temperamental, volatile, mercurial, unpredictable, blowing hot and cold, informal up and down, poetic/literary fluctuant ② *the colours are changeable* ALTERABLE, adjustable, modifiable, variable, mutable, exchangeable, interchangeable, replaceable

—OPPOSITES constant

changeless ► **adjective** UNCHANGING, unvarying, timeless, static, fixed, permanent, constant, unchanged, consistent, uniform, undeviating; stable, steady, unchangeable, unalterable, invariable, immutable

—OPPOSITES variable

channel ► **noun** ① *the English Channel* STRAIT(S), sound, narrows, (sea) passage. ② *the water ran down a channel*: DUCT, gutter, conduit, trough, culvert, sluice, spillway, race, drain ③ *a channel for their extraordinary energy* USE, medium, vehicle, way of harnessing; release (mechanism), safety valve, vent. ④ *a channel of communication*. MEANS, medium, instrument, mechanism, agency, vehicle, route, avenue.

► **verb** ① *she channelled out a groove*. HOLLOW OUT, gouge (out), cut (out). ② *many countries channel their aid through charities* CONVEY, transmit, conduct, direct, guide, relay, pass on, transfer.

chant ► **noun** ① *the protesters' chants*: SHOUT, cry, (rallying) call, slogan. ② *the melodious chant of the monks*: INCANTATION, intonation, singing, song, recitative; rare cantillation.

► **verb** ① *protesters were chanting slogans*: SHOUT, chorus, repeat. ② *the chor* chanted Psalm 118: SING, intone, incant; rare cantillate.

chaos ► **noun** DISORDER, disarray, disorganization, confusion, mayhem, bedlam, pandemonium, havoc, turmoil, tumult, commotion, disruption, upheaval, uproar; a muddle, a mess, a shambles; anarchy, lawlessness; informal hullabaloo, all hell broken loose.

—OPPOSITES order.

chaotic ► **adjective** DISORDERLY, disordered, in disorder, in chaos, in disarray, disorganized, topsy-turvy, in pandemonium, in turmoil, in uproar; in a muddle, in a mess, messy, in a

shambles, anarchic, lawless; *Brit informal* sham-bolic.

chap¹ ▶ **verb** my skin chapped in the wind **BECOME** RAW, become sore, become inflamed, chafe, crack

chap² ▶ **noun** (*Brit informal*) he's a nice chap **MAN**, boy, character; *informal* fellow, guy, geezer, *Brit informal* bloke, lad, bod, *N Amer informal* dude, hombre, *Brit informal, dated* cove

chaperone ▶ **noun** Aunt Millie went as chaperone. **COMPANION**, duenna, escort, protectress, protector, minder

▶ **verb** she was chaperoned by her mother **ACCOMPANY**, escort, attend, watch over, keep an eye on, protect, mind

chapter ▶ **noun** ① the first chapter of the book **SECTION**, division, part, portion ② a new chapter in our history **PERIOD**, phase, page, stage, epoch, era. ③ (*N Amer*) a local chapter of the American Cancer Society **BRANCH**, division, subdivision, section, department, lodge, wing, arm ④ the cathedral chapter. **GOVERNING BODY**, council, assembly, convocation, synod, consistory

char ▶ **verb** SCORCH, burn, singe, sear, blacken, *informal* toast

character ▶ **noun** ① a forceful character | the character of a town **PERSONALITY**, nature, disposition, temperament, temper, mentality, make-up; features, qualities, properties, traits, spirit, essence, identity, ethos, complexion, tone, feel, feeling ② a woman of character **INTEGRITY**, honour, moral strength/fibre, rectitude, uprightness, fortitude, strength, backbone, resolve, grit, will power; *informal* guts, gutsiness, *Brit informal* bottle ③ a stain on his character **REPUTATION**, (good) name, standing, stature, position, status ④ (*informal*) a bit of a character. **ECCENTRIC**, oddity, madcap, crank, individualist, nonconformist, rare bird, *informal* oddball, *Brit informal* odd bod, *informal, dated* card, caution ⑤ a boorish character **PERSON**, man, woman, soul, creature, individual, customer, *informal* cookie, *Brit informal* bod, guy, *informal, dated* body, dog ⑥ the characters develop throughout the play **PERSONA**, role, part, (**characters**) *dramatis personae* ⑦ thirty characters **LETTER**, figure, symbol, sign, mark.

characteristic ▶ **noun** interesting characteristics **ATTRIBUTE**, feature, (essential) quality, property, trait, aspect, element, facet; mannerism, habit, custom, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, quirk, oddity, foible

▶ **adjective** his characteristic eloquence **TYPICAL**, usual, normal, predictable, habitual, distinctive, particular, special, especial, peculiar, idiosyncratic, singular, unique

characterize ▶ **verb** ① the period was characterized by scientific advancement: **DISTINGUISH**, make distinctive, mark, typify, set apart ② the women are characterized as prophets of doom: **PORTRAY**, depict, present, represent, describe, categorize, class, style, brand.

charade ▶ **noun** FARCE, pantomime, travesty, mockery, parody, act, masquerade.

charge ▶ **verb** ① he didn't charge much: **ASK** (*IN PAYMENT*), levy, demand, exact; bill, invoice. ② the subscription will be charged to your account **BILL**, debit from, take from. ③ two men were charged with affray: **ACCUSE**, indict, arraign; prosecute, try, put on trial; *N Amer* impeach; *archaic* inculcate. ④ they charged him with reforming the

system **ENTRUST**, burden, encumber, saddle, tax ⑤ the cavalry charged the tanks. **ATTACK**, storm, assault, assail, fall on, swoop on, descend on; *informal* lay into, tear into. ⑥ we charged into the crowd: **RUSH**, storm, stampede, push, plough, launch oneself, go headlong; *informal* steam, *N Amer informal* barrel ⑦ charge your glasses! | the guns were charged **FILL** (UP), top up, load (up), arm, prepare to fire ⑧ his work was charged with energy **SUFFUSE**, pervade, permeate, saturate, infuse, imbue, fill ⑨ I charge you to stop. **ORDER**, command, direct, instruct, enjoin, *formal* adjure, *poetic/literary* bid

▶ **noun** ① all customers pay a charge **FEE**, payment, price, tariff, amount, sum, fare, levy ② he pleaded guilty to the charge **ACCUSATION**, allegation, indictment, arraignment, *N Amer* impeachment, *archaic* inculpation ③ an infantry charge **ATTACK**, assault, offensive, onslaught, drive, push, thrust ④ the child was in her charge **CARE**, protection, safe keeping, control, custody, guardianship, wardship, hands, *archaic* ward ⑤ his charge was to save the business' **DUTY**, responsibility, task, job, assignment, mission, function, *Brit informal* pigeon ⑥ the safety of my charge **WARD**, protégé, dependant ⑦ the judge gave a careful charge to the jury **INSTRUCTION**, direction, directive, order, command, dictate, exhortation ⑧ (*N Amer informal*) I get a real charge out of working hard **THRILL**, tingle, glow, excitement, stimulation, enjoyment, pleasure, *informal* kick, buzz

■ **In charge of** **RESPONSIBLE FOR**, in control of, at the helm/wheel of, **MANAGING**, running, administering, directing, supervising, overseeing, controlling, *informal* running the show

charisma ▶ **noun** **CHARM**, presence, (force of) personality, strength of character, (animal) magnetism, attractiveness, appeal, allure

charismatic ▶ **adjective** **CHARMING**, fascinating, strong in character, magnetic, captivating, beguiling, attractive, appealing, alluring

charitable ▶ **adjective** ① charitable activities **PHILANTHROPIC**, humanitarian, altruistic, benevolent, public-spirited, non-profit-making, *formal* eleemosynary ② charitable people **BIG-HEARTED**, generous, open-handed, free-handed, munificent, bountiful, beneficent, *poetic/literary* bounteous ③ he was charitable in his judgements **MAGNANIMOUS**, generous, liberal, tolerant, easy-going, broad-minded, considerate, sympathetic, lenient, indulgent, forgiving

charity ▶ **noun** ① an AIDS charity **NON-PROFIT-MAKING ORGANIZATION**, voluntary organization, charitable institution, fund, trust, foundation ② we don't need charity **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**, aid, welfare, (financial) relief; handouts, gifts, presents, largesse; *historical* alms. ③ his actions are motivated by charity **PHILANTHROPY**, humanitarianism, humanity, altruism, public-spiritedness, social conscience, benevolence, beneficence, munificence ④ show a bit of charity: **GOODWILL**, compassion, consideration, concern, kindness, kind-heartedness, tender-heartedness, tenderness, sympathy, indulgence, tolerance, leniency, caritas; *poetic/literary* bounteousness.

charlatan ▶ **noun** **QUACK**, mountebank, sham, fraud, fake, impostor, hoodwinker, hoaxer, cheat, deceiver, double-dealer, (confidence) trickster, swindler, fraudster; *informal* phoney, shark, con man/artist, flimflammer; *Brit. informal*

twister; *N Amer informal* bunco artist, gold brick, chiseller, *Austral informal* magsman, illywhacker, *dated* confidence man/woman

charm ▶ **noun** ① *people were captivated by her charm* ATTRACTIVENESS, beauty, glamour, loveliness, appeal, allure, desirability, seductiveness, sexual/animal magnetism, charisma, *informal* pulling power ② *these traditions retain a lot of charm* APPEAL, drawing power, attraction, allure, fascination. ③ *magical charms* SPELL, incantation, conjuration, rune, magic formula/word, *N Amer* mojo, hex. ④ *a lucky charm* TALISMAN, fetish, amulet, mascot, totem, juju, *archaic* periapt

▶ **verb** ① *he charmed them with his singing* DELIGHT, please, win (over), attract, captivate, allure, lure, dazzle, fascinate, enchant, enthrall, enrapture, seduce, spellbind ② *he charmed his mother into agreeing* COAX, cajole, wheedle, *informal* sweet-talk, soft-soap, *archaic* blandish

charming ▶ **adjective** DELIGHTFUL, pleasing, pleasant, agreeable, likeable, endearing, lovely, lovable, adorable, appealing, attractive, good-looking, prepossessing, alluring, delectable, ravishing, winning, winsome, fetching, captivating, enchanting, entrancing, fascinating, seductive, *informal* heavenly, divine, gorgeous, easy on the eye; *Brit informal* smashing, *poetic/literary* beautiful, *archaic* fair, comely
—OPPOSITES repulsive

chart ▶ **noun** ① *check your ideal weight on the chart* GRAPH, table, diagram, histogram, bar chart, pie chart, flow chart, *Computing* graphic ② *the pop charts* TOP TWENTY, list, listing, *dated* hit parade

▶ **verb** ① *the changes were charted accurately* TABULATE, plot, graph, record, register, represent, make a chart/diagram of ② *the book charted his progress* FOLLOW, trace, outline, describe, detail, record, document, chronicle, log

charter ▶ **noun** ① *a Royal charter*: AUTHORITY, authorization, sanction, dispensation, consent, permission, permit, licence, warrant, franchise ② *the UN Charter* CONSTITUTION, code, canon, fundamental principles, rules, laws ③ *the charter of a yacht* HIRE, hiring, lease, leasing, rent, rental, renting, booking, reservation, reserving

▶ **verb** *they chartered a bus* HIRE, lease, rent, book, reserve

chary ▶ **adjective** WARY, cautious, circumspect, heedful, careful, on one's guard, distrustful, mistrustful, sceptical, suspicious, dubious, hesitant, reluctant, leery, nervous, apprehensive, uneasy; *informal* cagey, iffy

chase ▶ **verb** ① *the dogs chased the fox* PURSUE, run after, give chase to, follow; hunt, track, trail, *informal* tail ② *chasing young girls* woo, pursue, run after, make advances to, flirt with, pay court to; *informal* chat up, come on to, *dated* court, romance, set one's cap at, make love to ③ *she chased away the donkeys*: DRIVE, send, scare, *informal* send packing. ④ *she chased away all thoughts of him*: DISPEL, banish, dismiss, drive away, shut out, put out of one's mind. ⑤ *photographers chased on to the runway*: RUSH, dash, race, speed, streak, shoot, charge, scramble, scurry, hurry, fly, pelt; *informal* scoot, belt, tear, zip, whip; *N Amer informal* boogie, hightail, clip; *archaic* hie.

▶ **noun** *they gave up the chase*: PURSUIT, hunt, trail.

■ **chase someone/something up** PESTER, harass, harry, nag; seek out, find, go after; *informal* hassle

chase ▶ **verb** *the figures are chased on the dish* ENGRAVE, etch, carve, inscribe, cut, chisel.

chasm ▶ **noun** ① *a deep chasm*. GORGE, abyss, canyon, ravine, gully, gulf, defile, couloir, crevasse, fissure, crevice; *N Amer* gulch, coulee ② *the chasm between their views*: BREACH, gulf, rift, difference, separation, division, dissension, schism, scission

chassis ▶ **noun** FRAMEWORK, frame, structure, substructure, shell, casing, bodywork, body

chaste ▶ **adjective** ① *chaste girlhood*: VIRGINAL, virgin, intact, maidenly, unmarried, unwed, celibate, abstinent, self-restrained, self-denying, continent, innocent, virtuous, pure (as the driven snow), sinless, undefiled, unsullied, *Christianity* immaculate, *poetic/literary* vestal. ② *a chaste kiss on the cheek* NON-SEXUAL, platonic, innocent ③ *the dark, chaste interior*: PLAIN, simple, bare, unadorned, undecorated, unornamented, unembellished, functional, no-frills, austere
—OPPOSITES promiscuous, passionate

chasten ▶ **verb** ① *both men were chastened*: SUBDUCE, humble, cow, squash, deflate, flatten, take down a peg or two, put someone in their place, *informal* cut down to size, settle someone's hash ② (*archaic*) *the Heaven that chastens us* See CHASTISE sense 1

chastise ▶ **verb** ① *the staff were chastised for arriving late* SCOLD, upbraid, berate, reprimand, reprove, rebuke, admonish, chide, censure, lambaste, lecture, give someone a piece of one's mind, take to task, haul over the coals, *informal* tell off, dress down, bawl out, blow up at, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, come down on someone like a ton of bricks, have someone's guts for garters, slap someone's wrist, rap over the knuckles, give someone hell, *Brit informal* carpet, tick off, have a go at, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket; *N Amer informal* chew out, ream out, *Austral informal* monster, *dated* give someone a rating; *formal* castigate, *archaic* chasten, *rare* reprehend, oburgate. ② (*dated*) *her mistress chastised her with a whip*. See BEAT verb sense 1

—OPPOSITES praise

chastity ▶ **noun** CELIBACY, chasteness, virginity, abstinence, self-restraint, self-denial, continence, singleness, maidenhood; innocence, purity, virtue, morality, *Christianity* immaculateness.

chat ▶ **noun** *I popped in for a chat*: TALK, conversation, gossip, chatter, heart-to-heart, tête-à-tête, blather, *informal* jaw, gas, confab; *Brit informal* natter, chinwag, rabbit; *N Amer informal* rap, bull session, *formal* confabulation, colloquy.

▶ **verb** *they chatted with their guests*. TALK, gossip, chatter, speak, converse, engage in conversation, tittle-tattle, prattle, jabber, babble, *informal* gas, jaw, chew the rag/fat, yap, yak, yabber, yatter, yammer; *Brit informal* natter, rabbit, chunter, have a chinwag; *N Amer informal* shoot the breeze/bull, visit; *Austral/NZ informal* mag; *formal* confabulate; *archaic* clack.

■ **chat someone up** (*informal*) FLIRT WITH, make advances to; *informal* come on to; *dated* make love to, set one's cap at, romance.



chatter ▶ **noun** she tired him with her chatter
CHAT, talk, gossip, chit-chat, patter, jabbering, jabber, prattling, prattle, babbling, babble, tittle-tattle, blathering, blather; *informal* yabbering, yammering, yattering, yapping, jawing, chewing the rag/fat, *Brit informal* nattering, chuntering, rabbiting on, *formal* confabulation, colloquy; *archaic* clack.

▶ **verb** they chattered excitedly See CHAT verb

chatterbox ▶ **noun** (*informal*) TALKER, chatterer, prattler, *N Amer* blatherskite, *informal* windbag, gasbag, blabbermouth, *Brit informal* natterer

chatty ▶ **adjective** ① he was a chatty person. TALKATIVE, communicative, expansive, unrestrained, gossiping, garrulous, loquacious, voluble, verbose; *informal* mouthy, gabby, gassy; *Brit informal* able to talk the hind legs off a donkey ② a chatty letter. CONVERSATIONAL, gossip, *informal*, casual, familiar, friendly; *informal* newsy.

—OPPOSITES taciturn

chauvinist ▶ **adjective** chauvinist sentiments Jingoistic, chauvinistic, excessively patriotic, excessively nationalistic, flag-waving, xenophobic, racist, racialist, ethnocentric, sexist, male chauvinist, anti-feminist, misogynist, woman-hating

▶ **noun** he's a chauvinist SEXIST, anti-feminist, misogynist, woman-hater, *informal* male chauvinist pig, MCP

cheap ▶ **adjective** ① cheap tickets INEXPENSIVE, low-priced, low-cost, economical, competitive, affordable, reasonable, reasonably priced, budget, economy, bargain, cut-price, reduced, discounted, discount, rock-bottom, giveaway, bargain-basement; *informal* dirt cheap. ② plain without looking cheap. POOR-QUALITY, second-rate, third-rate, substandard, low-grade, inferior, vulgar, shoddy, trashy, tawdry, meretricious, cheap and nasty, cheapjack, gimcrack, Brummagem, pinchbeck; *informal* rubbishy, cheapo, junky, tacky, kitsch; *Brit informal* naff, duff, ropy, groggy; *N Amer informal* two-bit, dime-store ③ the cheap exploitation of suffering: DESPICABLE, contemptible, immoral, unscrupulous, unprincipled, unsavoury, distasteful, vulgar, ignoble, shameful; *archaic* scurvy ④ he made me feel cheap: ASHAMED, humiliated, mortified, debased, degraded. ⑤ (*N Amer informal*) he made the other guests look cheap. See MEAN² sense 1

—OPPOSITES expensive

cheapen ▶ **verb** ① cheapening the cost of exports REDUCE, lower (in price), cut, mark down, discount; *informal* slash. ② Hetty never cheapened herself: Demean, debase, degrade, lower, humble, devalue, abase, discredit, disgrace, dishonour, shame, humiliate, mortify, prostitute.

cheat ▶ **verb** ① customers were cheated. SWINDLE, defraud, deceive, trick, dupe, hoodwink, double-cross, gull; *informal* diddle, rip off, con, fleece, shaft, sting, bilk, rook, gyp, finagle, flimflam, put one over on, pull a fast one on, *N Amer informal* sucker, gold-brick, stiff; *Austral informal* pull a swifty on; *formal* mulct; *poetic/literary* cozen; *archaic* chicane. ② she cheated Ryan out of his fortune: DEPRIVE OF, deny, prevent from gaining, *informal* do out of. ③ the boy cheated death: AVOID, escape, evade, elude; foil, frustrate, thwart. ④ cheating husbands: COMMIT ADULTERY, be unfaithful, stray; *informal* two-time, play about/around; *Brit informal* play away.

▶ **noun** ① a liar and a cheat: SWINDLER, cheater,

fraudster, (confidence) trickster, deceiver, hoaxer, hoodwinker, double-dealer, double-crosser, sham, fraud, fake, charlatan, quack, mountebank; *informal* con man/artist, shark, sharper, phoney, flumflammer, *Brit informal* twister; *N Amer informal* grifter, bunco artist, gold brick, chiseller, *Austral informal* magsman, ilywhacker; *dated* confidence man, confidence woman. ② a sure cheat for generating cash SWINDLE, fraud, deception, deceit, hoax, sham, trick, ruse, *informal* con

check ▶ **verb** ① troops checked all vehicles | I checked her background EXAMINE, inspect, look at/over, scrutinize, survey, study, investigate, research, probe, look into, enquire into; *informal* check out, give something a/the once-over. ② he checked that the gun was cocked MAKE SURE, confirm, verify ③ two defeats checked their progress HALT, stop, arrest, cut short, bar, obstruct, hamper, impede, inhibit, frustrate, foil, thwart, curb, block, stall, hold up, retard, delay, slow down, *poetic/literary* stay ④ her tears could not be checked SUPPRESS, repress, restrain, control, curb, rein in, stifle, hold back, choke back, *informal* keep a lid on

▶ **noun** ① a check of the records. EXAMINATION, inspection, scrutiny, scrutinization, perusal, study, investigation, probe, analysis, test, trial, monitoring; check-up; *informal* once-over, look-see. ② a check on the abuse of authority CONTROL, restraint, constraint, curb, limitation ③ (*N Amer*) the waitress arrived with the check BILL, account, invoice, statement, *N Amer informal* tab, *archaic* reckoning

■ **check in** REPORT (ONE'S ARRIVAL), book in, register

■ **check out** LEAVE, vacate, depart, pay the bill, settle up.

■ **check something out** (*informal*) ① the police checked out dozens of leads: INVESTIGATE, look into, enquire into, probe, research, examine, go over; assess, weigh up, analyse, evaluate, follow up, *informal* give something a/the once-over, *N Amer informal* scope out ② she checked herself out in the mirror LOOK AT, survey, regard, inspect, contemplate, *informal* have a gander/squint at, *Brit informal* have a dekho/butcher's at, clock; *N Amer informal* eyeball

■ **keep something in check** CURB, restrain, hold back, keep a tight rein on, rein in/back, control, govern, master, suppress, stifle, *informal* keep a lid on.

check-up ▶ **noun** EXAMINATION, inspection, evaluation, analysis, survey, probe, test, appraisal, check, health check, *informal* once-over, going-over.

cheek ▶ **noun** that's enough of your cheek! IMPUDENCE, impertinence, insolence, cheekiness, presumption, effrontery, gall, pertness, impoliteness, disrespect, bad manners, overfamiliarity, cockiness; answering back, talking back; *informal* brass (neck), lip, mouth, chutzpah; *Brit informal* sauce, backchat; *N Amer informal* sass, sassiness, nerviness, back talk; *archaic* assumption.

▶ **verb** they were cheeking the dinner lady: ANSWER BACK, talk back, be cheeky, be impertinent; *Brit informal* backchat; *N Amer informal* sass, be sassy.

cheeky ▶ **adjective** IMPUDENT, impertinent, insolent, presumptuous, forward, pert, bold (as brass), brazen, cocky, overfamiliar, discourteous, disrespectful, impolite, bad-mannered; *ir-*

formal brass-necked, lippy, mouthy, fresh, saucy,
N Amer informal sassy, nervy, *archaic* assumptive
 -OPPOSITES respectful, polite

cheep ▶ **verb** CHIRP, chirrup, twitter, tweet, peep, chatter, chirr, trill, warble, sing

cheer ▶ **noun** ① the cheers of the crowd HURRAH, hurrah, whoop, bravo, shout, hosanna, alleluia, (cheers) acclaim, acclamation, clamour, applause, ovation ② a time of cheer HAPPINESS, joy, joyousness, cheerfulness, cheeriness, gladness, merriment, gaiety, jubilation, jollity, jolliness high spirits, joviality, jocularly conviviality, light-heartedness, merrymaking, pleasure, rejoicing, revelry ③ Christmas cheer FARE, food, foodstuffs, eatables, provender, drink, beverages, informal eats, nibbles, nosh, grub, chow, *Brit informal* scoff, dated victuals formal comestibles, poetic/literary viands
 -OPPOSITES boo sadness

▶ **verb** ① they cheered their team ACCLAIM, hail, salute, shout for, hurrah, hurrah, applaud, clap, put one's hands together for, bring the house down informal holler for, give someone a big hand, *N Amer informal* ballyhoo ② the bad weather did little to cheer me RAISE SOMEONE'S SPIRITS make happier, brighten, buoy up, enliven, exhilarate hearten, gladden uplift, perk up encourage inspirit, informal buck up
 -OPPOSITES boo, depress

■ **cheer someone on** ENCOURAGE urge on, spur on drive on, motivate inspire fire (up), inspirit, *N Amer* light a fire under

■ **cheer up** PERK UP, brighten (up) become more cheerful, liven up, rally revive, bounce back take heart, informal buck up

■ **cheer someone up**. See CHEER verb sense 2

cheerful ▶ **adjective** ① he arrived looking cheerful HAPPY, jolly merry, bright, glad, sunny, joyful, joyous light-hearted, in good/high spirits, full of the joys of spring, sparkling, bubbly, exuberant, buoyant, ebullient, cock-a-hoop, elated, gleeful, breezy, cheery, jaunty, animated, radiant smiling, jovial, genial, good-humoured, carefree, unworried, untroubled, without a care in the world, informal upbeat, chipper, chirpy, peppy, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, full of beans, dated gay, formal jocund, poetic/literary gladsome, blithe, blithesome ② a cheerful room PLEASANT, attractive, agreeable, cheering, bright, sunny, happy, friendly, welcoming
 -OPPOSITES sad

cheerio ▶ **exclamation** (*Brit informal*) GOODBYE, farewell, adieu, au revoir, ciao, adios, auf Wiedersehen, sayonara, *Austral/NZ* hooray informal bye, bye-bye, so long, see you (later), later(s), *Brit informal* cheers, ta ta, ta ra, informal dated pip pip, toodle-oo

cheerless ▶ **adjective** GLOOMY, dreary, dull, dismal, bleak, drab, sombre, dark, dim, dingy, funereal, austere, stark, bare, comfortless, unwelcoming, uninviting, miserable, wretched, joyless, depressing, disheartening, dispiriting

cheers ▶ **exclamation** ① (informal) he raised his glass and said 'Cheers!' HERE'S TO YOU, good health, your health, skol, prosit, salut; informal bottoms up, down the hatch, *Brit informal* here's mud in your eye, *Brit informal* dated cheerio, chin-chin ② (Brit informal) cheers, see you later! See CHEERIO. ③ (Brit informal) cheers, mate (MANY) THANKS, thanks a lot, thank you (kindly), much obliged; informal thanks a million, *Brit informal* ta

cheery ▶ **adjective** See CHEERFUL sense 1

cheese ▶ **noun** See list

-RELATED TERMS caseous

Cheeses

Asi du Chambertin	Jarvisberg (trademark)
Banfort	Lancashire
Bel Paese (trademark)	Leerdammer
blue brie	Leicester
blue cheese	Lindenberg
blue vein	Limburger
Boursin (trademark)	Liptauer
Brie	Livaro
Caerphilly	maasdammer
Camembert	Monterey Jack
Castel	mozzarella
Cheddar	Neuchâtel
Cheshire	Oka
chèvre	panier or panir
Colby	parmesan
Cotswold	Parmigiano Reggiano
cottage cheese	pecorino
1 cheese	Prosciutto
1 or 2 cheese	pot cheese
1 cheese	provolone
Danish blue	quark
Derby	reblochon
Dolcelatte (trademark)	Red Leicester
Double Gloucester	ricotta
Dunlop	Romano
Edam	Roquefort (trademark)
Emmental	sage Derby
feta or fotta	Saint Agur
fontina	Saint Emment
fromage blanc	Saint Nectaire
fromage fraie	Sansoe
Gervais	Stilton
Gjetost	strachino
Gloucester	tallegio
Gorgonzola	Tillamook
Gouda	Tilsit
grana	tomme (de Savoie)
green cheese	tvorog
Gruyère	Vacherin
halloumi	vignette
Ilchester	Wasserkäse
	Windsor Red

chef ▶ **noun** COOK, cordon bleu cook, food preparer, chef de cuisine, chef de partie, pastry cook, saucier, *N Amer informal* short-order cook.

chef-d'œuvre ▶ **noun** MASTERPIECE, master work, finest work, magnum opus, pièce de résistance, tour de force

chemical ▶ **noun** See list

chequered ▶ **adjective** ① a chequered tablecloth CHECKED, multicoloured, many-coloured ② a chequered history VARIED, mixed, full of ups and downs, vicissitudinous, unstable, irregular, erratic, inconstant, informal up and down

cherish ▶ **verb** ① a woman he could cherish ADORE, hold dear, love, dote on, be devoted to, revere, esteem, admire, think the world of, set great store by, hold in high esteem, care for, look after, protect, preserve, keep safe. ② I cherish her letters TREASURE, prize, value highly, hold dear ③ they cherished dreams of glory HAR

Chemicals

See also ACID, COMPOUND, ELEMENT, POISON, SUGAR, VITAMIN.



COMMON NAME	CHEMICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	CHEMICAL NAME
acetic acid	ethanoic acid	glycerine	glycerol
acetone	propanone	green vitriol (archaic)	ferrous sulphate
acetylene	ethyne	gypsum	calcium sulphate
alcohol	ethanol	hydrochloric acid	hydrogen chloride
alumina	aluminium oxide	Jeweller's rouge	ferric oxide
alum	potash alum	laughing gas	dinitrogen monoxide
aqua fortis (archaic)	nitric acid	litharge	lead monoxide
baking soda	sodium bicarbonate	lithia	lithium oxide
baryta	barium hydroxide	lunar caustic (archaic)	silver nitrate
bicarbonate of soda	sodium bicarbonate	magnesia	magnesium oxide
blue vitriol (archaic)	copper sulphate	marsh gas	methane
boracic acid	boric acid	massicot	lead monoxide
borax	sodium borate	marlatic acid (archaic)	hydrochloric acid
Borazon (trademark)	boron nitride	nitric oxide	nitrogen monoxide
calomel	mercurous chloride	oil of vitriol (archaic)	sulphuric acid
carbolic acid	phenol	peroxide	hydrogen peroxide
carbonic acid gas (archaic)	carbon dioxide	phosphorous acid	phosphoric acid
carbon tetrachloride	tetrachloromethane	plaster of Paris	calcium sulphate
carborundum	silicon carbide	potash	potassium carbonate or potassium hydroxide
caustic potash	potassium hydroxide	prussic acid (dated)	hydrocyanic acid
caustic soda	sodium hydroxide	quicklime	calcium oxide
Chile saltpetre	sodium nitrate	red lead	lead oxide
chloroform	trichloroethane	sal ammoniac (dated)	ammonium chloride
chrome yellow	lead chromate	salt	sodium chloride
cinnabar	mercuric sulphide	saltpetre	potassium nitrate
common salt	sodium chloride	silica	silicon dioxide
copperas	ferrous sulphate or iron(II) sulphate	slaked lime	calcium hydroxide
copper vitriol (archaic)	copper sulphate	soda	sodium carbonate
corrosive sublimate (dated)	mercuric chloride	spirits of salt (archaic)	hydrochloric acid
corundum	aluminium oxide	strontia	strontium oxide
cyanide	sodium (or potassium) cyanide	sugar	sucrose
dry ice	(solid) carbon dioxide	sugar of lead (dated)	lead acetate
Epsom salts	magnesium sulphate	sulphuretted hydrogen (archaic)	hydrogen sulphide
ether	diethyl ether	thoria	thorium dioxide
ethyl alcohol	ethanol	titanium white	titanium dioxide
fire-damp	methane	verdigris	copper carbonate
flowers of zinc	zinc oxide	vitriol (archaic)	sulphuric acid
folic acid	pteroylglutamic acid	washing soda	sodium carbonate
formaldehyde	methanal	white arsenic	arsenic trioxide
formic acid	methanoic acid	white vitriol (archaic)	zinc sulphate
Glauber's salt	sodium sulphate	xylene	dimethylbenzene
		zaffre	cobalt oxide
		zirconia	zirconium dioxide

BOUR, entertain, possess, hold (on to), cling to, keep in one's mind, foster, nurture.

cherub ► **noun** ① she was borne up to heaven by cherubs: ANGEL, seraph. ② a cherub of 18 months: BABY, infant, toddler; pretty/loveable child, innocent child, little angel; informal (tiny) tot, tiny; poetic/literary babe (in arms).

cherubic ► **adjective** ANGELIC, sweet, cute, adorable, appealing, loveable; innocent, seraphic, saintly.

chest ► **noun** ① a bullet wound in the chest. BREAST, upper body, torso, trunk, ribcage, technical thorax. ② the matron had a large chest: BUST, bosom; archaic embonpoint. ③ an oak chest: BOX, case, casket, crate, trunk, coffer, strongbox.

—RELATED TERMS pectoral, thoracic.

■ **get something off one's chest** (informal) CONFESS, disclose, divulge, reveal, make known, make public, make a clean breast of,

bring into the open, tell all about, get a load off one's mind.

chew ► **verb** Carolyn chewed a mouthful of toast. MASTICATE, munch, champ, crunch, nibble, gnaw, eat, consume; formal manducate

■ **chew something over** MEDITATE ON, ruminate on, think about/over/through, mull over, consider, weigh up, ponder on, deliberate on, reflect on, muse on, dwell on, give thought to, turn over in one's mind; brood over, puzzle over, rack one's brains about; N. Amer think on; informal kick around/about, bat around/about; formal cogitate about; archaic pore on.

■ **chew the fat/rag** (informal). See CHAT verb.

chic ► **adjective** STYLISH, smart, elegant, sophisticated, dressy, dapper, dashing, trim; fashionable, high-fashion, in vogue, up to date, up to the minute, contemporary, à la mode; informal

trendy, with it, snappy, snazzy, natty, swish, *N Amer informal* fly, spiffy, kicky, tony.

—OPPOSITES unfashionable

chicanery ► **noun** TRICKERY, deception, deceit, deceitfulness, duplicity, dishonesty, deviousness, unscrupulousness, underhandedness, subterfuge, fraud, fraudulence, sharp practice, skulduggery, swindling, cheating, duping, hoodwinking, *informal* crookedness, monkey business, hanky-panky, shenanigans, *Brit informal* juggery-pokery, *N Amer informal* monkeyshines, *archaic* management, knavery

chicken ► **noun** hen, cock, chick See list at FOWL

chide ► **verb** SCOLD, chastise, upbraid, berate, reprimand, reprove, rebuke, admonish, censure, lambaste, lecture, give someone a piece of one's mind, take to task, haul over the coals, *informal* tell off, dress down, bawl out, blow up at, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, come down on someone like a ton of bricks, have someone's guts for garters, slap someone's wrist, rap over the knuckles, give someone hell, *Brit informal* carpet, tick off, have a go at, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket, *N Amer informal* chew out, ream out, *Austral informal* monster, *formal* castigate, *dated* give someone a rating, *archaic* chasten, *rare* reprehend, objugate

—OPPOSITES praise

chief ► **noun** ① a Highland chief LEADER, chief, tain, head, headman, ruler, overlord, master, commander, seigneur, liege (lord), potentate ② the chief of the central bank HEAD, principal, chief executive, president, chair, chairman, chairwoman, chairperson, governor, director, manager, manageress, employer, proprietor, *N Amer* chief executive officer, CEO, *informal* skipper, numero uno, (head) honcho, boss, *Brit informal* gaffer, guv'nor, *N Amer informal* padrone, sachem

► **adjective** ① the chief rabbi HEAD, leading, principal, premier, highest, foremost, supreme, arch ② their chief aim. MAIN, principal, most important, primary, prime, first, cardinal, central, key, crucial, essential, pre-eminent, predominant, paramount, overriding, *informal* number-one

—RELATED TERMS arch-

—OPPOSITES subordinate, minor

chiefly ► **adverb** MAINLY, in the main, primarily, principally, predominantly, mostly, for the most part; usually, habitually, typically, commonly, generally, on the whole, largely, by and large, as a rule, almost always

child ► **noun** YOUNGSTER, little one, boy, girl, baby, newborn, infant, toddler, schoolboy, schoolgirl, minor, junior; son, daughter, descendant; (children) offspring, progeny; *Scottish & N English* bairn, laddie, lassie, lass, *informal* kid, kiddie, kiddiewink, nipper, tiny, (tiny) tot, shaver, young 'un, lad, *Brit informal* sprog, *N Amer informal* rug rat; *Austral/NZ informal* ankle-biter; derogatory brat, guttersnipe, poetic/literary babe (in arms).

—RELATED TERMS paed-

childbirth ► **noun** LABOUR, delivery, giving birth, birthing; *formal* parturition; *dated* confinement; poetic/literary travail; *archaic* lying-in, accouchement, childbed.

—RELATED TERMS obstetric, puerperal.

childhood ► **noun** YOUTH, early years/life, infancy, babyhood, boyhood, girlhood, pre-teens, pre-pubescence, minority; the springtime of life, one's salad days; *formal* nonage, juvenescence.

—OPPOSITES adulthood

childish ► **adjective** ① childish behaviour IMMATURE, babyish, infantile, juvenile, puerile; silly, inane, jejune, foolish, irresponsible. ② a round childish face: CHILDLIKE, youthful, young, young-looking, girlish, boyish

—OPPOSITES mature, adult.

childlike ► **adjective** ① grandmother looked almost childlike YOUTHFUL, young, young-looking, girlish, boyish. ② geniuses tend to be rather childlike INNOCENT, artless, guileless, unworldly, unsophisticated, naive, ingenuous, trusting, unsuspicious, unwary, credulous, gullible; unaffected, without airs, uninhibited, natural, spontaneous; *informal* wet behind the ears

chill ► **noun** ① a chill in the air COLDNESS, chilliness, coolness, iciness, rawness, bitterness, nip ② he had a chill: COLD, dose of flu/influenza; *archaic* grippe ③ the chill in their relations UNFRIENDLINESS, lack of warmth/understanding, chilliness, coldness, coolness

—OPPOSITES warmth

► **verb** ① the dessert is best chilled MAKE COLD, make colder, cool (down/off), refrigerate, ice ② his quiet tone chilled Ruth. SCARE, frighten, petrify, terrify, alarm; make someone's blood run cold, chill to the bone/marrow, make someone's flesh crawl, *informal* scare the pants off; *Brit informal* put the wind up, *archaic* affright

—OPPOSITES warm

► **adjective** a chill wind COLD, chilly, cool, fresh, wintry, frosty, icy, ice-cold, icy-cold, glacial, polar, arctic, raw, bitter, bitterly cold, biting, freezing, frigid, gelid, *informal* nippy, *Brit informal* parky

■ chill out (*N Amer informal*) See RELAX sense 1.

chilly ► **adjective** ① the weather had turned chilly COLD, cool, crisp, fresh, wintry, frosty, icy, ice-cold, icy-cold, chill, glacial, polar, arctic, raw, bitter, bitterly cold, freezing, frigid, gelid; *informal* nippy, *Brit informal* parky. ② I woke up feeling chilly COLD, frozen (stiff), frozen to the core/marrow/bone, freezing (cold), bitterly cold, shivery, chilled ③ a chilly reception. UNFRIENDLY, unwelcoming, cold, cool, frosty, gelid, *informal* stand-offish, offish

—OPPOSITES warm

chime ► **verb** ① the bells began to chime. RING, peal, toll, sound, ding, dong, clang, boom, poetic/literary knell. ② the clock chimed eight o'clock STRIKE, sound

► **noun** the chimes of the bells PEAL, pealing, ringing, carillon, toll, tolling; ding-dong, clanging, tintinnabulation, poetic/literary knell.

■ chime in ① 'Yes, you do that,' Doreen chimed in: INTERJECT, interpose, interrupt, butt in, cut in, join in, *Brit informal* chip in. ② his remarks chimed in with the ideas of Adam Smith: ACCORD, correspond, be consistent, be compatible, agree, be in agreement, fit in, be in tune, be consonant; *informal* square.

chimera ► **noun** ILLUSION, fantasy, delusion, dream, fancy.

chimney ▶ noun STACK, smokestack; flue, funnel, vent.

china ▶ noun ① a china cup: PORCELAIN. See list at POTTERY ② a table laid with the best china: DISHES, plates, cups and saucers, crockery, tableware, dinner service, tea service.

Chinese calendar ▶ noun. See list.

Animals of the Chinese Calendar

rat	dragon	monkey
buffalo	snake	rooster
tiger	horse	dog
rabbit/hare	goat/sheep	pig

chink¹ ▶ noun a chink in the curtains. OPENING, gap, space, hole, aperture, crack, fissure, crevice, cranny, cleft, split, slit, slot.

chink² ▶ verb the glasses chinked: JINGLE, jangle, clink, tinkle

chip ▶ noun ① wood chips: FRAGMENT, splinter, spell, shaving, paring, flake. ② a chip in the glass: NICK, crack, scratch, flaw, fault ③ fish and chips. chipped potatoes, potato chips, Brit French fried potatoes, N Amer French fries ④ gambling chips. COUNTER, token, jetton, N Amer check.

▶ verb ① the teacup was chipped: NICK, crack, scratch; damage. ② the plaster had chipped: BREAK (OFF), crack, crumble. ③ chip the flint to the required shape WHITTLE, hew, chisel.

■ chip in ① 'He's right,' Gloria chipped in: INTERRUPT, interject, interpose, cut in, chime in, butt in ② parents and staff chipped in to raise the cash: CONTRIBUTE, make a contribution/donation, club together, pay; informal fork out, shell out, cough up, Brit informal stump up; N Amer informal kick in.

chirp ▶ verb TWEET, twitter, chirrup, cheep, peep, chitter, chirr; sing, warble, trill

chirpy ▶ adjective (informal). See CHEERFUL sense 2

chit-chat ▶ noun (informal) SMALL TALK, chat, chatting, chatter, prattle, Brit informal nattering, chuntering.

chivalrous ▶ adjective ① his chivalrous treatment of women: GALLANT, gentlemanly, honourable, respectful, considerate; courteous, polite, gracious, well-mannered, mannerly; archaic gentle ② chivalrous pursuits: KNIGHTLY, noble, chivalric; brave, courageous, bold, valiant, valorous, heroic, daring, intrepid.

—OPPOSITES rude, cowardly

chivalry ▶ noun ① acts of chivalry: GALLANTRY, gentlemanliness, considerateness; courtesy, courteousness, politeness, graciousness, mannerliness, good manners. ② the values of chivalry: KNIGHT ERRANDRY, courtly manners, knightliness, courtliness, nobility; bravery, courage, boldness, valour, heroism, daring, intrepidity.

—OPPOSITES rudeness.

chivvy ▶ verb NAG, badger, hound, harass, harry, pester, keep on at, go on at; informal hassle, bug, breathe down someone's neck; N Amer. informal ride.

choice ▶ noun ① their choice of candidate | freedom of choice: SELECTION, election, choosing, picking; decision, say, vote. ② you have no other choice: OPTION, alternative, possible course of action. ③ an extensive choice of wines: RANGE, var-

iet, selection, assortment. ④ the perfect choice APPOINTEE, nominee, candidate, selection.

▶ adjective ① choice plums: SUPERIOR, first-class, first-rate, prime, premier, grade A, best, finest, excellent, select, quality, high-quality, top, top-quality, high-grade, prize, fine, special; hand-picked, carefully chosen; informal tip-top, A1, top-notch. ② a few choice words. RUDE, abusive, insulting, offensive.

—OPPOSITES inferior.

choir ▶ noun SINGERS, chorus, chorale.

—RELATED TERMS choral.

choke ▶ verb ① Christopher started to choke: GAG, retch, cough, fight for breath ② thick dust choked her: SUFFOCATE, asphyxiate, smother, stifle. ③ she had been choked to death. STRANGLE, throttle; asphyxiate, suffocate; informal strangle. ④ the guttering was choked with leaves: CLOG (UP), bung up, stop up, block, obstruct, plug, technical occlude.

■ choke something back SUPPRESS, hold back, fight back, bite back, swallow, check, restrain, control, repress, smother, stifle, informal keep a/the lid on.

choleric ▶ adjective BAD-TEMPERED, irascible, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crusty, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, peevish, cross, fractious, crabbed, crabby, waspish, prickly, peppery, touchy, short-tempered, informal snappish, snappy, chippy, short-fused, Brit informal shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty; N Amer informal cranky, ornery, soreheaded; Austral/NZ informal snaky

—OPPOSITES good-natured, affable

choose ▶ verb ① we chose a quiet country hotel SELECT, pick (out), opt for, plump for, settle on, decide on, fix on; appoint, name, nominate, vote for ② I'll stay as long as I choose. WISH, want, desire, feel/be inclined, please, like, see fit.

choosy ▶ adjective (informal) FUSSY, finicky, fastidious, over-particular, difficult/hard to please, exacting, demanding; informal picky, picknickety, N. Amer informal persnickety; archaic nice

chop ▶ verb ① chop the potatoes into pieces: CUT UP, cut into pieces, chop up, cube, dice, N Amer hash ② chopping wood: CHOP UP, cut up, cut into pieces, hew, split ③ four fingers were chopped off SEVER, cut off, hack off, slice off, lop off, saw off, shear off. ④ they chopped down large areas of rainforest CUT DOWN, fell, hack down. ⑤ (informal) their training courses were chopped. REDUCE DRASTICALLY, cut, abolish, axe, scrap; informal slash.

■ the chop (Brit, informal) NOTICE; informal the sack, the boot, the elbow, the push, one's marching orders; Brit informal one's cards.

chopper ▶ noun (Brit.) AXE, cleaver, hatchet.

choppy ▶ adjective ROUGH, turbulent, heavy, heaving, stormy, tempestuous, squally.

—OPPOSITES calm.

chore ▶ noun TASK, job, duty, errand; (chores) (domestic) work.

chortle ▶ verb CHUCKLE, laugh, giggle, titter, tee-hee, snigger.

chorus ▶ noun ① the chorus sang powerfully: CHOIR, ensemble, choral group, choristers, (group of) singers. ② they sang the chorus: REFRAIN.

Christian Denominations, Past and Present

Abode of Love	Christadelphians	Episcopal Church of USA	Orthodox Church
Adventists	Christian Brethren	Ethiopian Orthodox Church	Particular Baptists
African & Afro-Caribbean Churches	Christian Science	Evangelical Churches	Paulicians
African Orthodox Church	Church Army	Family of Love	Pentecostal Churches
Agapemone	Churches of Christ	Fifth Monarchy Men	Plymouth Brethren
Albigenses	Churches of God	Free Church	Presbyterians
American Baptist Churches	Church in Wales	Free Church of Scotland	Primitive Methodists
American Orthodox Church	Church of Christ Scientist	Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland	Protestants
Amish	Church of England	Free Will Baptists	Puritans
Amish Mennonites	Church of Ireland	Gideons	Quakers
Anabaptists	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	Greek Orthodox Church	Reformed Churches
Anglican Communion	Church of North India	Huguenots	Religious Society of Friends
Anglo-Catholics	Church of Scotland	Hussites	River Brethren
Apostolic Brethren	Church of South India	Hutterites	Roman Catholics
Armenian Church	Church of the Nazarene	Independent Methodists	Rosicrucians
Assemblies of God	Church of the New Jerusalem	Jehovah's Witnesses	Russian Orthodox Church
Assumptionists	Congregationalists	Jesus People	Salvation Army
Assyrian Church	Conservative Baptists	Jumpers	Seventh-day Adventists
Baptists	Coptic Orthodox Church	Lollards	Shakers
Bogomils	Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion	Lutherans	Society of Friends
Bohemian Brethren	Covenanters	Malabar Christians	Southern Baptist Church
Brethren (Dunkers)	Cumberland Presbyterian Church	Maronites	Swedenborgians
Brethren in Christ	Disciples of Christ	Mennonites	Syrian Orthodox Church
Buchanites	Doppers	Methodists	Unitates
Calvinistic Methodists	Doukchobors	Millennial Church	Unitarians
Cameronians	Dunkers	Moravian Church	Unitarian Universalists
Camisards	Dutch Reformed Church	Muggletonians	Unitas Fratrum
Catholic Apostolic Church	Eastern Orthodox Church	Nazarenes	United Church of Christ
Catholics	Episcopal Church of Scotland	Nestorians	United Free Church
Celtic Church		New Testament Assembly	United Reformed Church
Chaldaean Christians		Old Believers	Waldenses
Cherubim & Seraphim Churches		Old Catholics	Wesleyans

■ **In chorus** IN UNISON, together, simultaneously, as one; in concert, in harmony.

Christ ► noun JESUS (CHRIST), the Messiah, the Son of God, the Lamb of God, the Prince of Peace, the Nazarene, the Galilean

christen ► verb ① she was christened Sara: BAPTIZE, name, give the name of, call ② a group who were christened 'The Magic Circle' CALL, name, dub, style, term, designate, label, nickname, give the name of, formal denominate.

Christianity ► noun. See lists.

Christmas ► noun NOEL, informal Xmas; Brit informal Chrimbo, Chrissie; archaic Yule, Yuletide

chronic ► adjective ① a chronic illness: PERSISTENT, long-standing, long-term; incurable ② chronic economic problems: CONSTANT, continuing, ceaseless, unabating, unending, persistent, long-lasting; severe, serious, acute, grave, dire ③ a chronic liar: INVETERATE, hardened, dyed-in-the-wool, incorrigible; compulsive; informal pathological. ④ (Brit informal) the film was chronic. See SUBSTANDARD.

—OPPOSITES acute, temporary.

chronicle ► noun a chronicle of the region's past: RECORD, written account, history, annals, archive(s); log, diary, journal.

► verb the events that followed have been chronicled: RECORD, put on record, write down, set down, document, register, report.

chronicler ► noun ANNALIST, historian, archivist, diarist, recorder, reporter

chronological ► adjective SEQUENTIAL, consecutive, in sequence, in order (of time)

chubby ► adjective PLUMP, tubby, fat, rotund, portly, dumpy, chunky, well upholstered, well covered, well rounded; informal roly-poly, pudgy, blubbery; Brit informal podgy, N Amer informal zaftig, corn-fed, archaic pury
—OPPOSITES skinny

chuck ► verb (informal) ① he chucked the letter onto the table: THROW, toss, fling, hurl, pitch, cast, lob, informal sling, bung, buzz; Austral informal hoy; NZ informal bish. ② I chucked the rubbish: THROW AWAY/OUT, discard, dispose of, get rid of, dump, bin, scrap, jettison; informal ditch, junk; N Amer informal trash. ③ I've chucked my job: GIVE UP, leave, resign from, informal quit, pack in; Brit informal jack in. ④ Mary chucked him for another guy: LEAVE, throw over, finish with, break off with, jilt; informal dump, ditch, give someone the elbow, Brit informal give someone the push, give someone the big E.

chuckle ► verb CHORTLE, giggle, titter, tee-hee, snicker, snigger.

chum ► noun (informal) FRIEND, companion, intimate; playmate, classmate, schoolmate, workmate; informal pal, spar, crony; Brit informal mate, oppo, china, mucker; N Amer informal buddy, amigo, compadre, homeboy.



Christian Religious Orders

Antonians	Ignorantines
Augustinian Hermits	Jacobins
Austin Friars	Jesuits
Barnabites	Knights Templar
Benedictines	Little Brothers of Jesus
Bernardines	Marianists
Black Friars	Marists
Black Monks	Minims
Blue Nuns	Minorites
Bonhommes	Norbertines
Brethren of the Common Life	Oratorians
Brigittines	Passionists
Brothers Hospitallers	Paulines
Carmalites	Piarists
Canons Regular	Poor Clares
Capuchins	Poor Soldiers of the Temple
Carmelites	Premonstratensians
Carthusians	Salesians
Christian Brothers	Servites
Cistercians	Sisters of Charity
Cluniacs	Sisters of the Love of God
Conceptionists	Sisters of the Sacred Cross
Conventuals	Somascans
Culdees	Studites
Doctrinarians	Sylvestrines
Dominicans	Theatines
Franciscans	Trappists
Friars Minor	Trinitarians
Friars Preachers	Ursulines
Gilbertines	Visitandines
Grey Friars	White Friars
Grey Nuns	
Hieronymites	
Hospitallers	

—OPPOSITES enemy, stranger

chummy ► *adjective* (informal) FRIENDLY, on good terms, close, familiar, intimate, informal thick, matey, pally, buddy-buddy, palsy-walsy

chunk ► *noun* LUMP, hunk, wedge, block, slab, square, nugget, brick, cube, bar, cake, informal wodge; *N Amer* informal gob

chunky ► *adjective* ① a chunky young man STOCKY, sturdy, thickset, heavily built, well built, burly, bulky, brawny, solid, heavy; *Austral/NZ* nuggety, *Brit* informal fubsy. ② a chunky sweater THICK, bulky, heavy-knit

—OPPOSITES slight, light

church ► *noun* ① a village church. PLACE OF WORSHIP, house of God; cathedral, minster, abbey, chapel, basilica; *Scottish & N English* kirk. See list ② the Methodist Church DENOMINATION, sect, creed; faith. See lists at CHRISTIANITY, RELIGION.

—RELATED TERMS ecclesiastical.

churchyard ► *noun* GRAVEYARD, cemetery, necropolis, burial ground, garden of remembrance; *Scottish* kirkyard, *N Amer* memorial park; *archaic* God's acre

churlish ► *adjective* RUDE, ill-mannered, ill-bred, discourteous, impolite, unmannerly, uncivil, unchivalrous; inconsiderate, uncharitable, surly, sullen; informal ignorant.

—OPPOSITES polite.

churn ► *verb* ① village girls churned the milk: STIR, agitate, beat, whip, whisk. ② the sea churned. HEAVE, boil, swirl, toss, seethe; *poetic/literary* roil.

Parts of a Church

aisle	flying	rood screen
ambulatory	buttress	sacarium
apse	font	sacristy
aumbry	galilee	sanctuary
baptistery or baptistry	gallery	sedilia
belfry	high altar	spire
buttress	Jesse	squint
chancel	window	stall
chantry	Lady chapel	steeple
chevet	loft	tabernacle
choir	narthex	tambour
choir stall	nave	tower
ciborium	organ loft	transept
clerestory	parclose	traverse
confessional	parvis or	tribune
crossing	parvise	triforium
crypt	pew	undercroft
dome	presbytery	vault
fenestella	prothesis	vaulting
flèche	pulpit	vestibule
	rood loft	vestry

③ the propellers churned up the water DISTURB, stir up, agitate, *poetic/literary* roil

■ **churn something out** PRODUCE, make, turn out, informal crank out, bang out

chute ► *noun* ① a refuse chute CHANNEL, slide, shaft, funnel, conduit ② water chutes (WATER) SLIDE, flume

cigarette ► *noun* filter tip, king-size; informal ciggy, cig, smoke, cancer stick, coffin nail, *Brit* informal fag, snout, roll-up

cinch ► *noun* (informal) ① it's a cinch. EASY TASK, child's play, five-finger exercise, gift, walkover, informal doddle, piece of cake, picnic, breeze, kids' stuff, cakewalk, pushover, *Brit* informal doss, *N Amer* informal duck soup, snap, *Austral/NZ* informal bludge, snack, dated snip ② he was a cinch to take a prize CERTAINTY, sure thing, *Brit* informal (dead) cert

—OPPOSITES challenge

cinders ► *plural noun* ASHES, ash, embers

cinema ► *noun* ① the local cinema multiplex, cinemathèque, *N Amer* movie theatre/house, dated picture palace/theatre; historical nickelodeon. ② I hardly ever go to the cinema THE PICTURES, the movies, informal the flicks. ③ British cinema FILMS, movies, pictures, motion pictures

cipher ► *noun* ① information in cipher: CODE, secret writing; cryptograph. ② working as a cipher NOBODY, nonentity, unimportant person. ③ (dated) a row of ciphers: ZERO, nought, nil, 0.

circa ► *preposition* APPROXIMATELY, (round) about, around, in the region of, roughly, something like, of the order of, or so, or thereabouts, more or less; informal as near as dammit, *N Amer* informal in the ballpark of.

—OPPOSITES exactly.

circle ► *noun* ① a circle of gold stars: RING, band, hoop, circlet; halo, disc; technical annulus. ② her circle of friends: GROUP, set, company, coterie, clique; crowd, band; informal gang, bunch, crew. ③ illustrious circles. SPHERE, world, milieu; society.

► *verb* ① seagulls circled above: WHEEL, move round, revolve, rotate, whirl, spiral. ② satellites circling

the earth. GO ROUND, travel round, circumnavigate, orbit, revolve round. ① the abbey was circled by a wall: SURROUND, encircle, ring, enclose, encompass; poetic/literary gird.

circuit ▶ noun ① two circuits of the village green: LAP, turn, round, circle ② (Brit) a racing circuit TRACK, racetrack, running track, course ③ the judge's circuit TOUR (OF DUTY), rounds

circuitous ▶ adjective ① a circuitous route. ROUNDABOUT, indirect, winding, meandering, serpentine ② a circuitous discussion INDIRECT, oblique, roundabout, circumlocutory, periphrastic

—OPPOSITES direct

circular ▶ adjective a circular window ROUND, disc-shaped, ring-shaped, annular

▶ noun a free circular LEAFLET, pamphlet, handbill, flyer, *N Amer* mailer, folder, dodger.

circulate ▶ verb ① the news was widely circulated SPREAD (ABOUT/AROUND), communicate, disseminate, make known, make public, broadcast, publicize, advertise, distribute, give out, pass around ② fresh air circulates freely FLOW, course, move round ③ they circulated among their guests SOCIALIZE, mingle

circumference ▶ noun ① the circumference of the pit. PERIMETER, border, boundary; edge, rim, verge, margin, fringe, poetic/literary marge, bourn ② the circumference of his arm GIRTH, width

circumlocution ▶ noun PERIPHRASIS, discursiveness, long-windedness, verbosity, verbiage, wordiness, prolixity, redundancy, pleonasm, tautology, repetitiveness, repetitiousness

circumscribe ▶ verb RESTRICT, limit, keep within bounds, curb, confine, restrain, regulate, control

circumspect ▶ adjective CAUTIOUS, wary, careful, chary, guarded, on one's guard; watchful, alert, attentive, heedful, vigilant, leery, informal cagey, playing one's cards close to one's chest

—OPPOSITES ungarded

circumstances ▶ plural noun ① favourable economic circumstances: SITUATION, conditions, state of affairs, position, (turn of) events, incidents, occurrences, happenings, factors, context, background, environment, informal circs ② Jane explained the circumstances to him THE FACTS, the details, the particulars, how things stand, the lie of the land, *Brit* the state of play; *N Amer* the lay of the land; informal what's what, the score. ③ reduced circumstances: FINANCIAL POSITION, lot, lifestyle; resources, means, finances, income, dated station in life.

circumstantial ▶ adjective ① they have only circumstantial evidence: INDIRECT, inferred, deduced, conjectural; inconclusive, unprovable. ② the picture was so circumstantial that it began to be convincing: DETAILED, particularized, comprehensive, thorough, exhaustive; explicit, specific.

circumvent ▶ verb AVOID, get round/past, evade, bypass, sidestep, dodge, *N Amer* end-run; informal duck.

cistern ▶ noun TANK, reservoir, container, butt.

citadel ▶ noun FORTRESS, fort, stronghold, fortification, castle, burg, archaic hold.

citation ▶ noun ① a citation from an eighteenth-century text: QUOTATION, quote, extract, excerpt,

passage, line; reference, allusion; *N Amer* cite. ② a citation for gallantry: COMMENDATION, (honourable) mention ③ (Law) a traffic citation: SUMMONS, subpoena, writ, court order

cite ▶ verb ① cite the passage in full. QUOTE, reproduce ② he cited the case of Leigh v. Gladstone. REFER TO, make reference to, mention, allude to, adduce, instance, specify, name. ③ he has been cited many times: COMMEND, pay tribute to, praise. ④ (Law) the writ cited four of the signatories. SUMMON, summons, serve with a summons/writ, subpoena

citizen ▶ noun ① a British citizen: SUBJECT, national, passport holder, native ② the citizens of Edinburgh. INHABITANT, resident, native, townsman, townswoman, formal denizen, archaic burgher; *Brit* archaic Burgess

city ▶ noun TOWN, municipality, metropolis, megalopolis, conurbation, urban area, metropolitan area, Scottish burgh, informal big smoke, *N Amer* informal burg.

—RELATED TERMS urban, civic

civic ▶ adjective MUNICIPAL, city, town, urban, metropolitan; public, civil, community.

civil ▶ adjective ① a civil marriage: SECULAR, non-religious, lay, formal laic. ② civil aviation. NON-MILITARY, civilian ③ a civil war: INTERNAL, domestic, interior, national ④ he behaved in a civil manner POLITE, courteous, well mannered, well bred, gentlemanly, chivalrous, gallant, ladylike, cordial, genial, pleasant, affable

—OPPOSITES religious, military, international, rude

civilian ▶ noun NON-MILITARY PERSON, non-combatant, ordinary/private citizen, informal civvy

civility ▶ noun ① he treated me with civility COURTESY, courteousness, politeness, good manners, graciousness, consideration, respect, politesse, comity ② she didn't waste time on civilities POLITE REMARK, politeness, courtesy, formality

—OPPOSITES rudeness.

civilization ▶ noun ① a higher stage of civilization HUMAN DEVELOPMENT, advancement, progress, enlightenment, culture, refinement, sophistication ② ancient civilizations CULTURE, society, nation, people.

civilize ▶ verb ENLIGHTEN, improve, educate, instruct, refine, cultivate, polish, socialize, humanize; informal edify

civilized ▶ adjective POLITE, courteous, well mannered, civil, gentlemanly, ladylike, mannerly; cultured, cultivated, refined, polished, sophisticated, enlightened, educated, advanced, developed.

—OPPOSITES rude, unsophisticated

civil servant ▶ noun PUBLIC SERVANT, government official; bureaucrat, mandarin, official, administrator, functionary

clad ▶ adjective DRESSED, clothed, attired, got up, garbed, rigged out, costumed; wearing, sporting; archaic apparelled.

claim ▶ verb ① Davies claimed that she was lying: ASSERT, declare, profess, maintain, state, hold, affirm, avow; argue, contend, allege; formal aver; archaic avouch. ② no one claimed the items: LAY CLAIM TO, assert ownership of, formally request ③ you can claim compensation: REQUEST, ask for,



apply for; demand, exact ④ the fire claimed four lives. TAKE, cause/result in the loss of

► **noun** ① her claims that she was raped: ASSERTION, declaration, profession, affirmation, avowal, protestation, contention, allegation. ② a claim for damages: REQUEST, application; demand, petition ③ we have first claim on their assets ENTITLEMENT TO, title to, right to.

claimant ► **noun** APPLICANT, candidate, supplicant; petitioner, plaintiff, litigant, appellant

clairvoyance ► **noun** SECOND SIGHT, psychic powers, ESP, extrasensory perception, sixth sense; telepathy.

clairvoyant ► **noun** PSYCHIC, fortune teller, crystal-gazer; medium, spiritualist, telepathist, telepath, mind-reader

► **adjective** I'm not clairvoyant: PSYCHIC, having second sight, having a sixth sense, telepathic

clamber ► **verb** SCRAMBLE, climb, scabble, claw one's way

clammy ► **adjective** ① his clammy hands MOIST, damp, sweaty, sticky, slimy, slippery ② the clammy atmosphere. DAMP, dank, wet, humid, close, muggy, heavy
-OPPOSITES dry

clamorous ► **adjective** NOISY, loud, vocal, vociferous, raucous, rowdy, importunate, demanding, insistent, vehement.
-OPPOSITES quiet

clamour ► **noun** ① her voice rose above the clamour: DIN, racket, rumpus, loud noise, uproar, tumult, shouting, yelling, screaming, baying, roaring, commotion, brouhaha, hue and cry, hubbub; informal hullabaloo, Brit informal row ② the clamour for her resignation DEMAND(S), call(s), urging ③ the clamour of protectionists PROTESTS, complaints, outcry

► **verb** ① clamouring crowds. YELL, shout loudly, bay, scream, roar. ② scientists are clamouring for a ban: DEMAND, call, press, push, lobby

clamp ► **noun** ① a clamp was holding the wood BRACE, vice, press, clasp; Music capo (tasto), Climbing jumar ② clamps had been fitted to the car. IMMOBILIZER, wheel clamp, N Amer boot

► **verb** ① the sander is clamped on to the workbench FASTEN, secure, fix, attach, screw, bolt ② a pipe was clamped between his teeth CLENCH, grip, hold, press, clasp. ③ his car was clamped IMMOBILIZE, wheel-clamp, N Amer boot.

■ **clamp down on** SUPPRESS, prevent, stop, put a stop/end to, stamp out, crack down on, limit, restrict, control, keep in check.

clampdown ► **noun** (informal) SUPPRESSION, prevention, stamping out; crackdown, restriction, restraint, curb, check

clan ► **noun** ① the Macleod clan: GROUP OF FAMILIES, sept; family, house, dynasty, tribe; Anthropology sib, kinship group. ② a clan of art collectors: GROUP, set, circle, clique, coterie; crowd, band; informal gang, bunch.

clandestine ► **adjective** SECRET, covert, furtive, surreptitious, stealthy, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, closet, backstairs, hugger-mugger; informal hush-hush.

clang ► **noun** the clang of the church bells: REVERBERATION, ringing, ring, ding-dong, bong, peal, chime, toll.

► **verb** the huge bells clanged: REVERBERATE, resound, ring, bong, peal, chime, toll.

clanger ► **noun** (Brit informal). See BLUNDER noun

clank ► **noun** the clank of rusty chains: JANGLING, clanging, rattling, clinking, jingling; clang, jangle, rattle, clangour, clink, jingle

► **verb** I could hear the chain clanking: JANGLE, rattle, clink, clang, jingle

clannish ► **adjective** CLIQUEY, cliquish, insular, exclusive; unfriendly, unwelcoming

clap ► **verb** ① the audience clapped APPLAUD, clap one's hands, give someone a round of applause, put one's hands together, informal give someone a (big) hand, N Amer informal give it up ② he clapped Owen on the back SLAP, strike, hit, smack, thump, pat, informal whack, thwack ③ the dove clapped its wings FLAP, beat, flutter

► **noun** ① everybody gave him a clap ROUND OF APPLAUSE, handclap, informal hand ② a clap on the shoulder SLAP, blow, smack, thump, pat, informal whack, thwack ③ a clap of thunder CRACK, crash, bang, boom, thunderclap

claptrap ► **noun**. See NONSENSE sense 1

clarify ► **verb** ① their report clarified the situation MAKE CLEAR, shed/throw light on, elucidate, illuminate, EXPLAIN, explicate, define, spell out, clear up. ② clarified butter PURIFY, refine, filter, fine
-OPPOSITES confuse

clarity ► **noun** ① the clarity of his account LUCIDITY, lucidness, clearness, coherence, formal perspicuity ② the clarity of the image SHARPNESS, clearness, crispness, definition ③ the crystal clarity of the water LIMPIDITY, limpidness, clearness, transparency, translucence, pellucidity
-OPPOSITES vagueness, blurriness, opacity

clash ► **noun** ① clashes between armed gangs CONFRONTATION, skirmish, fight, battle, engagement, encounter, conflict ② an angry clash: ARGUMENT, altercation, confrontation, shouting match, contretemps, quarrel, disagreement, dispute; informal run-in, slanging match ③ a clash of tweeds and a striped shirt MISMATCH, discordance, discord, lack of harmony. ④ a clash of dates. COINCIDENCE, concurrence, conflict. ⑤ the clash of cymbals. STRIKING, bang, clang, crash

► **verb** ① protesters clashed with police: FIGHT, skirmish, contend, come to blows, come into conflict; do battle. ② the prime minister clashed with union leaders DISAGREE, differ, wrangle, dispute, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads ③ her red coat clashed with her hair: BE INCOMPATIBLE, not match, not go, be discordant ④ the dates clash: CONFLICT, coincide, occur simultaneously. ⑤ she clashed the cymbals together. BANG, strike, clang, crash.

clasp ► **verb** ① Ruth clasped his hand. GRASP, grip, clutch, hold tightly; take hold of, seize, grab. ② he clasped Joanne in his arms: EMBRACE, hug, enfold, fold, envelop; hold, squeeze.

► **noun** ① a gold clasp: FASTENER, fastening, catch, clip, pin; buckle, hasp. ② his tight clasp: EMBRACE, hug, cuddle; grip, grasp.

class ► **noun** ① a hotel of the first class: CATEGORY, grade, rating, classification, group, grouping. ② a new class of heart drug: KIND, sort, type, variety, genre, brand; species, genus, breed, strain; N Amer. stripe. ③ the middle class: SOCIAL DIVISION, social stratum, rank, level, echelon, group, grouping; social status; dated estate; archaic condition. ④ there are 30 pupils in the class: FORM, study group, set, stream. ⑤ a Maths

class: LESSON, period; seminar, tutorial, workshop. ⑥ (informal) a woman of class STYLE, stylishness, elegance, chic, sophistication, taste, refinement, quality, excellence

► **verb** the 12-seater is classed as a commercial vehicle CLASSIFY, categorize, group, grade, order, sort, codify, bracket, designate, label, pigeonhole

► **adjective** (informal) a class player See EXCELLENT

classic ► **adjective** ① the classic work on the subject DEFINITIVE, authoritative, outstanding, first-rate, first-class, best, finest, excellent, superior, masterly ② a classic example of Norman design TYPICAL, archetypal, quintessential, vintage; model, representative, perfect, prime, textbook ③ a classic style SIMPLE, elegant, understated, traditional, timeless, ageless

—OPPOSITES atypical

► **noun** a classic of the genre DEFINITIVE EXAMPLE, model, epitome, paradigm, exemplar, great work, masterpiece

classical ► **adjective** ① classical mythology ancient Greek, Hellenic, Attic, Latin, ancient Roman ② classical music TRADITIONAL, long-established, serious, highbrow, heavyweight ③ a classical style SIMPLE, pure, restrained, plain, austere, well proportioned, harmonious, balanced, symmetrical, elegant

—OPPOSITES modern

classification ► **noun** ① the classification of diseases CATEGORIZATION, categorizing, classifying, grouping, grading, ranking, organization, sorting, codification, systematization ② a series of classifications CATEGORY, class, group, grouping, grade, grading, ranking, bracket

classify ► **verb** CATEGORIZE, group, grade, rank, rate, order, organize, range, sort, type, codify, bracket, systematize, systemize, catalogue, list, file, index, archaic assort

classy ► **adjective** (informal) STYLISH, high-class, superior, exclusive, chic, elegant, smart, sophisticated, Brit upmarket, N Amer high-toned, informal posh, ritzy, plush, swanky, Brit informal swish

clatter ► **verb** RATTLE, clank, clink, clunk, clang

clause ► **noun** SECTION, paragraph, article, subsection, stipulation, condition, proviso, rider

claw ► **noun** ① a bird's claw: TALON, nail; technical unguis. ② a crab's claw. PINCER, nipper; technical chela

► **verb** her fingers clawed his shoulders. SCRATCH, lacerate, tear, rip, scrape, graze, dig into

clay ► **noun** ① the soil is mainly clay EARTH, soil, loam. ② potter's clay. argil, china clay, kaolin, adobe, ball clay, pug, fireclay

clean ► **adjective** ① keep the wound clean: WASHED, scrubbed, cleansed, cleaned, spotless, unsoiled, unstained, unsullied, unblemished, immaculate, pristine, dirt-free, as clean as a whistle; hygienic, sanitary, disinfected, sterilized, sterile, aseptic, decontaminated; laundered; informal squeaky clean. ② a clean sheet of paper: BLANK, empty, clear, plain; unused, new, pristine, fresh, unmarked ③ clean air: PURE, clear, fresh, crisp, refreshing; unpolluted, uncontaminated. ④ a clean life: VIRTUOUS, good, upright, upstanding; honourable, respectable, reputable, decent, righteous, moral, exemplary; innocent, pure, chaste; informal squeaky clean. ⑤ the firm is clean: INNOCENT, guiltless, blame-

less, guilt-free, crime-free, above suspicion; informal squeaky clean. ⑥ a good clean fight: FAIR, honest, sporting, sportsmanlike, honourable, according to the rules, informal on the level ⑦ (informal) they are trying to stay clean: SOBER, teetotal, dry, non-drinking; DRUG-FREE, off drugs; informal on the wagon. ⑧ a clean cut: NEAT, smooth, crisp, straight, precise ⑨ a clean break. COMPLETE, thorough, total, absolute, conclusive, decisive, final, irrevocable. ⑩ clean lines: SIMPLE, elegant, graceful, streamlined, smooth.

—OPPOSITES dirty, polluted

► **adverb** (informal) I clean forgot: COMPLETELY, entirely, totally, fully, quite, utterly, absolutely

► **verb** ① Dad cleaned the windows: WASH, cleanse, wipe, sponge, scrub, mop, rinse, scour, swab, hose down, sluice (down), disinfect; shampoo, poetic/literary lave ② I got my clothes cleaned LAUNDRY, dry-clean ③ she cleaned the fish: GUT, draw, dress; formal eviscerate

—OPPOSITES dirty

■ **clean someone out** (informal) BANKRUPT, ruin, make insolvent, make penniless, wipe out.

■ **come clean** (informal) TELL THE TRUTH, tell all, make a clean breast of it, confess, own up, admit guilt, admit to one's crimes/sins, informal fess up

cleanse ► **verb** ① the wound was cleansed: CLEAN (UP), wash, bathe, rinse, disinfect ② cleansing the environment of traces of lead RID, clear, free, purify, purge ③ only God can cleanse us from sin. PURIFY, purge, absolve, free, deliver

clear ► **adjective** ① clear instructions UNDERSTANDABLE, comprehensible, intelligible, plain, uncomplicated, explicit, lucid, coherent, simple, straightforward, unambiguous, clear-cut, crystal clear, formal perspicuous. ② a clear case of harassment OBVIOUS, evident, plain, crystal clear, sure, definite, unmistakable, manifest, indisputable, patent, incontrovertible, irrefutable, beyond doubt, beyond question, palpable, visible, discernible, conspicuous, overt, blatant, glaring; as plain as a pikestaff, as plain as day, informal as plain as the nose on one's face ③ clear water TRANSPARENT, lumpy, pellucid, translucent, crystal clear, unclouded. ④ a clear blue sky BRIGHT, cloudless, unclouded, without a cloud in the sky ⑤ her clear complexion: UNBLEMISHED, spot-free. ⑥ Rosa's clear voice: DISTINCT, bell-like, as clear as a bell ⑦ the road was clear | a clear view UNOBSTRUCTED, unblocked, passable, open, unrestricted, unhindered ⑧ the algae were clear of toxins FREE, devoid, without, unaffected by, rid, relieved. ⑨ a clear conscience UNTROUBLED, undisturbed, unperturbed, unconcerned, having no qualms, peaceful, at peace, tranquil, serene, calm, easy. ⑩ two clear days' notice: WHOLE, full, entire, complete.

—OPPOSITES vague, opaque, cloudy, obstructed.

► **adverb** ① stand clear of the doors: AWAY FROM, apart from, at a (safe) distance from, out of contact with ② Tommy's voice came loud and clear: DISTINCTLY, clearly, as clear as a bell, plainly, audibly ③ he has time to get clear away: COMPLETELY, entirely, fully, wholly, totally, utterly; informal clean.

► **verb** ① the sky cleared briefly: BRIGHTEN (UP), lighten, clear up, become bright/brighter/lighter, become fine/sunny ② the drizzle had cleared: DISAPPEAR, go away, end; peter out, fade, wear off, decrease, lessen, diminish. ③ together they



cleared the table: EMPTY, unload, unburden, strip

④ clearing drains: UNBLOCK, unstop ⑤ staff

cleared the building: EVACUATE, empty; leave

⑥ Karen cleared the dirty plates. REMOVE, take

away, carry away, tidy away/up. ⑦ I'm clearing

my debts: PAY (OFF), repay, settle, discharge ⑧ I

cleared the bar at my first attempt: GO OVER, pass

over, sail over; jump (over), vault (over), leap

(over), hurdle. ⑨ he was cleared by an appeal

court: ACQUIT, declare innocent, find not guilty,

absolve, exonerate; informal let off (the hook); for-

mal exculpate ⑩ I was cleared to work on the

atomic project: AUTHORIZE, give permission, per-

mit, allow, pass, accept, endorse, license, sanc-

tion, give approval/consent to, informal OK, give

the OK, give the thumbs up, give the green

light, give the go-ahead. ⑪ I cleared £50,000

profit: NET, make/realize a profit of, take home,

pocket; gain, earn, make, get, bring in, pull in

■ clear off (informal) GO AWAY, get out, leave, be

off with you, shoo, on your way, informal beat it,

push off, shove off, scam, scoot, buzz off,

clear out; Brit informal hop it, sling your hook,

Austral/NZ informal rack off; N Amer informal bug

off, take a hike, poetic/literary begone

■ clear out (informal). See LEAVE¹ sense 1

■ clear something out ① we cleared out the

junk room. EMPTY (OUT), tidy (up), clear up.

② clear out the rubbish. GET RID OF, throw out/

away, discard, dispose of, dump, bin, scrap, jet-

tison, informal chuck (out/away), ditch, get shut

of, Brit informal get shot of, N Amer informal trash

■ clear up. See CLEAR verb sense 1

■ clear something up ① clear up the garden

TIDY (UP), put in order, straighten up, clean up,

spruce up ② we've cleared up the problem. SOLVE,

resolve, straighten out, find an/the answer to,

get to the bottom of, explain; informal crack, fig-

ure out, suss out

clearance ▶ noun ① slum clearance: REMOVAL,

clearing, demolition. ② you must have Home Of-

fice clearance: AUTHORIZATION, permission, con-

sent, approval, blessing, leave, sanction, li-

cence, dispensation, assent, agreement, en-

dorsement; informal the green light, the go-

ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the say-so.

③ the clearance of a debt. REPAYMENT, payment,

paying (off), settling, discharge. ④ there is plenty

of clearance: SPACE, room (to spare), margin, lee-

way

clear-cut ▶ adjective DEFINITE, distinct, clear,

well defined, precise, specific, explicit, unam-

biguous, unequivocal, black and white, cut and

dried.

—OPPOSITES vague.

clearing ▶ noun GLADE, dell, gap, opening.

clearly ▶ adverb ① write clearly: INTELLIGIBLY,

plainly, distinctly, comprehensibly, with clar-

ity; legibly, audibly; formal perspicuously.

② clearly, substantial changes are needed: OBVIOUS-

LY, evidently, patently, unquestionably, un-

doubtedly, without doubt, indubitably, plainly,

undeniably, incontrovertibly, irrefutably,

doubtless, it goes without saying, needless to

say.

cleave¹ ▶ verb ① cleaving wood for the fire: SPLIT

(OPEN), cut (up), hew, hack, chop up; poetic/

literary sunder; archaic rive. ② cleaving a path

through the traffic: PLOUGH, drive, bulldoze,

carve.

cleave²

■ cleave to (poetic/literary) ① her tongue clove to

the roof of her mouth. STICK (FAST) TO, adhere to,

be attached to. ② cleaving too closely to Moscow's

line ADHERE TO, hold to, abide by, be loyal/

faithful to

cleaver ▶ noun CHOPPER, hatchet, axe, knife,

butcher's knife, kitchen knife.

cleft ▶ noun ① a deep cleft in the rocks SPLIT, slit,

crack, fissure, crevice, rift, break, fracture,

rent, breach ② the cleft in his chin: DIMPLE

▶ adjective a cleft tail SPLIT, divided, cloven

clemency ▶ noun MERCY, mercifulness, leni-

ency, lenience, mildness, indulgence, quarter,

compassion, humanity, pity, sympathy.

—OPPOSITES ruthlessness.

clench ▶ verb ① he stood there clenching his

hands: SQUEEZE TOGETHER, clamp together,

close/shut tightly, make into a fist ② he

clenched the back of chair GRIP, grasp, grab,

clutch, clasp, hold tightly, seize, press, squeeze

▶ noun the clench of his fists CONTRACTION, tight-

ening, tensing, constricting

clergy ▶ noun CLERGYMEN, clergywomen,

churchmen, churchwomen, clerics, priests, ec-

clesiastics, men/women of God, ministry,

priesthood, holy orders, the church, the cloth

See list at PRIEST

—RELATED TERMS clerical

—OPPOSITES laity

clergyman, clergywoman ▶ noun

PRIEST, churchman, churchwoman, man/

woman of the cloth, man/woman of God, cler-

ic, minister, preacher, chaplain, father, ecclesi-

astic, bishop, pastor, vicar, rector, parson, cur-

ate, deacon, deaconess, Scottish kirkman, N

Amer dominie; informal reverend, padre, Holy

Joe, sky pilot, Austral informal josses See list at

PRIEST

clerical ▶ adjective ① clerical jobs: OFFICE, desk,

back-room, administrative, secretarial, white-

collar ② a clerical collar ECCLESIASTICAL, church,

priestly, religious, spiritual, sacerdotal, holy,

divine See list

—OPPOSITES secular.

Clerical Vestments

CHRISTIANITY	Geneva	superhumeral
alb	gown	surplice
amice	habit	tipet
biretta	hood	tunicle
cassock	infule	wimple
chasuble	maniple	zuchetto
chimere	mantle	
clerical collar	mitre	JUDAISM
cope	mozzetta	ephod
colla	pellium	kipat or kipa
cowl	rochet	pectoral
dalmatic	scapular	skullcap
dog collar	shovel hat	tallith
frock	skullcap	yarmulke
Geneva	soutane	
bands	stole	

clerk ▶ noun OFFICE WORKER, clerical worker,

administrator; bookkeeper, cashier, teller; infor-

mal pen-pusher; historical scrivener.

clever ▶ adjective ① a clever young woman: INTEL-

LIGENT, bright, smart, astute, quick-witted,

shrewd; talented, gifted, brilliant, capable.

able, competent, apt, educated, learned, knowledgeable, wise; *informal* brainy, savvy ② *a clever scheme* **INGENIOUS**, canny, cunning, crafty, artful, slick, neat ③ *she was clever with her hands* **SKILFUL**, dexterous, adroit, adept, deft, nimble, handy, skilled, talented, gifted ④ *a clever remark* **WITTY**, amusing, droll, humorous, funny
—**OPPOSITES** stupid

cliché ▶ **noun** **PLATITUDE**, hackneyed phrase, commonplace, banality, truism, stock phrase, trite phrase, *informal* old chestnut, *dated* bromide

click ▶ **noun** **CLACK**, snick, snap, pop, tick, clink

▶ **verb** ① *cameras clicked* **CLACK**, snap, snick, tick, pop, clink ② (*informal*) *that night it clicked* **BE COME CLEAR**, fall into place, come home, make sense, dawn, register, get through, sink in ③ (*informal*) *we just clicked* **TAKE TO EACH OTHER**, get along, be compatible, be like-minded, feel a rapport, be on the same wavelength, see eye to eye, *informal* hit it off, get on like a house on fire ④ (*informal*) *this issue hasn't clicked with the voters* **GO DOWN WELL**, prove popular, be a hit, succeed

client ▶ **noun** **CUSTOMER**, buyer, purchaser, shopper, consumer, user, patient, patron, regular, (**clients**) clientele, patronage, public, market, *Brit* *informal* punter, *Law* vendee

clientele ▶ **noun** **CLIENTS** See **CLIENT**

cliff ▶ **noun** **PRECIPICE**, rock face, crag, bluff, ridge, escarpment, scar, scarp, overhang

climactic ▶ **adjective** **FINAL**, ending, closing, concluding, ultimate, exciting, thrilling, gripping, riveting, dramatic, hair-raising, crucial, decisive, critical

climate ▶ **noun** ① *a mild climate* **WEATHER CONDITIONS**, weather, atmospheric conditions ② *they come from colder climates* **REGION**, area, zone, country, place, *poetic/literary* clime ③ *the political climate* **ATMOSPHERE**, mood, feeling, ambience, tenor, tendency, ethos, attitude, milieu, *informal* vibe(s)

climax ▶ **noun** ① *the climax of his career* **PEAK**, pinnacle, height, high(est) point, top, acme, zenith, culmination, crowning point, crown, crest, highlight, high spot, high water mark ② **ORGASM**, ejaculation
—**OPPOSITES** nadir

▶ **verb** ① *the event will climax with a concert* **CULMINATE**, peak, reach a pinnacle, come to a crescendo, come to a head. ② **ORGASM**; ejaculate; *informal* come, feel the earth move; *poetic/literary* die.

climb ▶ **verb** ① *we climbed the hill* **ASCEND**, mount, scale, scramble up, clamber up, shin up, go up, walk up, conquer, gain ② *the plane climbed* **RISE**, ascend, go up, gain altitude ③ *the road climbs steeply* **SLOPE UPWARDS**, rise, go uphill, incline upwards ④ *the shares climbed to 550 pence* **INCREASE**, rise, go up; shoot up, soar, rocket. ⑤ *he climbed through the ranks* **ADVANCE**, rise, move up, progress, work one's way ⑥ *he climbed out of his car* **CLAMBER**, scramble; step
—**OPPOSITES** descend, drop, fall.

▶ **noun** *a steep climb* **ASCENT**, clamber.
—**OPPOSITES** descent.

■ **climb down** ① *Sandy climbed down the ladder* **DESCEND**, go/come down, move down, shun down. ② *the Government had to climb down* **BACK DOWN**, admit defeat, surrender, capitulate,

yield, give in, give way, submit; retreat, back-track; eat one's words, eat humble pie; do a U-turn; *Brit* do an about-turn, *N Amer* *informal* eat crow

clinch ▶ **verb** ① *he clinched the deal* **SECURE**, settle, conclude, close, pull off, bring off, complete, confirm, seal, finalize; *informal* sew up, wrap up ② *these findings clinched the matter* **SETTLE**, decide, determine; resolve; *informal* sort out. ③ *they clinched the title* **WIN**, secure; be victorious, come first, triumph, prevail. ④ *they clinch every nail* **SECURE**, fasten, fix, pinion. ⑤ *the boxers clinched* **GRAPPLE**, wrestle, struggle, scuffle

—**OPPOSITES** lose

▶ **noun** *a passionate clinch* **EMBRACE**, hug, cuddle, squeeze, hold, clasp

cling ▶ **verb** *rice grains tend to cling together* **STICK**, adhere, hold, cohere, bond, bind.

■ **cling (on) to** ① *she clung to him* **HOLD ON**, clutch, grip, grasp, clasp, attach oneself to, hang on, embrace, hug ② *they clung to their beliefs* **ADHERE TO**, hold to, stick to, stand by, abide by, cherish, remain true to, have faith in; *informal* swear by, stick with

clinic ▶ **noun** **MEDICAL CENTRE**, health centre, outpatients' department, surgery, doctor's

clinical ▶ **adjective** ① *he seemed so clinical* **DETACHED**, impersonal, dispassionate, objective, uninvolved, distant, remote, aloof, removed, cold, indifferent, neutral, unsympathetic, unfeeling, unemotional ② *the room was clinical* **PLAIN**, simple, unadorned, unembellished, stark, austere, spartan, bleak, bare; clean, functional, basic, institutional, impersonal, characterless

—**OPPOSITES** emotional, luxurious.

clip¹ ▶ **noun** ① *a briefcase clip* **FASTENER**, clasp, hasp, catch, hook, buckle, lock ② *a diamanté clip* **BROOCH**, pin, badge ③ *his clip was empty* **MAGAZINE**, cartridge, cylinder

▶ **verb** *he clipped the pages together* **FASTEN**, attach, fix, join, pin, staple, tack

clip² ▶ **verb** ① *I clipped the hedge* **TRIM**, prune, cut, snip, shorten, crop, shear, pare, lop; neat-en, shape ② *clip the coupon below* **REMOVE**, cut out, snip out, tear out, detach. ③ *his lorry clipped a van* **HIT**, strike, touch, graze, glance off, run into ④ *Mum clipped his ear* **HIT**, cuff, strike, smack, slap, box; *informal* clout, whack, wallop, clobber, buff, sock.

▶ **noun** ① *I gave the dog a clip* **TRIM**, cut, crop, haircut, shear ② *a film clip* **EXTRACT**, excerpt, snippet, cutting, fragment, trailer ③ (*informal*) *a clip round the ear* **SMACK**, cuff, slap, box; *informal* clout, whack, wallop, buff, sock. ④ (*informal*) *the truck went at a good clip* **SPEED**, rate, pace, velocity; *informal* lick

■ **clip someone's wings** **RESTRICT SOMEONE'S FREEDOM**, impose limits on, keep under control, stand in the way of, obstruct, impede, frustrate, thwart, fetter, hamstring.

clipping ▶ **noun** **CUTTING**, snippet, extract, excerpt.

cloak ▶ **noun** **COTERIE**, set, circle, ring, uncrowd, group; club, society, fraternity, sorority; cabal, caucus; *informal* gang.

cloak ▶ **noun** ① *the cloak over his shoulders* See **LIST** at **COAT**. ② *a cloak of secrecy* **COVER**, veil, mantle, shroud, screen, mask, shield, blanket.

► **verb** a peak cloaked in mist CONCEAL, hide, cover, veil, shroud, mask, obscure, cloud, envelop, swathe, surround.

clobber ► **noun** (Brit informal) get your clobber on See CLOTHES

clobber ► **verb** (informal) I'll clobber him See HIT verb sense 1

clock ► **noun** ① a grandfather clock TIMEPIECE, timekeeper, timer; chronometer, chronograph. See list ② (informal) the car had 50,000 miles on the clock. MILEMETER, counter, taximeter

► **verb** (informal) ① the UK clocked up record exports REGISTER, record, log, notch up; achieve, attain, accomplish, make, informal chalk up, bag ② (Brit.) Liz soon clocked the change See NOTICE verb

Clocks and Watches

alarm clock	hunter watch
analogue watch/clock	impulse clock
astronomical clock	journeyman clock
atomic clock	long-case clock
bracket clock	pendulum clock
caesium clock	pocket watch
calendar clock	quartz-crystal clock
carriage clock	quartz watch
chronometer	repeater
clepsydra	sandglass
clock radio	stem-winder
cuckoo clock	stopwatch
digital watch/clock	sundial
egg-timer	tabernacle clock
fob watch	time clock
grandfather clock	travelling clock
grandmother clock	water clock
half-hunter watch	wristwatch
hourglass	

clod ► **noun** ① clods of earth. LUMP, clump, chunk, hunk, wedge ② (informal) an insensitive clod See IDIOT

clog ► **noun** a wooden clog: sabot

► **verb** the pipes were clogged BLOCK, obstruct, congest, jam, choke, bung up, plug, stop up, fill up, Brit informal gunge up

cloister ► **noun** ① the convent cloisters. WALKWAY, covered walk, arcade, loggia, gallery. ② I was educated in the cloister: ABBEY, monastery, friary, convent, priory, nunnery.

► **verb** they were cloistered at home: CONFINED, isolate, shut away, sequester, seclude, closet.

cloistered ► **adjective** SECLUDED, sequestered, sheltered, protected, insulated; shut off, isolated, confined, solitary, monastic, reclusive.

close ► **adjective** ① the town is close to Leeds: NEAR, adjacent, in the vicinity of, in the neighbourhood of, within reach of; neighbouring, adjoining, abutting, alongside, on the doorstep, a stone's throw away; nearby, at hand, at close quarters; informal within spitting distance, archaic nigh. ② flying in close formation: DENSE, compact, tight, close-packed, packed, solid; crowded, cramped, congested ③ I was close to tears: NEAR, on the verge of, on the brink of, on the point of. ④ a very close match: EVENLY MATCHED, even, with nothing to choose between them, neck and neck; informal fifty-fifty, even-stein(s). ⑤ close relatives: IMMEDIATE, direct, near. ⑥ close friends: INTIMATE, dear, bosom; close-knit, inseparable, attached, devoted, faithful; special,

good, best, fast, firm, informal (as) thick as thieves ⑦ a close resemblance: STRONG, marked, distinct, pronounced. ⑧ a close examination. CAREFUL, detailed, thorough, minute, searching, painstaking, meticulous, rigorous, scrupulous, conscientious; attentive, focused. ⑨ keep a close eye on them: VIGILANT, watchful, keen, alert ⑩ a close translation: STRICT, faithful, exact, precise, literal, word for word, verbatim ⑪ he's close about his deals. RETICENT, secretive, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, tight-lipped, guarded, evasive ⑫ Sylvie was close with money MEAN, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious, penny-pinching, informal tight-fisted, stingy, tight ⑬ the weather was close HUMID, muggy, stuffy, airless, heavy, sticky, sultry, oppressive, stifling

—OPPOSITES far, distant, one-sided, slight, loose, generous, fresh

► **noun** (Brit) a small close of houses CUL-DE-SAC, street, road, courtyard, quadrangle, enclosure

close ► **verb** ① she closed the door. SHUT, pull to, push to, slam, fasten, secure ② close the hole BLOCK (UP/OFF), stop up, plug, seal (up/off), shut up/off, cork, stopper, bung (up); clog (up), choke, obstruct. ③ the enemy were closing fast CATCH UP, creep up, near, approach, gain on someone ④ the gap is closing NARROW, reduce, shrink, lessen, get smaller, diminish, contract ⑤ his arms closed around her MEET, join, connect; form a circle. ⑥ he closed the meeting: END, conclude, finish, terminate, wind up, break off, halt, discontinue, dissolve, adjourn, suspend ⑦ the factory is to close SHUT DOWN, close down, cease production, cease trading, be wound up, go out of business, go bankrupt, go into receivership, go into liquidation, informal fold, go to the wall, go bust. ⑧ he closed a deal CLINCH, settle, secure, seal, confirm, establish, transact, pull off; complete, conclude, fix, agree, finalize, informal wrap up

—OPPOSITES open, widen, begin.

► **noun** the close of the talks. END, finish, conclusion, termination, cessation, completion, resolution, climax, denouement.

—OPPOSITES beginning

■ **close down.** See CLOSE² verb sense 7.

closet ► **noun** a clothes closet CUPBOARD, wardrobe, cabinet, locker.

► **adjective** a closet gay: SECRET, covert, private; surreptitious, clandestine, underground, furtive.

► **verb** David was closeted in his den. SHUT AWAY, sequester, seclude, cloister, confine, isolate.

closure ► **noun** CLOSING DOWN, shutdown, winding up; termination, discontinuation, cessation, finish, conclusion; failure, informal folding.

clot ► **noun** ① blood clots: LUMP, clump, mass; thrombus, thrombosis, embolus; informal glob; Brit. informal gob. ② (Brit informal) a clumsy clot. See FOOL noun sense 1

► **verb** the blood is likely to clot: COAGULATE, set, congeal, curdle, thicken, solidify.

cloth ► **noun** ① a maker of cloth: FABRIC, material, textile(s); Brit. soft goods. See list at FABRIC. ② a cloth to wipe the table: RAG, wipe, duster, sponge; flannel, towel; Austral. washer; UK trademark j-cloth. ③ a gentleman of the cloth: THE CLERGY, the church, the priesthood, the ministry; clergymen, clerics, priests.

clothe ▶ **verb** ① they were clothed in silk: DRESS, attire, robe, garb, array, costume, swathe, deck (out), turn out, fit out, rig (out); *informal* get up, archaic apparel, habit, invest. ② a valley clothed in conifers. COVER, blanket, carpet, envelop, swathe.

clothes ▶ **plural noun** CLOTHING, garments, attire, garb, dress, wear, costume; *informal* gear, togs, duds, get-up; *Brit. informal* clobber, *N Amer informal* threads, formal apparel, archaic raiment, habiliments, vestments *See lists at COAT, DRESS, FOOTWEAR, HAT, SKIRT, TROUSERS*
—RELATED TERMS sartorial.

clothing ▶ **noun.** *See* CLOTHES

cloud ▶ **noun** ① dark clouds storm cloud, cloudbank; mackerel sky *See list* ② a cloud of exhaust smoke: MASS, billow; pall, mantle, blanket ③ a cloud of rooks FLOCK, swarm, mass, multitude, host, throng, crowd

▶ **verb** ① the sky clouded: BECOME CLOUDY, cloud over, become overcast, lour, blacken, darken. ② the sand is churned up, clouding the water MAKE CLOUDY, make murky, dirty, darken, blacken ③ anger clouded my judgement CONFUSE, muddle, obscure, fog, muddy, mar

■ on cloud nine ECSTATIC, rapturous, joyful, elated, blissful, euphoric, in seventh heaven, walking on air, transported, in raptures, delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, very happy, *informal* over the moon, on top of the world, *Austral informal* wrapped

Cloud Formations

altocumulus	mare's tails
altostratus	nimbostratus
anvil cloud	nimbus
cirrocumulus	noctilucent cloud
cirrostratus	rain cloud
cirrus	storm cloud
cloud street	stratocirrus
cumulonimbus	stratocumulus
cumulostratus	stratus
cumulus	thundercloud
funnel cloud	thunderhead
lenticular cloud	wrack
mackerel sky	

cloudy ▶ **adjective** ① a cloudy sky: OVERCAST, clouded; dark, grey, black, leaden, murky; sombre, dismal, heavy, gloomy, sunless, starless, hazy, misty, foggy. ② cloudy water: MURKY, muddy, milky, dirty, opaque, turbid. ③ his eyes grew cloudy: TEARFUL, moist, watery; misty, blurred, *informal* teary, weepy; formal lachrymose. ④ avoid cloudy phrases: VAGUE, imprecise, foggy, hazy, confused, muddled, nebulous, obscure
—OPPOSITES clear

clout (*informal*) ▶ **noun** ① a clout on the ear SMACK, slap, thump, punch, blow, hit, cuff, box, clip; *informal* whack, wallop ② his clout in the business world: INFLUENCE, power, weight, sway, leverage, control, say; dominance, authority; *informal* teeth, muscle.

▶ **verb** he clouted me: HIT, strike, punch, smack, slap, cuff, thump, buffet; *informal* wallop, belt, whack, clobber, sock, bop, buff.

cloven ▶ **adjective** SPLIT, divided, cleft.

clown ▶ **noun** ① a circus clown: COMIC ENTERTAINER, comedian; historical jester, fool, zany; archaic

merry andrew. ② the class clown: JOKER, comedian, comic, humorist, wag, wit, prankster, jester, buffoon; *informal* laugh, kiddier, wise-cracker; *Austral/NZ informal* hard case ③ bureaucratic clowns. FOOL, idiot, dolt, ass, simpleton, ignoramus; bungler, blunderer; *informal* moron, jackass, chump, numbskull, nincompoop, half-wit, bonehead, fathead, birdbrain; *Brit. informal* prat, berk, twit, nitwit, twerp.

▶ **verb** Harvey clowned around FOOL AROUND/ABOUT, play the fool, play about/around, monkey about/around, joke, jest; *informal* mess about/around, lark (about/around), horse about/around, *Brit informal* muck about/around; dated play the giddy goat.

cloy ▶ **verb** SICKEN, disgust; become sickening, become nauseating, pall; be excessive

cloying ▶ **adjective** SICKLY, syrupy, saccharine, oversweet; sickening, nauseating; mushy, slushy, sloppy; mawkish, sentimental, *Brit* twee, *informal* over the top, OTT, gooeey, cheesy, corny, *N Amer informal* cornball, sappy.

club¹ ▶ **noun** ① a canoeing club: SOCIETY, association, organization, institution, group, circle, band, body, ring, crew; alliance, league, union ② the city has great clubs NIGHTCLUB, disco, discotheque, bar, *informal* niterie ③ the top club in the league TEAM, squad, side, line-up

■ club together POOL RESOURCES, join forces, team up, band together, get together, pull together, collaborate, ally; *informal* have a whup-round

club² ▶ **noun** a wooden club CUDGEL, truncheon, bludgeon, baton, stick, mace, bat, *N Amer* blackjack, nightstick, *Brit informal* cosh

▶ **verb** he was clubbed with an iron bar: CUDGEL, bludgeon, bash, beat, hit, strike, batter, belabour; *informal* clout, clobber; *Brit informal* cosh

clue ▶ **noun** ① police are searching for clues HINT, indication, sign, signal, pointer, trace, indicator; lead, tip, tip-off; evidence, information ② a crossword clue: QUESTION, problem, puzzle, riddle, poser, conundrum

■ clue someone in/up (*informal*) INFORM, notify, make aware, prime, keep up to date, keep posted, *informal* tip off, give the gen, give the low-down, fill in on, gen up on, put in the picture, put wise, keep up to speed.

■ not have a clue (*informal*) HAVE NO IDEA, be ignorant, not have an inkling, be baffled, be mystified, be at a loss, *informal* be clueless, not have the faintest.

clump ▶ **noun** ① a clump of trees. CLUSTER, thicket, group, bunch, assemblage ② a clump of earth. LUMP, clod, mass, gobbet, wad, *informal* glob, *Brit informal* gob

▶ **verb** ① galaxies clump together: CLUSTER, group, collect, gather, assemble, congregate, mass ② they were clumping around upstairs: STAMP, stomp, clomp, tramp, lumber; thump, thud, bang; *informal* galumph.

clumsy ▶ **adjective** ① she was terribly clumsy AWKWARD, uncoordinated, ungainly, graceless, inelegant; inept, maladroit, unskilful, unhandy, accident-prone, like a bull in a china shop, all fingers and thumbs; *informal* cack-handed, ham-fisted, butterfingers, having two left feet; *N Amer informal* klutzy. ② a clumsy contraption: UNWIELDY, cumbersome, bulky, awkward ③ a clumsy remark: GAUCHE, awkward, graceless; unsubtle, uncouth, boorish, crass; tactless, in-



Coats, Cloaks, and Jackets

achkan	dreadnought	manteau	sheepskin
Afghan coat	dress coat	mantle	shell jacket
anorak	duffel coat	Mao jacket	sherwani
banyan/banlian	dustcoat	mantlet	shooting coat
Barbour (trademark)	duster (coat)	matinee coat	shooting jacket
bedjacket	Eisenhower jacket	maud	shrug
biker jacket	Eton jacket	mess jacket	slicker
blanket coat	flak jacket	mink	smoking jacket
blazer	fleece	monkey jacket	spencer
blouson	flying jacket	morning coat	sportcoat
body warmer	frock coat	Mother Hubbard	sports coat or jacket
bolero	fur coat	Nehru jacket	suba
bomber jacket	gaberdine or gabardine	Norfolk jacket	surcoat
British warm	gi	nor'wester	surtout
Burberry (trademark)	gilet	oilskin	swagger coat
burka	greatcoat	opera cloak	swing coat
burnous or burnoose	hacking jacket	overcoat	tabard
bush jacket	haik or haick	pakamac	tailcoat
cagoule or kagoul	haori	pallium	tent coat
cape	happl (coat)	parka	tippet
capote	hunting jacket	pea jacket	topcoat
Capuchin	jean jacket	pelerine	trench coat
car coat	jerkin	pelisse	tunic
chlamys	jibba or djibba	peplum	tux
coatee	jumper	pilot jacket	tuxedo
coat of mail	kebaya	poncho	ulster
combat jacket	kirtle	puffa jacket	undercoat
cope	leather jacket	raglan	waistcoat
covert coat	letter jacket	raincoat	waterproof
cowl	loafer	rainproof	waxed jacket
Crombie coat	loden	redingote	windbreaker (US trademark)
cutaway	lumberjacket	reefer (jacket)	windcheater
dinner jacket (DJ)	mac	riding jacket	workcoat
djellaba or jellaba	macfarlane	sack coat	wrap
dolman	mackinaw	safari jacket	
domino	mackintosh or macintosh	sarape or serape	
donkey jacket	mandarin jacket	scapular	
doublt		shawl	

sensitive, thoughtless, undiplomatic, indelicate, ill-judged.

—OPPOSITES graceful, elegant, tactful

cluster ► **noun** ① clusters of berries BUNCH, clump, mass, knot, group, clutch, bundle, truss ② a cluster of spectators: CROWD, group, knot, huddle, bunch, throng, flock, pack, band, informal gang, gaggle

► **verb** they clustered around the television. CONGREGATE, gather, collect, group, assemble, huddle, crowd, flock.

clutch¹ ► **verb** she clutched his arm. GRIP, grasp, clasp, cling to, hang on to, clench, hold

■ **clutch at** REACH FOR, snatch at, make a grab for, catch at, claw at.

clutch² ► **noun** ① a clutch of eggs. GROUP, batch. ② a clutch of awards GROUP, collection, raft, armful; informal load, bunch.

clutches ► **plural noun** POWER, control, domination, command, rule, tyranny; hands, hold, grip, grasp, claws, jaws; custody.

clutter ► **noun** ① a clutter of toys: MESS, jumble, litter, heap, tangle, muddle, hotchpotch. ② a desk full of clutter: DISORDER, chaos, disarray, untidiness, mess, confusion, litter, rubbish.

► **verb** the garden was cluttered with tools: LITTER, mess up, disarrange; be strewn, be scattered, poetic/literary bestrew.

coach¹ ► **noun** ① a journey by coach BUS, minibus, dated omnibus, charabanc ② a railway coach. CARRIAGE, wagon, compartment, van, Pullman; N Amer car ③ a coach and horses See list at CARRIAGE

coach² ► **noun** a football coach: INSTRUCTOR, trainer; teacher, tutor, mentor, guru

► **verb** he coached Richard in maths: INSTRUCT, teach, tutor, school, educate; drill, cram, train

coagulate ► **verb** CONGEAL, clot, thicken, gel, solidify, harden, set, dry.

coalesce ► **verb** MERGE, unite, join together, combine, fuse, mingle, blend; amalgamate, consolidate, integrate, homogenize, converge

coalition ► **noun** ALLIANCE, union, partnership, bloc, caucus, federation, league, association, confederation, consortium, syndicate, combine, amalgamation, merger.

coarse ► **adjective** ① coarse blankets: ROUGH, scratchy, prickly, wiry ② his coarse features LARGE, rough, rough-hewn, heavy, ugly. ③ a coarse boy OAFISH, loutish, boorish, uncouth, rude, impolite, ill-mannered, uncivil; vulgar, common, rough, uncultured, crass. ④ a coarse innuendo VULGAR, crude, rude, off colour, dirty, filthy, smutty, indelicate, improper, unseemly, crass, tasteless, lewd, prurient; informal blue, farmyard.

—OPPOSITES soft, delicate, refined.

coarsen ▶ verb ① hands coarsened by work: ROUGHEN, toughen, harden. ② I had been coarsened by the army: DESENSITIZE, dehumanize; dull, deaden

—OPPOSITES soften, refine

coast ▶ noun the west coast: SEABOARD, coastal region, coastline, seashore, shore, foreshore, shoreline, seaside, waterfront, littoral; poetic/literary strand.

▶ verb the car coasted down a hill: FREEWHEEL, cruise, taxi, drift, glide, sail.

coat ▶ noun ① a winter coat: OVERCOAT, jacket. See list ② a dog's coat: FUR, hair, wool, fleece, hide, pelt, skin. ③ a coat of paint: LAYER, covering, coating, skin, film, wash, plating, glaze, varnish, veneer, patina, deposit

▶ verb the tube was coated with wax: COVER, paint, glaze, varnish, wash, surface, veneer, laminate, plate, face; daub, smear, cake, plaster.

coating ▶ noun. See COAT noun sense 3.

coax ▶ verb PERSUADE, wheedle, cajole, get round; beguile, seduce, inveigle, manoeuvre, informal sweet-talk, soft-soap, butter up, twist someone's arm

cobble

■ cobble something together PREPARE ROUGHLY/HASTILY, make roughly/hastily, throw together, improvise, contrive, rig (up), whip up, informal rustle up, Brit informal knock up

cock ▶ noun ROOSTER, cockerel, capon.

▶ verb ① he cocked his head: TILT, tip, angle, incline, dip ② she cocked her little finger: BEND, flex, crook, curve ③ the dog cocked its leg: LIFT, raise, hold up

cock-eyed ▶ adjective (informal) ① that picture is cock-eyed: CROOKED, awry, askew, lopsided, tilted, off-centre, skewed, skew, squint, misaligned, Brit informal skew-whiff, wonky ② a cock-eyed scheme ABSURD, preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, laughable, risible, idiotic, stupid, foolish, silly, insane, imbecilic, half-baked, hare-brained; impractical, unfeasible, irrational, illogical, nonsensical, informal crazy, Brit informal barmy, daft.

cocksure ▶ adjective ARROGANT, conceited, overweening, overconfident, cocky, proud, vain, self-important, swollen-headed, egotistical, presumptuous; smug, patronizing, pompous, informal high and mighty

—OPPOSITES modest.

cocktail ▶ noun. See list

cocky ▶ adjective ARROGANT, conceited, overweening, overconfident, cocksure, swollen-headed, self-important, egotistical, presumptuous, boastful, self-assertive, bold, forward, insolent, cheeky.

—OPPOSITES modest.

cocoon ▶ verb ① he cocooned her in a towel. WRAP, swathe, swaddle, muffle, cloak, enfold, envelop, cover, fold. ② he was cocooned in the upper classes: PROTECT, shield, shelter, screen, cushion, insulate, isolate, cloister.

coddle ▶ verb PAMPER, cosset, mollycoddle; spoil, indulge, overindulge, pander to; wrap in cotton wool; baby, mother, wait on hand and foot.

—OPPOSITES neglect.

code ▶ noun ① a secret code: CIPHER, key, hieroglyphics; cryptogram. ② a strict social code:

Cocktails and Mixed Drinks

Alaska
Astoria
bee's kiss
Bellini
black velvet
Bloody Mary
Bloody Friday
brandy Alexander
Bronx
Broughton punch
Buck's Fizz
bullshot
Caruso
Castro
champagne cocktail
cobbler
Collins fizz
Collins sour
Copenhagen
Cosmopolitan
Cuba libre
Cuban Island
daquiri
Dom Pedro
egg-flip
egg-nog
El Diablo
Gibson
gimlet
gin and it
gin sling
glögg
gloom raiser
Harvey Wallbanger
highball
horse's neck
James Bond
John Collins
Kir
Kir Royale
Long Island iced tea
mai tai
manhattan
margarita
Martini (trademark)
Mary Pickford
Metropolitan
mimosa
mint julep

monkey gland
moose milk
Moscow mule

New England iced tea
old-fashioned
orange blossom
pina colada
pink gin
pink lady
planter's punch
Presidente
Prince of Wales
punch
rattlesnake
red-eye
ricky
Rob Roy
rum and black
rusty nail
salty dog
sangria
Sazerac
screwdriver
sea breeze
September morn
Shirley Temple
sidecar
Singapore sling
snakebite
snowball
spritzer
stinger
swizzle
tequila slammer
tequila sunrise
Tom and Jerry
Tom Collins
whisky mac
whisky sour
White Lady
yellow bird
yellow fever
zombie

NON-ALCOHOLIC

mud
prairie oyster
St Clements
Virgin Mary

MORALITY, convention, etiquette, protocol. ③ the penal code: LAW(s), rules, regulations; constitution, system

codify ▶ verb SYSTEMATIZE, systemize, organize, arrange, order, structure; tabulate, catalogue, list, sort, index, classify, categorize, file, log.

coerce ▶ verb PRESSURE, pressurize, press, push, constrain; force, compel, oblige, browbeat, bludgeon, bully, threaten, intimidate, dragoon, twist someone's arm; informal railroad, squeeze, lean on.

coercion ▶ noun FORCE, compulsion, constraint, duress, oppression, enforcement, harassment, intimidation, threats, arm-twisting, pressure.

coffee ▶ noun N Amer informal joe, java. See list.

C

Coffee Drinks

café au lait
café noir
café latte
café macchiato
cappuccino
decaffeinated coffee
drip coffee
espresso
filter coffee
latte

latte macchiato
mocha
mochaccino
Gaelic coffee
Greek coffee
Instant coffee
Irish coffee
percolated (or perked)
coffee
Turkish coffee

coffer ▶ noun ① every church had a coffer STRONGBOX, money box, cash box, money chest, treasure chest, safe; casket, box. ② the Imperial coffers: FUND(s), reserves, resources, money, finances, wealth, cash, capital, purse, treasury, exchequer.

coffin ▶ noun sarcophagus, N Amer casket; informal box, humorous wooden overcoat

cogent ▶ adjective CONVINCING, compelling, strong, forceful, powerful, potent, weighty, effective, valid, sound, plausible, telling; impressive, persuasive, eloquent, credible, influential, conclusive, authoritative, logical, reasoned, rational, reasonable, lucid, coherent, clear

cogitate ▶ verb (formal) THINK (ABOUT), contemplate, consider, mull over, meditate, muse, ponder, reflect, deliberate, ruminate; dwell on, brood on, chew over, weigh up, informal put on one's thinking cap.

cognate ▶ adjective (formal) ASSOCIATED, related, connected, allied, linked; similar, like, alike, akin, kindred, comparable, parallel, corresponding, analogous.

cognition ▶ noun PERCEPTION, discernment, apprehension, learning, understanding, comprehension, insight, reasoning, thinking, thought

cognizance ▶ noun (formal). See AWARENESS

cognizant ▶ adjective (formal). See AWARE sense 1.

cohabit ▶ verb LIVE TOGETHER, live with; informal shack up (with); informal, dated live in sin

cohere ▶ verb ① the stories cohere into a convincing whole. STICK TOGETHER, hold together, be united, bind, fuse. ② this view does not cohere with others: BE CONSISTENT, hang together

coherent ▶ adjective LOGICAL, reasoned, reasonable, rational, sound, cogent, consistent, clear, lucid, articulate, intelligible, comprehensible

—OPPOSITES muddled

cohesion ▶ noun UNITY, togetherness, solidarity, bond, coherence; connection, linkage

cohort ▶ noun ① a Roman army cohort. UNIT, force, corps, division, brigade, battalion, regiment, squadron, company, troop, contingent, legion. ② the 1940–4 birth cohort of women. GROUP, grouping, category, class, set, division, batch, list; age group, generation.

coil ▶ noun coils of rope: LOOP, twist, turn, curl, convolution; spiral, helix, corkscrew.

▶ verb he coiled her hair around his finger: WIND, loop, twist, curl, curve, bend, twine, entwine; spiral, corkscrew.

coin ▶ noun ① a gold coin: PIECE. ② large amounts of coin: COINAGE, coins, specie; (loose) change, small change, silver, copper(s), gold.

—RELATED TERMS numismatic.

▶ verb ① guineas were coined: MINT, stamp, strike, cast, punch, die, mould, forge, make. ② he coined the term: INVENT, create, make up, conceive, originate, think up, dream up.

coincide ▶ verb ① the events coincided OCCUR SIMULTANEOUSLY, happen together, be concurrent, concur, coexist ② their interests do not always coincide. TALLY, correspond, agree, accord, concur, match, fit, be consistent, equate, harmonize, be compatible, dovetail, correlate; informal square.

—OPPOSITES differ

coincidence ▶ noun ① too close to be mere coincidence ACCIDENT, chance, serendipity, fortuity, providence, happenstance, fate, a fluke ② the coincidence of inflation and unemployment CO-OCCURRENCE, coexistence, conjunction, simultaneity, contemporaneity, concomitance ③ a coincidence of interests. CORRESPONDENCE, agreement, accord, concurrence, consistency, conformity, harmony, compatibility

coincident ▶ adjective ① algae blooms coincident with dolphin deaths CONCURRENT, coinciding, simultaneous, contemporaneous, concomitant, coexistent ② their aims are coincident. IN AGREEMENT, in harmony, in accord, consistent, compatible, congruent, in step, in tune, the same

coincidental ▶ adjective ① a coincidental resemblance ACCIDENTAL, chance, fluky, random, fortuitous, adventitious, serendipitous, unexpected, unforeseen, unintentional, inadvertent, unplanned. ② the coincidental disappearance of the two men SIMULTANEOUS, concurrent, coincident, contemporaneous, concomitant

coltus ▶ noun (technical). See SEX noun sense 1

cold ▶ adjective ① a cold day CHILLY, chill, cool, freezing, icy, snowy, wintry, frosty, frigid, gelid; bitter, biting, raw; informal nippy, brass monkeys, arctic; Brit informal parky ② I'm very cold: CHILLY, chilled, cool, freezing, frozen, shivery, numb, benumbed, hypothermic. ③ a cold reception: UNFRIENDLY, inhospitable, unwelcoming, forbidding, cool, frigid, frosty, glacial, lukewarm, indifferent, unfeeling, unemotional, formal, stiff

—OPPOSITES hot, warm

cold-blooded ▶ adjective CRUEL, callous, sadistic, inhuman, inhumane, pitiless, merciless, ruthless, unforgiving, unfeeling, uncaring, heartless, savage, brutal, barbaric, barbarous, cold, cold-hearted, unemotional

cold-hearted ▶ adjective UNFEELING, unloving, uncaring, unsympathetic, unemotional, unfriendly, uncharitable, unkind, insensitive, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, heartless, hard, cold.

collaborate ▶ verb ① they collaborated on the project: COOPERATE, join forces, team up, band together, work together, participate, combine, ally; pool resources, club together. ② they collaborated with the enemy: FRATERNIZE, conspire, collude, cooperate, consort, sympathize.

collaborator ▶ noun ① his collaborator on the book: CO-WORKER, partner, associate, colleague, confederate; assistant. ② a wartime collaborator:

Collective Names for Birds and Animals

shrewdness of a
herd/pack of
troop of baboons
cete of badgers
sloth of bears
swarm/drift/hive/erst of bees
flock/flight/pod of birds
herd/gang/obstinacy of buffalo
bellowing of buffaloes
drove of bullocks
clowder/glaring of cats
army of caterpillars
herd/drove of cattle
brood/clutch/peep of chickens
chattering of choughs
rag/rake of colts
covert of coots
herd of cranes
bask of crocodiles
murder of crows
litter of cubs
herd of curlew
herd/mob of deer
pack/kennel of dogs
school of dolphins
trip of dotterel
flight/dole/piteousness of doves
paddling of ducks (on water)
safe of ducks (on land)
filing of dumfries
herd/parade of elephants
herd/gang of elk
busyness of ferrets
charm of flitches
shoal/run of fish
swarm/cloud of flies
skulk of foxes
gaggle of geese (on land)
skein/team/wedge of geese (in flight)
herd of giraffes

flock/herd/trip of goats
band of garties
cloud of gulls
pack/covey of grouse
down/mute/husk of hares
cast of hawks
siege of herons
bloat of hippopotami
drove/string/stud/team of horses
pack/cry/kennel of hounds
flight/swarm of insects
fluther/smack of jellyfish
mob/troup of kangaroos
kindle/litter of kittens
desert of lapwings
bevy/exaltation of larks
leap/lepe of leopards
pride/savvy of lions
tiding of magpies
sord/suit of mallard
stud of mares
richeesse of martens
labour of moles
troop of monkeys
span/barren of mules
watch of nightingales
parliament/stare of owls
yoke of oxen
pandemonium of parrots
covey of partridges
muster of peacocks
muster/parcel/rookery of penguins
bevy/head of pheasants
kit of pigeons (in flight)
litter/herd of pigs
congregation/stand/wing of plovers
rush/flight of pochards
pod/school/herd/turmoil of

covey of
litter of pigs
bevy/drift of quail
bury of rabbits
string of
unkindness of
crash of rhinoceros
bevy of roe deer
parliament/building/rookery of

hill of ruffs
pod/herd/rookery of seals
flock/herd/trip/mob of sheep
dopping of sheldrakes
wisp/walk of snipe
host of sparrows
murmuration of starlings
flight of swallows
game/herd of swans (on land)
wedge of swans (in flight)
drift/herd/sunder of swine
spring of teal
knot of toads
hover of trout
rafter of turkeys
bale/turn of turtles
bunch/knob of waterfowl
school/herd/pod/gem of whales
company/trip of wigwags
sunder of wild boar
dout/destruction of wild cats
team of wild ducks (in flight)
bunch/trip/plump/knob of

pack/rout of wolves
fall of woodcock
descent of woodpeckers
herd of wrens
zeal of zebras

Many of these are fanciful or humorous terms which probably never had any real currency but have been popularized in books such as *Sports and Pastimes of England* (1801) by Joseph Strutt.

QUISLING, fraternizer, collaborationist, colluder, (enemy) sympathizer; traitor, fifth columnist

collapse ▶ verb ① the roof collapsed: CAVE IN, fall in, subside, fall down, give (way), crumple, sag, slump ② he collapsed last night FAINT, pass out, black out, lose consciousness, keel over, swoon, informal flake out, conk out. ③ she collapsed in tears. BREAK DOWN, go to pieces, lose control, be overcome, crumble; informal crack up ④ peace talks collapsed. BREAK DOWN, fail, fall through, fold, founder, miscarry, come to grief, be unsuccessful, end, informal flop, fizzle out.

▶ noun ① the collapse of the roof: CAVE-IN, subsidence ② her collapse on stage: FAINTING FIT, faint, blackout, loss of consciousness, swoon; Medicine syncope. ③ the collapse of the talks: BREAKDOWN, failure, disintegration; end. ④ he suffered a collapse: (NERVOUS) BREAKDOWN, personal crisis, psychological trauma; informal crack-up

collar ▶ noun ① a shirt collar: NECKBAND, choker; historical ruff, gorget, berth. ② a collar round the pipe: RING, band, collet, sleeve, flange.

▶ verb (informal) ① he collared a thief: APPREHEND, arrest, catch, capture, seize; take prisoner, take into custody, detain; informal nab, pinch, bust,

pick up, pull in, feel someone's collar; Brit informal nick ② she collared me in the street: ACCOST, waylay, hail, approach, detain, stop, halt, catch, confront, importune; informal buttonhole, Brit informal nobble

collate ▶ verb ① the system is used to collate information. COLLECT, gather, accumulate, assemble; combine, aggregate, put together; arrange, organize ② we must collate these two sources: COMPARE, contrast, set side by side, juxtapose, weigh against.

collateral ▶ noun SECURITY, surety, guarantee, guaranty, insurance, indemnity, indemnification; backing

colleague ▶ noun CO-WORKER, fellow worker, workmate, teammate, associate, partner, collaborator, ally, confederate; Brit informal oppo.

collect ▶ verb ① he collected the rubbish: GATHER, accumulate, assemble; amass, stockpile, pile up, heap up, store (up), hoard, save; mass, accrue. ② a crowd soon collected: GATHER, assemble, meet, muster, congregate, convene, converge, flock together. ③ I must collect the children: FETCH, go/come to get, call for, meet. ④ they



collect money for charity **RAISE**, appeal for, ask for, solicit; obtain, acquire, gather. ③ *he paused to collect himself: RECOVER*, regain one's composure, pull oneself together, steady oneself; *informal* get a grip (on oneself). ④ *she collected her thoughts: MUSTER*, summon (up), gather, get together, marshal.

—OPPOSITES *disperse*, *distribute*.

collected ▶ **adjective** **CALM**, cool, self-possessed, self-controlled, composed, poised; serene, tranquil, relaxed, unruffled, unperturbed, untroubled, placid, quiet, sedate, phlegmatic; *informal* unfazed, together, laid-back

—OPPOSITES *excited*, *hysterical*.

collection ▶ **noun** ① *a collection of stolen items: HOARD*, pile, heap, stack, stock, store, stockpile, accumulation, reserve, supply, bank, pool, fund, mine, reservoir ② *a collection of shoppers: GROUP*, crowd, body, assemblage, gathering, throng, knot, cluster; multitude, bevy, party, band, horde, pack, flock, swarm, mob; *informal* gang, load, gaggle See list. ③ *a collection of Victorian dolls: SET*, series, array, assortment. ④ *a collection of short stories: ANTHOLOGY*, selection, compendium, treasury, compilation, miscellany, pot-pourri ⑤ *a collection for the poor: DONATIONS*, contributions, gifts, subscription(s), *informal* whip-round; *historical* alms. ⑥ *a church collection. OFFERING*, offertory, tithe.

collective ▶ **adjective** **COMMON**, shared, joint, combined, mutual, communal, pooled; united, allied, cooperative, collaborative See list

—OPPOSITES *individual*

college ▶ **noun** ① *a college of technology: SCHOOL*, academy, university, polytechnic, institute, seminary, conservatoire, conservatory ② *the College of Heraldry: ASSOCIATION*, society, club, institute, body, fellowship, guild, lodge, order, fraternity, league, union, alliance

collide ▶ **verb** ① *the trains collided with each other: CRASH*, impact, hit, strike, run into, bump into, meet head-on, cannon into, plough into, *N Amer informal* barrel into. ② *politics and metaphysics collide: CONFLICT*, clash; differ, diverge, disagree, be at odds, be incompatible.

collision ▶ **noun** ① *a collision on the ring road: CRASH*, accident, impact, smash, bump, hit, *Brit* RTA (road traffic accident), *N Amer* wreck, *informal* pile-up; *Brit. informal* prang, shunt. ② *a collision between two ideas: CONFLICT*, clash, disagreement, incompatibility, contradiction

colloquial ▶ **adjective** **INFORMAL**, conversational, everyday, non-literary; unofficial, idiomatic, slangy, vernacular, popular, demotic.

—OPPOSITES *formal*

collude ▶ **verb** **CONSPIRE**, connive, collaborate, plot, scheme, *informal* be in cahoots.

colonist ▶ **noun** **SETTLER**, colonizer, colonial, pioneer; immigrant, incomer, newcomer; *N Amer historical* homesteader

—OPPOSITES *native*

colonize ▶ **verb** **SETTLE (IN)**, people, populate; occupy, take over, seize, capture, subjugate.

colonnade ▶ **noun** **ROW OF COLUMNS**; portico, stoa, peristyle.

colony ▶ **noun** ① *a French colony: TERRITORY*, dependency, protectorate, satellite, settlement, outpost, province. ② *the British colony in New York: POPULATION*, community. ③ *an artists' col-*

ony: COMMUNITY, commune; quarter, district, ghetto.

colossal ▶ **adjective** **HUGE**, massive, enormous, gigantic, very big, giant, mammoth, vast, immense, monumental, prodigious, mountainous, titanic, towering, king-size(d); *informal* monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo; *Brit informal* ginormous.

—OPPOSITES *tiny*.

colour ▶ **noun** ① *the lights changed colour: HUE*, shade, tint, tone, coloration. See list ② *oil colour: PAINT*, pigment, colourant, dye, stain, tint, wash. ③ *the colour in her cheeks: REDNESS*, pinkness, rosiness, ruddiness, blush, flush, bloom ④ *people of every colour: SKIN COLOURING*, skin tone, colouring; race, ethnic group. ⑤ *anecdotes add colour to the text: VIVIDNESS*, life, liveliness, vitality, excitement, interest, richness, zest, spice, piquancy, impact, force, *informal* oomph, pizzazz, punch, kick, *poetic/literary* salt. ⑥ *the colours of the Oxford City club: STRIP*, kit, uniform, costume, livery, regalia ⑦ *the regimental colours* See FLAG! **noun**

—RELATED TERMS *chromatic*.

▶ **verb** ① *the wood was coloured blue: TINT*, dye, stain, paint, pigment, wash. ② *she coloured up: BLUSH*, redden, go pink, go red, flush ③ *the experience coloured her outlook: INFLUENCE*, affect, taint, warp, skew, distort, bias, prejudice. ④ *they colour evidence to make a story saleable: EXAGGERATE*, overstate, embroider, embellish, dramatize, enhance, varnish; falsify, misreport, manipulate.

colourful ▶ **adjective** ① *a colourful picture: BRIGHTLY COLOURED*, vivid, vibrant, brilliant, radiant, rich; gaudy, glaring, garish; multicoloured, multicolour, rainbow, varicoloured, harlequin, polychromatic, psychedelic, *informal* jazzy. ② *a colourful account: VIVID*, graphic, lively, animated, dramatic, fascinating, interesting, stimulating, scintillating, evocative

colourless ▶ **adjective** ① *a colourless liquid: UNCOLOURED*, white, bleached, *poetic/literary* achromatic. ② *her colourless face: PALE*, pallid, wan, anaemic, bloodless, ashen, white, waxen, pasty, peaky, sickly, drained, drawn, ghostly, deathly ③ *a colourless personality: UNINTERESTING*, dull, boring, tedious, dry, dreary; unexciting, bland, weak, insipid, vapid, vacuous, feeble, wishy-washy, lame, lifeless, spiritless, anaemic, bloodless; nondescript, characterless.

—OPPOSITES *colourful*, *rosy*

column ▶ **noun** ① *arches supported by massive columns: PILLAR*, post, support, upright, baluster, pier, pile, pilaster, stanchion; obelisk, monolith. ② *a column in the paper: ARTICLE*, piece, item, story, report, account, write-up, feature, review, notice, editorial, leader. ③ *we walked in a column: LINE*, file, queue, procession, train, cavalcade, convoy; *informal* crocodile.

columnist ▶ **noun** **WRITER**, contributor, journalist, correspondent, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, newsmen, newswoman; wordsmith, penman; critic, reviewer, commentator; *informal* scribbler, pen-pusher, hack(ette), journo.

coma ▶ **noun** **STATE OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS**; *Medicine* persistent vegetative state, PVS.

comatose ▶ **adjective** ① *he was comatose after the accident: UNCONSCIOUS*, in a coma, insensible, insensate. ② (*informal*) *she lay comatose in the sun:*

Colours

See also DYE, HORSE, RAINBOW.

almond	canary yellow	dun	lime green	pearl	slate
almond green	candy-apple	eau de Nil	Lincoln green	periwinkle	snow-white
amaranth	red	ebony	liver	perse	spinel
amber	caramel	ecru	lovat green	petrol blue	spice
amethyst	cardinal red	eggshell	magenta	pewter	steel blue
apple green	carmine	electric blue	magnolia	pine green	steel grey
apricot	carnation	emerald	mahogany	pink	stone
aqua	carneelian	fallow	maroon	pistachio	straw
aquamarine	carrot	fawn	mauve	platinum	strawberry
ash blonde	celadon	flame	mazarine blue	plum	strawberry
aubergine	cerise	flesh	midnight blue	poppy	blonde
auburn	cerulean	fuchsia	mocha	powder blue	tan
avocado	champagne	gamboje	mouse	primrose	tangerine
azure	charcoal	gentian	mulberry	puce	tawny
baby blue	chartreuse	ginger	mushroom	purple	teak
baby pink	cherry	gold	mustard	putty	teal
bay	chestnut	green	nankeen	raspberry	tea rose
beige	chocolate	grenadine	navy blue	raven	terracotta
biscuit	cinnabar	grey	Nile blue	red	Titian
bisque	cinnamon	gunmetal	Nile green	robin's-egg	topaz
bistre	citron	hazel	nut-brown	blue	tortoiseshell
black	clair-de-lune	heather	nutmeg	rose	Turkey red
blonde	claret	hellotrope	oatmeal	royal blue	turquoise
blue	cobalt blue	henna	ochre	royal purple	Tyrian purple
bottle green	cocoa	honey	off-white	ruby	ultramarine
brindle/	coffee	ice blue	old gold	russet	umber
brindled	Copenhagen	incarnadine	old rose	rust	Venetian red
bronze	blue	indigo	olive	sable	verditer
brown	copper	iris	opal	saffron	vermillion
buff	coral	iron grey	orange	salmon	violet
burgundy	cornflower	ivory	oxblood	sand	viridian
burnt ochre	blue	jade	Oxford blue	sanguine	walnut
burnt sienna	cream	jasmine	oyster pink	sapphire	Wedgwood
burnt umber	crimson	jet	oyster white	saxe blue	blue
buttermilk	cyan	khaki	palomino	scarlet	white
butternut	cyclamen	kingfisher blue	pansy	sea green	wine
cadmium	daffodil	lapis lazuli	paprika	seal brown	yellow
yellow	damask	lavender	parchment	sepi	
café au lait	danson	leaf green	peach	shell pink	
Cambridge	dove	lemon	peach-bloom	sienna	
blue	drab	lilac	peacock blue	silver	
camel	duck-egg blue	lily white	pea green	sky blue	

INERT, inactive, lethargic, sluggish, torpid, languid; somnolent, sleeping, dormant

comb ▶ verb ① she combed her hair GROOM, brush, untangle, smooth, straighten, neaten, tidy, arrange, curry ② the wool was combed SEPARATE, dress, card, tease, hackle, heckle. ③ police combed the area SEARCH, scour, explore, sweep, probe, hunt through, forage through, poke about/around in, go over, go over with a fine-tooth comb; leave no stone unturned.

combat ▶ noun he was killed in combat BATTLE, fighting, action, hostilities, conflict, war, warfare.

▶ verb they tried to combat the disease: FIGHT, battle, tackle, attack, counter, resist, withstand; impede, block, thwart, inhibit; stop, halt, prevent, check, curb.

combatant ▶ noun ① a combatant in the war: FIGHTER, soldier, serviceman/woman, warrior, trooper. ② combatants in the computer market: CONTENDER, adversary, opponent, competitor, challenger, rival.

▶ adjective combatant armies: WARRING, at war, opposing, belligerent, fighting, battling.

combative ▶ adjective PUGNACIOUS, aggressive, antagonistic, quarrelsome, argumentative, contentious, hostile, truculent, belligerent, bellicose, militant, informal spoiling for a fight. –OPPOSITES conciliatory

combination ▶ noun ① a combination of ancient and modern AMALGAMATION, amalgam, merge, blend, mixture, mix, fusion, marriage, coalition, integration, incorporation, synthesis, composite. ② he acted in combination with his brother: COOPERATION, collaboration, association, union, partnership, league.

combine ▶ verb ① he combines comedy with tragedy AMALGAMATE, integrate, incorporate, merge, mix, fuse, blend, bind, join, marry, unify ② teachers combined to tackle the problem: COOPERATE, collaborate, join forces, get together, club together, unite, team up, throw in one's lot; informal gang up.

combustible ▶ adjective INFLAMMABLE, flammable, incendiary, ignitable.

combustion ▶ noun BURNING; kindling, ignition.



come ▶ **verb** ① *come and listen* MOVE NEARER, move closer, approach, advance, draw close/closer, draw near/nearer; proceed; *archaic* draw nigh. ② *they came last night*: ARRIVE, get here/there, make it, appear, come on the scene; approach, enter, turn up, come along, materialize, *informal* show (up), roll in/up, blow in, show one's face. ③ *they came to a stream*: REACH, arrive at, get to, make it to, make, gain, come across, run across, happen on, chance on, come upon, stumble on; end up at, *informal* wind up at. ④ *the dress comes to her ankles*: EXTEND, stretch, reach, come as far as. ⑤ *she comes from Belgium*: BE FROM, be a native of, hail from, originate in; live in, reside in. ⑥ *attacks came without warning*: HAPPEN, occur, take place, come about, transpire, fall, present itself, crop up, materialize, arise, arrive, appear; ensue, follow; *poetic/literary* come to pass, befall. ⑦ *the car does not come in red*: BE AVAILABLE, be for sale, be made, be produced. ⑧ (*informal*) CLIMAX, orgasm.

—OPPOSITES go, leave

■ **come about** HAPPEN, occur, take place, transpire, fall; crop up, materialize, arise, arrive, appear, surface; ensue, follow, *poetic/literary* come to pass, befall

■ **come across** ① *they came across his friends*: MEET/FIND BY CHANCE, meet, run into, run across, come upon, chance on, stumble on, happen on, discover, encounter, find, locate, *informal* bump into. ② *the emotion comes across* BE COMMUNICATED, be perceived, get across, be clear, be understood, register, sink in, strike home. ③ *she came across as cool* SEEM, appear, look, sound, look to be; *Brit* come over; *N Amer* come off. ④ (*informal*) *she had come across with more information*: HAND OVER, give, deliver, produce, part with, *informal* come up with, cough up; *N Amer* *informal* ante up

■ **come along** ① *the puppies are coming along nicely*: PROGRESS, develop, shape up, come on, turn out; improve, get better, pick up, rally, recover. ② *Come along!* HURRY (UP), be quick, get a move on, come along, look lively, speed up, move faster; *informal* get moving, get cracking, step on it, move it, buck up, shake a leg, make it snappy; *Brit* *informal* get your skates on; *N Amer* *informal* get a wiggle on; *dated* make haste

■ **come apart** BREAK UP, fall to bits, fall to pieces, disintegrate, come unstuck, separate, split, tear

■ **come back** RETURN, get back, arrive home, come home; come again

■ **come between** ALIENATE, estrange, separate, divide, split up, break up, disunite, set at odds

■ **come by** OBTAIN, acquire, gain, get, find, pick up, procure, secure, buy, purchase; *informal* get one's hands on, get hold of, bag, score, swing.

■ **come down** DECIDE, conclude, settle; choose, opt, plump

■ **come down on**. See REPRIMAND verb.

■ **come down to** AMOUNT TO, add up to, constitute, boil down to, be equivalent to.

■ **come down with** FALL ILL WITH, fall sick with, be taken ill with, show symptoms of, become infected with, get, catch, develop, contract, fall victim to; *Brit* go down with.

■ **come forward** VOLUNTEER, offer one's services, make oneself available.

■ **come in** ENTER, gain admission, cross the threshold

■ **come into** INHERIT, be left, be willed, be bequeathed.

■ **come in for** RECEIVE, experience, sustain, undergo, go through, encounter, face, be subjected to, bear, suffer.

■ **come off** ① *this soufflé rarely comes off*: SUCCEED, work, turn out well, work out, go as planned, produce the desired result, get results. ② *she always came off worse* END UP, finish up

■ **come on** PROGRESS, develop, shape up, take shape, come along, turn out, improve

■ **come out** ① *it came out that he'd been to Rome* BECOME KNOWN, become apparent, come to light, emerge, transpire; get out, be discovered, be uncovered, be revealed, leak out, be disclosed. ② *my book is coming out*: BE PUBLISHED, be issued, be released, be brought out, be printed, go on sale. ③ *the flowers have come out* BLOOM, flower, open. ④ *it will come out all right*: END, finish, conclude, work out, turn out; *informal* pan out. ⑤ *the MP came out voluntarily* declare that one is homosexual, come out of the closet. ⑥ (*Brit* *dated*) *she came out in 1929* ENTER SOCIETY, make one's debut in society

■ **come out with** UTTER, say, let out, blurt out, burst out with

■ **come round** ① *he has just come round from anaesthetic*: REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS, come to, come to one's senses, recover, revive, awake, wake up. ② *I came round to her view* BE CONVERTED, be won over (by), agree (with), change one's mind, be persuaded (by), give way, yield, relent. ③ *Friday the 13th comes round every few months*. OCCUR, take place, happen, come up, crop up, arise, recur, reoccur, return, reappear. ④ *come round for a drink*: VISIT, call (in/round), look in, stop by, drop by/in/round/over, come over, *informal* pop in/round/over

■ **come through** SURVIVE, get through, ride out, weather, live through, pull through; withstand, stand up to, endure, surmount, overcome; *informal* stick out

■ **come to** ① *the bill came to £17.50* AMOUNT TO, add up to, run to, total, equal, *Brit* tot up to. ② *I came to in the hospital* REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS, come round, come to one's senses, recover, revive, awake, wake up

■ **come up** ARISE, occur, happen, come about, transpire, emerge, surface, crop up, turn up, pop up.

■ **come up to** ① *she came up to his shoulder* REACH, come to, be as tall as, extend to. ② *he never came up to her expectations*: MEASURE UP TO, match up to, live up to, fulfil, satisfy, meet, equal, compare with; be good enough; *informal* hold a candle to.

■ **come up with** PRODUCE, devise, think up, propose, put forward, submit, suggest, recommend, advocate, introduce, moot.

comeback ▶ **noun** ① *he made a determined comeback*: RESURGENCE, recovery, return, rally, upturn; *Brit* fightback. ② (*informal*) *one of my best comebacks*: RETORT, riposte, return, rejoinder; answer, reply, response.

comedian ▶ **noun** ① *a famous comedian*: COMIC, comedienne, funny man/woman, humorist, gagster, stand-up; *N. Amer.* tummler. ② *Dad was such a comedian*: JOKER, jester, wit, wag, comic, wisecracker, jokester; prankster, clown, fool.

buffoon, *informal* laugh, hoot, case, *informal*, dated card, caution.

comedienne ► **noun** See COMEDIAN sense 1

comedown ► **noun** (*informal*) ① a bit of a comedown for a sergeant: LOSS OF STATUS, loss of face, humiliation, belittlement, demotion, degradation, disgrace ② it's such a comedown after Christmas ANTICLIMAX, let-down, disappointment, disillusionment, deflation, decline.

comedy ► **noun** ① he excels in comedy: LIGHT ENTERTAINMENT, comic play, comic film, farce, situation comedy, satire, pantomime, comic opera, burlesque, slapstick, *informal* sitcom. ② the comedy in their work HUMOUR, fun, funny side, comical aspect, absurdity, drollness, farce -OPPOSITES tragedy, gravity.

comely ► **adjective** (*archaic*) See ATTRACTIVE sense 2

come-on ► **noun** (*informal*) INDUCEMENT, incentive, attraction, lure, pull, draw, enticement, bait, carrot, temptation, fascination, charm, appeal, allure

comeuppance ► **noun** (*informal*) JUST DESERTS, just punishment, due, retribution, requital

comfort ► **noun** ① travel in comfort EASE, relaxation, repose, serenity, tranquillity, contentment, cosiness, luxury, opulence, prosperity, bed of roses. ② words of comfort. CONSOLATION, solace, condolence, sympathy, commiseration, support, reassurance, cheer.

► **verb** a friend tried to comfort her CONSOLE, solace, condole with, commiserate with, sympathize with, support, succour, ease, reassure, soothe, calm, cheer, hearten, uplift, *informal* buck up -OPPOSITES distress, depress

comfortable ► **adjective** ① a comfortable lifestyle PLEASANT, free from hardship, affluent, well-to-do, luxurious, opulent. ② a comfortable room COSY, snug, warm, pleasant, agreeable, restful, homelike, homely, *informal* comfy ③ comfortable clothes LOOSE, loose-fitting, casual, *informal* comfy ④ a comfortable pace. LEISURELY, unhurried, relaxed, easy, gentle, sedate, undemanding, slow; *informal* laid-back. ⑤ they feel comfortable with each other AT EASE, relaxed, secure, safe, unworried, contented, happy -OPPOSITES hard, spartan, tense

comforting ► **adjective** CONSOLING, sympathetic, compassionate, solicitous, tender, warm, caring, loving; supportive, reassuring, soothing, calming; cheering, heartening, encouraging

comfortless ► **adjective** ① a comfortless house GLOOMY, dreary, dismal, bleak, grim, sombre, joyless, cheerless, depressing, disheartening, dispiriting, unwelcoming, uninviting, austere, spartan, institutional. ② he left her comfortless. MISERABLE, heartbroken, grief-stricken, unhappy, sad, distressed, desolate, devastated, inconsolable, disconsolate, downcast, downhearted, dejected, cheerless, depressed, melancholy, gloomy, glum; *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps. -OPPOSITES cosy, happy.

comic ► **adjective** a comic play: HUMOROUS, funny, droll, amusing, hilarious, uproarious; comical, farcical, silly, slapstick, zany; witty, jocular; *informal* priceless, side-splitting, rib-tickling; *informal*, dated killing. -OPPOSITES serious.

► **noun** ① a music hall comic: COMEDIAN, comedi-

enne, funny man/woman, comedy actor/actress, humorist, wit; joker, clown; *informal* kiddler, wisecracker. ② Tony read his comic: CARTOON PAPER, comic paper, comic book, graphic novel; *informal* funny

comical ► **adjective** ① he could be quite comical: FUNNY, comic, humorous, droll, witty, jocular, hilarious, amusing, diverting, entertaining; *informal* jokey, wacky, waggish, side-splitting, rib-tickling, priceless, a scream, a laugh; *informal*, dated killing, a card, a caution. ② they look comical in those suits SILLY, absurd, ridiculous, laughable, risible, ludicrous, preposterous, foolish, *informal* wacky, crazy -OPPOSITES sensible

coming ► **adjective** the coming election. FORTH COMING, imminent, impending, approaching, future, expected, anticipated, close, at hand, in store, in the offing, in the pipeline, on the horizon, on the way, *informal* on the cards

► **noun** the coming of spring APPROACH, advance, advent, arrival, appearance, emergence, onset.

command ► **verb** ① he commanded his men to retreat ORDER, tell, direct, instruct, call on, require, poetic/literary bid ② Jones commanded a tank squadron BE IN CHARGE OF, be in command of, be the leader of, head, lead, control, direct, manage, supervise, oversee; *informal* head up ③ they command great respect RECEIVE, get, gain, secure

► **noun** ① officers shouted commands ORDER, instruction, directive, direction, commandment, injunction, demand, stipulation, requirement, exhortation, bidding, request. ② he had 160 men under his command AUTHORITY, control, charge, power, direction, dominion, guidance, leadership, rule, government, management, supervision, jurisdiction ③ a brilliant command of English KNOWLEDGE, mastery, grasp, comprehension, understanding

commandeer ► **verb** SEIZE, take, requisition, appropriate, expropriate, sequester, sequester, confiscate, annex, take over, claim, preempt, hijack, arrogate, help oneself to, *informal* walk off with, Law distraint, Scottish Law point.

commander ► **noun** LEADER, head, chief, overseer, controller, commander-in-chief, C in C, commanding officer, CO, officer, *informal* boss, boss man, skipper, numero uno, number one, top dog, kingpin, head honcho, *Brit informal* gaffer, guv'nor See list

commanding ► **adjective** ① a commanding position: DOMINANT, dominating, controlling, superior, powerful, prominent, advantageous, favourable ② a commanding voice. AUTHORITATIVE, masterful, assertive, firm, emphatic, insistent, imperative, peremptory, imperious, dictatorial, *informal* bossy

commemorate ► **verb** CELEBRATE, pay tribute to, pay homage to, honour, salute, toast; remember, recognize, acknowledge, observe, mark.

commemorative ► **adjective** MEMORIAL, remembrance; celebratory.

commence ► **verb** BEGIN, start; get the ball rolling, get going, get under way, get off the ground, set about, embark on, launch into, lead off; open, initiate, inaugurate; *informal* kick off, get the show on the road.

-OPPOSITES conclude.



Military Commanders

- C**
- Achilles (legendary Greek)
 Agricola, Gnaeus Julius (Roman)
 Agrippa, Marcus Vipsanius (Roman)
 Alanbrooke, Alan Francis Brooke, Viscount (British)
 Albuquerque, Alfonso de (Portuguese)
 Alcibiades (Athenian)
 Alexander the Great (Macedonian)
 Alexander, Harold, Earl (British)
 Allen, Ethan (American)
 Allenby, Edmund, Viscount (British)
 Amr ibn al-As (Arab)
 Antony, Mark (Roman)
 Aristides the Just (Athenian)
 Artemisia (Persian)
 Atatürk, Kemal (Turkish)
 Attila the Hun
 Bar Kokhba (Jewish)
 Batista, Fulgencio (Cuban)
 Beatty, David, Earl (British)
 Bernadotte, Jean Baptiste (French; King of Sweden)
 Bolívar, Simón (Venezuelan)
 Boudicca/Boadicea (Queen of the Iceni)
 Brutus, Marcus Junius (Roman)
 Caesar, Julius (Roman)
 Calles, Plutarco (Mexican)
 Carranza, Venustiano (Mexican)
 Cassius, Gaius (Roman)
 Castro, Fidel (Cuban)
 Cetshwayo (Zulu)
 Chiang Kai-shek (Chinese)
 Clausewitz, Karl von (Prussian)
 Clive of Plassey, Robert, Baron, 'Clive of India' (British)
 Clovis (Frankish)
 Coriolanus, Gaius (Roman)
 Crazy Horse (Sioux)
 Cromwell, Oliver (English)
 Cumberland, William, Duke of, 'the Butcher' (English)
 Custer, George (American)
 Dayan, Moshe (Israeli)
 de Gaulle, Charles (French)
 de Wet, Christiaan (Afrikaner)
 Díaz, Porfirio (Mexican)
 Dönitz, Karl (German)
 Dowding, Hugh (British)
 Drake, Francis (English)
 Dudley, Robert, Earl of Leicester (English)
 Dundee, 'Bonnie', Viscount, John Graham of Claverhouse (Scottish)
 Eisenhower, Dwight, 'Ike' (American)
 El Cid (Rodrigo Díaz de Vivar; Spanish)
 Erver Pasha (Turkish)
 Ezzahed, Hussain (Bangladeshi)
 Fabius, Quintus (Roman)
 Fairfax, Thomas, Baron (English)
 Foch, Ferdinand (French)
 Franco, Francisco (Spanish)
 Galtieri, Leopoldo (Argentinian)
 Garibaldi, Giuseppe (Italian)
 Genghis Khan (Mongol)
 Geronimo (Apache)
 Giap, Vo Nguyen (Vietnamese)
 Goering, Hermann (German)
 Gordon, Charles George (British)
 Grant, Ulysses S. (American)
 Grivas, George (Greek Cypriot)
 Gustavus Adolphus (King of Sweden)
 Guevara, Che (Argentinian)
 Haig, Douglas, Earl (British)
 Hannibal (Carthaginian)
 Harris, Arthur, 'Bomber Harris' (British)
 Hector (legendary Trojan)
 Hindenburg, Paul Ludwig von Bismarck (German)
 Hideyoshi, Toyotomi (Japanese)
 Iturbide, Agustín de (Mexican)
 Jackson, Andrew (American)
 Jackson, Thomas 'Stonewall' (American)
 Jellicoe, John Rushworth, Earl (British)
 Jervis, John, Earl St Vincent (British)
 Joffre, Joseph (French)
 John of Austria, Don (Spanish)
 Jones, John Paul (American, b. in Scotland)
 Jugurtha (Numidian)
 Kitchen, Herbert, Earl (British)
 Kosciuszko, Thaddeus (Polish)
 Kruger, Paul (South African)
 Kusunoki Masashige (Japanese)
 Kutuzov, Mikhail Ilarionovich, Prince (Russian)
 Lafayette, Marie Joseph, Marquis de (French)
 Lawrence, T. E., 'Lawrence of Arabia' (British)
 Lee, Robert E. (American)
 Leonidas (Spartan)
 Lin Biao (Chinese)
 Ludendorff, Erich (German)
 Lysander (Spartan)
 MacArthur, Douglas (American)
 Marius, Gaius (Roman)
 Marlborough, John Churchill, Duke of (British)
 Mihailović, Draža (Yugoslav)
 Minamoto Yoritomo (Japanese)
 Moltke, Helmuth von (Prussian)
 Monck, George, 1st Duke of Albemarle (English)
 Montcalm, Louis Joseph de Montcalm-Gozon, Marquis de (French)
 Montfort, Simon de (English)
 Montgomery, Bernard Law
 Montrose, James Graham, Marquis of (Scottish)
 Moore, John (British)
 Mountbatten, Louis, Earl (British)
 Murat, Joachim (French; King of Naples)
 Ndlovu (Zulu)
 Napoleon I (Napoleon Bonaparte; French)
 Nelson, Horatio (British)
 Ney, Michel (French)
 Ne Win (Burmese)
 O'Higgins, Bernardo (Chilean)
 Ossian (Irish, legendary)
 Patton, George S. (American)
 Pericles (Athenian)
 Pershing, John J. (American)
 Pétain, Philippe (French)
 Pinochet, Augusto (Chilean)
 Pompey the Great (Roman)
 Primo de Rivera, Miguel (Spanish)
 Rabin, Yitzhak (Israeli)
 Roberts, Frederick, Earl (British)
 Rommel, Erwin, 'the Desert Fox' (German)
 Rupert, Prince (English)
 Saladin (sultan of Egypt and Syria)
 San Martín, José de (Argentinian)
 Santa Anna, Antonio López de (Mexican)
 Schlieffen, Alfred von (Prussian)
 Schwarzkopf, H. Norman (American)
 Scipio Africanus (Roman)
 Sebulktigin (Turkish)
 Shaka (Zulu)
 Sheridan, Philip (American)
 Sherman, William Tecumseh (American)
 Shovel, Cloudesley (English)
 Sitting Bull (Sioux)
 Smuts, Jan Christiaan (South African)
 Spartacus (Thracian)
 Sulaiman the Magnificent (Ottoman)
 Sulla (Roman)
 Tamerlane (Timur Lenk; Mongol)
 Tito (Yugoslav)
 Tojo, Hideki (Japanese)
 Tokugawa, Iyasu (Japanese)
 Toussaint L'Ouverture, Pierre Dominique (Haitian)
 Trenchard, Hugh (British)
 Tuchachevsky, Mikhail (Russian)
 Villa, Pancho (Mexican)
 Wallenstein, Albrecht von (Austrian)
 Washington, George (American)
 Wellington, Arthur Wellesley, Duke of, 'the Iron Duke' (British)
 William the Conqueror (Norman King of England)
 Wolfe, James (British)
 Xenophon (Greek)
 Xerxes I (Persian)
 Yamamoto, Isoroku (Japanese)
 Zapata, Emiliano (Mexican)
 Zhukov, Georgi (Soviet)
 Zhu Zhiyuan, Mohammed (Pakistan)

commencement ► **noun** BEGINNING, start, opening, outset, onset, launch, initiation, inception, origin; *informal* kick-off.

commend ► **verb** ① *we should commend him* PRAISE, compliment, congratulate, applaud, salute, honour, sing the praises of, pay tribute to, take one's hat off to, pat on the back, *formal* laud. ② *I commend her to you without reservation.* RECOMMEND, suggest, propose, endorse, advocate, vouch for, speak for, support, back. ③ (*formal*) *I commend them to your care.* ENTRUST, trust, deliver, commit, hand over, give, turn over, consign, assign.
-OPPOSITES criticize.

commendable ► **adjective** ADMIRABLE, praiseworthy, creditable, laudable, estimable, meritorious, exemplary, noteworthy, honourable, respectable, fine, excellent
-OPPOSITES reprehensible.

commendation ► **noun** ① *letters of commendation.* PRAISE, congratulation, appreciation, acclaim, credit, recognition, respect, esteem, admiration, homage, tribute. ② *a commendation for bravery.* AWARD, accolade, prize, honour, (honourable) mention, citation.

commensurate ► **adjective** ① *they had privileges but commensurate duties* EQUIVALENT, equal, corresponding, correspondent, comparable, proportionate, proportional. ② *a salary commensurate with your qualifications* APPROPRIATE TO, in keeping with, in line with, consistent with, corresponding to, according to, relative to; dependent on, based on

comment ► **noun** ① *their comments on her appearance* REMARK, observation, statement, utterance; pronouncement, judgement, reflection, opinion, view, criticism. ② *a great deal of comment.* DISCUSSION, debate, interest. ③ *a comment in the margin.* NOTE, annotation, footnote, gloss, commentary, explanation

► **verb** ① *they commented on the food.* REMARK ON, speak about, talk about, discuss, mention. ② *'It will soon be night,' he commented.* REMARK, observe, reflect, say, state, declare, announce, interpose, interject.

commentary ► **noun** ① *the test match commentary.* NARRATION, description, account, report, review. ② *textual commentary.* EXPLANATION, elucidation, interpretation, exegesis, analysis; assessment, appraisal, criticism, notes, comments.

commentator ► **noun** ① *a television commentator.* NARRATOR, announcer, presenter, anchor, anchorman, anchorwoman, reporter, journalist, newscaster, sportscaster, *informal* talking head. ② *a political commentator.* ANALYST, pundit, monitor, observer; writer, speaker.

commerce ► **noun** ① *eastern commerce.* TRADE, trading, buying and selling, business, dealing, traffic; (financial) transactions, dealings. ② (*dated*) *human commerce.* RELATIONS, dealings, socializing, communication, association, contact, intercourse.

commercial ► **adjective** ① *a vessel built for commercial purposes.* TRADE, trading, business, private enterprise, mercantile, sales. ② *we turn good ideas into commercial products.* LUCRATIVE, moneymaking, money-spinning, profitable, remunerative, fruitful, gainful; viable, successful. ③ *public opinion was commercial.* PROFIT-

ORIENTATED, money-orientated, materialistic, mercenary.

► **noun** *a TV commercial.* ADVERTISEMENT, promotion, display, *informal* ad, plug; *Brit. informal* advert

commercialized ► **adjective** PROFIT-ORIENTATED, money-orientated, commercial, materialistic, mercenary

commiserate ► **verb** (*commiserate with*) OFFER SYMPATHY TO, be sympathetic to, offer condolences to, condole with, sympathize with, empathize with, feel pity for, feel sorry for, feel for; comfort, console.

commiseration ► **noun** CONDOLENCE(s), sympathy, pity, comfort, solace, consolation; compassion, understanding

commission ► **noun** ① *the dealer's commission.* PERCENTAGE, brokerage, share, portion, dividend, premium, fee, consideration, bonus; *informal* cut, take, rake-off, slice, *Brit informal* whack, divvy. ② *the commission of building a palace.* TASK, employment, job, project, mission, assignment, undertaking, duty, charge, responsibility. ③ *items made under royal commission.* WARRANT, licence, sanction, authority. ④ *an independent commission.* COMMITTEE, board, council, panel, directorate, delegation. ⑤ *the commission of an offence.* PERPETRATION, committing, committal, execution

► **verb** ① *he was commissioned to paint a portrait.* ENGAGE, contract, charge, employ, hire, recruit, retain, appoint, enlist, co-opt, book, sign up.

② *they commissioned a sculpture.* ORDER, authorize, *formal* bespeak

■ **in commission** IN SERVICE, in use; working, functional, operative, up and running, in operation, in working order

■ **out of commission** NOT IN SERVICE, not in use, unserviceable, not working, inoperative, out of order, down.

commit ► **verb** ① *he committed a murder.* CARRY OUT, do, perpetrate, engage in, enact, execute, effect, accomplish, be responsible for, *informal* pull off. ② *she was committed to their care.* ENTRUST, consign, assign, deliver, give, hand over, relinquish, *formal* commend. ③ *they committed themselves to the project.* PLEDGE, devote, apply, give, dedicate. ④ *the judge committed him to prison.* CONSIGN, send, deliver, confine. ⑤ *her husband had her committed.* HOSPITALIZE, confine, institutionalize, put away; certify

commitment ► **noun** ① *the pressure of his commitments.* RESPONSIBILITY, obligation, duty, tie, liability, task, engagement, arrangement. ② *her commitment to her students.* DEDICATION, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity. ③ *he made a commitment.* VOW, promise, pledge, oath, contract, pact, deal, decision, resolution

committed ► **adjective** DEVOUT, devoted, dedicated, loyal, faithful, staunch, firm, steadfast, unwavering, wholehearted, keen, passionate, ardent, fervent, sworn, pledged; dutiful, diligent; *informal* card-carrying, true blue, deep-dyed.

-OPPOSITES apathetic.

commodious ► **adjective** (*formal*) ROOMY, capacious, spacious, ample, generous, sizeable, large, big, extensive.
-OPPOSITES cramped.

commodity ► **noun** ITEM, material, product, article, object; import, export.

common ▶ **adjective** ① *the common folk* ORDINARY, normal, average, unexceptional, simple

② *a very common art form*: USUAL, ordinary, familiar, regular, frequent, recurrent, everyday; standard, typical, conventional, stock, commonplace, run-of-the-mill. ③ *a common belief* WIDESPREAD, general, universal, popular, mainstream, prevalent, prevailing, rife, established, conventional, traditional, orthodox, accepted. ④ *the common good* COLLECTIVE, communal, community, public, popular, general; shared, combined. ⑤ *they are far too common*: UNCOUTH, vulgar, coarse, rough, boorish, unladylike, ungentelemanly, ill-bred, uncivilized, unsophisticated, unrefined; lowly, low-born, low-class, inferior, proletarian, plebeian; *informal* plebby; *Brit informal* common as muck.

—OPPOSITES unusual, rare, individual, refined

▶ **noun** (*Brit informal*) *use your common!* See COMMON SENSE

commonly ▶ **adverb** OFTEN, frequently, regularly, repeatedly, time and (time) again, all the time, routinely, habitually, customarily, *N Amer* oftentimes, *informal* lots

commonplace ▶ **adjective** ① *a commonplace writing style* ORDINARY, run-of-the-mill, unremarkable, unexceptional, average, mediocre, pedestrian, prosaic, lacklustre, dull, bland, uninteresting, mundane, hackneyed, trite, banal, clichéd, predictable, stale, tired, unoriginal, *informal* (plain) vanilla, bog-standard, a dime a dozen, *Brit informal* common or garden, *N Amer informal* ornery, bush-league. ② *a commonplace occurrence* COMMON, normal, usual, ordinary, familiar, routine, standard, everyday, daily, regular, frequent, habitual, typical

—OPPOSITES original, unusual

▶ **noun** ① *early death was a commonplace* EVERYDAY EVENT, routine. ② *a great store of commonplaces* PLATITUDE, cliché, truism, hackneyed phrase, trite phrase, old chestnut, banality, *dated* bromide

common sense ▶ **noun** SENSIBLENESSE, (good) sense, (native) wit, judgement, level-headedness, prudence, discernment, caniness, astuteness, shrewdness, wisdom, insight, perception, perspicacity, practicality, capability, resourcefulness, enterprise, *informal* horse sense, gumption, nous, savvy, *Brit informal* common, *N Amer informal* smarts

—OPPOSITES folly

commotion ▶ **noun** DISTURBANCE, uproar, tumult, rumpus, ruckus, brouhaha, furor, hue and cry, fuss, stir, storm, turmoil, disorder, confusion, chaos, mayhem, havoc, pandemonium, unrest, fracas, riot, breach of the peace, *Irish, N Amer, & Austral* donnybrook; *informal* ruction(s), ballyhoo, kerfuffle, hoo-ha, to-do, hullabaloo; *Brit informal* carry-on, row, aggro, argy-bargy; *Law, dated* affray.

communal ▶ **adjective** ① *the kitchen was communal*: SHARED, joint, common. ② *they farm on a communal basis* COLLECTIVE, cooperative, community, communalist, combined.

—OPPOSITES private, individual.

commune ▶ **noun** *she lives in a commune*: COLLECTIVE, cooperative, communal settlement, kibbutz.

▶ **verb** ① *we pray to commune with God*: COMMUNICATE, speak, talk, converse, interface. ② *she likes to commune with nature*: EMPATHIZE, identify,

have a rapport, feel at one; relate to, feel close to

communicable ▶ **adjective** CONTAGIOUS, INFECTIOUS, transmittable, transmissible, transferable, spreadable; *informal* catching; *dated* infective.

communicate ▶ **verb** ① *he communicated the news to his boss*: CONVEY, tell, impart, relay, transmit, pass on, announce, report, recount, relate, present, divulge, disclose, mention, spread, disseminate, promulgate, broadcast. ② *they communicate daily*: LIAISE, be in touch, be in contact, have dealings, interface, commune, meet, talk, speak, converse; *informal* have a con-fab, powwow. ③ *learn how to communicate better*: GET ONE'S MESSAGE ACROSS, explain oneself, be understood, get through to someone. ④ *the disease is communicated easily*: TRANSMIT, transfer, spread, carry, pass on. ⑤ *each bedroom communicates with a bathroom*: CONNECT WITH, join up with, open on to, lead into

communication ▶ **noun** ① *the communication of news*: TRANSMISSION, conveyance, divulgence, divulgation, disclosure; dissemination, promulgation, broadcasting. ② *there was no communication between them*: CONTACT, dealings, relations, connection, association, socializing, intercourse, correspondence, dialogue, talk, conversation, discussion, *dated* commerce. ③ *an official communication*: MESSAGE, statement, announcement, report, dispatch, communiqué, letter, bulletin, correspondence. ④ *road and rail communications*: LINKS, connections, services, routes

communicative ▶ **adjective** FORTHCOMING, expansive, expressive, unreserved, uninhibited, vocal, outgoing, frank, open, candid, talkative, chatty, loquacious, *informal* gabby.

communion ▶ **noun** ① *a sense of communion with others*: AFFINITY, fellowship, kinship, friendship, fellow feeling, togetherness, closeness, harmony, understanding, rapport, connection, communication, empathy, accord, unity. ② *Christ's presence at Communion*: EUCHARIST, Holy Communion, Lord's Supper, Mass

communiqué ▶ **noun** OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION, press release, bulletin, message, missive, dispatch, statement, report, announcement, declaration, proclamation, *N Amer* advisory, *informal* memo

communism ▶ **noun** COLLECTIVISM, state ownership, (radical) socialism; Sovietism, Bolshevism, Marxism, Leninism, Trotskyism, Maoism.

communist ▶ **noun & adjective** COLLECTIVIST, leftist, (radical) socialist; Soviet, Bolshevik, Bolshevik, Marxist, Leninist, Trotskyist, Trotskyite, Maoist; *informal, derogatory* Commie, Bolshie, red, lefty

community ▶ **noun** ① *work done for the community*: POPULATION, populace, people, citizenry, (general) public, collective; residents, inhabitants, citizens. ② *a rural community*: DISTRICT, region, zone, area, locality, locale, neighbourhood; *informal* neck of the woods, turf; *Brit informal* manor; *N Amer informal* hood, nabe. ③ *gays are not one homogenous community*: GROUP, body, set, circle, clique, faction; *informal* gang, bunch. ④ *a monastic community*: BROTHERHOOD, sisterhood, fraternity, sorority, sodality, colony, order. ⑤ *community of interests*: SIMILARITY, likeness, comparability, correspondence, agree-

ment, closeness, affinity ① *the community of goods*. JOINT OWNERSHIP, common ownership, shared possession

commute ▶ **verb** ① *they commute on a train*. TRAVEL TO AND FROM WORK, travel to and fro, travel back and forth. ② *his sentence was commuted*: REDUCE, lessen, lighten, shorten, cut, attenuate, moderate. ③ *knight service was commuted for a payment*: EXCHANGE, change, substitute, swap, trade, switch
-OPPOSITES increase

commuter ▶ **noun** (DAILY) TRAVELLER, traveller, passenger, informal straphanger

compact¹ ▶ **adjective** ① *a compact rug* DENSE, close-packed, tightly packed, thick, tight, firm ② *a compact camera* SMALL, little, petite, miniature, mini, small-scale, Scottish wee, informal teeny, teeny-weeny, Brt informal dinky, N Amer little-bitty ③ *her tale is compact*: CONCISE, succinct, condensed, brief, pithy, short and sweet, informal snappy, formal compendious
-OPPOSITES loose, large, rambling

▶ **verb** *the snow has been compacted* COMPRESS, condense, pack down, press down, tamp (down), flatten

compact² ▶ **noun** *the warring states signed a compact* TREATY, pact, accord, agreement, contract, bargain, deal, settlement, covenant, concordat, pledge, promise, bond

companion ▶ **noun** ① *Harry and his companion* ASSOCIATE, partner, escort, compatriot, confederate, friend, intimate, confidant(e), comrade, informal pal, chum, crony, sidekick, Brt informal mate, oppo, china, mucker, N Amer informal buddy, amigo, compadre, Austral/NZ informal off-sider ② *a lady's companion* ATTENDANT, aide, helper, assistant, valet, equerry, lady in waiting, chaperone, carer, minder ③ *the tape is a companion to the book* COMPLEMENT, counterpart, twin, match, accompaniment, supplement, addition, adjunct, accessory ④ *The Gardener's Companion* HANDBOOK, manual, guide, reference book, ABC, primer, vade mecum, informal bible

companionable ▶ **adjective** FRIENDLY, affable, cordial, genial, congenial, amiable, easy-going, good-natured, comradely, sociable, convivial, outgoing, gregarious, informal chummy, pally, Brt informal matey; N Amer informal buddy-buddy, clubby.

companionship ▶ **noun** FRIENDSHIP, fellowship, closeness, togetherness, amity, intimacy, rapport, camaraderie, brotherhood, sisterhood, company, society, social contact

company ▶ **noun** ① *an oil company* FIRM, business, corporation, establishment, agency, office, bureau, institution, organization, concern, enterprise; conglomerate, consortium, syndicate, multinational, informal outfit ② *I enjoy his company* COMPANIONSHIP, friendship, fellowship, amity, camaraderie; society, association. ③ *I'm expecting company*: GUESTS, visitors, callers, people; someone. ④ *a company of poets*: GROUP, crowd, party, band, assembly, cluster, flock, herd, troupe, throng, congregation; informal bunch, gang. ⑤ *a company of infantry*: UNIT, section, detachment, troop, corps, squad, squadron, platoon, battalion, division.
-RELATED TERMS corporate.

comparable ▶ **adjective** ① *comparable incomes*: SIMILAR, close, near, approximate, akin, equiva-

lent, commensurate, proportional, proportionate; like, matching. ② *nobody is comparable with him*. EQUAL TO, as good as, in the same league as, able to hold a candle to, on a par with, on a level with; a match for

comparative ▶ **adjective** RELATIVE; in/by comparison.

compare ▶ **verb** ① *we compared the data sets*: CONTRAST, juxtapose, collate, differentiate, weigh up ② *he was compared to Wagner*: LIKEN, equate, analogize, class with, bracket with, set side by side with ③ *the porcelain compares with Dresden's fine china*. BE AS GOOD AS, be comparable to, bear comparison with, be the equal of, match up to, be on a par with, be in the same league as, come close to, hold a candle to, be not unlike, match, resemble, emulate, rival, approach

■ **beyond compare** WITHOUT EQUAL, second to none, in a class of one's own, peerless, matchless, unmatched, incomparable, inimitable, supreme, outstanding, consummate, unique, singular, perfect

comparison ▶ **noun** ① *a comparison of the results* JUXTAPOSITION, collation, differentiation ② *there's no comparison between them* RESEMBLANCE, likeness, similarity, correspondence, correlation, parallel, parity, comparability.

compartment ▶ **noun** ① *a secret compartment* SECTION, part, bay, recess, chamber, cavity, pocket ② *they put science and religion in separate compartments* DOMAIN, field, sphere, department, category, pigeonhole, bracket, group, set

compartmentalize ▶ **verb** CATEGORIZE, pigeonhole, bracket, group, classify, characterize, stereotype, label, brand, sort, rank, rate

compass ▶ **noun** SCOPE, range, extent, reach, span, breadth, ambit, limits, parameters, bounds.

compassion ▶ **noun** PITY, sympathy, empathy, fellow feeling, care, concern, solicitude, sensitivity, warmth, love, tenderness, mercy, leniency, tolerance, kindness, humanity, charity
-OPPOSITES indifference, cruelty.

compassionate ▶ **adjective** SYMPATHETIC, empathetic, understanding, caring, solicitous, sensitive, warm, loving; merciful, lenient, tolerant, considerate, kind, humane, charitable, big-hearted

compatibility ▶ **noun** LIKE-MINDEDNESS, similarity, affinity, closeness, fellow feeling, harmony, rapport, empathy, sympathy

compatible ▶ **adjective** ① *they were never compatible*. (WELL) SUITED, well matched, like-minded, in tune, in harmony; reconcilable. ② *her bruising is compatible with a fall* CONSISTENT, congruous, congruent, in keeping

compatriot ▶ **noun** FELLOW COUNTRYMAN/WOMAN, countryman, countrywoman, fellow citizen.

compel ▶ **verb** ① *he compelled them to leave their land* FORCE, pressurize, pressure, press, push, urge; dragoon, browbeat, bully, intimidate; oblige, require, make; informal lean on, put the screws on. ② *they can compel compliance*: EXACT, extort, demand, insist on, force, necessitate:



compelling ▶ **adjective** ① *a compelling performance*. ENTHRALLING, captivating, gripping, riveting, spellbinding, mesmerizing, absorbing, irresistible ② *a compelling argument*: CONVINCING, persuasive, cogent, irresistible, powerful, strong, weighty, plausible, credible, sound, valid, telling, conclusive, irrefutable, unanswerable

—OPPOSITES boring, weak

compendious ▶ **adjective** (formal) SUCCINCT, pithy, short and to the point, concise, compact, condensed, compressed, abridged, summarized, synoptic, informal snappy

—OPPOSITES expanded

compendium ▶ **noun** COLLECTION, compilation, anthology, treasury, digest, summary, synopsis, precis, outline

compensate ▶ **verb** ① *you must compensate for what you did* MAKE AMENDS, make up, make reparation, recompense, atone, requite, pay, expiate, make good, rectify ② *we agreed to compensate him for his loss* RECOMPENSE, repay, pay back, reimburse, remunerate, recoup, requite, indemnify ③ *his flair compensated for his faults*. BALANCE (OUT), counterbalance, counteract, offset, make up for, cancel out, neutralize, negative

compensation ▶ **noun** RECOMPENSE, repayment, reimbursement, remuneration, requital, indemnification, indemnity, redress, damages, *N Amer informal comp*

compère ▶ **noun** HOST, presenter, anchor, anchorman/woman, master of ceremonies, MC, announcer; *N Amer informal emcee*

compete ▶ **verb** ① *they competed in a tennis tournament*: TAKE PART, participate, play, be a competitor, be involved; enter, go in for ② *they had to compete with other firms* CONTEND, vie, battle, wrangle, jockey, go head to head, strive against, pit oneself against, challenge, take on ③ *no one can compete with him* RIVAL, challenge, keep up with, keep pace with, compare with, match, be in the same league as, come near to, come close to, touch; *informal* hold a candle to.

competence ▶ **noun** ① *my technical competence* CAPABILITY, ability, competency, proficiency, accomplishment, expertise, adeptness, skill, prowess, mastery, talent, *informal* savvy, know-how. ② *the competence of the system* ADEQUACY, appropriateness, suitability, fitness; effectiveness, formal efficacy ③ *matters within the competence of the courts*. AUTHORITY, power, control, jurisdiction, ambit, scope, remit.

competent ▶ **adjective** ① *a competent carpenter* CAPABLE, able, proficient, adept, adroit, accomplished, complete, skilful, skilled, gifted, talented, expert; good, excellent; *informal* great, mean, wicked, nifty, ace ② *she spoke competent French*: ADEQUATE, acceptable, satisfactory, reasonable, fair, decent, not bad, all right, average, tolerable, passable, moderate, middling; *informal* OK, okay, so-so. ③ *the court was not competent to hear the case*: FIT, suitable, suited, appropriate, qualified, empowered, authorized. —OPPOSITES inadequate, unfit.

competition ▶ **noun** ① *Stephanie won the competition*. CONTEST, tournament, match, game, heat, fixture, event; trials, stakes. ② *I'm not interested in competition*: RIVALRY, competitive-

ness, vying; conflict, feuding, fighting, *informal* keeping up with the Joneses. ③ *we must stay ahead of the competition* OPPOSITION, other side, field, enemy, challengers, opponents, rivals, adversaries, *poetic/literary* foe.

competitive ▶ **adjective** ① *a competitive player* AMBITIOUS, zealous, keen, pushy, combative, aggressive; *informal* go-ahead. ② *a highly competitive industry*: RUTHLESS, aggressive, fierce, *informal* dog-eat-dog, cut-throat. ③ *competitive prices* REASONABLE, moderate, keen, low, inexpensive, cheap, budget, bargain, reduced, discount; rock-bottom bargain-basement.

—OPPOSITES apathetic, exorbitant

competitor ▶ **noun** ① *the competitors in the race*: CONTESTANT, contender, challenger, participant, entrant, runner, player ② *our European competitors*. RIVAL, challenger, opponent, adversary, competition, opposition.

—OPPOSITES ally.

compilation ▶ **noun** COLLECTION, selection, anthology, treasury, compendium, album, corpus, collectanea, pot-pourri.

compile ▶ **verb** ASSEMBLE, put together, make up, collate, compose, organize, arrange; gather, collect

complacency ▶ **noun** SMUGNESS, self-satisfaction, self-congratulation, self-regard, gloating, triumph, pride, satisfaction, contentment.

complacent ▶ **adjective** SMUG, self-satisfied, self-congratulatory, self-regarding; gloating, triumphant, proud, pleased, satisfied, content, contented; *informal* like the cat that got the cream, I'm-all-right-jack; *N Amer informal* wisenheimer.

complain ▶ **verb** PROTEST, grumble, whine, bleat, carp, cavil, grouse, make a fuss, object to, speak out against, oppose, criticize, find fault with; *informal* whinge, kick up a fuss, bellyache, moan, gripe, beef, bitch, sound off; *Brit informal* chunter, create, *N Amer informal* kvetch

complaint ▶ **noun** ① *they lodged a complaint*: PROTEST, objection, grievance, grouse, cavil, quibble, grumble; charge, accusation, criticism, *informal* beef, gripe, whinge; *Law, Brit* plaint ② *little cause for complaint*. PROTESTATION, objection, exception, grievance, grumbling, criticism, fault-finding, condemnation, disapproval, dissatisfaction; *informal* whingeing, grouching, bellyaching, nit-picking. ③ *a kidney complaint*: DISORDER, disease, infection, affliction, illness, ailment, sickness; condition, problem, upset, trouble; *informal* bug, virus.

complaisant ▶ **adjective** WILLING, acquiescent, agreeable, amenable, cooperative, accommodating, obliging, biddable, compliant, docile, obedient.

complement ▶ **noun** ① *the perfect complement to the food*: ACCOMPANIMENT, companion, addition, supplement, accessory, trimming. ② *a full complement of lifeboats*: AMOUNT, total, contingent, capacity, allowance, quota.

▶ **verb** *this sauce complements the dessert*: ACCOMPANY, go with, round off, set off, suit, harmonize with; enhance, complete.

complementary ▶ **adjective** HARMONIOUS, compatible, corresponding, matching, twin, complementary; supportive, reciprocal, interdependent.

—OPPOSITES incompatible.

complete ▶ **adjective** ① the complete interview ENTIRE, whole, full, total, uncut, unabridged.

② their research was complete: FINISHED, ended, concluded, completed, finalized, accomplished, achieved, discharged, settled, done; *informal* wrapped up, sewn up, polished off ③ a complete fool: ABSOLUTE, out-and-out, utter, total, real, downright, thoroughgoing, veritable, prize, perfect, unqualified, unmitigated, sheer, arrant, *N Amer* full-bore; *Brit informal* tight

—OPPOSITES partial, unfinished

▶ **verb** ① he had to complete his training: FINISH, end, conclude, finalize, wind up; *informal* wrap up, sew up, polish off ② the outfit was completed with a veil: FINISH OFF, round off, top off, crown, cap, complement ③ complete the application form FILL IN/OUT, answer.

completely ▶ **adverb** TOTALLY, entirely, wholly, thoroughly, fully, utterly, absolutely, perfectly, unreservedly, unconditionally, quite, altogether, downright, in every way, in every respect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt, *informal* dead, deadly

completion ▶ **noun** REALIZATION, accomplishment, achievement, fulfilment, consummation, finalization, resolution, finish, end, conclusion, close, cessation

complex ▶ **adjective** ① a complex situation COMPLICATED, involved, intricate, convoluted, elaborate, impenetrable, Gordian, difficult, knotty, tricky, thorny, *Brit informal* fiddly ② a complex structure COMPOUND, composite, multiplex

—OPPOSITES simple

▶ **noun** ① a complex of roads. NETWORK, system, nexus, web, tissue, combination, aggregation. ② (informal) he had a complex about losing his hair OBSESSION, fixation, preoccupation, neurosis, *informal* hang-up, thing, bee in one's bonnet

complexion ▶ **noun** ① a pale complexion SKIN, skin colour, skin tone, pigmentation ② this puts an entirely new complexion on things PERSPECTIVE, angle, slant, interpretation, appearance, light, look ③ governments of all complexions: TYPE, kind, sort; nature, character, stamp, ilk, kidney.

complexity ▶ **noun** COMPLICATION, problem, difficulty, twist, turn, intricacy

compliance ▶ **noun** ① compliance with international law OBEDIENCE TO, observance of, adherence to, conformity to, respect for ② he mistook her silence for compliance ACQUIESCENCE, agreement, assent, consent, acceptance; complaisance, pliability, docility, meekness, submission

—OPPOSITES violation, defiance

compliant ▶ **adjective** ACQUIESCENT, amenable, biddable, tractable, complaisant, accommodating, cooperative; obedient, docile, malleable, pliable, submissive, tame, yielding, controllable, unresisting, persuadable, persuasible.

—OPPOSITES recalcitrant.

complicate ▶ **verb** MAKE (MORE) DIFFICULT, make complicated, mix up, confuse, muddle; *informal* mess up, screw up, snarl up.

—OPPOSITES simplify.

complicated ▶ **adjective** COMPLEX, intricate, involved, convoluted, tangled, impenetrable, knotty, tricky, thorny, labyrinthine, tortuous,

Gordian; confusing, bewildering, perplexing; *Brit informal* fiddly

—OPPOSITES straightforward.

complication ▶ **noun** ① a complication concerning ownership: DIFFICULTY, problem, obstacle, hurdle, stumbling block; drawback, snag, catch, hitch, fly in the ointment, *Brit* spanner in the works; *informal* hiccup, prob, headache, facer ② the complication of life in our society: COMPLEXITY, complicatedness, intricacy, convolutedness

—OPPOSITES straightforwardness

complicity ▶ **noun** COLLUSION, involvement, collaboration, connivance; conspiracy, *informal* being in cahoots

compliment ▶ **noun** ① an unexpected compliment FLATTERING REMARK, tribute, accolade, commendation, bouquet, pat on the back, (compliments) praise, acclaim, admiration, flattery, blandishments, honeyed words. ② my compliments on your cooking CONGRATULATIONS, commendations, praise. ③ Margaret sends her compliments GREETINGS, regards, respects, good wishes, best wishes, salutations, felicitations.

—OPPOSITES insult

▶ **verb** they complimented his performance PRAISE, pay tribute to, speak highly/well of, flatter, wax lyrical about, make much of, commend, acclaim, applaud, salute, honour, congratulate, pat on the back

—OPPOSITES criticize

complimentary ▶ **adjective** ① complimentary remarks FLATTERING, appreciative, congratulatory, admiring, approving, commendatory, favourable, glowing, adulatory, *informal* rave ② complimentary tickets. FREE (OF CHARGE), gratis, for nothing; courtesy; *informal* on the house

—OPPOSITES derogatory

comply ▶ **verb** Myra complied with his wishes. ABIDE BY, observe, obey, adhere to, conform to, follow, respect, agree to, assent to, go along with, yield to, submit to, defer to; satisfy, fulfil.

—OPPOSITES ignore, disobey

component ▶ **noun** the components of electronic devices PART, piece, bit, element, constituent, ingredient; unit, module, section.

▶ **adjective** the molecule's component elements. CONSTITUENT, integral, basic, essential

comport

■ **comport oneself** (formal) BEHAVE, conduct oneself, act, acquit oneself; *archaic* deport oneself.

compose ▶ **verb** ① a poem composed by Shelley. WRITE, formulate, devise, make up, think up, produce, invent, concoct, pen, author, draft, poetic/literary rhyme ② compose a still life: ORGANIZE, arrange, set out. ③ the congress is composed of ten senators. MAKE UP, constitute, form, comprise.

■ **compose oneself** CALM DOWN, control oneself, regain one's composure, pull oneself together, collect oneself, steady oneself, keep one's head; *informal* get a grip, keep one's cool; *N Amer informal* decompress.

composed ▶ **adjective** CALM, collected, cool (as a cucumber), self-controlled, self-possessed; serene, tranquil, relaxed, at ease, unruffled, unperturbed, untroubled; equable, even-



Composers

- Albinoni, Tomaso (Italian)
 Alkan, Charles-Valentin (French)
 Allegri, Gregorio (Italian)
 Arne, Thomas (English)
 Arnold, Malcolm (English)
 Auric, Georges (French)
 Babbitt, Milton (American)
 Bach, Carl Philipp Emanuel (German)
 Bach, Johann Sebastian (German)
 Barber, Samuel (American)
 Bartók, Béla (Hungarian)
 Bax, Arnold (English)
 Beethoven, Ludwig van (German)
 Bellini, Vincenzo (Italian)
 Bennett, Richard Rodney (English)
 Berg, Alban (Austrian)
 Berio, Luciano (Italian)
 Berkeley, Lennox (English)
 Berlioz, Hector (French)
 Bernstein, Leonard (American)
 Birtwistle, Harrison (English)
 Bizet, Georges (French)
 Bliss, Arthur (English)
 Bloch, Ernest (Swiss)
 Blow, John (English)
 Boccherini, Luigi (Italian)
 Borodin, Aleksandr (Russian)
 Boulanger, Nadia (French)
 Boulez, Pierre (French)
 Boyce, William (English)
 Brahms, Johannes (German)
 Bridge, Frank (English)
 Britten, Benjamin (English)
 Bruch, Max (German)
 Bruckner, Anton (Austrian)
 Busoni, Ferruccio (Italian)
 Buxtehude, Dietrich (Danish)
 Byrd, William (English)
 Cage, John (American)
 Campion, Thomas (English)
 Carrillo, Julián (Mexican)
 Carter, Elliott (American)
 Cherubini, Luigi (Italian)
 Chopin, Frédéric (Polish)
 Copland, Aaron (American)
 Corelli, Arcangelo (Italian)
 Couperin, François (French)
 Czerny, Karl (Austrian)
 Dallapiccola, Luigi (Italian)
 Davies, Peter Maxwell (English)
 Debussy, Claude (French)
 Delibes, Léo (French)
 Delli, Frederick (English)
 Donizetti, Gaetano (Italian)
 Dufay, Guillaume (French)
 Dukas, Paul (French)
 Dunstable, John (English)
 Durey, Louis (French)
 Durufle, Maurice (French)
 Dvořák, Antonín (Czech)
 Elgar, Edward (English)
 Falla, Manuel de (Spanish)
 Fauré, Gabriel (French)
 Field, John (Irish)
 Fichte, Friedrich (German)
 Fichte, César (French, b. in Belgium)
 Gabrieli, Giovanni (Italian)
 Gershwin, George (American)
 Gibbons, Orlando (English)
 Glass, Philip (American)
 Glazunov, Aleksandr (Russian)
 Glinka, Mikhail (Russian)
 Gluck, Christoph Willibald von (German)
 Goehr, Alexander (German)
 Górecki, Henryk (Polish)
 Gounod, Charles (French)
 Grainger, Percy (American, b. in Australia)
 Grieg, Edvard (Norwegian)
 Handel, George Frederick (German)
 Haydn, Franz Joseph (Austrian)
 Henze, Hans Werner (German)
 Hindemith, Paul (German)
 Holst, Gustav (English)
 Honegger, Arthur (French)
 Humperdinck, Engelbert (German)
 Ives, Charles (American)
 Janáček, Leoš (Czech)
 Kern, Jerome (American)
 Khachaturian, Aram (Soviet)
 Kodály, Zoltán (Hungarian)
 Knussen, Oliver (Scottish)
 Lambert, Constant (English)
 Lassus, Orlande de (Flemish)
 Léhár, Franz (Hungarian)
 Leoncavallo, Ruggiero (Italian)
 Ligeti, György (Hungarian)
 Liszt, Franz (Hungarian)
 Lloyd-Webber, Andrew (English)
 Lully, Jean-Baptiste (French, b. in Italy)
 Lutosławski, Witold (Polish)
 Lutyens, Elisabeth (English)
 Mahler, Gustav (Austrian)
 Mascagni, Pietro (Italian)
 Massenet, Jules (French)
 Mendelssohn, Felix (German)
 Messiaen, Olivier (French)
 Meyerbeer, Giacomo (German)
 Milhaud, Darius (French)
 Monteverdi, Claudio (Italian)
 Mozart, Wolfgang Amadeus (Austrian)
 Mussorgsky, Modest (Russian)
 Nielsen, Carl (Danish)
 Nyman, Michael (English)
 Offenbach, Jacques (German)
 Orff, Carl (German)
 Pachelbel, Johann (German)
 Paganini, Niccolò (Italian)
 Pärt, Arvo (Estonian)
 Palestrina, Giovanni Pierluigi de (Italian)
 Parry, Hubert (English)
 Penderecki, Krzysztof (Polish)
 Ponchielli, Amilcare (Italian)
 Poulenc, Francis (French)
 Prokofiev, Sergei (Russian)
 Puccini, Giacomo (Italian)
 Purcell, Henry (English)
 Rachmaninov, Sergei (Russian)
 Rameau, Jean-Philippe (French)
 Ravel, Maurice (French)
 Reich, Steve (American)
 Respighi, Ottorino (Italian)
 Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai (Russian)
 Rodgers, Richard (American)
 Rodrigo, Joaquín (Spanish)
 Róhmberg, Sigmund (Hungarian)
 Rossini, Gioacchino (Italian)
 Rubbra, Edmund (English)
 Rubinstein, Anton (Russian)
 Saint-Saëns, Camille (French)
 Sallert, Antonio (Italian)
 Satie, Erik (French)
 Scarlatti, Alessandro (Italian)
 Scarlatti, Domenico (Italian)
 Schnittke, Alfred (Russian, of German descent)
 Schoenberg, Arnold (American, b. in Austria)
 Schubert, Franz (Austrian)
 Schumann, Robert (German)
 Schütz, Heinrich (German)
 Scriabin, Aleksandr (Russian)
 Shostakovich, Dmitri (Russian)
 Sibelius, Jean (Finnish)
 Smetana, Bedřich (Czech)
 Sondheim, Stephen (American)
 Sousa, John (American)
 Stainer, John (English)
 Stanford, Charles (British, b. in Ireland)
 Stockhausen, Karlheinz (German)
 Strauss, Richard (German)
 Strauss the Elder, Johann (Austrian)
 Strauss the Younger, Johann (Austrian)
 Stravinsky, Igor (Russian)
 Sullivan, Arthur (English)
 Szymanowski, Karol (Polish)
 Tailleferre, Germaine (French)
 Tallis, Thomas (English)
 Taverner, John (English)
 Taverner, John (English)
 Tchaikovsky, Pyotr (Russian)
 Telemann, Georg Philipp (German)
 Tippett, Michael (English)
 Varèse, Edgar (American, b. in France)
 Vaughan Williams, Ralph (English)
 Verdi, Giuseppe (Italian)
 Villa-Lobos, Heitor (Brazilian)
 Visconti, Antonio (Italian)
 Wagner, Richard (German)
 Walton, William (English)
 Weber, Carl Maria von (German)
 Webern, Anton von (Austrian)
 Weiss, Kurt (German)
 Wolf, Hugo (Austrian)
 Xenakis, Iannis (French, b. in Romania of Greek parentage)

tempered, imperturbable, *informal* unflappable, together, laid-back.

—OPPOSITES excited

composer ► *noun* melodist, symphonist, songwriter, songster, writer, *informal* tunesmith, songsmith See list

composite ► *adjective* a composite structure COMPOUND, complex, combined, blended, mixed

► *noun* a composite of plastic and metal AMALGAMATION, amalgam, combination, compound, fusion, synthesis, mixture, blend, alloy

composition ► *noun* ① the composition of the council MAKE-UP, constitution, configuration, structure, formation, form, framework, fabric, anatomy, organization, *informal* set-up ② a literary composition WORK (OF ART), creation, opus, oeuvre, piece, arrangement ③ the composition of a poem WRITING, creation, formulation, invention, concoction, compilation ④ a school composition ESSAY, paper, study, piece of writing, *N Amer* theme ⑤ the composition of the painting ARRANGEMENT, disposition, layout, proportions, balance, symmetry ⑥ an adhesive composition MIXTURE, compound, amalgam, blend, mix

compost ► *noun* FERTILIZER, mulch, manure, bonemeal, fishmeal, guano, humus, peat, plant food, top-dressing

composure ► *noun* SELF-CONTROL, self-possession calm, equanimity, equilibrium, serenity, tranquillity, aplomb, poise, presence of mind, sangfroid, imperturbability, placidness, impassivity, *informal* cool

compound ► *noun* a compound of two elements AMALGAM, amalgamation, combination, composite, blend, mixture, mix, fusion, synthesis, alloy See list

► *adjective* a compound substance COMPOSITE, complex, blended, fused, combined

—OPPOSITES simple

► *verb* ① a smell compounded of dust and mould BE COMPOSED OF, be made up of, be formed from ② soap compounded with disinfectant MIX, combine, blend, amalgamate, fuse, synthesize ③ his illness compounds their problems AGGRAVATE, exacerbate, worsen, add to, augment, intensify, heighten, increase, magnify, complicate

—OPPOSITES alleviate

Types of Chemical Compound

See also ACID, CHEMICAL

acetate	carbonate	nitrate
acid	chloride	nitride
alcohol	chlorofluoro-	nitro
aldehyde	carbon	compound
alkaloid	(CFC)	oxide
alkane	cyanide	paraffin
alkene	epoxide	phosphate
alkyne	ester	salt
amine	fluoride	silicate
base	hydrocarbon	silicone
bromide	hydroxide	sulphate
carbide	iodide	sulphide
carbohydrate	ketone	

comprehend ► *verb* ① Katie couldn't comprehend his message UNDERSTAND, grasp, take in, see, apprehend, follow, make sense of, fathom, get to the bottom of, unravel, decipher, inter-

pret, *informal* work out, figure out, make head or tail of, get one's head around, take on board, get the drift of, catch on to, get, *Brit informal* twig, suss (out) ② (formal) a divine order comprehending all men COMPRISE, include, encompass, embrace, involve, contain

—OPPOSITES exclude

comprehensible ► *adjective* INTELLIGIBLE, understandable, accessible, lucid, coherent, clear, plain, explicit, unambiguous, straightforward, fathomable

—OPPOSITES opaque

comprehension ► *noun* UNDERSTANDING, grasp, conception, apprehension, cognition, ken, knowledge, awareness, perception, interpretation

—OPPOSITES ignorance

comprehensive ► *adjective* INCLUSIVE, all inclusive, complete, thorough, full, extensive, all-embracing, exhaustive, detailed, in-depth, encyclopedic, universal, catholic, far-reaching, radical, sweeping, across the board, wholesale, broad, wide-ranging, *informal* wall-to-wall

—OPPOSITES limited

compress ► *verb* ① the skirt can be compressed into a bag SQUEEZE, press, squash, crush, cram jam, stuff, tamp, pack compact, constrict, *informal* scrunch ② Polly compressed her lips PURSE press together, pucker ③ the text was compressed ABRIDGE, condense shorten, cut, abbreviate, truncate, summarize, precis

—OPPOSITES expand

comprise ► *verb* ① the country comprises twenty states CONSIST OF, be made up of, be composed of, contain, encompass, incorporate, include, formal comprehend ② this breed comprises half the herd MAKE UP, constitute, form, compose, account for

compromise ► *noun* ① they reached a compromise AGREEMENT, understanding, settlement, terms, deal, trade-off, bargain, middle ground, happy medium, balance ② a happy marriage needs compromise GIVE AND TAKE, concession, co-operation

—OPPOSITES intransigence

► *verb* ① we compromised MEET EACH OTHER HALF WAY, come to an understanding, make a deal, make concessions, find a happy medium, strike a balance, give and take ② his actions could compromise his reputation UNDERMINE, weaken, damage, harm, jeopardize, prejudice, discredit, dishonour, shame, embarrass

compulsion ► *noun* ① he is under no compulsion to go OBLIGATION, constraint, coercion, duress, pressure, intimidation ② a compulsion to tell the truth URGE, impulse, need, desire, drive, obsession, fixation, addiction, temptation

compulsive ► *adjective* ① a compulsive desire. IRRESISTIBLE, uncontrollable, compelling, overwhelming, urgent, obsessive ② compulsive eating: OBSESSIVE, obsessional, addictive, uncontrollable. ③ a compulsive liar INVETERATE, chronic, incorrigible, incurable, hardened, hopeless, persistent, obsessive, addicted, habitual, *informal* pathological, hooked ④ it's compulsive viewing FASCINATING, compelling, gripping, riveting, engrossing, enthralling, captivating.

compulsory ► *adjective* OBLIGATORY, mandatory, required, requisite, necessary, essential,



imperative, unavoidable, enforced, demanded, prescribed

—OPPOSITES optional

compunction ► **noun** SCRUPLES, misgivings, qualms, worries, unease, uneasiness, doubts, reluctance, reservations, guilt, regret, contrition, self-reproach

compute ► **verb** CALCULATE, work out, reckon, determine, evaluate, quantify, add up, count up, tally, total, totalize, *Brit* tot up

computer ► **noun** See list

comrade ► **noun** COMPANION, friend, colleague, associate, partner, co-worker, workmate, *informal* pal, chum, crony, *Brit informal* mate, oppo, *N Amer informal* buddy

con (*informal*) ► **verb** & **noun** See SWINDLE

concatenation ► **noun** SERIES, sequence, succession, chain

concave ► **adjective** INCURVED, curved inwards, hollow, depressed, sunken, indented, recessed
—OPPOSITES convex

conceal ► **verb** ① *clouds concealed the sun* HIDE, screen, cover, obscure, block out, blot out, mask, shroud, secrete ② *he concealed his true feelings* HIDE, cover up, disguise, mask, veil, keep secret, keep dark, draw a veil over, suppress, repress, bottle up, *informal* keep a/the lid on, keep under one's hat
—OPPOSITES reveal, confess

concealed ► **adjective** HIDDEN, not visible, out of sight, invisible, covered, disguised, camouflaged, obscured, private, secret

concealment ► **noun** ① *the concealment of his weapon* HIDING, seclusion ② *the concealment of the bushes* COVER, shelter, protection, screen, privacy, seclusion, secrecy ③ *the deliberate concealment of facts* SUPPRESSION, hiding, cover-up, hushing up, whitewash

concede ► **verb** ① *I had to concede that I'd overreacted* ADMIT, acknowledge, accept, allow, grant, recognize, own, confess, agree ② *he conceded the Auvergne to the king* SURRENDER, yield, give up, relinquish, cede, hand over
—OPPOSITES deny, retain

■ **concede defeat** CAPITULATE, give in, surrender, yield, give up, submit, raise the white flag, back down, climb down, throw in the towel

conceit ► **noun** ① *his extraordinary conceit* VANITY, narcissism, conceitedness, swollen-headedness, egotism, self-admiration, self-regard, pride, arrogance, hubris, self-importance, self-satisfaction, smugness, *informal* big-headedness, poetic/literary vainglory ② *the conceits of Shakespeare's verse* IMAGE, imagery, metaphor, simile, trope ③ *the conceit of time travel* IDEA, notion, fancy
—OPPOSITES humility

conceited ► **adjective** VAIN, narcissistic, self-centred, egotistic, egotistical, egocentric, proud, arrogant, boastful, full of oneself, self-important, immodest, swaggering, self-satisfied, smug; supercilious, haughty, snobbish, *informal* big-headed, too big for one's boots, stuck-up, high and mighty, uppity, snotty; *Brit informal* toffee-nosed; *N Amer informal* chesty; poetic/literary vainglorious.

conceivable ► **adjective** IMAGINABLE, possible, plausible, tenable, credible, believable, thinkable, feasible, understandable, comprehensible

Computer Parts and Peripherals

accelerator board/card
acoustic coupler
analogue to digital converter
arithmetic and logic unit (ALU)
bar-code reader
bubblejet printer
bubble memory
buffer
bus
cache memory
card
CD-ROM
CD-RW (read-write) disk/drive
central processing unit (CPU)
chip
console
control unit
coprocessor
digital to analogue converter
digitizer
DIMM (dual in-line memory module)
disk
disk drive
diskette
dot-matrix printer
drum scanner
DVD (digital videodisc)
dynamic memory
dynamic RAM (DRAM)
erasable programmable ROM (EPROM)
expansion card/board
fax modem
firmware
fixed disk
flash memory
floating-point unit (FPU)
floppy disk
graphics card
graphics pad
hard disk
hard drive
imagesetter
ink-jet printer
input-output device
input-output port
joystick
keyboard
laser printer
light pen
line printer

maths coprocessor
memory
microprocessor
minidisc
minitower
modem
monitor
motherboard
mouse
mouse mat
non-volatile memory
optical disk
option card
plotter
port
printed circuit
printed circuit board (PCB)
printer
processor
random-access memory (RAM)
raster image processor (RIP)
read-only memory (ROM)
register
removable disk
scanner
sequencer
serial port
silicon chip
SIMM (single in-line memory module)
software
solid-state memory
sound card
static RAM (SRAM)
synchronous dynamic RAM (SDRAM)
tape streamer
terminal
TFT (thin film transistor) screen
touch pad
touch screen
trackball
transistor
video card
visual display unit (VDU)
voice synthesizer
wand
Winchester disk
Winchester disk drive
Zip disk (trademark)
Zip drive (trademark)

conceive ► **verb** ① *she was unable to conceive* BECOME PREGNANT, become impregnated. ② *the project was conceived in 1977*: THINK UP, think of, dream up, devise, formulate, design, originate, create, develop, hatch, *informal* cook up ③ *I could hardly conceive what it must be like*. IMAGINE, envisage, visualize, picture, think, envision, grasp, appreciate, apprehend

concentrate ► **verb** ① *the government concentrated its efforts*. FOCUS, direct, centre, centralize



② she concentrated on the film FOCUS ON, pay attention to, keep one's mind on, devote oneself to; be absorbed in, be engrossed in, be immersed in, *informal* get stuck into ③ troops concentrated on the horizon COLLECT, gather, congregate, converge, mass, cluster, rally ④ the liquid is filtered and concentrated CONDENSE, boil down, reduce, thicken

—OPPOSITES disperse, dilute

► **noun** a fruit concentrate EXTRACT, decoction, distillation

concentrated ► **adjective** ① a concentrated effort STRENUOUS, concerted, intensive, intense, all-out ② a concentrated solution CONDENSED, reduced, evaporated, thickened, undiluted, strong

—OPPOSITES half-hearted, diluted

concentration ► **noun** ① a task requiring concentration CLOSE ATTENTION, attentiveness, application, single-mindedness, absorption ② the concentration of effort FOCUSING, centralization ③ concentrations of barnacle geese GATHERING, cluster, mass, flock, congregation, assemblage

—OPPOSITES inattention

concept ► **noun** IDEA, notion, conception, abstraction, theory, hypothesis, belief, conviction, opinion, image, impression, picture

conception ► **noun** ① the fertility treatment resulted in conception INCEPTION OF PREGNANCY, conceiving, fertilization, impregnation, insemination ② the product's conception INCEPTION, genesis, origination, creation, invention, beginning, origin ③ his original conception PLAN, scheme, project, proposal, intention, aim, idea ④ my conception of democracy IDEA, concept, notion, understanding, abstraction, theory, hypothesis, perception, image, impression ⑤ they had no conception of our problems UNDERSTANDING, comprehension, appreciation, grasp, knowledge, idea, inkling, *informal* clue

concern ► **verb** ① the report concerns the war BE ABOUT, deal with, cover, discuss, go into, examine, study, review, analyse, relate to, pertain to ② that doesn't concern you AFFECT, involve, be relevant to, apply to, have a bearing on, impact on, be important to, interest ③ I won't concern myself with your affairs. INVOLVE ONESELF IN, take an interest in, busy oneself with, devote one's time to, bother oneself with ④ one thing still concerns me WORRY, disturb, trouble, bother, perturb, unsettle, make anxious

► **noun** ① a voice full of concern ANXIETY, worry, disquiet, apprehensiveness, unease, consternation ② his concern for others SOLICITUDE, solicitousness, consideration, care, sympathy, regard ③ housing is the concern of the council RESPONSIBILITY, business, affair, charge, duty, job, province, preserve, problem, worry, *informal* pigeon, bag, balliwick, *Brit informal* lookout ④ issues that are of concern to women. INTEREST, importance, relevance, significance. ⑤ Aboriginal concerns AF FAIR, issue, matter, question, consideration ⑥ a publishing concern. COMPANY, business, firm, organization, operation, corporation, establishment, house, office, agency, *informal* outfit, set-up

—OPPOSITES indifference.

concerned ► **adjective** ① her mother looked concerned. WORRIED, anxious, upset, perturbed, troubled, distressed, uneasy, apprehensive, agitated. ② he is concerned about your welfare SOLICI-

TOUS, caring, attentive to, considerate of ③ all concerned parties INTERESTED, involved, affected, connected, related, implicated

concerning ► **preposition** ABOUT, regarding, relating to, with reference to, referring to, with regard to, as regards, with respect to, respecting, dealing with, on the subject of, in connection with, re, apropos of

concert ► **noun** MUSICAL PERFORMANCE, show, production, presentation, recital, *informal* gig

■ **In concert** TOGETHER, jointly, in combination, in collaboration, in cooperation, in league, side by side, in unison

concerted ► **adjective** ① make a concerted effort STRENUOUS, vigorous, intensive, intense, concentrated, all-out ② concerted action JOINT, united, collaborative, collective, combined, cooperative

—OPPOSITES half-hearted, individual

concession ► **noun** ① the government made several concessions COMPROMISE, allowance, exception, sop ② a concession of failure ADMISSION, acknowledgement, acceptance, recognition, confession ③ the concession of territory SURRENDER, relinquishment, sacrifice, handover ④ tax concessions REDUCTION, cut, discount, deduction, decrease, rebate, *informal* break ⑤ a logging concession RIGHT, privilege, licence, permit, franchise, warrant, authorization

—OPPOSITES denial, acquisition

conciliate ► **verb** ① he tried to conciliate the peasantry APPEASE, placate, pacify, mollify, assuage, soothe, humour, reconcile, win over, make peace with ② he conciliated in the dispute MEDIATE, act as peacemaker, arbitrate, pour oil on troubled waters

—OPPOSITES provoke

conciliator ► **noun** PEACEMAKER, mediator, go-between, middleman, intermediary, intercessor, dove

—OPPOSITES troublemaker

conciliatory ► **adjective** PROPITIATORY, placatory, appeasing, pacifying, pacific, mollifying, peacemaking

concise ► **adjective** SUCCINCT, pithy, incisive, brief, short and to the point, short and sweet, abridged, condensed, compressed, abbreviated, compact, potted, *informal* snappy

—OPPOSITES lengthy, wordy

conclave ► **noun** (PRIVATE) MEETING, gathering, assembly, conference, council, summit, *informal* parley, powwow, get-together

conclude ► **verb** ① the meeting concluded at ten FINISH, end, draw to a close, be over, stop, cease ② he concluded the press conference. BRING TO AN END, close, wind up, terminate, dissolve, round off, *informal* wrap up ③ an attempt to conclude a ceasefire NEGOTIATE, broker, agree, come to terms on, settle, clinch, finalize, tie up, bring about, arrange, effect, engineer; *informal* sew up ④ I concluded that he was rather unpleasant DEDUCE, infer, gather, judge, decide, conjecture, surmise; *N Amer* figure; *informal* reckon

—OPPOSITES commence

conclusion ► **noun** ① the conclusion of his speech END, ending, finish, close, termination, wind-up, cessation; culmination, denouement, coda. ② the conclusion of a trade agreement: NEGOTIATION, brokering, settlement, completion, arrangement, resolution ③ his conclusions have

been verified DEDUCTION, inference, interpretation, reasoning, opinion, judgement, verdict, assumption, presumption, supposition

—OPPOSITES beginning

■ **In conclusion** FINALLY, in closing, to conclude, last but not least, to sum up, in short

conclusive ► **adjective** ① *conclusive proof* IN CONTROVERTIBLE, undeniable, indisputable, irrefutable, unquestionable, unassailable, convincing, certain, decisive, definitive, definite, positive, categorical, unequivocal, airtight, watertight ② *a conclusive win* EMPHATIC, resounding, convincing

—OPPOSITES unconvincing

concoct ► **verb** ① *she began to concoct her dinner* PREPARE, make, assemble, informal fix, rustle up, Bnt informal knock up ② *this story she has concocted* MAKE UP, dream up, fabricate, invent, trump up, formulate, hatch, brew, informal cook up

concoction ► **noun** ① *a concoction containing gin and vodka* MIXTURE, brew, preparation, potion ② *a strange concoction of styles* BLEND, mixture, mix, combination, hybrid ③ *her story is an improbable concoction* FABRICATION, invention, falsification, informal fairy story, fairy tale

concomitant ► **adjective** (formal) ATTENDANT, accompanying, associated, related, connected, resultant, consequent

—OPPOSITES unrelated

concord ► **noun** (formal) ① *council meetings rarely ended in concord* AGREEMENT, harmony, accord, consensus, concurrence, unity ② *a concord was to be drawn up* TREATY, agreement, accord, pact, compact, settlement

—OPPOSITES discord

concourse ► **noun** ① *the station concourse* ENTRANCE, foyer, lobby, hall ② (formal) *a vast concourse of onlookers* CROWD, group, gathering, assembly, body, company, throng, flock, mass

concrete ► **adjective** ① *concrete objects* SOLID, material, real, physical, tangible, palpable, substantial, visible, existing ② *concrete proof* DEFINITE, firm, positive, conclusive, definitive, real, genuine, bona fide

—OPPOSITES abstract, imaginary

concubine ► **noun** (archaic) MISTRESS, kept woman, lover, informal fancy woman, bit on the side, archaic paramour

concupiscence ► **noun** (formal) See LUST noun sense 1

concur ► **verb** ① *we concur with this view* AGREE, be in agreement, go along, fall in, be in sympathy, see eye to eye, be of the same mind, be of the same opinion ② *the two events concurred* COINCIDE, be simultaneous, be concurrent, coexist

—OPPOSITES disagree

concurrent ► **adjective** ① *nine concurrent life sentences* SIMULTANEOUS, coincident, contemporaneous, parallel ② *concurrent lines* CONVERGENT, converging, meeting, intersecting

concussion ► **noun** ① *he suffered concussion* temporary unconsciousness; brain injury ② *the concussion of the blast* FORCE, impact, shock, jolt

condemn ► **verb** ① *he condemned the suspended players* CENSURE, criticize, denounce, revile, blame, chastise, berate, reprimand, rebuke, improve, take to task, find fault with, informal

slam, blast, lay into, Bnt informal slate, slag off, have a go at, formal castigate ② *he was condemned to death* SENTENCE, convict, find guilty ③ *the house has been condemned* DECLARE UNFIT, declare unsafe ④ *her mistake had condemned her* INCRIMINATE, implicate, archaic inculpate ⑤ *his illness condemned him to a lonely life* DOOM, destine, damn, consign, assign

—OPPOSITES praise

condemnation ► **noun** CENSURE, criticism, strictures, denunciation, vilification, reproof, disapproval, informal flak, a bad press, formal castigation

condemnatory ► **adjective** CENSORIOUS, critical, damning, repiving, reproachful, deprecatory, disapproving, unfavourable, formal castigatory

condensation ► **noun** ① *windows misty with condensation* MOISTURE, water droplets, steam ② *the condensation of the vapour* PRECIPITATION, liquefaction, deliquescence ③ *a condensation of recent literature* ABRIDGEMENT, summary, synopsis, précis, digest ④ *the condensation of the report* SHORTENING, abridgement, abbreviation, summarization

condense ► **verb** ① *the water vapour condenses* PRECIPITATE, liquefy, become liquid, deliquesce ② *he condensed the play* ABRIDGE, shorten, cut, abbreviate, compact, summarize, synopsise, précis, truncate, curtail

—OPPOSITES vaporize, expand

condensed ► **adjective** ① *a condensed text* ABRIDGED, shortened, cut, compressed, abbreviated, reduced, truncated, concise, outline, thumbnail, informal potted ② *condensed soup* CONCENTRATED, evaporated, reduced, strong, undiluted

—OPPOSITES diluted

condescend ► **verb** ① *don't condescend to your reader* PATRONIZE, talk down to, look down one's nose at, look down on, put down ② *he condescended to see us* DEIGN, stoop, descend, lower oneself, demean oneself; vouchsafe, see fit, consent

condescending ► **adjective** PATRONIZING, supercilious, superior, snobbish, snobby, disdainful, lofty, haughty, informal snooty, stuck-up, Bnt informal toffee-nosed

condition ► **noun** ① *check the condition of your wiring* STATE, shape, order, Bnt informal nick ② *they lived in appalling conditions* CIRCUMSTANCES, surroundings, environment, situation, setting, habitat, informal circs, set-up ③ *she was in tip-top condition* FITNESS, health, form, shape, trim, fettle ④ *a liver condition* DISORDER, problem, complaint, illness, disease, ailment, sickness, affliction, infection, upset, informal bug, virus, Bnt informal lurgy ⑤ *a condition of employment* STIPULATION, constraint, prerequisite, precondition, requirement, rule, term, specification, provision, proviso

► **verb** ① *their choices are conditioned by the economy* CONSTRAIN, control, govern, determine, decide, affect, touch, impact on; form, shape, guide, sway, bias ② *our minds are conditioned by habit* TRAIN, teach, educate, guide; accustom, adapt, habituate, mould, inure ③ *condition the boards with water* TREAT, prepare, prime, temper, process, acclimatize, acclimate, season ④ *a product*

Conductors

Abbado, Claudio (Italian)
 Ansermet, Ernest (Swiss)
 Ashkenazy, Vladimir (Icelandic, b. in Russia)
 Barbirolli, John (English)
 Barenboim, Daniel (Israeli)
 Beecham, Thomas (English)
 Bernstein, Leonard (American)
 Böhm, Karl (Austrian)
 Bonyng, Richard (Australian)
 Boulez, Pierre (French)
 Boult, Adrian (English)
 Bülow, Hans von (German)
 Celibidache, Sergiu (German, b. in Romania)
 Davis, Andrew (English)
 Davis, Colin (English)
 Dorati, Antal (American, b. in Hungary)
 Downes, Edward (English)
 Elder, Mark (English)
 Furtwängler, Wilhelm (German)
 Gardiner, John Eliot (English)
 Gergiev, Valery (Russian)
 Guillini, Carlo Maria (Italian)
 Haitink, Bernard (Dutch)
 Hallé, Charles (British, b. in Germany)
 Harnoncourt, Nikolaus (Austrian)
 Hogwood, Christopher (English)
 Jarvi, Neeme (Estonian)
 Karajan, Herbert von (Austrian)
 Kertész, István (German, b. in Hungary)
 Kleiber, Erich (Argentinian, b. in Austria)
 Kleiber, Carlos (Austrian, b. in Germany)

Klemperer, Otto (American, b. in Germany)
 Koopman, Ton (Dutch)
 Kubelik, Rafael (Swiss, b. in Czechoslovakia)
 Leppard, Raymond (American, b. in Britain)
 Levine, James (American)
 Maazel, Lorin (American)
 Mackerras, Charles (Australian)
 Mahler, Gustav (Austrian)
 Marriner, Neville (English)
 Masur, Kurt (German)
 Mehta, Zubin (Indian)
 Monteux, Pierre (French)
 Muti, Riccardo (Italian)
 Nikisch, Arthur (Hungarian)
 Ormandy, Eugene (American, b. in Hungary)
 Ozawa, Seiji (American, b. in Japan)
 Prêtre, Georges (French)
 Previn, André (American, b. in Germany)
 Rattle, Simon (English)
 Rozhdestvensky, Gennady (Russian)
 Salonen, Esa-Pekka (Finnish)
 Sargent, Malcolm (English)
 Sinopoli, Giuseppe (Italian)
 Slatkin, Leonard (American)
 Solti, Georg (British, b. in Hungary)
 Stokowski, Leopold (American, b. in Britain)
 Strauss, Richard (German)
 Szell, George (American, b. in Hungary)
 Thomas, Michael Tilson (American)
 Toscanini, Arturo (Italian)
 Wood, Henry (English)

to condition your skin IMPROVE, nourish, tone (up), moisturize

conditional ► adjective ① *their approval is conditional on success* SUBJECT TO, dependent on, contingent on, based on, determined by, controlled by, tied to ② *a conditional offer* CONTINGENT, dependent, qualified, with reservations, limited, provisional, provisory

condolences ► plural noun SYMPATHY, commiseration(s), compassion, pity, support, comfort, consolation, understanding

condom ► noun CONTRACEPTIVE, sheath, *N* Amer prophylactic, *Bnt* trademark Durex, Femidom, *Bnt* informal johnny, *N* Amer informal rubber, safe, *Bnt* informal, dated French letter, dated protective

condone ► verb DISREGARD, accept, allow, let pass, turn a blind eye to, overlook, forget, forgive, pardon, excuse, let go
 —OPPOSITES condemn

conductive ► adjective FAVOURABLE, beneficial, advantageous, opportune, propitious, encouraging, promising, convenient, good, helpful, instrumental, productive, useful
 —OPPOSITES unfavourable

conduct ► noun ① *they complained about her conduct* BEHAVIOUR, performance, demeanour, actions, activities, deeds, doings, exploits, habits, manners, formal comportment ② *the conduct of the elections* MANAGEMENT, running, direction, control, supervision, regulation, administration, organization, coordination, orchestration, handling.

► verb ① *the election was conducted lawfully* MANAGE, direct, run, administer, organize, coordinate, orchestrate, handle, control, oversee, supervise,

regulate, carry out/on ② *he was conducted through the corridors* ESCORT, guide, lead, usher, show, shepherd, see, bring, take, help ③ *aluminium conducts heat* TRANSMIT, convey, carry, transfer, impart, channel, relay, disseminate, diffuse, radiate

■ **conduct oneself** BEHAVE, act, acquit oneself, bear oneself, formal comport oneself, archaic deport oneself

conductor ► noun See list

conduit ► noun CHANNEL, duct, pipe, tube, gutter, trench, culvert, cut, sluice, spillway, flume, chute

confectionery ► noun SWEETS, bonbons, *N* Amer candy, informal sweeties, archaic sweetmeats
 See list at SWEET

confederacy ► noun FEDERATION, confederation, alliance, league, association, coalition, consortium, syndicate, group, circle, bloc, axis

confederate ► adjective confederate councils
 FEDERAL, confederated, federated, allied, associated, united
 —OPPOSITES split

► noun *he met his confederate in the street* ASSOCIATE, partner, accomplice, helper, assistant, ally, collaborator, colleague, *Bnt* informal oppo, Austral/NZ informal offside

confederation ► noun ALLIANCE, league, confederacy, federation, association, coalition, consortium, conglomerate, cooperative, syndicate, group, circle, society, union

confer ► verb ① *she conferred a knighthood on him* BESTOW ON, present to, grant to, award to, decorate with, honour with, give to, endow with, extend to, vouchsafe to. ② *she went to con-*



fer with her colleagues **CONSULT**, talk, speak, converse, have a chat, have a tête-à-tête, parley, *informal* have a confab, powwow

conference ► **noun** ① an international conference **CONGRESS**, meeting, convention, seminar, colloquium, symposium, forum, summit ② he gathered them for a conference **DISCUSSION**, consultation, debate, talk, conversation, dialogue, chat, tête-à-tête, parley, *informal* confab, *formal* confabulation

confess ► **verb** ① he confessed that he had done it **ADMIT**, acknowledge, reveal, disclose, divulge, avow, declare, profess, own up, tell all ② they could not make him confess **OWN UP**, plead guilty, accept the blame, tell the truth, tell all, make a clean breast of it, *informal* come clean, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, get something off one's chest, let on, *Brit informal* cough ③ I confess I don't know **ACKNOWLEDGE**, admit, concede, grant, allow, own, declare, affirm
-**OPPOSITES** deny

confession ► **noun** **ADMISSION**, acknowledgement, profession, revelation, disclosure, divulgence, avowal, guilty plea

confidant, confidante ► **noun** **CLOSE FRIEND**, bosom friend, best friend, intimate, familiar, *informal* chum, pal, crony, *Brit informal* mate, oppo, mucker, *N Amer informal* buddy

confide ► **verb** ① he confided his fears to his mother **REVEAL**, disclose, divulge, lay bare, betray, impart, declare, intimate, uncover, expose, vouchsafe, tell, confess, admit, give away, *informal* blab, spill ② I need him to confide in **OPEN ONE'S HEART TO**, unburden oneself to, confess to, tell all to

confidence ► **noun** ① I have little confidence in these figures **TRUST**, belief, faith, credence, conviction ② she's brimming with confidence **SELF-ASSURANCE**, self-confidence, self-possession, assertiveness, poise, aplomb, phlegm, courage, boldness, mettle, nerve ③ the girls exchanged confidences **SECRET**, confidentiality, intimacy
-**OPPOSITES** scepticism, doubt

confident ► **adjective** ① we are confident that business will improve **OPTIMISTIC**, hopeful, sanguine, sure, certain, positive, convinced, in no doubt, satisfied, assured, persuaded ② a confident girl **SELF-ASSURED**, assured, self-confident, positive, assertive, self-possessed, self-reliant, poised, cool-headed, phlegmatic, level-headed, unperturbed, imperturbable, unruffled, at ease, *informal* together

confidential ► **adjective** ① a confidential chat **PRIVATE**, personal, intimate, quiet; secret, sensitive, classified, restricted, unofficial, unrevealed, undisclosed, unpublished, *informal* hush-hush, mum, *formal* sub rosa, *archaic* privy ② a confidential friend **TRUSTED**, trustworthy, trusty, faithful, reliable, dependable, close, bosom, intimate

confidentially ► **adverb** **PRIVATELY**, in private, in confidence, between ourselves/themselves, off the record, quietly, secretly, in secret, behind closed doors, *formal* sub rosa

configuration ► **noun** **ARRANGEMENT**, layout, geography, design, organization, order, grouping, positioning, disposition, alignment, shape, form, appearance, formation, structure, format

confine ► **verb** ① they were confined in the house. **ENCLOSE**, incarcerate, imprison, intern, im-

pound, hold captive, trap, shut in/up, keep, lock in/up, coop (up), fence in, hedge in, wall in/up ② he confined his remarks to the weather **RESTRICT**, limit

confined ► **adjective** **CRAMPED**, constricted, restricted, limited, small, narrow, compact, tight, poky, uncomfortable, inadequate
-**OPPOSITES** roomy

confinement ► **noun** ① solitary confinement **IMPRISONMENT**, internment, incarceration, custody, captivity, detention, restraint, house arrest ② the confinement of an animal **CAGING**, enclosure, quarantine ③ (dated) she went to hospital for her confinement **LABOUR**, delivery, birthing, birth, childbirth, *formal* parturition, *archaic* lying-in, childbed

confines ► **plural noun** **LIMITS**, margins, extremities, edges, borders, boundaries, fringes, marches, periphery, perimeter

confirm ► **verb** ① records confirm the latest evidence **CORROBORATE**, verify, prove, validate, authenticate, substantiate, justify, vindicate, support, uphold, back up ② he confirmed that help was on the way **AFFIRM**, reaffirm, assert, assure someone, repeat, promise, guarantee ③ his appointment was confirmed by the President **RATIFY**, validate, sanction, endorse, formalize, authorize, warrant, accredit, approve, accept
-**OPPOSITES** contradict, deny

confirmation ► **noun** ① independent confirmation of the deaths **CORROBORATION**, verification, proof, testimony, endorsement, authentication, substantiation, evidence ② confirmation of your appointment **RATIFICATION**, approval, authorization, validation, sanction, endorsement, formalization, accreditation, acceptance

confirmed ► **adjective** **ESTABLISHED**, longstanding, committed, dyed-in-the-wool, through and through, staunch, loyal, faithful, devoted, dedicated, steadfast, habitual, compulsive, persistent, unapologetic, unashamed, inveterate, chronic, incurable, *informal* deep-dyed, card-carrying

confiscate ► **verb** **IMPOUND**, seize, commandeer, requisition, appropriate, expropriate, sequester, sequestrate, take (away), *Law* distrain, *Scottish Law* pound
-**OPPOSITES** return

confiscation ► **noun** **SEIZURE**, requisition, appropriation, expropriation, sequestration, *Law* distraint, distraintment, *Scottish Law* pound

conflagration ► **noun** **FIRE**, blaze, flames, inferno, firestorm

conflict ► **noun** ① industrial conflicts. **DISPUTE**, quarrel, squabble, disagreement, dissension, clash, discord, friction, strife, antagonism, hostility, disputation, contention, feud, schism ② the Vietnam conflict **WAR**, campaign, battle, fighting, (armed) confrontation, engagement, encounter, struggle, hostilities, warfare, combat ③ a conflict between his business and domestic life **CLASH**, incompatibility, incongruity, friction; mismatch, variance, difference, divergence, contradiction, inconsistency.
-**OPPOSITES** agreement, peace, harmony

► **verb** their interests sometimes conflict: **CLASH**, be incompatible, vary, be at odds, be in conflict, differ, diverge, disagree, contrast, collide.

conflicting ► **adjective** **CONTRADICTORY**, incompatible, inconsistent, irreconcilable, incongru-

ous, contrary, opposite, opposing, antithetical, clashing, discordant, divergent, at odds

confluence ► **noun** CONVERGENCE, meeting, junction, conflux, watersmeet

conform ► **verb** ① *visitors have to conform to our rules* COMPLY WITH, abide by, obey, observe, follow, keep to, stick to, adhere to, uphold, heed, accept, go along with, fall in with, respect, defer to, satisfy, meet, fulfil ② *they refuse to conform* FOLLOW CONVENTION, be conventional, fit in, adapt, adjust, follow the crowd, comply, acquiesce, toe the line, follow the rules, submit, yield, *informal* play it by the book, play by the rules ③ *goods must conform to their description* MATCH, fit, suit, answer, agree with, be like, correspond to, be consistent with, measure up to, tally with, square with
-OPPOSITES flout, rebel

conformist ► **noun** CONVENTIONALIST, traditionalist, conservative, stickler, formalist, die hard, reactionary, *informal* stick-in-the-mud, stuffed shirt
-OPPOSITES eccentric, rebel

confound ► **verb** ① *the figures confounded analysts* AMAZE, astonish, dumbfound, stagger, surprise, startle, stun, nonplus, throw, shake, discompose, bewilder, baffle, mystify, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, confuse, take aback, shake up, catch off balance, *informal* flabbergast, blow someone's mind, blow away, flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox, *N Amer informal* discombobulate ② *he has always confounded expectations* CONTRADICT, counter, invalidate, negate, go against, drive a coach and horses through, quash, explode, demolish, shoot down, destroy, disprove, *informal* shoot full of holes

confront ► **verb** ① *Jones confronted the burglar* CHALLENGE, square up to, face (up to), come face to face with, meet, accost, waylay, stand up to, brave, beard, tackle, *informal* collar, *Brit informal* nobble ② *the problems that confront us* TROUBLE, bother, burden, distress, worry, oppress, annoy, strain, stress, tax, torment, plague, blight, curse, face, beset ③ *they must confront their problems* TACKLE, address, face, get to grips with, grapple with, take on, attend to, see to, deal with, take care of, handle, manage, *informal* get stuck into ④ *she confronted him with the evidence* PRESENT, face
-OPPOSITES avoid

confrontation ► **noun** CONFLICT, clash, fight, battle, encounter, head-to-head, face-off, engagement, skirmish, hostilities, fighting, *informal* set-to, run-in, dust-up, showdown

confuse ► **verb** ① *don't confuse students with too much detail* BEWILDER, baffle, mystify, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, confound, nonplus, *informal* flummox, faze, stump, fox, *N Amer informal* discombobulate ② *the authors have confused the issue* COMPLICATE, muddle, jumble, garble, blur, obscure, cloud ③ *some confuse strokes with heart attacks* MIX UP, muddle up, confound, mistake for

-OPPOSITES enlighten, simplify

confused ► **adjective** ① *they are confused about what is going on* BEWILDERED, bemused, puzzled, perplexed, baffled, mystified, nonplussed, muddled, dumbfounded, at sea, at a loss, taken aback, disoriented, disconcerted, *informal* flummoxed, bamboozled, clueless, fazed, *N Amer in-*

formal discombobulated ② *her confused elderly mother* DEMENTED, bewildered, muddled, addled, befuddled, disoriented, disorientated, unbalanced, unhinged, senile ③ *a confused recollection* VAGUE, unclear, indistinct, imprecise, blurred, hazy, woolly, shadowy, dim, imperfect, sketchy ④ *a confused mass of bones* DISORDERLY, disordered, disorganized, disarranged, out of order, untidy, muddled, jumbled, mixed up, chaotic, topsy-turvy, *informal* higgledy-piggledy, *Brit informal* shambolic

-OPPOSITES lucid, clear, precise, neat

confusing ► **adjective** BEWILDERING, baffling, unclear, perplexing, puzzling, mystifying, disconcerting, ambiguous, misleading, inconsistent, contradictory, unaccountable, inexplicable, impenetrable, unfathomable, complex, complicated

confusion ► **noun** ① *there is confusion about the new system* UNCERTAINTY, incertitude, unsureness, doubt, ignorance, *formal* dubiety ② *she stared in confusion* BEWILDERMENT, bafflement, perplexity, puzzlement, mystification, befuddlement, shock, daze, wonder, wonderment, astonishment, *informal* bamboozlement, *N Amer informal* discombobulation ③ *her life was in utter confusion* DISORDER, disarray, disorganization, untidiness, chaos, mayhem, turmoil, tumult, disruption, upheaval, uproar, hurly-burly, muddle, mess, *informal* shambles ④ *a confusion of boxes* JUMBLE, muddle, mess, heap, tangle, *informal* shambles

-OPPOSITES certainty, order

confute ► **verb** (*formal*) DISPROVE, contradict, controvert, refute, deny, rebut, belie, negate, invalidate, explode, discredit, debunk, quash, drive a coach and horses through, *informal* shoot full of holes, *formal* gainsay
-OPPOSITES prove

congeal ► **verb** COAGULATE, clot, thicken, gel, inspissate, cake, set, curdle

congenial ► **adjective** ① *very congenial people* LIKE-MINDED, compatible, kindred, well suited, companionable, sociable, sympathetic, comradely, convivial, hospitable, genial, personable, agreeable, friendly, pleasant, likeable, amiable, nice ② *a congenial environment* PLEASANT, pleasing, agreeable, enjoyable, pleasurable, nice, appealing, satisfying, gratifying, delightful, relaxing, welcoming, hospitable, suitable, well suited, favourable

-OPPOSITES unpleasant

congenital ► **adjective** ① *congenital defects* IN BORN, inherited, hereditary, innate, inbred, constitutional, inbuilt, natural, inherent ② *a congenital liar* INVETERATE, compulsive, persistent, chronic, regular, habitual, obsessive, confirmed, incurable, incorrigible, irredeemable, hopeless, unashamed, shameless, *informal* pathological

-OPPOSITES acquired

congested ► **adjective** CROWDED, overcrowded, full, overflowing, packed, jammed, thronged, teeming, swarming, obstructed, blocked, clogged, choked, *informal* snarled up, gridlocked, jam-packed, *Brit informal* like Piccadilly Circus

-OPPOSITES clear

congestion ► **noun** CROWDING, overcrowding, obstruction, blockage, traffic jam, bottleneck, *informal* snarl-up, gridlock



conglomerate ► **noun** ① *the conglomerate was broken up* CORPORATION, combine, group, consortium, partnership, firm, company, business, multinational ② *a conglomerate of disparate peoples* MIXTURE, mix, combination, amalgamation, union, marriage, fusion, composite, synthesis, miscellany, hotchpotch

► **adjective** *a conglomerate mass* AGGREGATE, agglomerate, amassed, combined

► **verb** *the debris conglomerated into planets* COALESCE, unite, join, combine, merge, fuse, consolidate, amalgamate, integrate, mingle, intermingle

congratulate ► **verb** ① *she congratulated him on his marriage* SEND ONE'S BEST WISHES, wish someone good luck, wish someone joy, drink someone's health, toast ② *they are to be congratulated* PRAISE, commend, applaud, salute, honour, pay tribute to, regard highly, pat on the back, take one's hat off to

—OPPOSITES criticize

■ **congratulate oneself** TAKE PRIDE, feel proud, flatter oneself, preen oneself, pat oneself on the back, feel satisfaction, take pleasure, glory, bask, delight

congratulations ► **plural noun** ① *her congratulations on their wedding* GOOD WISHES, best wishes, compliments, felicitations ② *you all deserve congratulations* PRAISE, commendation, applause, salutes, honour, acclaim, cheers, bouquets, approval, admiration, compliments, kudos, adulation, a pat on the back

congregate ► **verb** ASSEMBLE, gather, collect, come together, convene, rally, rendezvous, muster, meet, cluster, group

—OPPOSITES disperse

congregation ► **noun** ① *the chapel congregation* PARISHIONERS, parish, churchgoers, flock, faithful, followers, believers, fellowship, communicants, laity, brethren, throng, company, assemblage, audience ② *congregations of birds* GATHERING, assembly, flock, swarm, bevy, pack, group, body, crowd, mass, multitude, horde, host, mob, throng

congress ► **noun** ① *a congress of mathematicians* CONFERENCE, convention, seminar, colloquium, symposium, forum, meeting, assembly, gathering, rally, summit ② *elections for the new Congress* LEGISLATURE, legislative assembly, parliament, convocation, diet, council, senate, chamber, house

congruence ► **noun** COMPATIBILITY, consistency, conformity, match, balance, consonance, congruity, agreement, accord, consensus, harmony, unity, formal concord

—OPPOSITES conflict

conical ► **adjective** CONE-SHAPED, tapered, tapering, pointed, funnel-shaped, informal pointy, Zoology conoid

conjectural ► **adjective** SPECULATIVE, suppositional, suppositious, theoretical, hypothetical, putative, notional, postulated, inferred, presumed, assumed, presupposed, tentative

conjecture ► **noun** *the information is merely conjecture* SPECULATION, guesswork, surmise, fancy, presumption, assumption, theory, postulation, supposition, inference, extrapolation; estimate, informal guesstimate, a shot in the dark

—OPPOSITES fact

► **verb** *I conjectured that the game was over*: GUESS,

speculate, surmise, infer, fancy, imagine, believe, think, suspect, presume, assume, hypothesize, suppose

—OPPOSITES know

conjugal ► **adjective** MARITAL, matrimonial, nuptial, marriage, bridal, Law spousal, poetic/literary connubial

conjunction ► **noun** CO-OCCURRENCE, concurrence, coincidence, coexistence, simultaneity, contemporaneity, concomitance, synchronicity, synchrony

conjure ► **verb** ① *he conjured a cigarette out of the air* PRODUCE, make something appear, materialize, magic, summon ② *the picture that his words conjured up* BRING TO MIND, call to mind, evoke, summon up, recall, recreate, echo, allude to, suggest, awaken

conjuring ► **noun** MAGIC, illusion, sleight of hand, legerdemain, formal prestidigitation

conjuror ► **noun** MAGICIAN, illusionist, formal prestidigitator

connect ► **verb** ① *electrodes were connected to the device* ATTACH, join, fasten, fix, affix, couple, link, secure, hitch, stick, adhere, fuse, pin, screw, bolt, clamp, clip, hook (up), add, append ② *customs connected with Easter* ASSOCIATE, link, couple, identify, equate, bracket, relate to

connection ► **noun** ① *the connection between commerce and art* LINK, relationship, relation, interconnection, interdependence, association, bond, tie, tie-in, correspondence, parallel, analogy ② *a poor connection in the plug* ATTACHMENT, joint, fastening, coupling ③ *he has the right connections* CONTACT, friend, acquaintance, ally, colleague, associate, relation, relative, kin

■ **in connection with** REGARDING, concerning, with reference to, with regard to, with respect to, respecting, relating to, in relation to, on, connected with, on the subject of, in the matter of, apropos, re, in re

connivance ► **noun** COLLUSION, complicity, collaboration, involvement, assistance, tacit consent, conspiracy, intrigue

connive ► **verb** ① *wardens connived at offences* DELIBERATELY IGNORE, overlook, disregard, pass over, take no notice of, make allowances for, turn a blind eye to, wink at, excuse, condone, let go, look the other way, let something ride ② *the government connived with security forces* CONSPIRE, collude, collaborate, intrigue, be hand in glove, plot, scheme, informal be in cahoots

conniving ► **adjective** SCHEMING, cunning, crafty, calculating, devious, wily, sly, tricky, artful, guileful, manipulative, Machiavellian, disingenuous, deceitful, underhand, treacherous; informal foxy

connoisseur ► **noun** EXPERT, authority, specialist, pundit, savant; arbiter of taste, aesthete, gourmet, epicure, gastronome, informal buff; N Amer informal maven

connotation ► **noun** OVERTONE, undertone, undercurrent, implication, hidden meaning, nuance, hint, echo, vibrations, association, intimation, suggestion, suspicion, insinuation.

connote ► **verb** IMPLY, suggest, indicate, signify, hint at, give the impression of, smack of, be associated with, allude to.

conquer ▶ **verb** ① *the Franks conquered the Visigoths* DEFEAT, beat, vanquish, trounce, triumph over, be victorious over, get the better of, worst, overcome, overwhelm, overpower, overthrow, subdue, subjugate, quell, quash, crush, rout, *informal* lick, best, hammer, clobber, thrash, paste, demolish, annihilate, wipe the floor with, walk all over, make mincemeat of, massacre, slaughter; *Brit informal* stuff, *N Amer informal* cream, shellac, skunk ② *Peru was conquered by Spain* SEIZE, take (over), appropriate, subjugate, capture, occupy, invade, annex, overrun ③ *the first men to conquer Mount Everest* CLIMB, ascend, mount, scale, top, crest ④ *the way to conquer fear* OVERCOME, get the better of, control, master, get a grip on, deal with, cope with, surmount, rise above, get over, quell, quash, beat, triumph over, *informal* lick
-OPPOSITES lose

conqueror ▶ **noun** VANQUISHER, conquistador, victor, winner, champion, conquering hero

conquest ▶ **noun** ① *the conquest of the Aztecs* DEFEAT, vanquishment, annihilation, overthrow, subjugation, rout, mastery, crushing, victory over, triumph over ② *their conquest of the valley* SEIZURE, takeover, capture, occupation, invasion, acquisition, appropriation, subjugation, subjection ③ *the conquest of Everest* ASCENT ④ *she's his latest conquest* CATCH, acquisition, prize, slave, admirer, fan, worshipper, lover, boyfriend, girlfriend, *informal* fancy man, fancy woman
-OPPOSITES victory, surrender

conscience ▶ **noun** SENSE OF RIGHT AND WRONG, moral sense, inner voice, morals, standards, values, principles, ethics, beliefs, compunction, scruples, qualms

conscience-stricken ▶ **adjective** GUILT-RIDDEN, remorseful, ashamed, shamefaced, apologetic, sorry, chastened, contrite, guilty, regretful, rueful, repentant, penitent, self-reproachful, abashed, sheepish, compunctious
-OPPOSITES unrepentant

conscientious ▶ **adjective** DILIGENT, industrious, punctilious, painstaking, sedulous, assiduous, dedicated, careful, meticulous, thorough, attentive, hard-working, studious, rigorous, particular, religious, strict
-OPPOSITES casual

conscious ▶ **adjective** ① *the patient was conscious* AWARE, awake, alert, responsive, sentient, compos mentis ② *he became conscious of people talking* AWARE OF, alert to, mindful of, sensible of; *formal* cognizant of, *archaic* ware of ③ *a conscious effort* DELIBERATE, intentional, intended, purposeful, purposive, knowing, considered, calculated, wilful, premeditated, planned, volitional, *Law, dated* prepenze
-OPPOSITES unaware

conscript ▶ **verb** *they were conscripted into the army*. CALL UP, enlist, recruit, *US* draft; *historical* press, impress

▶ **noun** an army conscript; compulsorily enlisted soldier, recruit, *US* draftee.
-OPPOSITES volunteer

consecrate ▶ **verb** SANCTIFY, bless, make holy, make sacred, dedicate to God, devote, reserve, set apart; anoint, ordain, *formal* hallow.

consecutive ▶ **adjective** SUCCESSIVE, succeeding, following, in succession, running, in a

row, one after the other, back-to-back, continuous, straight, uninterrupted, *informal* on the trot

consensus ▶ **noun** ① *there was consensus among delegates* AGREEMENT, harmony, concurrence, accord, unity, unanimity, solidarity, *formal* concord ② *the consensus was that they should act* GENERAL OPINION, majority opinion, common view

-OPPOSITES disagreement

consent ▶ **noun** the consent of all members AGREEMENT, assent, acceptance, approval, approbation, permission, authorization, sanction, leave, backing, endorsement, support, *informal* go-ahead, thumbs up, green light, OK
-OPPOSITES dissent

▶ **verb** *she consented to surgery* AGREE, assent, yield, give in, submit, allow, give permission for, sanction, accept, approve, go along with
-OPPOSITES forbid

consequence ▶ **noun** ① *a consequence of inflation* RESULT, upshot, outcome, out-turn, effect, repercussion, ramification, corollary, concomitant, aftermath, fruit(s), product, by-product, end result, *informal* pay-off, *Medicine* sequela ② *the past is of no consequence* IMPORTANCE, import, significance, account, substance, note, mark, prominence, value, concern, interest, *formal* moment
-OPPOSITES cause

consequent ▶ **adjective** RESULTING, resultant, ensuing, consequential, following, subsequent, successive, attendant, accompanying, concomitant, collateral, associated, related

consequential ▶ **adjective** ① *a fire and the consequential smoke damage* RESULTING, resultant, ensuing, consequent, following, subsequent, attendant, accompanying, concomitant, collateral, associated, related ② *one of his more consequential initiatives* IMPORTANT, significant, major, momentous, weighty, material, appreciable, memorable, far-reaching, serious
-OPPOSITES insignificant

consequently ▶ **adverb** AS A RESULT, as a consequence, so, thus, therefore, ergo, accordingly, hence, for this/that reason, because of this/that, on this/that account, inevitably, necessarily

conservation ▶ **noun** PRESERVATION, protection, safeguarding, safe keeping, care, guardianship, husbandry, supervision, upkeep, maintenance, repair, restoration, ecology, environmentalism

conservative ▶ **adjective** ① *the conservative wing of the party* RIGHT-WING, reactionary, traditionalist, *Brit* Tory, blimpish, *US* Republican, *informal* true blue ② *the conservative trade-union movement* TRADITIONALIST, traditional, conventional, orthodox, old-fashioned, dyed-in-the-wool, hidebound, unadventurous, set in one's ways, moderate, middle-of-the-road, *informal* stick in the mud ③ *a conservative suit* CONVENTIONAL, sober, modest, plain, unobtrusive, restrained, subtle, low-key, demure, *informal* square, straight. ④ *a conservative estimate* LOW, cautious, understated, moderate, reasonable
-OPPOSITES socialist, radical, ostentatious

▶ **noun** liberals and conservatives have found common ground. RIGHT-WINGER, reactionary, rightist, die-hard, *Brit* Tory, blimp, *US* Republican



conservatory ▶ **noun** ① *a frost-free conservatory* SUMMER HOUSE, belvedere, glasshouse, greenhouse, hothouse ② *a teaching job at the conservatory* CONSERVATOIRE, music school, drama school

conserve ▶ **verb** *fossil fuel should be conserved* PRESERVE, protect, save, safeguard, keep, look after, sustain, prolong, perpetuate, store, reserve, husband

—OPPOSITES squander

▶ **noun** *cherry conserve* JAM, preserve, jelly, marmalade, confiture

consider ▶ **verb** ① *Isabel considered her choices* THINK ABOUT, contemplate, reflect on, examine, review, mull over, ponder, deliberate on, chew over, meditate on, ruminate on, assess, evaluate, weigh up, appraise, *informal* size up ② *I consider him irresponsible* DEEM, think, believe, judge, adjudge, rate, count, find, regard as, hold to be, reckon to be, view as, see as ③ *he considered the ceiling* LOOK AT, contemplate, observe, regard, survey, view, scrutinize, scan, examine, inspect, *informal* check out, *N Amer informal* eyeball ④ *the inquiry will consider those issues* TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION, take account of, make allowances for, bear in mind, be mindful of, remember, mind, mark, respect, heed, note, make provision for

—OPPOSITES ignore

considerable ▶ **adjective** ① *a considerable amount of money* SIZEABLE, substantial, appreciable, significant, goodly, fair, hefty, handsome, decent, worthwhile, ample, plentiful, abundant, great, large, generous, *informal* tidy, not to be sneezed at ② *considerable success* MUCH, great, a lot of, lots of, a great deal of, plenty of, a fair amount of ③ *a considerable cricketer* DISTINGUISHED, noteworthy, important, significant, prominent, eminent, influential, illustrious, renowned, celebrated, acclaimed

—OPPOSITES paltry, minor

considerably ▶ **adverb** GREATLY, (very) much, a great deal, a lot, lots, significantly, substantially, appreciably, markedly, noticeably, *informal* plenty, seriously

considerate ▶ **adjective** ATTENTIVE, thoughtful, solicitous, mindful, heedful, obliging, accommodating, helpful, cooperative, patient, kind, unselfish, compassionate, sympathetic, caring, charitable, altruistic, generous, polite, sensitive, tactful

consideration ▶ **noun** ① *your case needs careful consideration* THOUGHT, deliberation, reflection, contemplation, rumination, meditation, examination, inspection, scrutiny, analysis, discussion, attention, regard, *formal* cogitation ② *his health is the prime consideration* FACTOR, issue, matter, concern, detail, aspect, feature ③ *firms should show more consideration* ATTENTIVENESS, concern, care, thoughtfulness, solicitude, kindness, understanding, respect, sensitivity, tact, discretion; compassion, charity, benevolence ④ *I might do it, for a consideration* PAYMENT, fee, premium, remuneration, compensation; commission, percentage, dividend, *informal* cut, slice, piece of the action, *formal* emolument.

—OPPOSITES disregard.

▶ **take something into consideration** CONSIDER, give thought to, take into account, allow

for, provide for, plan for, make provision for, accommodate, bargain for, reckon with, foresee, anticipate

considering ▶ **preposition** *considering his size he was speedy* BEARING IN MIND, taking into consideration, taking into account, keeping in mind, in view of, in the light of

▶ **adverb (informal)** *he'd been lucky, considering* ALL THINGS CONSIDERED, all in all, on the whole, at the end of the day, when all's said and done

consign ▶ **verb** ① *he was consigned to prison* SEND, deliver, hand over, turn over, sentence, confine in, imprison in, incarcerate in, lock up in, *informal* put away, put behind bars, *Brit informal* bang up ② *the picture was consigned for sale* ASSIGN, allocate, place, put, remit, hand down ③ *the package was consigned by a local company* SEND (OFF), dispatch, transmit, convey, post, mail, ship ④ *I consigned her picture to the bin* DEPOSIT, commit, banish, relegate

consignment ▶ **noun** DELIVERY, shipment, load, boatload, lorryload, truckload, cargo, batch, goods

consist ▶ **verb** ① *the exhibition consists of 180 drawings* BE COMPOSED, be made up, be formed, comprise, contain, include, incorporate ② *style consists in the choices that writers make* BE INHERENT, lie, reside, be present, be contained, be expressed by

consistency ▶ **noun** ① *the trend shows a degree of consistency* UNIFORMITY, constancy, regularity, evenness, steadiness, stability, equilibrium, dependability, reliability ② *cream of pouring consistency* THICKNESS, density, viscosity, heaviness, texture, firmness, solidity

consistent ▶ **adjective** ① *consistent opinion-poll evidence* CONSTANT, regular, uniform, steady, stable, even, unchanging, undeviating, unfluctuating, dependable, reliable, predictable ② *her injuries were consistent with a knife attack* COMPATIBLE, congruous, consonant, in tune, in line, reconcilable, corresponding to, conforming to

—OPPOSITES irregular, incompatible

consolation ▶ **noun** COMFORT, solace, sympathy, compassion, pity, commiseration, relief, help, (moral) support, encouragement, reassurance

console¹ ▶ **verb** *she tried to console him* COMFORT, solace, condole with, sympathize with, commiserate with, show compassion for, help, support, cheer (up), hearten, encourage, reassure, soothe

—OPPOSITES upset

console² ▶ **noun** *a digital console* CONTROL PANEL, instrument panel, dashboard, keyboard, keypad, *informal* dash

consolidate ▶ **verb** ① *we consolidated our position in the market* STRENGTHEN, secure, stabilize, reinforce, fortify, enhance, improve ② *consolidate the results into an action plan* COMBINE, unite, merge, integrate, amalgamate, fuse, synthesize, bring together, unify

consonance ▶ **noun** AGREEMENT, accord, harmony, unison, compatibility, congruity, congruence; *formal* concord.

consonant

■ **consonant** with IN AGREEMENT WITH, consistent with, in accordance with, in harmony with, compatible with, congruous with, in tune with

consort ► **noun** *the queen and her consort* PARTNER, companion, mate, spouse, husband, wife

► **verb** *he consorted with other women* ASSOCIATE, keep company, mix, go around, spend time, socialize, fraternize, have dealings, *informal* run around, hang around/round, hang out, be thick, *Brit informal* hang about

conspicuous ► **adjective** EASILY SEEN, clear, visible, noticeable, discernible, perceptible, detectable, obvious, manifest, evident, apparent, marked, pronounced, prominent, patent, crystal clear, striking, eye-catching, overt, blatant, writ large, distinct, recognizable, unmistakable, inescapable, *informal* as plain as the nose on one's face, standing out like a sore thumb, standing out a mile

conspiracy ► **noun** ① *a conspiracy to manipulate the race results* PLOT, scheme, plan, machination, ploy, trick, ruse, subterfuge, *informal* racket ② *conspiracy to murder* PLOTTING, collusion, intrigue, connivance, machination, collaboration, treason

conspirator ► **noun** PLOTTER, schemer, intriguer, colluder, collaborator, conniver, machinator

conspire ► **verb** ① *they admitted conspiring to steal cars* PLOT, scheme, plan, intrigue, machinate, collude, connive, collaborate, work hand in glove, *informal* be in cahoots ② *circumstances conspired against them* ACT TOGETHER, work together, combine, unite, join forces, *informal* gang up

constancy ► **noun** ① *constancy between lovers* FIDELITY, faithfulness, loyalty, commitment, dedication, devotion, dependability, reliability, trustworthiness ② *the constancy of Henry's views* STEADFASTNESS, resolution, resolve, firmness, fixedness, determination, perseverance, tenacity, doggedness, staunchness, staying power, obstinacy ③ *a constancy of human motive* CONSISTENCY, permanence, persistence, durability, endurance, uniformity, immutability, regularity, stability, steadiness

constant ► **adjective** ① *the constant background noise* CONTINUAL, continuous, persistent, sustained, round-the-clock, ceaseless, unceasing, perpetual, incessant, never-ending, eternal, endless, unabating, non-stop, unrelieved, interminable, unrelenting, relentless ② *a constant speed* CONSISTENT, regular, steady, uniform, even, invariable, unvarying, unchanging, undeviating, unfluctuating ③ *a constant friend* FAITHFUL, loyal, devoted, true, fast, firm, unwavering, steadfast, staunch, dependable, trustworthy, trusty, reliable, dedicated, committed ④ *constant vigilance* STEADFAST, steady, resolute, determined, tenacious, dogged, unwavering, unflagging

—OPPOSITES fitful, variable, fickle

► **noun** *dread of cancer has been a constant* UNCHANGING FACTOR, given

constantly ► **adverb** ALWAYS, all the time, continually, continuously, persistently, round-the-clock, night and day, {morning, noon, and night}; endlessly, non-stop, incessantly, unceasingly, perpetually, eternally, forever, intermin-

ably, unrelentingly, relentlessly, *Scottish aye; informal* 24-7

—OPPOSITES occasionally

constellation ► **noun**. See list

consternation ► **noun** DISMAY, perturbation, distress, disquiet, discomposure, surprise, amazement, astonishment, alarm, panic, fear, fright, shock

—OPPOSITES satisfaction

constituent ► **adjective** constituent parts COMPONENT, integral, elemental, basic, essential, inherent

► **noun** ① *MPs must listen to their constituents* VOTER, elector, member of a constituency ② *the constituents of tobacco* COMPONENT, ingredient, element, part, piece, bit, unit, section, portion

constitute ► **verb** ① *farmers constituted 10 per cent of the population* AMOUNT TO, add up to, account for, form, make up, compose, comprise ② *this constitutes a breach of copyright* BE EQUIVALENT TO, be, embody, be tantamount to, be regarded as ③ *the courts were constituted in 1875* INAUGURATE, establish, initiate, found, create, set up, start, form, organize, develop, commission, charter, invest, appoint, install, empower

constitution ► **noun** ① *the constitution guarantees our rights* CHARTER, social code, law, bill of rights, rules, regulations, fundamental principles ② *the chemical constitution of the dye* COMPOSITION, make-up, structure, construction, arrangement, configuration, formation, anatomy, *informal* set-up ③ *she has the constitution of an ox* HEALTH, physique, physical condition, shape, fettle

constitutional ► **adjective** ① *constitutional powers* LEGAL, lawful, legitimate, authorized, permitted, sanctioned, ratified, warranted, constituted, statutory, chartered, vested, official, by law ② *a constitutional weakness* INHERENT, intrinsic, innate, fundamental, essential, organic, congenital, inborn, inbred

► **noun** (*dated*) *she went out for a constitutional* See WALK noun sense 1

constrain ► **verb** ① *he felt constrained to explain* COMPEL, force, drive, impel, oblige, coerce, prevail on, require, press, push, pressure, pressurize ② *prices were constrained by state controls* RESTRICT, limit, curb, check, restrain, contain, straitjacket, rein in, hold back, keep down

constrained ► **adjective** *his constrained manner* UNNATURAL, awkward, self-conscious, forced, stilted, strained, restrained, reserved, reticent, guarded

—OPPOSITES relaxed

constraint ► **noun** ① *financial constraints* RESTRICTION, limitation, curb, check, restraint, control, damper, rein, straitjacket, hindrance, impediment, obstruction, handicap ② *they were able to talk without constraint* INHIBITION, uneasiness, embarrassment, restraint, reticence, guardedness, formality, self-consciousness, forcedness, awkwardness, stiltedness

constrict ► **verb** ① *fat constricts the blood vessels* NARROW, make narrower, tighten, compress, contract, squeeze, strangle, strangle; *archaic* straiten ② *fear of crime constricts many people's lives* RESTRICT, impede, limit, inhibit, obstruct, interfere with, hinder, hamper

—OPPOSITES expand, dilate



Constellations



ASTRONOMICAL NAME	COMMON NAME	ASTRONOMICAL NAME	COMMON NAME
Andromeda	—	Leo	Lion
Antlia	Air Pump	Leo Minor	Little Lion
Apus	Bird of Paradise	Lepus	Hare
Aquarius	Water Carrier/Bearer	Libra	Scales or Balance
Aquila	Eagle	Lupus	Wolf
Ara	Altar	Lynx	—
Aries	Ram	Lyra	Lyre
Auriga	Charioteer	Mensa	Table
Boötes	Herdsmen	Microscopium	Microscope
Caelum	Chisel	Monoceros	Unicorn
Camelopardalis	Giraffe	Musca	Fly
Cancer	Crab	Norma	Rule
Canes Venatici	Hunting Dogs	Octans	Octant
Canis Major	Great Dog	Ophiuchus	Serpent Bearer
Canis Minor	Little Dog	Orion	Hunter
Capricornus	Goat	Pavo	Peacock
Carina	Keel	Pegasus	—
Cassiopeia	—	Perseus	—
Centaurus	Centaur	Phoenix	—
Cepheus	—	Pictor	Easel or Painter
Cetus	Whale	Pisces	Fishes
Chamaeleon	Chameleon	Piscis Austrinus	Southern Fish
Circinus	Compasses	Puppis	Poop or Stern
Columba	Dove	Pyxis	Compass Box or Mariner's Compass
Coma Berenices	Berenice's Hair	Reticulum	Net
Corona Australis	Southern Crown	Sagitta	Arrow
Corona Borealis	Northern Crown	Sagittarius	Archer
Corvus	Crow or Raven	Scorpius	Scorpion
Crater	Cup	Sculptor	—
Crux (Australis)	(Southern) Cross	Scutum	Shield
Cygnus	Swan	Serpens	Serpent
Delphinus	Dolphin	Sextans	Sextant
Dorado	Goldfish	Taurus	Bull
Draco	Dragon	Telescopium	Telescope
Equuleus	Foal or Little Horse	Triangulum	Triangle
Eridanus	River	Triangulum Australe	Southern Triangle
Fornax	Furnace	Tucana	Toucan
Gemini	Twins	Ursa Major	Great Bear or Plough or (N. Amer.) Big Dipper
Grus	Crane	Ursa Minor	Little Bear
Hercules	—	Vela	Sails
Horologium	Clock	Virgo	Virgin
Hydra	Water Snake or Sea Monster	Volans	Flying Fish
Hydrus	Water Snake	Vulpecula	Fox
Indus	Indian		
Lacerta	Lizard		

constriction ► noun TIGHTNESS, pressure, compression, contraction; obstruction, blockage, impediment; *Medicine* stricture, stenosis

construct ► verb ① *a new motorway was being constructed* BUILD, erect, put up, set up, raise, establish, assemble, manufacture, fabricate, create, make ② *he constructed a faultless argument* FORMULATE, form, put together, create, devise, design, compose, work out, fashion, mould, shape, frame
—OPPOSITES demolish

construction ► noun ① *the construction of a new airport* BUILDING, erection, putting up, setting up, establishment; assembly, manufacture, fabrication, creation ② *the station was a spectacular construction* STRUCTURE, building, pile, formal edifice. ③ *you could put an honest construction on their conduct* INTERPRETATION, reading,

meaning, explanation, explication, construal, informal take

constructive ► adjective USEFUL, helpful, productive, positive, encouraging, practical, valuable, profitable, worthwhile

construe ► verb INTERPRET, understand, read, see, take, take to mean, regard

consul ► noun AMBASSADOR, diplomat, chargé d'affaires, attaché, envoy, emissary, plenipotentiary, archaic legate

consult ► verb ① *you need to consult a solicitor* SEEK ADVICE FROM, ask, take counsel from, call on/upon, speak to, turn to, have recourse to, informal pick someone's brains. ② *the government must consult with interested parties* CONFER, have discussions, talk things over, exchange views, communicate, parley, deliberate; informal put

their heads together ③ *she consulted her diary*
REFER TO, turn to, look at

consultant ▶ noun ① *an engineering consultant*
ADVISER, expert, specialist, authority, pundit
② *a consultant at Guy's hospital* SENIOR DOCTOR,
specialist

consultation ▶ noun ① *the need for further
consultation with industry* DISCUSSION, dialogue,
discourse, debate, negotiation, deliberation
② *a 30-minute consultation* MEETING, talk, discus-
sion, interview, audience, hearing, appoint-
ment, session, formal confabulation, colloquy

consume ▶ verb ① *vast amounts of food and
drink were consumed* EAT, devour, ingest, swal-
low, gobble up, wolf down, guzzle, feast on,
snack on, DRINK, gulp down, imbibe, sup, *infor-*
mal tuck into, put away, polish off, dispose of,
pig oneself on, down, neck, sink, swill, *Bnt infor-*
mal scoff, gollop, shift, *N Amer informal* scarf
(down/up), snarf (down/up) ② *natural resources
are being consumed at an alarming rate* USE (UP),
utilize, expend, deplete, exhaust, waste, squan-
der, drain, dissipate, fritter away ③ *the fire con-*
sumed fifty houses DESTROY, demolish, lay waste,
wipe out, annihilate, devastate, gut, ruin,
wreck ④ *Carolyn was consumed with guilt* EAT UP,
devour, obsess, grip, overwhelm, absorb, pre-
occupy

consumer ▶ noun PURCHASER, buyer, custom-
er, shopper, user, end-user, client, (the con-
sumer or consumers) the public, the market

consuming ▶ adjective ABSORBING, compel-
ling, compulsive, besetting, obsessive, over-
whelming, intense, ardent, strong, powerful,
burning, raging, tervid, profound, deep-seated

consummate ▶ verb *the deal was finally con-*
summated COMPLETE, conclude, finish, accom-
plish, achieve, execute, carry out, perform, *infor-*
mal sew up, wrap up, formal effectuate

▶ adjective *his consummate skill | a consummate polit-*
ician SUPREME, superb, superlative, superior,
accomplished, expert, proficient, skilful,
skilled, masterly, master, first-class, talented,
gifted, polished, practised, perfect, ultimate,
complete, total, utter, absolute, pure

consumption ▶ noun ① *food unfit for human
consumption* EATING, drinking, ingestion ② *the
consumption of fossil fuels* USE, using up, utiliza-
tion, expending, depletion, waste, squandering,
dissipation

contact ▶ noun ① *a disease transmitted through
direct contact with rats* TOUCH, touching, proxim-
ity, exposure ② *foreign diplomats were asked to
avoid all contact with him* COMMUNICATION, corres-
pondence, touch, association, connection, inter-
course, relations, dealings, *archaic* traffic
③ *he had many contacts in Germany* CONNECTION,
acquaintance, associate, friend

▶ verb *anyone with information should contact the po-*
lice GET IN TOUCH WITH, communicate with,
make contact with, approach, notify, tele-
phone, phone, call, ring up, speak to, talk to,
write to, *informal* get hold of

contagion ▶ noun (dated) DISEASE, infection,
illness, plague, blight, *informal* bug, virus, *archaic*
pestilence

contagious ▶ adjective INFECTIOUS, communic-
able, transmittable, transmissible, spreadable;
informal catching, dated infective

contain ▶ verb ① *the archive contains much un-*
published material INCLUDE, comprise, take in,
incorporate, involve, encompass, embrace, con-
sist of, be made up of, be composed of ② *the
boat contained four people* HOLD, carry, accommo-
date, seat ③ *he must contain his anger* RESTRAIN,
curb, rein in, suppress, repress, stifle, subdue,
quell, swallow, bottle up, hold in, keep in
check, control, master

container ▶ noun RECEPTACLE, vessel, holder,
repository

contaminate ▶ verb POLLUTE, adulterate, de-
file, debase, corrupt, taint, infect, foul, spoil,
soil, stain, sully, poison, poetic/literary befoul
-OPPOSITES purify

contemplate ▶ verb ① *she contemplated her
image in the mirror* LOOK AT, view, regard, exam-
ine, inspect, observe, survey, study, scrutinize,
scan, stare at, gaze at, eye ② *he contemplated his
fate* THINK ABOUT, ponder, reflect on, consider,
mull over, muse on, dwell on, deliberate over,
meditate on, ruminate on, chew over, brood
on/about, turn over in one's mind, formal cogi-
tate ③ *he was contemplating action for damages*
CONSIDER, think about, have in mind, intend,
plan, propose, envisage, foresee

contemplation ▶ noun ① *the contemplation of
beautiful objects* VIEWING, examination, inspec-
tion, observation, survey, study, scrutiny ② *the
monks sat in quiet contemplation* THOUGHT, reflec-
tion, meditation, consideration, rumination,
deliberation, reverie, introspection, brown
study, formal cogitation, celebration

contemplative ▶ adjective THOUGHTFUL, pen-
sive, reflective, meditative, musing, ruminative,
introspective, brooding, deep/lost in thought,
in a brown study

contemporary ▶ adjective ① *contemporary
sources* OF THE TIME, of the day, contemporan-
eous, concurrent, coeval, coexisting, coexistent
② *contemporary society* MODERN, present-day,
present, current, present-time ③ *a very contem-*
porary design MODERN, up to date, up to the mi-
nute, fashionable, modish, latest, recent, *infor-*
mal trendy, with it
-OPPOSITES old-fashioned, out of date

▶ noun *Chaucer's contemporaries* PEER, fellow, formal
compeer

contempt ▶ noun ① *she regarded him with con-*
tempt SCORN, disdain, disrespect, scornfulness,
contemptuousness, derision, disgust, loathing,
hatred, abhorrence, *archaic* despite ② *he is guilty
of contempt of court* DISRESPECT, disregard,
slighting
-OPPOSITES respect

contemptible ▶ adjective DESPICABLE, detest-
able, hateful, reprehensible, deplorable, un-
speakable, disgraceful, shameful, ignominious,
abject, low, mean, cowardly, unworthy, dis-
creditable, petty, worthless, shabby, cheap, be-
yond contempt, beyond the pale, sordid, *archaic*
scurvy
-OPPOSITES admirable

contemptuous ▶ adjective SCORNFUL, dis-
dainful, disrespectful, insulting, insolent, deri-
sive, mocking, sneering, scoffing, withering,
scathing, snide, condescending, supercilious,
proud, haughty, superior, arrogant, dismissive,
aloof, *informal* high and mighty, snotty, snuffy, *ar-*
chaic contumelious





—OPPOSITES respectful

contend ▶ **verb** ① *the pilot had to contend with torrential rain* COPE WITH, face, grapple with, deal with, take on, pit oneself against ② *three main groups were contending for power* COMPETE, vie, contest, fight, battle, tussle, go head to head, strive, struggle ③ *he contends that the judge was wrong* ASSERT, maintain, hold, claim, argue, insist, state, declare, profess, affirm, allege, formal aver

content¹ ▶ **adjective** *she seemed content with life* CONTENTED, satisfied, pleased, gratified, fulfilled, happy, cheerful, glad, unworried, untroubled, at ease, at peace, tranquil, serene —OPPOSITES discontented, dissatisfied

▶ **verb** *her reply seemed to content him* SATISFY, please, soothe, pacify, placate, appease, mollify

▶ **noun** *a time of content* See CONTENTMENT

content² ▶ **noun** ① *foods with a high fibre content* AMOUNT, proportion, quantity ② (**contents**) *the contents of a vegetarian sausage* CONSTITUENTS, ingredients, components, elements ③ (**contents**) *the book's list of contents* CHAPTERS, sections, divisions ④ *the content of the essay* SUBJECT MATTER, subject, theme, argument, thesis, message, thrust, substance, matter, material, text, ideas

contented ▶ **adjective** *a contented man* See CONTENT¹ adjective

contention ▶ **noun** ① *a point of contention* DISAGREEMENT, dispute, disputation, argument, discord, conflict, friction, strife, dissension, disharmony ② *the Marxist contention that capitalism equals exploitation* ARGUMENT, claim, plea, submission, allegation, assertion, declaration, opinion, stand, position, view, belief, thesis, case

—OPPOSITES agreement

■ **in contention** IN COMPETITION, competing, contesting, contending, vying, striving, struggling

contentious ▶ **adjective** ① *a contentious issue* CONTROVERSIAL, disputable, debatable, disputed, open to debate, moot, vexed ② *a contentious debate* HEATED, vehement, fierce, violent, intense, impassioned ③ *contentious people* See QUARREL SOME

contentment ▶ **noun** CONTENTEDNESS, content, satisfaction, gratification, fulfilment, happiness, pleasure, cheerfulness, ease, comfort, well-being, peace, equanimity, serenity, tranquillity

contest ▶ **noun** ① *a boxing contest* COMPETITION, match, tournament, game, meet, event, trial, bout, heat, fixture, tie, race ② *the contest for the party leadership* FIGHT, battle, tussle, struggle, competition, race

▶ **verb** ① *he intended to contest the seat* COMPETE FOR, contend for, vie for, fight for, try to win, go for, throw one's hat in the ring ② *we contested the decision* OPPOSE, object to, challenge, take a stand against, take issue with, question, call into question ③ *the issues have been hotly contested*: DEBATE, argue about, dispute, quarrel over

contestant ▶ **noun** COMPETITOR, participant, player, contender, candidate, aspirant, entrant, rival, opponent, adversary, antagonist

context ▶ **noun** ① *the wider historical context* CIRCUMSTANCES, conditions, factors, state of af-

fairs, situation, background, scene, setting ② *a quote taken out of context* FRAME OF REFERENCE, contextual relationship, text, subject, theme, topic

contiguous ▶ **adjective** ADJACENT, neighbouring, adjoining, bordering, next-door, abutting, connecting, touching, in contact, proximate

continent¹ ▶ **noun** LAND MASS, mainland See list

Continents

Africa
Antarctica
Asia
Australia

Europe
North America
South America

continent² ▶ **adjective** SELF-RESTRAINED, self-disciplined, abstemious, abstinent, self-denying, ascetic, chaste, celibate, monkish, monastic, virginal

contingency ▶ **noun** EVENTUALITY, (chance) event, incident, happening, occurrence, juncture, possibility, fortuity, accident, chance, emergency

contingent ▶ **adjective** ① *the merger is contingent on government approval* DEPENDENT ON, conditional on, subject to, determined by, hinging on, resting on ② *contingent events* CHANCE, accidental, fortuitous, possible, unforeseeable, unpredictable, random, haphazard

▶ **noun** ① *a contingent of Japanese businessmen* GROUP, party, body, band, company, cohort, deputation, delegation, informal bunch, gang ② *a contingent of marines* DETACHMENT, unit, group

continual ▶ **adjective** ① *a service disrupted by continual breakdowns* FREQUENT, repeated, constant, recurrent, recurring, regular ② *she was in continual pain* CONSTANT, continuous, unending, never-ending, unremitting, unabating, relentless, unrelenting, unrelieved, chronic, uninterrupted, unbroken, round-the-clock —OPPOSITES occasional, temporary

continuance ▶ **noun** See CONTINUATION

continuation ▶ **noun** CARRYING ON, continuance, extension, prolongation, protraction, perpetuation

—OPPOSITES end

continue ▶ **verb** ① *he was unable to continue with his job* CARRY ON, proceed, pursue, go on, keep on, persist, press on, persevere, keep at, informal stick at, soldier on ② *discussions continued throughout the year* GO ON, carry on, last, extend, be prolonged, run on, drag on ③ *we are keen to continue this relationship* MAINTAIN, keep up, sustain, keep going, keep alive, preserve ④ *his willingness to continue in office* REMAIN, stay, carry on, keep going ⑤ *we continued our conversation after supper* RESUME, pick up, take up, carry on with, return to, recommence —OPPOSITES stop, break off

continuing ▶ **adjective** ONGOING, continuous, sustained, persistent, steady, relentless, uninterrupted, unabating, unremitting, unrelieved, unceasing.

—OPPOSITES sporadic.

continuity ▶ **noun** CONTINUOUSNESS, uninterruptedness, flow, progression

continuous ▶ **adjective** CONTINUAL, uninterrupted, unbroken, constant, ceaseless, incessant, steady, sustained, solid, continuing, ongoing, unceasing, without a break, non-stop, round-the-clock, persistent, unremitting, relentless, unrelenting, unabating, unrelieved, without respite, endless, unending, never-ending, perpetual, everlasting, eternal, interminable, consecutive, running, *N Amer* without surcease

—OPPOSITES intermittent

contort ▶ **verb** TWIST, bend out of shape, distort, misshape, warp, buckle, deform

contour ▶ **noun** OUTLINE, shape, form, lines, curves, figure, silhouette, profile

contraband ▶ **noun** *contraband* was suspected SMUGGLING, illegal traffic, black marketeering, bootlegging, the black market

▶ **adjective** *contraband* goods SMUGGLED, black-market, bootleg, under the counter, illegal, illicit, unlawful, prohibited, banned, proscribed, forbidden, *informal* hot

contractive ▶ **noun** See list

contract ▶ **noun** a legally binding contract AGREEMENT, commitment, arrangement, settlement, understanding, compact, covenant, bond, deal, bargain, law indenture

▶ **verb** ① the market for such goods began to contract SHRINK, get smaller, decrease, diminish, reduce, dwindle, decline ② her stomach muscles contracted TIGHTEN, tense, flex, constrict, draw in, narrow ③ she contracted her brow WRINKLE, knit, crease, pucker ④ his name was soon contracted to 'Jack' SHORTEN, abbreviate, cut, reduce, elide ⑤ the company contracted to rebuild the stadium UNDERTAKE, pledge, promise, covenant, commit oneself, engage, agree, enter an agreement, make a deal ⑥ she contracted German measles DEVELOP, catch, get, pick up, come down with, be struck down by, be stricken with, succumb to, *Bnt* go down with ⑦ he contracted a debt of £3,300 INCUR, run up

—OPPOSITES expand, relax, lengthen

■ **contract something out** SUBCONTRACT, outsource, farm out

contraction ▶ **noun** ① the contraction of the industry SHRINKING, shrinkage, decline, decrease, diminution, dwindling ② the contraction of muscles TIGHTENING, tensing, flexing ③ my contractions started at midnight LABOUR PAINS, labour, cramps, poetic/literary travail ④ 'goodbye' is a contraction of 'God be with you' ABBREVIATION, short form, shortened form, elision, diminutive

contradict ▶ **verb** ① he contradicted the government's account of the affair DENY, refute, rebut, dispute, challenge, counter, controvert, formal gainsay ② nobody dared to contradict him ARGUE AGAINST, go against, challenge, oppose, formal gainsay ③ this research contradicts previous computer models CONFLICT WITH, be at odds with, be at variance with, be inconsistent with, run counter to, disagree with

—OPPOSITES confirm, agree with

contradiction ▶ **noun** ① the contradiction between his faith and his lifestyle CONFLICT, clash, disagreement, opposition, inconsistency, mismatch, variance ② a contradiction of his statement DENIAL, refutation, rebuttal, countering, counterstatement

—OPPOSITES confirmation, agreement

contradictory ▶ **adjective** OPPOSED, in opposition, opposite, antithetical, contrary, contrasting, conflicting, at variance, at odds, opposing, clashing, divergent, discrepant, different, inconsistent, incompatible, irreconcilable

contraption ▶ **noun** DEVICE, gadget, apparatus, machine, appliance, mechanism, invention, contrivance, *informal* gizmo, widget, *Bnt informal* gubbins, *Austral informal* bitzer

contrary ▶ **adjective** ① *contrary* views OPPOSITE, opposing, opposed, contradictory, clashing, conflicting, antithetical, incompatible, irreconcilable ② she was sulky and contrary PERVERSE, awkward, difficult, uncooperative, unhelpful, obstructive, disobliging, recalcitrant, wilful, self-willed, stubborn, obstinate, mulish, pig-headed, intractable, *informal* cussed, *Bnt informal* bloody-minded, *bolshie*, *stroppy*, *N Amer informal* balky, *formal* refractory, *archaic* froward

—OPPOSITES compatible, accommodating

▶ **noun** in fact, the contrary is true OPPOSITE, reverse, converse, antithesis

■ **contrary to** IN CONFLICT WITH, against, at variance with, at odds with, in opposition to, counter to, incompatible with

contrast ▶ **noun** ① the contrast between rural and urban trends DIFFERENCE, dissimilarity, disparity, distinction, contradistinction, divergence, variance, variation, differentiation, contradiction, incongruity, opposition polarity, *formal* dissimilitude ② Jane was a complete contrast to Sarah OPPOSITE, antithesis, foil, complement

—OPPOSITES similarity

▶ **verb** ① a view which contrasts with his earlier opinion DIFFER FROM, be at variance with, be contrary to, conflict with, go against, be at odds with, be in opposition to, disagree with, clash with ② people contrasted her with her sister COMPARE, set side by side, juxtapose, measure against, distinguish from, differentiate from

—OPPOSITES resemble, liken

contravene ▶ **verb** ① he contravened the Official Secrets Act BREAK, breach, violate, infringe, defy, disobey, flout ② the prosecution contravened the rights of the individual CONFLICT WITH, be in conflict with, be at odds with, be at variance with, run counter to

—OPPOSITES comply with

contravention ▶ **noun** BREACH, violation, infringement, neglect, dereliction

contretemps ▶ **noun** ARGUMENT, quarrel, squabble, disagreement, difference of opinion, dispute, *informal* tiff, set-to, run-in, spat, *Bnt informal* row, *barney*, *Scottish informal* rammy

contribute ▶ **verb** ① the government contributed a million pounds GIVE, donate, put up, subscribe, hand out, grant, bestow, present, provide, supply, furnish, *informal* chip in, pitch in, fork out, shell out, cough up, *Bnt informal* stump up; *N Amer informal* kick in, ante up, pony up ② an article contributed by Dr Clouston SUPPLY, provide, submit ③ numerous factors contribute to job satisfaction PLAY A PART IN, be instrumental in, be a factor in, have a hand in, be conducive to, make for, lead to, cause; *formal* conduce to

contribution ▶ **noun** ① voluntary financial contributions DONATION, gift, offering, present, handout, grant, subsidy, allowance, endowment, subscription, *formal* benefaction, *historical*

alms ② contributions from local authors ARTICLE, piece, story, item, chapter, paper, essay

contributor ▶ noun ① the magazine's regular contributors WRITER, columnist, correspondent ② campaign contributors DONOR, benefactor, subscriber, supporter, backer, subsidizer, patron, sponsor

contrite ▶ adjective REMORSEFUL, repentant, penitent, regretful, sorry, apologetic, rueful, sheepish, hangdog, ashamed, chastened, shamefaced, conscience-stricken, guilt-ridden, in sackcloth and ashes

contrition ▶ noun REMORSE, remorsefulness, repentance, penitence, sorrow, sorrowfulness, regret, ruefulness, pangs of conscience, shame, guilt, compunction, *archaic* rue

contrivance ▶ noun ① a mechanical contrivance DEVICE, gadget, machine, appliance, contraption, apparatus, mechanism, implement, tool, invention, *informal* gizmo, widget, *Austral informal* bitzer ② her matchmaking contrivances SCHEME, stratagem, tactic, manoeuvre, move, plan, ploy, gambit, wile, trick, ruse, plot, machination

contrive ▶ verb BRING ABOUT, engineer, manufacture, orchestrate, stage-manage, create, devise, concoct, construct, plan, fabricate, plot, hatch, *informal* wangle, set up

contrived ▶ adjective FORCED, strained, studied, artificial, affected, put-on, pretended, false, feigned, manufactured, unnatural, laboured, overdone, elaborate
-OPPOSITES natural

control ▶ noun ① China retained control over the region JURISDICTION, sway, power, authority, command, dominance, government, mastery, leadership, rule, sovereignty, supremacy, ascendancy, charge, management, direction, supervision, superintendence ② strict import controls RESTRAINT, constraint, limitation, restriction, check, curb, brake, rein, regulation ③ her control deserted her SELF-CONTROL, self-restraint, self-possession, composure, calmness, *informal* cool ④ easy-to-use controls SWITCH, knob, button, dial, handle, lever ⑤ mission control HEADQUARTERS, HQ, base, centre of operations, command post

▶ verb ① one family had controlled the company since its formation BE IN CHARGE OF, run, manage, direct, administer, head, preside over, supervise, superintend, steer, command, rule, govern, lead, dominate, hold sway over, be at the helm, *informal* head up, be in the driving seat, run the show ② she struggled to control her temper RESTRAIN, keep in check, curb, check, contain, hold back, bridle, rein in, suppress, repress, master ③ public spending was controlled LIMIT, restrict, curb, cap, constrain, *informal* put the brakes on

controversial ▶ adjective CONTENTIOUS, disputed, at issue, moot, disputable, debatable, arguable, vexed, tendentious

controversy ▶ noun DISAGREEMENT, dispute, argument, debate, dissension, contention, disputation, altercation, wrangle, wrangling, quarrel, quarrelling, war of words, storm, cause célèbre; *Brit informal* row.

contusion ▶ noun BRUISE, discoloration, black-and-blue mark, injury, *Medicine* ecchymosis.

conundrum ▶ noun ① the conundrums facing policy-makers in the 1980s PROBLEM, difficult question, vexed question, difficulty, quandary, dilemma, *informal* poser, facer ② Roderick enjoyed conundrums and crosswords RIDDLE, puzzle, wordgame, *informal* brain-teaser

convalesce ▶ verb RECUPERATE, get better, recover, get well, get back on one's feet

convalescence ▶ noun RECUPERATION, recovery, return to health, rehabilitation, improvement

convalescent ▶ adjective RECUPERATING, recovering, getting better, on the road to recovery, improving, on the mend

convene ▶ verb ① he convened a secret meeting SUMMON, call, call together, order, formal convoke ② the committee convened for its final session ASSEMBLE, gather, meet, come together, congregate, formal foregather

convenience ▶ noun ① the convenience of the arrangement EXPEDIENCE, advantageousness, advantage, opportuneness, propitiousness, timeliness, suitability, appropriateness ② for convenience, the handset is wall-mounted EASE OF USE, usability, usefulness, utility, serviceability, practicality ③ the kitchen has all the modern conveniences APPLIANCE, (labour-saving) device, gadget, amenity, facility, *informal* gizmo, mod con

convenient ▶ adjective ① a convenient time SUITABLE, appropriate, fitting, fit, suited, opportune, timely, well timed, favourable, advantageous, seasonable, expedient ② a hotel that's convenient for the beach NEAR (TO), close to, within easy reach of, well situated for, handy for, not far from, just round the corner from, *informal* a stone's throw from, within spitting distance of

convent ▶ noun NUNNERY, priory, abbey, religious community

convention ▶ noun ① social conventions CUSTOM, usage, practice, tradition, way, habit, norm, rule, code, canon, punctilio, propriety, etiquette, protocol, formal praxis, (conventions) mores ② a convention signed by 74 countries AGREEMENT, accord, protocol, compact, pact, treaty, concordat, entente, contract, bargain, deal ③ the party's biennial convention CONFERENCE, meeting, congress, assembly, gathering, summit, convocation, synod, conclave

conventional ▶ adjective ① the conventional wisdom of the day ORTHODOX, traditional, established, accepted, received, mainstream, prevailing, prevalent, accustomed, customary ② a conventional railway NORMAL, standard, regular, ordinary, usual, traditional, typical, common ③ a very conventional woman CONSERVATIVE, traditional, traditionalist, conformist, bourgeois, old-fashioned, of the old school, small-town, suburban, *informal* straight, square, stick-in-the-mud, fuddy-duddy ④ a conventional piece of work. UNORIGINAL, formulaic, predictable, stock, unadventurous, unremarkable.

-OPPOSITES unorthodox, original

converge ▶ verb ① Oxford Circus, a station where three lines converge MEET, intersect, cross, connect, link up, coincide, join, unite, merge ② 90,000 fans converged on Wembley. CLOSE IN ON, bear down on, approach, move towards.

-OPPOSITES diverge, leave



conversant ▶ **adjective** FAMILIAR, acquainted, au fait, au courant, at home, well versed, well informed, knowledgeable, informed, abreast, up to date, *informal* up to speed, clued up, genned up, *formal* cognizant

conversation ▶ **noun** DISCUSSION, talk, chat, gossip, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart, head-to-head, exchange, dialogue, *informal* confab, jaw, chit-chat, *Brit informal* chinwag, natter, *N Amer informal* gabfest, schmooze, *Austral / NZ informal* yarn, *formal* confabulation, colloquy

conversational ▶ **adjective** ① *conversational* English INFORMAL, chatty, relaxed, friendly, colloquial, idiomatic ② a conversational man TALKATIVE, chatty, communicative, forthcoming, expansive, loquacious, garrulous

converse¹ ▶ **verb** they conversed in low voices TALK, speak, chat, have a conversation, discourse, communicate, *informal* chew the fat/rag, jaw, *Brit informal* natter, *N Amer informal* visit, shoot the breeze/bull, *Austral / NZ informal* mag, *formal* confabulate

converse² ▶ **noun** the converse is also true OPPOSITE, reverse, obverse, contrary, antithesis, other side of the coin, *informal* flip side

conversion ▶ **noun** ① the conversion of waste into energy CHANGE, changing, transformation, metamorphosis, transfiguration, transmutation, sea change, humorous transmogrification ② the conversion of the building ADAPTATION, alteration, modification, reconstruction, rebuilding, redevelopment, redesign, renovation, rehabilitation ③ his religious conversion REBIRTH, regeneration, reformation

convert ▶ **verb** ① plants convert the sun's energy into chemical energy CHANGE, turn, transform, metamorphose, transfigure, transmute, humorous transmogrify, technical permute ② the factory was converted into flats ADAPT, turn, change, alter, modify, rebuild, reconstruct, redevelop, refashion, redesign, restyle, revamp, renovate, rehabilitate, *N Amer* bring up to code, *informal* do up, *N Amer informal* rehab ③ they sought to convert sinners PROSELYTIZE, evangelize, bring to God, redeem, save, reform, re-educate, cause to see the light

▶ **noun** Christian converts PROSELYTE, neophyte, new believer, Christianity catechumen

convey ▶ **verb** ① taxis conveyed guests to the station TRANSPORT, carry, bring, take, fetch, bear, move, ferry, shuttle, shift, transfer ② he conveyed the information to me COMMUNICATE, pass on, make known, impart, relay, transmit, send, hand on, relate, tell, reveal, disclose ③ it's impossible to convey how I felt EXPRESS, communicate, get across/over, put across/over, indicate, say ④ he conveys an air of competence PROJECT, exude, emit, emanate

conveyance ▶ **noun** ① the conveyance of agricultural produce TRANSPORTATION, transport, carriage, carrying, transfer, movement, delivery, haulage, portage, cartage, shipment, freightage. ② (formal) three-wheeled conveyances VEHICLE, means/method of transport, car, bus, coach, van, lorry, truck, bicycle, motorbike, motorcycle

convict ▶ **verb** he was convicted of indecent assault: FIND GUILTY, sentence; *Brit informal* be done for.

—OPPOSITES acquit

▶ **noun** two escaped convicts PRISONER, inmate, trusty, criminal, offender, lawbreaker, felon, *informal* jailbird, con, (old) lag, crook, *N Amer informal* yardbird

conviction ▶ **noun** ① his conviction for murder DECLARATION OF GUILT, sentence, judgement ② his political convictions BELIEF, opinion, view, thought, persuasion, idea, position, stance, article of faith ③ she spoke with conviction CERTAINTY, certitude, assurance, confidence, sureness, no shadow of a doubt
—OPPOSITES acquittal, uncertainty

convince ▶ **verb** ① he convinced me that I was wrong MAKE CERTAIN, persuade, satisfy, prove to, assure, put/set someone's mind at rest ② I convinced her to marry me PERSUADE, induce, prevail on, get, talk into, win over, cajole, inveigle

convincing ▶ **adjective** ① a convincing argument COGENT, persuasive, plausible, powerful, potent, strong, forceful, compelling, irresistible, telling, conclusive ② a convincing 5-0 win RESOUNDING, emphatic, decisive, conclusive

convivial ▶ **adjective** FRIENDLY, genial, affable, amiable, congenial, agreeable, good-humoured, cordial, warm, sociable, outgoing, gregarious, clubbable, companionable, hail-fellow-well-met, cheerful, jolly, jovial, lively, enjoyable, festive, Scottish couthy

conviviality ▶ **noun** FRIENDLINESS, geniality, affability, amiability, bonhomie, congeniality, cordiality, warmth, good nature, sociability, gregariousness, cheerfulness, good cheer, joviality, jollity, gaiety, liveliness

convocation ▶ **noun** ASSEMBLY, gathering, meeting, conference, convention, congress, council, symposium, colloquium, conclave, synod

convoke ▶ **verb** (formal) CONVENE, summon, call together, call

convoluted ▶ **adjective** COMPLICATED, complex, involved, elaborate, serpentine, labyrinthine, tortuous, tangled, Byzantine, confused, confusing, bewildering, baffling
—OPPOSITES straightforward

convolution ▶ **noun** ① crosses adorned with elaborate convolutions TWIST, turn, coil, spiral, twirl, curl, helix, whorl, loop, curlicue, *Architecture* volute ② the convolutions of the plot COMPLEXITY, intricacy, complication, twist, turn, entanglement

convoy ▶ **noun** a convoy of vehicles GROUP, fleet, cavalcade, motorcade, cortège, caravan, line, train

▶ **verb** the ship was convoyed by army gunboats ESCORT, accompany, attend, flank, protect, defend, guard

convulse ▶ **verb** SHAKE UNCONTROLLABLY, go into spasms, shudder, jerk, thrash about

convulsion ▶ **noun** ① she had convulsions FIT, seizure, paroxysm, spasm, attack, throes, *Medicine* ictus ② (convulsions) the audience collapsed in convulsions FITS OF LAUGHTER, paroxysms of laughter, uncontrollable laughter; *informal* hysterics ③ the political convulsions of the period UPHEAVAL, eruption, cataclysm, turmoil, turbulence, tumult, disruption, agitation, disturbance, unrest, disorder.

convulsive ▶ adjective SPASMODIC, jerky, paroxysmal, violent, uncontrollable

cook ▶ verb ① *Iris had cooked dinner* PREPARE, make, put together, *informal* fix, rustle up, *Brit informal* knock up ② *(informal) he'd been cooking the books* FALSIFY, alter, doctor, tamper with, interfere with, massage, manipulate, *Brit informal* fiddle ③ *(informal) what's cooking?* See HAPPEN sense 1

■ **cook something up** (*informal*) CONCOCT, devise, contrive, fabricate, trump up, hatch, plot, plan, invent, make up, think up, dream up

cooking ▶ noun CUISINE, cookery, food See list
—RELATED TERMS culinary

Cooking Methods

baking	frying	roasting
barbecuing	griddling	sautéing
blanching	grilling	scrambling
boiling	marinating	searing
braising	microwaving	simmering
broiling	oven-	slow-cooking
browning	roasting	smoking
caramelizing	pan-frying	spit-roasting
casseroling	parboiling	steaming
charbroiling	poaching	stewing
coddling	pot-roasting	stir-frying
currying	pre-cooking	sweating
deep-frying	pressure-	tandoori
dry-frying	cooking	toasting
fricasseeing	reheating	

cool ▶ adjective ① *a cool breeze* CHILLY, chill, cold, bracing, brisk, crisp, fresh, refreshing, invigorating, draughty, *informal* nippy, *Brit informal* parky ② *a cool response* UNENTHUSIASTIC, lukewarm, tepid, indifferent, uninterested, apathetic, half-hearted, unfriendly, distant, remote, aloof, cold, chilly, frosty, unwelcoming, unresponsive, offhand, uncommunicative, undemonstrative, *informal* stand-offish ③ *his ability to keep cool in a crisis* CALM, {cool, calm, and collected}, composed, as cool as a cucumber, collected, cool-headed, level-headed, self-possessed, controlled, self-controlled, poised, serene, tranquil, unruffled, unperturbed, unmoved, untroubled, imperturbable, placid, phlegmatic, *informal* unflappable, together, laid-back ④ *a cool lack of morality* BOLD, audacious, nerveless, brazen, shameless, unabashed ⑤ *(informal) she thinks she's so cool* FASHIONABLE, stylish, chic, up to the minute, sophisticated, *informal* trendy, funky, with it, hip, big, happening, groovy, *N Amer informal* kicky, tony, fly ⑥ *(informal) a cool song* See EXCELLENT

—OPPOSITES warm, enthusiastic, agitated

▶ noun ① *the cool of the evening* CHILL, chilliness, coldness, coolness ② *Ken lost his cool* SELF-CONTROL, control, composure, self-possession, calmness, equilibrium, calm, aplomb, poise, sangfroid, presence of mind
—OPPOSITES warmth

▶ verb ① *cool the sauce in the fridge* CHILL, refrigerate ② *her reluctance did nothing to cool his interest* LESSEN, moderate, diminish, reduce, dampen ③ *Simpson's ardour had cooled* SUBSIDE, lessen, diminish, decrease, abate, moderate, die down, fade, dwindle, wane ④ *after a while, she cooled off* CALM DOWN, recover/regain one's compos-

ure, compose oneself, control oneself, pull oneself together, simmer down

—OPPOSITES heat, inflame, intensify

coop ▶ noun *a hen coop* PEN, run, cage, hutch, enclosure

▶ verb *he hates being cooped up at home* CONFINED, shut in/up, cage (in), pen up/in, keep, detain, trap, incarcerate, immure

cooperate ▶ verb ① *police and social services cooperated in the operation* COLLABORATE, work together, work side by side, pull together, band together, join forces, team up, unite, combine, pool resources, make common cause, *liaise* ② *he was happy to cooperate* BE OF ASSISTANCE, assist, help, lend a hand, be of service, do one's bit, *informal* play ball

cooperation ▶ noun ① *cooperation between management and workers* COLLABORATION, joint action, combined effort, teamwork, partnership, coordination, liaison, association, synergy, give and take, compromise ② *thank you for your cooperation* ASSISTANCE, helpfulness, help, helping hand, aid

cooperative ▶ adjective ① *a cooperative effort* COLLABORATIVE, collective, combined, common, joint, shared, mutual, united, concerted, coordinated ② *pleasant and cooperative staff* HELPFUL, eager to help, glad to be of assistance, obliging, accommodating, willing, amenable, adaptable

coordinate ▶ verb ① *exhibitions coordinated by a team of international scholars* ORGANIZE, arrange, order, systematize, harmonize, correlate, synchronize, bring together, fit together, dovetail ② *care workers coordinate at a local level* COOPERATE, *liaise*, collaborate, work together, negotiate, communicate, be in contact ③ *floral designs coordinate with the decor* MATCH, complement, set off, harmonize, blend, fit in, go

cop (*informal*) ▶ noun *a traffic cop* See POLICE OFFICER

▶ verb *he tried to cop out of his responsibilities* See AVOID sense 2

cope ▶ verb ① *she couldn't cope on her own* MANAGE, survive, subsist, look after oneself, fend for oneself, shift for oneself, carry on, get by/through, bear up, hold one's own, keep one's end up, keep one's head above water, *informal* make it, hack it ② *his inability to cope with the situation* DEAL WITH, handle, manage, address, face (up to), confront, tackle, get to grips with, get through, weather, come to terms with

copious ▶ adjective ABUNDANT, superabundant, plentiful, ample, profuse, full, extensive, generous, bumper, lavish, fulsome, liberal, overflowing, in abundance, many, numerous, *informal* a gogo, galore, poetic/literary plenteous
—OPPOSITES sparse

copse ▶ noun THICKET, grove, wood, coppice, stand, clump, brake, *Brit* spinney, *N Amer & Austral/NZ* brush, archaic hurst,holt, boscase

copulate ▶ verb. See HAVE SEX at SEX

copulation ▶ noun. See SEX sense 1

copy ▶ noun ① *a copy of the report* DUPLICATE, facsimile, photocopy, carbon (copy), mimeograph, mimeo; transcript; reprint, trademark Xerox, photostat ② *a copy of a sketch by Leonardo da Vinci* REPLICA, reproduction, replication, print, imitation, likeness; counterfeit, forgery, fake; *informal* knock-off

► **verb** ① *each form had to be copied* DUPLICATE, photocopy, xerox, photostat, mimeograph, run off, reproduce ② *portraits copied from original paintings by Reynolds* REPRODUCE, replicate, forge, fake, counterfeit ③ *their sound was copied by a lot of jazz players* IMITATE, reproduce, emulate, follow, echo, mirror, parrot, mimic, ape, plagiarize, steal, *informal* rip off

coquettish ► **adjective** FLIRTATIOUS, flirty, provocative, seductive, inviting, kittenish, coy, arch, teasing, playful, *informal* come-hither, vampish

cord ► **noun** STRING, thread, thong, lace, ribbon, strap, tape, tie, line, rope, cable, wire, ligature, twine, yarn, elastic, braid, braiding

cordial ► **adjective** a *cordial* welcome FRIENDLY, warm, genial, affable, amiable, pleasant, fond, affectionate, warm-hearted, good-natured, gracious, hospitable, welcoming, hearty

► **noun** fruit *cordial* SQUASH, crush, concentrate

cordon ► **noun** a *cordon* of 500 police BARRIER, line, row, chain, ring, circle, picket line

► **verb** troops *cordoned off* the area CLOSE OFF, shut off, seal off, fence off, separate off, isolate, enclose, surround

core ► **noun** ① *the earth's core* CENTRE, interior, middle, nucleus, recesses, bowels, depths, *informal* innards, *poetic/literary* midst ② *the core of the argument* HEART, heart of the matter, nucleus, nub, kernel, marrow, meat, essence, quintessence, crux, gist, pith, substance, basis, fundamentals, *informal* nitty-gritty, brass tacks, nuts and bolts

► **adjective** the *core* issue CENTRAL, key, basic, fundamental, principal, primary, main, chief, crucial, vital, essential, *informal* number-one
-OPPOSITES peripheral

cork ► **noun** STOPPER, stop, plug, bung, peg, spigot, spile, *N Amer* stopple

corn ► **noun** GRAIN, cereal (crop) See list at CEREAL

corner ► **noun** ① *the cart lurched round the corner* BEND, curve, crook, dog-leg, turn, turning, junction, fork, intersection, *Brit* hairpin bend ② *a charming corner of Italy* DISTRICT, region, area, section, quarter, part, *informal* neck of the woods ③ *he found himself in a tight corner* PRECIPITANT, plight, tight spot, mess, muddle, difficulty, problem, dilemma, quandary, *informal* pickle, jam, stew, fix, hole, hot water, bind

► **verb** ① *he was eventually cornered by police dogs* DRIVE INTO A CORNER, run to earth, bring to bay, cut off, block off, trap, hem in, pen in, surround, enclose, capture, catch ② *crime syndicates have cornered the stolen car market* GAIN CONTROL OF, take over, control, dominate, monopolize, capture, *informal* sew up

cornerstone ► **noun** FOUNDATION, basis, key-stone, mainspring, mainstay, linchpin, bed-rock, base, backbone, key, centrepiece, core, heart, centre, crux

corny ► **adjective** (*informal*) BANAL, trite, hackneyed, commonplace, clichéd, predictable, stereotyped, platitudinous, tired, stale, overworked, overused, well worn, mawkish, sentimental, cloying, syrupy, sugary, saccharine, mushy, slushy, sloppy; *Brit* twee; *informal* cheesy, schmaltzy, cutesy, toe-curling, *Brit* *informal* soppy; *N Amer* *informal* cornball, hokey

corollary ► **noun** CONSEQUENCE, (end) result, upshot, effect, repercussion, product, by-product, *Brit* knock-on effect.

coronet ► **noun**. See CROWN noun sense 1

corporeal ► **adjective** BODILY, fleshly, corporeal, somatic, carnal, physical, material
-OPPOSITES spiritual

corporation ► **noun** ① *the chairman of the corporation* COMPANY, firm, business, concern, operation, house, organization, agency, trust, partnership, conglomerate, group, chain, multinational, *informal* outfit, set-up ② (*Brit*) *the corporation refused two planning applications* COUNCIL, town council, municipal authority

corporeal ► **adjective** BODILY, fleshly, carnal, corporal, human, mortal, earthly, physical, material, tangible, concrete, real, actual

corps ► **noun** ① *an army corps* UNIT, division, detachment, section, company, contingent, squad, squadron, regiment, battalion, brigade, platoon ② *a corps of trained engineers* GROUP, body, band, cohort, party, gang, pack, team, crew

corpse ► **noun** DEAD BODY, body, carcass, skeleton, remains, *informal* stiff, *Medicine* cadaver, *archaic* corse

-RELATED TERMS NECRO-

corpulent ► **adjective** FAT, obese, overweight, plump, portly, stout, chubby, paunchy, beer-bellied, heavy, bulky, chunky, well upholstered, well padded, well covered, meaty, fleshy, rotund, broad in the beam, *informal* tubby, pudgy, beefy, porky, roly-poly, blubbery, *Brit* *informal* podgy, tubsy, *N Amer* *informal* corn-fed, *rare* abdominous

-OPPOSITES thin

correct ► **adjective** ① *the correct answer* RIGHT, accurate, true, exact, precise, unerring, faithful, strict, faultless, flawless, error-free, perfect, word-perfect, *informal* on the mark, on the beam, on the nail, *Brit* *informal* spot on, bang on, *N Amer* *informal* on the money, on the button ② *correct behaviour* PROPER, seemly, decorous, decent, respectable, right, suitable, fit, fitting, befitting, appropriate, apt, approved, accepted, conventional, customary, traditional, orthodox, comme il faut

-OPPOSITES wrong, improper

► **verb** ① *proof-read your work and correct any mistakes* RECTIFY, put right, set right, right, amend, emend, remedy, repair ② *an attempt to correct the trade imbalance* COUNTERACT, offset, counterbalance, compensate for, make up for, neutralize ③ *the brakes need correcting* ADJUST, regulate, fix, set, standardize, normalize, calibrate, fine-tune

correction ► **noun** RECTIFICATION, rectifying, righting, amendment, emendation, repair, remedy, *archaic* reparation

corrective ► **adjective** REMEDIAL, therapeutic, restorative, curative, reparatory, reparative, rehabilitative

correctly ► **adverb** ① *the questions were answered correctly* ACCURATELY, right, unerringly, precisely, faultlessly, flawlessly, perfectly, without error, *dated* aright. ② *she behaved correctly at all times* PROPERLY, decorously, with decorum, decently, suitably, fittingly, appropriately, well





correlate ▶ **verb** ① *socio-economic status often correlates with educational achievement* CORRESPOND, match, parallel, agree, tally, tie in, be consistent, be compatible, be consonant, coordinate, dovetail, relate, conform, *informal* square, *N Amer informal* jibe ② *consumption of such foods was correlated with a decreased risk for certain cancers* CONNECT, establish a relationship/connection between, associate, relate
—OPPOSITES contrast

correlation ▶ **noun** CONNECTION, association, link, tie-in, tie-up, relation, relationship, interrelationship, interdependence, interconnection, interaction, correspondence, parallel

correspond ▶ **verb** ① *their policies do not correspond with their statements* CORRELATE, agree, be in agreement, be consistent, be compatible, be consonant, accord, be in tune, concur, coincide, tally, tie in, dovetail, fit in, match, parallel, *informal* square, *N Amer informal* jibe ② *a rank corresponding to the British rank of sergeant* BE EQUIVALENT, be analogous, be comparable, equate ③ *Debbie and I corresponded for years* EXCHANGE LETTERS, write, communicate, keep in touch/contact

correspondence ▶ **noun** ① *there is some correspondence between the two variables* CORRELATION, agreement, consistency, compatibility, consonance, conformity, similarity, resemblance, parallel, comparability, accord, concurrence, coincidence ② *his private correspondence* LETTERS, messages, missives, mail, post, communication

correspondent ▶ **noun** the paper's foreign correspondent REPORTER, journalist, columnist, writer, contributor, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, commentator, *Brit* pressman, *informal* stringer, news hound, journo

▶ **adjective** a correspondent improvement in quality CORRESPONDING, parallel, matching, equivalent, comparable, similar, analogous, commensurate

corresponding ▶ **adjective** COMMENSURATE, parallel, correspondent, matching, correlated, relative, proportional, proportionate, comparable, equivalent, analogous

corridor ▶ **noun** PASSAGE, passageway, aisle, gangway, hall, hallway, gallery, arcade

corroborate ▶ **verb** CONFIRM, verify, endorse, ratify, authenticate, validate, certify, support, back up, uphold, bear out, bear witness to, attest to, testify to, vouch for, give credence to, substantiate, sustain
—OPPOSITES contradict

corrode ▶ **verb** ① *the iron had corroded* RUST, become rusty, tarnish, wear away, disintegrate, crumble, perish, spoil, oxidize ② *acid rain corrodes buildings* WEAR AWAY, eat away (at), gnaw away (at), erode, abrade, consume, destroy

corrosive ▶ **adjective** CAUSTIC, corroding, erosive, abrasive, burning, stinging; destructive, damaging, harmful, harsh

corrugated ▶ **adjective** RIDGED, fluted, grooved, furrowed, crinkled, crinkly, puckered, creased, wrinkled, wrinkly, crumpled; *technical* striate, striated

corrupt ▶ **adjective** ① *a corrupt official | corrupt practices*: DISHONEST, unscrupulous, dishonourable, unprincipled, unethical, amoral, untrustworthy, venal, underhand, double-dealing, fraudulent, bribable, buyable; criminal, illegal,

unlawful, nefarious, *informal* crooked, shady, dirty, mucky, sleazy, *Brit informal* bent, dodgy ② *the earth was corrupt in God's sight* IMMORAL, depraved, degenerate, reprobate, vice-ridden, perverted, debauched, dissolute, dissipated, bad, wicked, evil, base, sinful, ungodly, unholy, irreligious, profane, impious, impure, *informal* warped ③ *a corrupt text* IMPURE, bastardized, debased, adulterated

—OPPOSITES honest, ethical, pure

▶ **verb** ① *the fear of firms corrupting politicians in the search for contracts* BRIBE, suborn, buy (off), pay off, *informal* grease someone's palm, give someone a backhander/sweetener, get at, square, *Brit informal* nobble ② *a book that might corrupt its readers* DEPRAVE, pervert, debauch, degrade, warp, lead astray, defile, pollute, sully, *archaic* demoralize ③ *the apostolic writings had been corrupted* ALTER, tamper with, interfere with, bastardize, debase, adulterate

corruption ▶ **noun** ① *political corruption* DISHONESTY, unscrupulousness, double-dealing, fraud, fraudulence, misconduct, crime, criminality, wrongdoing, bribery, subornation, venality, extortion, profiteering, jobbery, *N Amer* payola, *informal* graft, crookedness, sleaze, *formal* malversation ② *his fall into corruption* IMMORALITY, depravity, vice, degeneracy, perversion, perverseness, debauchery, dissoluteness, decadence, wickedness, evil, sin, sinfulness, ungodliness, *formal* turpitude ③ *these figures have been subject to corruption* ALTERATION, bastardization, debasement, adulteration

—OPPOSITES honesty, morality, purity

corsair ▶ **noun** (*archaic*) See PIRATE noun sense 1

corset ▶ **noun** GIRDLE, panty girdle, foundation (garment), corselette, *Brit* roll-on, *informal*, dated waspie, *historical* stays

cortège ▶ **noun** ① *the funeral cortège* PROCESSION, parade, cavalcade, motorcade, convoy, caravan, train, column, file, line ② *the prince's cortège* ENTOURAGE, retinue, train, suite, attendants, companions, followers, retainers

cosmetic ▶ **adjective** most of the changes were merely cosmetic SUPERFICIAL, surface, skin-deep, outward, exterior, external
—OPPOSITES fundamental

▶ **noun** (*cosmetics*) a new range of cosmetics MAKE-UP, beauty products, maquillage, face paint, *informal* warpaint, paint, slap

cosmic ▶ **adjective** ① *cosmic bodies* EXTRATERRESTRIAL, in space, from space ② *an epic of cosmic dimensions* VAST, huge, immense, enormous, massive, colossal, prodigious, immeasurable, incalculable, unfathomable, fathomless, measureless, infinite, limitless, boundless

cosmonaut ▶ **noun** ASTRONAUT, spaceman/woman, space traveller, space cadet, *N Amer informal* jock See list at ASTRONAUT

cosmopolitan ▶ **adjective** ① *the student body has a cosmopolitan character*: MULTICULTURAL, multiracial, international, worldwide, global ② *a cosmopolitan audience*. WORLDLY, worldly-wise, well travelled, experienced, unprovincial, cultivated, cultured, sophisticated, suave, urbane, glamorous, fashionable; *informal* jet-setting, cool.

cosset ▶ **verb** PAMPER, indulge, overindulge, mollycoddle, coddle, baby, pet, mother, nanny, nursemaid, pander to, feather-bed, spoil, wrap

in cotton wool, wait on someone hand and foot

cost ▶ **noun** ① the cost of the equipment PRICE, asking price, market price, selling price, fee, tariff, fare, toll, levy, charge, rental, value, valuation, quotation, rate, worth, humorous damage ② the human cost of the conflict SACRIFICE, loss, expense, penalty, toll, price ③ (costs) we need to make £10,000 to cover our costs EXPENSES, outgoings, disbursements, overheads, running costs, operating costs, fixed costs, expenditure, spending, outlay

▶ **verb** ① the chair costs £186 BE PRICED AT, sell for, be valued at, fetch, come to, amount to, informal set someone back, go for, *Brit* informal knock someone back ② the proposal has not yet been costed PUT A PRICE ON, price, value, put a value on, put a figure on

costly ▶ **adjective** ① costly machinery EXPENSIVE, dear, high-cost, highly priced, overpriced, *Brit* over the odds, informal steep, pricey ② a costly mistake CATASTROPHIC, disastrous, calamitous, ruinous, damaging, harmful, injurious, deleterious, woeful, awful, terrible, dreadful, formal grievous
-OPPOSITES cheap

costume ▶ **noun** ① Elizabethan costumes (SET OF) CLOTHES, garments, robes, outfit, ensemble, dress, clothing, attire, garb, uniform, livery, informal get-up, gear, togs, *Brit* informal clobber, kit, *N Amer* informal threads, formal apparel, archaic habit, habiliments, raiment ② (*Brit*) if you'd like a dip, we can lend you a costume See SWIMSUIT

cosy ▶ **adjective** ① a cosy country cottage SNUG, comfortable, warm, homelike, homey, homely, welcoming, safe, sheltered, secure, *N Amer* down-home, homestyle, informal comfy, snug as a bug (in a rug) ② a cosy chat INTIMATE, relaxed, informal, friendly

coterie ▶ **noun** CLIQUE, set, circle, inner circle, crowd, in-crowd, band, community, informal gang

cottage ▶ **noun** SMALL HOUSE, lodge, chalet, cabin, shack, shanty, (*in Russia*) dacha, *Scottish* bothy, but and ben, *Austral* informal weekender, poetic/literary bowei, archaic cot

couch ▶ **noun** she seated herself on the couch SET TEE, sofa, divan, chaise longue, chesterfield, love seat, settle, ottoman, *Brit* put-you-up, *N Amer* daybed, davenport, studio couch

▶ **verb** his reply was couched in deferential terms EX PRESS, phrase, word, frame, put, formulate, style, convey, say, state, utter

cough ▶ **verb** he coughed loudly HACK, hawk, bark, clear one's throat, hem

▶ **noun** a loud cough HACK, bark, informal frog in one's throat

-RELATED TERMS TUSSIVE

■ **cough something up** PAY (UP), come up with, hand over, dish out, part with, informal fork out, shell out, lay out, *Brit* informal stump up; *N Amer* informal ante up, pony up

council ▶ **noun** ① the town council LOCAL AUTHORITY, local government, municipal authority, administration, executive, chamber, assembly; *Brit* corporation ② the Schools Council ADVISORY BODY, board, committee, commission, assembly, panel, synod, convocation. ③ that evening, she held a family council. meeting, gathering, conference, conclave, assembly

counsel ▶ **noun** ① his wise counsel! ADVICE, guidance, counselling, direction, information, recommendations, suggestions, guidelines, hints, tips, pointers, warnings ② the counsel for the defence BARRISTER, lawyer, *Scottish* advocate, *N Amer* attorney, counselor(at-law), informal brief

▶ **verb** he counselled the team to withdraw from the deal ADVISE, recommend, direct, advocate, encourage, urge, warn, caution, guide, give guidance

counsellor ▶ **noun** ADVISER, consultant, guide, mentor, expert, specialist

count ▶ **verb** ① she counted the money again ADD UP, add together, reckon up, figure up, total, tally, calculate, compute, *Brit* tot up, formal enumerate, dated cast up ② a company with 250 employees, not counting overseas staff INCLUDE, take into account, take account of, take into consideration, allow for ③ I count it a privilege to be asked CONSIDER, think, feel, regard, look on as, view as, hold to be, judge, deem, account ④ it's your mother's feelings that count MATTER, be of consequence, be of account, be significant, signify, be important, carry weight, informal cut any ice

▶ **noun** ① at the last count, the committee had 579 members CALCULATION, computation, reckoning, tally, formal enumeration ② her white blood cell count AMOUNT, number, total

■ **count on/upon** ① you can count on me RELY ON, depend on, bank on, trust (in), be sure of, have (every) confidence in, believe in, put one's faith in, take for granted, take as read ② they hadn't counted on Rangers' indomitable spirit EXPECT, reckon on, anticipate, envisage, allow for, be prepared for, bargain for/on, *N Amer* informal figure on

■ **out for the count** (informal) See UNCONSCIOUS adjective sense 1

countenance ▶ **noun** his strikingly handsome countenance FACE, features, physiognomy, profile, (facial) expression, look, appearance, aspect, mien, informal mug, *Brit* informal mush, phizog, phiz, clock, boat race, *N Amer* informal puss, poetic/literary visage, lineaments

▶ **verb** he would not countenance the use of force TOLERATE, permit, allow, agree to, consent to, give one's blessing to, go along with, hold with, put up with, endure, stomach, swallow, *Scottish* thole, informal stand for, formal brook

counter¹ ▶ **noun** a pile of counters TOKEN, chip, disc, jetton, plaque, piece, man, marker, *N Amer* check

counter² ▶ **verb** ① workers countered accusations of dishonesty with claims of oppression RESPOND TO, parry, hit back at, answer, retort to ② the second argument is more difficult to counter OPPOSE, dispute, argue against/with, contradict, controvert, negate, counteract, challenge, contest, formal gainsay, confute

-OPPOSITES support

▶ **adjective** a counter bid OPPOSING, opposed, opposite.

■ **counter to** AGAINST, in opposition to, contrary to, at variance with, in defiance of, in contravention of, in conflict with, at odds with, against

counteract ▶ **verb** ① new measures to counteract drug trafficking: PREVENT, thwart, frustrate, foil, impede, curb, hinder, hamper, check, put a stop/end to, defeat ② a drug to counteract the

possible effect on her heart **OFFSET**, counterbalance, balance (out), cancel out, even out, counterpoise, countervail, compensate for, make up for, remedy, neutralize, nullify, negate, invalidate.

—**OPPOSITES** encourage, exacerbate

counterbalance ▶ **verb** **COMPENSATE FOR**, make up for, offset, balance (out), even out, counterpoise, counteract, equalize, neutralize, nullify, negate, undo

counterfeit ▶ **adjective** counterfeit cassettes' **FAKE**, faked, bogus, forged, imitation, spurious, substitute, ersatz; *informal* phoney

—**OPPOSITES** genuine

▶ **noun** the notes were counterfeits **FAKE**, forgery, copy, reproduction, imitation, fraud, sham, *informal* phoney, knock-off

—**OPPOSITES** original

▶ **verb** ① his signature was hard to counterfeit **FAKE**, forge, copy, reproduce, imitate ② he grew tired of counterfeiting interest **FEIGN**, simulate, pretend, fake, sham.

countermand ▶ **verb** **REVOKE**, rescind, reverse, undo, repeal, retract, withdraw, quash, overturn, overrule, cancel, annul, invalidate, nullify, negate, *Law* disaffirm, discharge, vacate, *formal* abrogate, *archaic* recall

—**OPPOSITES** uphold

counterpane ▶ **noun** (*dated*) See **BEDSPREAD**.

counterpart ▶ **noun** **EQUIVALENT**, opposite number, peer, equal, coequal, parallel, complement, analogue, match, twin, mate, fellow, brother, sister; *formal* compeer

countless ▶ **adjective** **INNUMERABLE**, numerous, untold, legion, without number, numberless, unnumbered, limitless, multitudinous, incalculable, *informal* umpteen, no end of, a slew of, loads of, stacks of, heaps of, masses of, oodles of, zillions of, *N Amer informal* gazillions of, *poetic/literary* myriad.

—**OPPOSITES** few

countrified ▶ **adjective** **RURAL**, rustic, pastoral, bucolic, country, idyllic, unspoilt, *poetic/literary* Arcadian, sylvan, georgic

—**OPPOSITES** urban

country ▶ **noun** ① foreign countries **NATION**, (sovereign) state, kingdom, realm, territory, province, principality, palatinate, duchy See list ② he risked his life for his country: **HOMELAND**, native land, fatherland, motherland, the land of one's fathers ③ the whole country took to the streets **PEOPLE**, public, population, populace, citizenry, nation, body politic, electors, voters, taxpayers, grass roots, *Brit informal* Joe Public ④ thickly forested country: **TERRAIN**, land, territory, parts, landscape, scenery, setting, surroundings, environment. ⑤ she hated living in the country: **COUNTRYSIDE**, green belt, great outdoors, provinces, rural areas, backwoods, back of beyond, hinterland, *Austral/NZ* outback, bush, back country, backblocks, boozey; *informal* sticks, middle of nowhere, *N Amer informal* boondocks, boonies, tall timbers; *Austral informal* beyond the black stump.

▶ **adjective** country pursuits. **RURAL**, countryside, outdoor, rustic, pastoral, bucolic, *poetic/literary* sylvan, Arcadian, georgic

—**OPPOSITES** urban.

countryman, countrywoman ▶ **noun** ① the traditions of his countrymen: **COMPATRIOT**,

fellow citizen. ② the countryman takes a great interest in the weather **COUNTRY DWELLER**, country cousin, son/daughter of the soil, farmer; rustic, yokel, bumpkin, peasant, provincial, *lnsh informal* culchue, *N Amer informal* hayseed, huck, hllibilly, rube, *Austral informal* bushy, *archaic* swain, hind, kern, carl, cottier

countryside ▶ **noun** ① beautiful unspoilt countryside **LANDSCAPE**, scenery, surroundings, setting, environment, country, terrain, land ② I was brought up in the countryside See **COUNTRY** noun sense 5

county ▶ **noun** the northern counties **SHIRE**, province, territory, administrative unit, region, district, area See lists at **ENGLAND**, **IRELAND**, **SCOTLAND**, **WALES**

▶ **adjective** (*Brit*) a county lady **UPPER-CLASS**, aristocratic, landed, landowning, *informal* upper-crust, top-drawer, (huntin', shootin', and fishin'), tweedy

coup ▶ **noun** ① a violent military coup **SEIZURE OF POWER**, coup d'état, putsch, overthrow, takeover, deposition, (palace) revolution, rebellion, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, insurgence, uprising ② a major publishing coup **SUCCESS**, triumph, feat, accomplishment, achievement, scoop, master stroke, stroke of genius

coup de grâce ▶ **noun** **DEATH BLOW**, finishing blow, kiss of death, *informal* KO, kayo

coup d'état ▶ **noun**. See **COUP** sense 1

couple ▶ **noun** ① a couple of girls **PAIR**, duo, twosome, two, brace, span, yoke, *archaic* twain ② a honeymoon couple **HUSBAND AND WIFE**, twosome, partners, lovers, *informal* item

▶ **verb** ① a sense of hope is coupled with a sense of loss **COMBINE**, accompany, mix, incorporate, link, associate, connect, ally, add to, join to, *formal* conjoin ② a cable is coupled to one of the wheels **CONNECT**, attach, join, fasten, fix, link, secure, tie, bind, strap, rope, tether, truss, lash, hitch, yoke, chain, hook (up)

—**OPPOSITES** detach

coupon ▶ **noun** ① money-off coupons **VOUCHER**, token, ticket, slip, *N Amer informal* ducat, comp, rair check ② fill in the coupon below **FORM**, tear-off slip

courage ▶ **noun** **BRAVERY**, courageousness, pluck, pluckiness, valour, fearlessness, intrepidity, nerve, daring, audacity, boldness, grit, hardihood, heroism, gallantry, *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* moxie, cojones, sand

—**OPPOSITES** cowardice

courageous ▶ **adjective** **BRAVE**, plucky, fearless, valiant, valorous, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, bold, daring, daredevil, audacious, undaunted, unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, indomitable, doughty, mettlesome, venturesome, stout-hearted, gallant, death-or-glory; *N Amer* rock-ribbed; *informal* game, gutsy, spunky, ballsy, have-a-go.

—**OPPOSITES** cowardly.

courier ▶ **noun** ① the documents were sent by courier: **MESSANGER**, dispatch rider, runner. ② a courier for a package holiday company. **REPRESENTATIVE**, (tour) guide, dragoman; *N Amer* tour director; *informal* rep.

course ▶ **noun** ① the island was not far off our course: **ROUTE**, way, track, direction, tack, path, line, trail, trajectory, bearing, heading, orbit.

Countries

COUNTRY	ADJECTIVE/NOUN	CAPITAL	CURRENCY
Afghanistan	Afghan	Kabul	afghani = 100 puls
Albania	Albanian	Tirana	lek = 100 qindarka
Algeria	Algerian	Algiers	dinar = 100 centimes
America	(see United States)		
Andorra	Andorran	Andorra la Vella	euro = 100 cents (formerly French franc and Spanish peseta)
Angola	Angolan	Luanda	kwanza = 100 lwei
Antigua and Barbuda	Antiguan, Barbudan	St John's	dollar = 100 cents
Argentina	Argentinian or Argentine	Buenos Aires	peso = 100 centavos
Armenia	Armenian	Yerevan	dram = 100 luma
Australia	Australian	Canberra	dollar = 100 cents
Austria	Austrian	Vienna	euro = 100 cents (formerly schilling = 100 groschen)
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijani	Baku	manat = 100 gopik
Bahamas	Bahamian	Nassau	dollar = 100 cents
Bahrain	Bahraini	Manama	dinar = 1,000 fils
Bangladesh	Bangladeshi	Dhaka	taka = 100 poisha
Barbados	Barbadian	Bridgetown	dollar = 100 cents
Belarus	Belarusian or Belarussian	Minsk	rouble = 100 kopeks
Belgium	Belgian	Brussels	euro = 100 cents (formerly franc = 100 centimes)
Belize	Belizean	Belmopan	dollar = 100 cents
Benin	Beninese	Porto Novo	African franc
Bermuda	Bermudan	Hamilton	dollar
Bhutan	Bhutanese	Thimphu	ngultrum = 100 chetrum, Indian rupee
Bolivia	Bolivian	La Paz	boliviano = 100 centavos
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Bosnian	Sarajevo	dinar = 100 paras
Botswana	Botswanan/Tswana	Gaborone	pula = 100 thebe
Brazil	Brazilian	Brasilia	real = 100 centavos
Britain	(see United Kingdom)		
Brunei	Bruneian	Bandar Seri Begawan	dollar = 100 sen
Bulgaria	Bulgarian	Sofia	lev = 100 stotinki
Burkina Faso	Burkinese	Ouagadougou	African franc
Burma (officially Myanmar)	Burmese	Rangoon	kyat = 100 pyas
Burundi	Burundian	Bujumbura	franc = 100 centimes
Cambodia	Cambodian	Phnom Penh	riel = 100 sen
Cameroon	Cameroonian	Yaoundé	African franc
Canada	Canadian	Ottawa	dollar = 100 cents
Cape Verde Islands	Cape Verdean	Praia	escudo = 100 centavos
Central African Republic	—	Bangui	African franc
Chad	Chadian	N'Djamena	African franc
Chile	Chilean	Santiago	peso = 100 centavos
China	Chinese	Beijing	yuan = 10 jiao or 100 fen
Colombia	Colombian	Bogotá	peso = 100 centavos
Comoros	Comoran	Moroni	African franc
Congo	Congolese	Brazzaville	African franc
Congo, Democratic Republic of (Zaire)	Congolese	Kinshasa	Congolese franc
Costa Rica	Costa Rican	San José	colón = 100 centimos
Croatia	Croat or Croatian	Zagreb	kuna = 100 lipa
Cuba	Cuban	Havana	peso = 100 centavos
Cyprus	Cypriot	Nicosia	pound = 100 cents
Czech Republic	Czech	Prague	koruna = 100 haleru
Denmark	Danish/Dane	Copenhagen	kroner = 100 øre
Djibouti	Djiboutian	Djibouti	franc = 100 centimes
Dominica	Dominican	Roseau	dollar = 100 cents
Dominican Republic	Dominican	Santo Domingo	peso = 100 centavos
Ecuador	Ecuadorian	Quito	sucre = 100 centavos
Egypt	Egyptian	Cairo	pound = 100 piastres or 1,000 millimes
El Salvador	Salvadoran	San Salvador	colón = 100 centavos
Equatorial Guinea	Equatorial Guinean	Malabo	African franc

Countries (cont.)

COUNTRY	ADJECTIVE/NOUN	CAPITAL	CURRENCY
Eritrea	Eritrean	Asmara	nakfa = 100 cents
Estonia	Estonian	Tallinn	kroon = 100 cents
Ethiopia	Ethiopian	Addis Ababa	birr = 100 cents
Fiji	Fijian	Suva	dollar = 100 cents
Finland	Finnish/Finn	Helsinki	euro = 100 cents (formerly markka = 100 penniä)
France	French/Frenchman, Frenchwoman	Paris	euro = 100 cents (formerly franc = 100 centimes)
Gabon	Gabonese	Libreville	African franc
Gambia, the	Gambian	Banjul	dalasi = 100 butut
Georgia	Georgian	Tbilisi	lari = 100 tetri
Germany	German	Berlin	euro = 100 cents (formerly Deutschmark = 100 pfennigs)
Ghana	Ghanalan	Accra	cedi = 100 pesewas
Greece	Greek	Athens	euro = 100 cents (formerly drachma = 100 lepta)
Grenada	Grenadalan	St George's	dollar = 100 cents
Guatemala	Guatemalan	Guatemala City	quetzal = 100 centavos
Guinea	Guinean	Conakry	franc = 100 centimes
Guinea-Bissau	—	Bissau	peso = 100 centavos
Guyana	Guyanese	Georgetown	dollar = 100 cents
Haiti	Haitian	Port-au-Prince	gourde = 100 centimes
Holland	(see Netherlands)		
Honduras	Honduran	Tegucigalpa	lempira = 100 centavos
Hungary	Hungarian	Budapest	forint = 100 filler
Iceland	Icelandic/Icelander	Reykjavik	krona = 100 aurar
India	Indian	New Delhi	rupee = 100 paise
Indonesia	Indonesian	Djakarta	rupiah = 100 sen
Iran	Iranian	Tehran	rial = 100 dinars
Iraq	Iraqi	Baghdad	dinar = 1,000 fils
Ireland, Republic of	Irish	Dublin	euro = 100 cents (formerly pound (punt) = 100 pence)
Israel	Israeli	Jerusalem	shekel = 100 agora
Italy	Italian	Rome	euro = 100 cents (formerly lira = 100 centesimi)
Ivory Coast	Ivorian	Yamoussoukro	African franc
Jamaica	Jamaican	Kingston	dollar = 100 cents
Japan	Japanese	Tokyo	yen = 100 sen
Jordan	Jordanian	Amman	dinar = 1,000 fils
Kazakhstan	Kazakh	Astana	tenge = 100 teins
Kenya	Kenyan	Nairobi	shilling = 100 cents
Kiribati	—	Bairiki	Australian dollar
Kuwait	Kuwaiti	Kuwait City	dinar = 1,000 fils
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz	Bishkek	som = 100 tiyin
Laos	Laotian	Vientiane	kip = 100 ats
Latvia	Latvian	Riga	lat = 100 santims
Lebanon	Lebanese	Beirut	pound = 100 piastres
Lesotho	Lesothan/Mosotho, pl. Basotho	Maseru	loti = 100 lisente
Liberia	Liberian	Monrovia	dollar = 100 cents
Libya	Libyan	Tripoli	dinar = 1,000 dirhams
Liechtenstein	—/Liechtensteiner	Vaduz	Swiss franc
Lithuania	Lithuanian	Vilnius	litas = 100 centas
Luxembourg	—/Luxembourger	Luxembourg	euro = 100 cents (formerly franc = 100 centimes)
Macedonia	Macedonian	Skopje	denar
Madagascar	Malagasy or Madagascan	Antananarivo	franc = 100 centimes
Malawi	Malawian	Lilongwe	kwacha = 100 tambala
Malaysia	Malaysian	Kuala Lumpur	dollar (ringgit) = 100 sen
Maldives	Maldivian/Maldivian or Maldivian	Male	rufiyaa = 100 laris
Mali	Malian	Bamako	African franc
Malta	Maltese	Valletta	lira = 100 cents
Marshall Islands	Marshallese	Majuro	US dollar
Mauritania	Mauritanian	Nouakchott	ouguiya = 5 khoums
Mauritius	Mauritian	Port Louis	rupee = 100 cents

Countries (cont.)

COUNTRY	ADJECTIVE/NOUW	CAPITAL	CURRENCY
Mexico	Mexican	Mexico City	peso = 100 centavos
Micronesia, Federated States of	Micronesian	Kolonia	US dollar
Moldova	Moldovan	Chişinău	leu = 100 bani
Monaco	Monégasque	Monaco	euro = 100 cents (formerly French franc)
Mongolia	Mongolian	Ulan Bator	tugrik = 100 mongos
Morocco	Moroccan	Rabat	dirham = 100 centimes
Mozambique	Mozambican	Maputo	metical = 100 centavos
Myanmar	(see Burma)		
Namibia	Namibian	Windhoek	rand = 100 cents
Nauru	Nauruan	—	Australian dollar
Nepal	Nepalese or Nepali	Kathmandu	rupee = 100 paisa
Netherlands, the	Dutch/Dutchman, Dutchwoman	Amsterdam	euro = 100 cents (formerly guilder = 100 cents)
New Zealand	—/New Zealander	Wellington	dollar = 100 cents
Nicaragua	Nicaraguan	Managua	cordoba = 100 centavos
Niger	Nigerien	Niamey	African franc
Nigeria	Nigerian	Abuja	naira = 100 kobo
North Korea	North Korean	Pyongyang	won = 100 jun
Norway	Norwegian	Oslo	krone = 100 øre
Oman	Omani	Muscat	rial = 1,000 balza
Pakistan	Pakistani	Islamabad	rupee = 100 paisa
Panama	Panamanian	Panama City	balboa = 100 centésimos
Papua New Guinea	Papuan, Guinean, or Papua New Guinean	Port Moresby	kina = 100 toea
Paraguay	Paraguayan	Asunción	guarani = 100 centimos
Peru	Peruvian	Lima	neuvo sol = 100 cents
Philippines	Filipino or Philippine	Manila	peso = 100 centavos
Poland	Polish/Pole	Warsaw	zloty = 100 groszy
Portugal	Portuguese	Lisbon	euro = 100 cents (formerly escudo = 100 centavos)
Qatar	Qatari	Doha	riyal = 100 dirhams
Romania	Romanian	Bucharest	leu = 100 bani
Russia	Russian	Moscow	rouble = 100 copecks
Rwanda	Rwandan	Kigali	franc = 100 centimes
St Kitts and Nevis	Kittitian or Nevisian	Basseterre	dollar = 100 cents
St Lucia	St Lucian	Castries	dollar = 100 cents
St Vincent and the Grenadines	Vincentian or St Vincentian or Grenadian	Kingstown	dollar = 100 cents
Samoa	Samoa	Apia	tala = 100 sene
San Marino	—	San Marino	euro = 100 cents (formerly Italian lira)
Saudi Arabia	Saudi or Saudi Arabian	Riyadh	riyal = 20 qursh or 100 halalas
Senegal	Senegalese	Dakar	African franc
Seychelles, the	Seychellois	Victoria	rupee = 100 cents
Sierra Leone	Sierra Leonean	Freetown	leone = 100 cents
Singapore	Singaporean	Singapore	dollar = 100 cents
Slovakia	Slovak	Bratislava	koruna = 100 haleru
Slovenia	Slovene or Slovenian	Ljubljana	tolar = 100 stotins
Solomon Islands	—/Solomon Islander	Honiara	dollar = 100 cents
Somalia	Somali or Somalian	Mogadishu	shilling = 100 cents
South Africa	South African	Pretoria	rand = 100 cents
South Korea	South Korean	Seoul	won = 100 jeon
Spain	Spanish/Spaniard	Madrid	euro = 100 cents (formerly peseta = 100 centimos)
Sri Lanka	Sri Lankan	Colombo	rupee = 100 cents
Sudan	Sudanese	Khartoum	dinar = 10 pounds
Suriname	Surinamese	Paramaribo	guilder = 100 cents
Swaziland	Swazi	Mbabane	ililangeni = 100 cents
Sweden	Swedish/Swede	Stockholm	krona = 100 öre
Switzerland	Swiss	Berne	franc = 100 centimes
Syria	Syrian	Damascus	pound = 100 piastres
Taiwan	Taiwanese	Taipei	New Taiwan dollar = 100 cents
Tajikistan	Tajik	Dushanbe	somoni = 100 dirams
Tanzania	Tanzanian	Dodoma	shilling = 100 cents
Thailand	Thai	Bangkok	baht = 100 satangs

Countries (cont.)



COUNTRY	ADJECTIVE/NOON	CAPITAL	CURRENCY
Togo	Togolese	Lomé	African franc
Tonga	Tongan	Nuku'alofa	pa'anga = 100 seniti
Trinidad and Tobago	Trinidadian, Tobagan or Tobagonian	Port-of-Spain	dollar = 100 cents
Tunisia	Tunisian	Tunis	dinar = 1,000 millîmes
Turkey	Turkish/Turk	Ankara	lira = 100 kuruş
Turkmenistan	Turkmen or Turkoman	Ashgabat	manat = 100 tenge
Tuvalu	Tuvaluan	Funafuti	dollar = 100 cents
Uganda	Ugandan	Kampala	shilling = 100 cents
Ukraine	Ukrainian	Kiev	hryvna = 100 kopykas
United Arab Emirates	—	Abu Dhabi	dirham = 100 fils
United Kingdom	British/Briton	London	pound = 100 pence
United States of America	American	Washington, DC	dollar = 100 cents
Uruguay	Uruguayan	Montevideo	peso = 100 centésimos
Uzbekistan	Uzbek	Tashkent	som
Vanuatu	Vanuatuan	Vila	vatu = 100 centimes
Vatican City	Vatican/—	—	euro = 100 cents (formerly Italian lira)
Venezuela	Venezuelan	Caracas	bolívar = 100 centimos
Vietnam	Vietnamese	Hanoi	dong = 10 hao or 100 xu
Yemen	Yemeni	Sana'a	riyal = 100 fils
Yugoslavia	Yugoslav or Yugoslavian	Belgrade	dinar = 100 paras
Zaire	Zairean	(see Congo, Democratic Republic of)	
Zambia	Zambian	Lusaka	kwacha = 100 ngwee
Zimbabwe	Zimbabwean	Harare	dollar = 100 cents

② the course of history. PROGRESSION, development, progress, advance, evolution, flow, movement, sequence, order, succession, rise, march, passage, passing ③ what is the best course to adopt? PROCEDURE, plan (of action), course/line of action, MO, modus operandi, practice, approach, technique, way, means, policy, strategy, programme, formal praxis ④ a waterlogged course RACECOURSE, racetrack, track, ground ⑤ a French course PROGRAMME/COURSE OF STUDY, curriculum, syllabus, classes, lectures, studies ⑥ a course of antibiotics PRO GRAMME, series, sequence, system, schedule, regimen

► verb tears coursed down her cheeks FLOW, pour, stream, run, rush, gush, cascade, flood, roll

■ in due course AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, when the time is ripe, in time, in the fullness of time, in the course of time, at a later date, by and by, sooner or later, in the end, eventually

■ of course NATURALLY, as might be expected, as you/one would expect, needless to say, certainly, to be sure, as a matter of course, obviously, it goes without saying, informal natch

court ► noun ① the court found him guilty: COURT OF LAW, law court, bench, bar, judicature, tribunal, chancery, assizes. ② walking in the castle court COURTYARD, quadrangle, square, close, enclosure, plaza, piazza, cloister, informal quad. ③ the King's court. ROYAL HOUSEHOLD, retinue, entourage, train, suite, courtiers, attendants ④ she made her way to the queen's court ROYAL RESIDENCE, palace, castle, chateau.

► verb ① a newspaper editor who was courted by senior politicians: CURRY FAVOUR WITH, cultivate, try to win over, make up to, ingratiate oneself with; informal suck up to, butter up; N Amer informal shine up to; archaic blandish ② he was busily courting public attention: SEEK, pursue, go after, strive for, solicit. ③ he's often courted controversy:

RISK, invite, attract, bring on oneself ④ (dated) he's courting her sister woo, go out with, pursue, run after, chase, pay court to, informal date, see, go steady with, Austral informal track (square) with, dated set one's cap at, romance, seek the hand of, make love to

courteous ► adjective POLITE, well mannered, civil, respectful, well behaved, well bred, well spoken, mannerly, gentlemanly, chivalrous, gallant, gracious, obliging, considerate, pleasant, cordial, urbane, polished, refined, courtly, civilized, archaic fair-spoken

—OPPOSITES rude

courtesan ► noun (archaic) See PROSTITUTE noun

courtesy ► noun POLITENESS, courteousness, good manners, civility, respect, respectfulness, chivalry, gallantry, graciousness, consideration, thought, thoughtfulness, cordiality, urbanity, courtliness.

courtier ► noun ATTENDANT, lord, lady, lady-in-waiting, steward, equerry, page, squire, historical liegeman.

courtly ► adjective REFINED, polished, suave, cultivated, civilized, elegant, urbane, debonair, polite, civil, courteous, gracious, well mannered, well bred, chivalrous, gallant, gentlemanly, ladylike, aristocratic, dignified, decorous, formal, ceremonious, stately.

—OPPOSITES uncouth.

courtship ► noun ① a whirlwind courtship: ROMANCE, (love) affair; engagement. ② his courtship of Emma: wooing, courting, suit, pursuit; archaic addresses.

courtyard ► noun QUADRANGLE, cloister, square, plaza, piazza, close, enclosure, yard; informal quad

cove ► noun a small sandy cove: BAY, inlet, fjord, anchorage; Scottish (sea) loch; Irish lough.

cove² ▶ **noun** (*informal, dated*) *he's a funny cove* See FELLOW sense 1

covenant ▶ **noun** *a breach of the covenant* CONTRACT, agreement, undertaking, commitment, guarantee, warrant, pledge, promise, bond, indenture, pact, deal, settlement, arrangement, understanding.

▶ **verb** *the landlord covenants to repair the property* UNDERTAKE, contract, guarantee, pledge, promise, agree, engage, warrant, commit oneself, bind oneself

COVER ▶ **verb** ① *she covered face with a towel* PROTECT, shield, shelter, hide, conceal, veil ② *his car was covered in mud* CAKE, coat, encrust, plaster, smother, daub, bedaub ③ *snow covered the fields* BLANKET, overlay, overspread, carpet, coat, poetic/literary mantle ④ *a course covering all aspects of the business* DEAL WITH, consider, take in, include, involve, comprise, incorporate, embrace ⑤ *the trial was covered by a range of newspapers* REPORT ON, write about, describe, commentate on, publish/broadcast details of ⑥ *he turned on the radio to cover their conversation* MASK, disguise, hide, camouflage, muffle, stifle, smother ⑦ *I'm covering for Jill* STAND IN FOR, fill in for, deputize for, take over from, relieve, take the place of, sit in for, understudy, hold the fort, *informal* sub for, *N Amer informal* pinch-hit for ⑧ *can you make enough to cover your costs?* PAY (FOR), be enough for, fund, finance, pay back, make up for, offset ⑨ *your home is covered against damage and loss* INSURE, protect, secure, underwrite, assure, indemnify ⑩ *we covered ten miles each day* TRAVEL, journey, go, do, traverse

—OPPOSITES expose

▶ **noun** ① *a protective cover* COVERING, sleeve, wrapping, wrapper, envelope, sheath, housing, jacket, casing, cowl, awning, canopy, tarpaulin ② *a manhole cover* LID, top, cap ③ *a book cover* BINDING, jacket, dust jacket, dust cover, wrapper ④ *(covers) she pulled the covers over her head* BEDCLOTHES, bedding, sheets, blankets ⑤ *a thick cover of snow* COATING, coat, covering, layer, carpet, blanket, overlay, dusting, film, sheet, veneer, crust, skin, cloak, mantle, veil, pall, shroud ⑥ *panicking onlookers ran for cover* SHELTER, protection, refuge, sanctuary, haven, hiding place ⑦ *there is considerable game cover around the lake* UNDERGROWTH, vegetation, greenery, woodland, trees, bushes, brush, scrub, plants, covert, thicket, copse, coppice ⑧ *the company was a cover for an international swindle* FRONT, facade, smokescreen, screen, blind, camouflage, disguise, mask, cloak. ⑨ *(Brit) your policy provides cover against damage by subsidence* INSURANCE, protection, security, assurance, indemnification, indemnity, compensation

■ **cover something up** CONCEAL, hide, keep secret/dark, hush up, draw a veil over, suppress, sweep under the carpet, gloss over, *informal* whitewash, keep a/the lid on.

coverage ▶ **noun** REPORTAGE, reporting, description, treatment, handling, presentation, investigation, commentary; reports, articles, pieces, stories

covering ▶ **noun** ① *a canvas covering*: AWNING, canopy, tarpaulin, cowl, casing, housing, wrapping, wrapper, cover, envelope, sheath, sleeve, jacket, lid, top, cap. ② *a covering of snow*

LAYER, coating, coat, carpet, blanket, overlay, topping, dusting, film, sheet, veneer, crust, skin, cloak, mantle, veil

▶ **adjective** *a covering letter* ACCOMPANYING, explanatory, introductory, prefatory

coverlet ▶ **noun** BEDSPREAD, bedcover, cover, throw, duvet, quilt; *Brit* eiderdown, *N Amer* spread, comforter, *dated* counterpane

covert ▶ **adjective** SECRET, furtive, clandestine, surreptitious, stealthy, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, backstairs, under-the-table, hugger-mugger, concealed, hidden, private, undercover, underground, *informal* hush-hush

—OPPOSITES overt

cover-up ▶ **noun** WHITEWASH, concealment, false front, facade, camouflage, disguise, mask

—OPPOSITES expose

covet ▶ **verb** DESIRE, yearn for, crave, have one's heart set on, want, wish for, long for, hanker after/for, hunger after/for, thirst for

covetous ▶ **adjective** GRASPING, greedy, acquisitive, desirous, possessive, envious, green with envy, green-eyed

covey ▶ **noun** GROUP, gang, troop, troupe, party, company, band, bevy, flock, knot, cluster, *informal* bunch, gaggle, posse, crew

COW¹ ▶ **noun** *a herd of cows* See list at CATTLE

COW² ▶ **verb** INTIMIDATE, daunt, browbeat, bully, tyrannize, scare, terrorize, frighten, dishearten, unnerve, subdue, *informal* psych out, bulldoze

coward ▶ **noun** WEAKLING, milksop, namby-pamby, mouse, *informal* chicken, scaredy-cat, yellow-belly, sissy, baby, *Brit informal* big girl's blouse, *N Amer informal* pantywaist, pussy, *Austral/NZ informal* dingo, sook, *archaic* poltroon, catiff

—OPPOSITES hero

cowardly ▶ **adjective** FAINT-HEARTED, lily-livered, spineless, chicken-hearted, craven, timid, timorous, fearful, pusillanimous, *informal* yellow, chicken, weak-kneed, gutless, yellow-bellied, wimpish, wimpy, *Brit informal* wet, *archaic* recreant

—OPPOSITES brave

cowboy ▶ **noun** ① *cowboys on horseback* CATTLE MAN, cowhand, cowman, cowherd, herder, herdsman, drover, stockman, rancher, gaucho, vaquero, *N Amer informal* cowpuncher, cowpoke, broncobuster, *N Amer dated* buckaroo ② *(informal) the builders were complete cowboys* ROGUE, rascal, scoundrel, cheat, swindler, fraudster, fly-by-night

cower ▶ **verb** CRINGE, shrink, crouch, recoil, flinch, pull back, draw back, tremble, shake, quake, blench, quail, grovel

coy ▶ **adjective** ARCH, simpering, coquettish, flirtatious, kittenish, skittish, demure, shy, modest, bashful, reticent, diffident, self-effacing, shrinking, timid.

—OPPOSITES brazen

cozen ▶ **verb** (*poetic/literary*) See TRICK verb

crabbed ▶ **adjective** ① *her crabbed handwriting* CRAMPED, ill-formed, bad, illegible, unreadable, indecipherable, shaky, spidery ② *a crabbed old man* See CRABBY

crabby ▶ **adjective** IRRITABLE, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crusty, curmudgeonly, ill-



tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, prickly, waspish, *informal* snappish, snappy, chippy, *Brit informal* shirty, strop, narky, ratty, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery, *Austral/NZ informal* snaky

—OPPOSITES affable

crack ▶ **noun** ① a crack in the glass *SPLIT*, break, chip, fracture, rupture, crazing ② a crack between two rocks *SPACE*, gap, crevice, fissure, cleft, breach, rift, cranny, chink, interstice ③ the crack of a rifle *BANG*, report, explosion, detonation, pop, clap, crash ④ a crack on the head *BLOW*, bang, hit, knock, rap, punch, thump, bump, smack, slap, *informal* bash, whack, thwack, clout, wallop, clip, biff, bop ⑤ (*informal*) we'll have a crack at it *ATTEMPT*, try, *informal* go, shot, stab, whack, *formal* essay ⑥ (*informal*) cheap cracks about her clothes *JOKE*, witticism, quip, jibe, barb, taunt, sneer, insult, *informal* gag, wisecrack, funny, dig

▶ **verb** ① the glass cracked in the heat *BREAK*, split, fracture, rupture, snap ② she cracked him across the forehead *HIT*, strike, smack, slap, beat, thump, knock, rap, punch, *informal* bash, whack, thwack, clobber, clout, clip, wallop, belt, biff, bop, sock, *Brit informal* slosh, *N Amer informal* boff, bust, slug ③ the witnesses cracked *BREAK DOWN*, give way, cave in, go to pieces, crumble, lose control, yield, succumb. ④ (*informal*) the naval code proved harder to crack *DECIPHER*, interpret, decode, break, solve, resolve, work out, find the key to, *informal* figure out, suss out

▶ **adjective** a crack shot *EXPERT*, skilled, skilful, formidable, virtuoso, masterly, consummate, excellent, first-rate, first-class, marvellous, wonderful, magnificent, outstanding, superlative, deadly, *informal* great, superb, fantastic, ace, hot-shot, mean, demon, *Brit informal* brilliant, *N Amer informal* crackcrack

—OPPOSITES incompetent

■ **crack down on** *SUPPRESS*, prevent, stop, put a stop to, put an end to, stamp out, eliminate, eradicate, clamp down on, get tough on, come down hard on, limit, restrain, restrict, check, keep in check, control, keep under control

■ **crack up** (*informal*) *BREAK DOWN*, have a breakdown, lose control, go to pieces, go out of one's mind, go mad, *informal* lose it, fall/come apart at the seams, go crazy, freak out

cracked ▶ **adjective** ① a cracked cup *CHIPPED*, broken, crazed, fractured, splintered, split, damaged, defective, flawed, imperfect ② (*informal*) you're cracked! See *MAD* sense 1

crackle ▶ **verb** *SIZZLE*, fizz, hiss, crack, snap, sputter, creptate, *technical* decrepitate

cradle ▶ **noun** ① the baby's cradle *CRIB*, bassinet, Moses basket, cot, carrycot ② the cradle of democracy *BIRTHPLACE*, fount, fountainhead, source, spring, fountain, origin, place of origin, seat, *poetic/literary* wellspring

▶ **verb** she cradled his head in her arms *HOLD*, support, pillow, cushion, shelter, protect, rest, prop (up)

craft ▶ **noun** ① a player with plenty of craft *SKILL*, skilfulness, ability, capability, competence, art, talent, flair, artistry, dexterity, craftsmanship, expertise, proficiency, adroitness, adeptness, deftness, virtuosity ② the historian's craft. *ACTIVITY*, occupation, profession, work, line of work, pursuit ③ she used craft and diplomacy *CUNNING*, craftiness, guile, wiliness, artfulness, devious-

ness, slyness, trickery, duplicity, dishonesty, deceit, deceitfulness, deception, intrigue, subterfuge, wiles, ploys, ruses, schemes, stratagems, tricks ④ a sailing craft *VESSEL*, ship, boat, *poetic/literary* barque

craftsman, craftswoman ▶ **noun** *ARTISAN*, artist, skilled worker, expert, master, *archaic* artificer, mechanic

craftsmanship ▶ **noun** *WORKMANSHIP*, artistry, craft, art, handiwork, work, skill, skilfulness, expertise, technique.

crafty ▶ **adjective** *CUNNING*, wily, guileful, artful, devious, sly, tricky, scheming, calculating, designing, sharp, shrewd, astute, canny, duplicitous, dishonest, deceitful, *informal* foxy, *archaic* subtle

—OPPOSITES honest

crag ▶ **noun** *CLIFF*, bluff, ridge, precipice, height, peak, tor, escarpment, scarp

craggy ▶ **adjective** ① the craggy cliffs *STEEP*, precipitous, sheer, perpendicular, rocky, rugged, jagged ② his craggy face *RUGGED*, rough-hewn, strong, manly, weather-beaten, weathered

cram ▶ **verb** ① wardrobes crammed with clothes *FILL*, stuff, pack, jam, fill to overflowing, fill to the brim, overload, crowd, throng, overcrowd ② they all crammed into the car *CROWD*, pack, pile, squash, wedge oneself, force one's way ③ he crammed his clothes into a suitcase *THRUST*, push, shove, force, ram, jam, stuff, pack, pile, squash, compress, squeeze, wedge ④ most of the students are cramming for exams *REVISE*, *informal* swot, mug up, bone up

cramp ▶ **noun** stomach cramps *MUSCLE*, *MUSCULAR* SPASM, pain, shooting pain, pang, stitch, *Medicine* clonus, hyperkinesia

▶ **verb** tighter rules will cramp economic growth *HINDER*, impede, inhibit, hamper, constrain, hamstring, interfere with, restrict, limit, shackle, slow down, check, arrest, curb, retard

cramped ▶ **adjective** ① cramped accommodation *POKY*, uncomfortable, confined, restricted, constricted, small, tiny, narrow, crowded, packed, congested, *archaic* strait ② cramped handwriting *SMALL*, crabbed, illegible, unreadable, indecipherable

—OPPOSITES spacious

crane ▶ **noun** *DERRICK*, winch, hoist, davit, windlass, block and tackle

cranium ▶ **noun** *SKULL*, head, *N Amer informal* brainpan

crank¹ ▶ **verb** you crank the engine by hand *START*, turn (over), get going

■ **crank something up** (*informal*) *INCREASE*, intensify, amplify, heighten, escalate, add to, augment, build up, expand, extend, raise, speed up, accelerate; *informal* up, jack up, hike up, step up, bump up, pump up

crank² ▶ **noun** they're nothing but a bunch of cranks *ECCENTRIC*, oddity, madman/madwoman, lunatic, *informal* oddball, freak, weirdo, crackpot, loony, nut, nutcase, head case, maniac, *Brit informal* nutter; *N Amer informal* screwball, kook.

cranky ▶ **adjective** ① (*informal*) a cranky diet *EC CENTRIC*, bizarre, weird, peculiar, odd, strange, unconventional, left-field, unorthodox, outlandish, silly, stupid, mad, crazy, idiotic, *informal* wacky, crackpot, nutty; *Brit informal* daft, potty,



N Amer informal wacko ② (*N Amer informal*) the children were tired and cranky See IRRITABLE

cranny ▶ noun CHINK, crack, crevice, slit, split, fissure, rift, cleft, opening, gap, aperture, cavity, hole, hollow, niche, corner, nook, interstice

crash ▶ verb ① the car crashed into a tree SMASH INTO, collide with, be in collision with, hit, strike, ram, cannon into, plough into, meet head-on, run into, *N Amer* impact ② he crashed his car SMASH, wreck, *Bnt* write off, *Bnt informal* prang, *N Amer informal* total ③ waves crashed against the shore DASH, batter, pound, lash, slam, be hurled ④ thunder crashed overhead BOOM, crack, roll, clap, explode, bang, blast, blare, resound, reverberate, rumble, thunder, echo ⑤ (*informal*) his clothing company crashed COLLAPSE, fold, fail, go under, go bankrupt, become insolvent, cease trading, go into receivership, go into liquidation, be wound up, *informal* go broke, go bust, go to the wall, go belly up

▶ noun ① a crash on the motorway ACCIDENT, collision, smash, road traffic accident, RTA, derailment, *N Amer* wreck, *informal* pile-up, *Bnt informal* prang, shunt ② a loud crash BANG, smash, smack, crack, bump, thud, clatter, clunk, clonk, clang, report, detonation, explosion, noise, racket, clangour, din ③ the crash of her company COLLAPSE, failure, bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation

▶ adjective a crash course INTENSIVE, concentrated, rapid, short, accelerated-learning, total-immersion

crass ▶ adjective STUPID, insensitive, mindless, thoughtless, witless, oafish, boorish, asinine, coarse, gross, graceless, tasteless, tactless, clumsy, heavy-handed, blundering, *informal* ignorant, pig-ignorant
-OPPOSITES intelligent

crate ▶ noun CASE, packing case, chest, tea chest, box, container, receptacle

crater ▶ noun HOLLOW, bowl, basin, hole, cavity, depression, *Geology* caldera, maar, solfataria

crave ▶ verb LONG FOR, yearn for, desire, want, wish for, hunger for, thirst for, sigh for, pine for, hanker after, covet, lust after, ache for, set one's heart on, dream of, be bent on, *informal* have a yen for, itch for, be dying for, *archaic* desiderate

craven ▶ adjective COWARDLY, lily-livered, faint-hearted, chicken-hearted, spineless, timid, timorous, fearful, pusillanimous, weak, feeble, *informal* yellow, chicken, weak-kneed, gutless, yellow-bellied, wimpish, contemptible, abject, ignominious, *Bnt informal* wet, *archaic* recreant
-OPPOSITES brave

craving ▶ noun LONGING, yearning, desire, want, wish, hankering, hunger, thirst, appetite, greed, lust, ache, need, urge, *informal* yen, itch

crawl ▶ verb ① they crawled under the table CREEP, worm one's way, go on all fours, go on hands and knees, wriggle, slither, squirm, scabble ② (*informal*) I'm not going to go crawling to him. GROVEL TO, ingratiate oneself with, be obsequious to, kowtow to, pander to, toady to, truckle to, bow and scrape to, dance attendance on, curry favour with, make up to, fawn on/over; *informal* suck up to, lick someone's boots, butter up. ③ the place was crawling with soldiers BE FULL OF, overflow with, teem with,

be packed with, be crowded with, be alive with, be overrun with, swarm with, be bristling with, be infested with, be thick with; *informal* be lousy with, be stuffed with, be jam-packed with, be chock-a-block with, be chock-full of

craze ▶ noun FAD, fashion, trend, vogue, enthusiasm, mania, passion, rage, obsession, compulsion, fixation, fetish, fancy, taste, fascination, preoccupation, *informal* thing

crazed ▶ adjective MAD, insane, out of one's mind, deranged, demented, certifiable, lunatic, psychopathic, wild, raving, berserk, manic, maniac, frenzied, *informal* crazy, mental, off one's head, out of one's head, raving mad See also CRAZY sense 1

-OPPOSITES sane

crazy ▶ adjective (*informal*) ① a crazy old man MAD, insane, out of one's mind, deranged, demented, not in one's right mind, crazed, lunatic, non compos mentis, unhinged, mad as a hatter, mad as a March hare, *informal* mental, off one's head, nutty (as a fruitcake), off one's rocker, not right in the head, round the bend, raving mad, bats, batty, bonkers, cuckoo, loopy, loony, bananas, loco, with a screw loose, touched, gaga, doolally, not all there, out to lunch, away with the fairies, *Bnt informal* barmy, crackers, barking, potty, round the twist, off one's trolley, not the full shilling, *N Amer informal* nutso, out of one's tree, meshuga, wacko, gonzo, *Austral / NZ informal* bushed ② a crazy idea STUPID, foolish, idiotic, silly, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, preposterous, farcical, laughable, risible, nonsensical, imbecilic, hare-brained, half-baked, impracticable, unworkable, ill-conceived, senseless, *informal* cock-eyed, *Bnt informal* barmy, daft ③ he's crazy about her PASSIONATE ABOUT, very keen on, enamoured of, infatuated with, smitten with, devoted to, very enthusiastic about, fanatical about, *informal* wild/mad/nuts about, gone on, *Bnt informal* potty about
-OPPOSITES sane, sensible, apathetic

creak ▶ verb SQUEAK, grate, rasp, groan, complain

cream ▶ noun ① skin creams LOTION, ointment, moisturizer, emollient, unguent, cosmetic, salve, rub, embrocation, balm, liniment ② the cream of the world's photographers BEST, finest, pick, flower, crème de la crème, elite
-OPPOSITES dregs

▶ adjective a cream dress OFF-WHITE, whitish, cream-coloured, creamy, ivory, yellowish-white

creamy ▶ adjective ① a creamy paste SMOOTH, thick, velvety, whipped, rich, buttery ② creamy flowers OFF-WHITE, whitish, cream-coloured, cream, ivory, yellowish-white
-OPPOSITES lumpy

crease ▶ noun ① trousers with knife-edge creases. FOLD, line, ridge, pleat, tuck, furrow, groove, corrugation ② the creases at the corners of her eyes. WRINKLE, line, crinkle, pucker, (crease) crow's feet

▶ verb her skirt was creased and stained CRUMPLE, wrinkle, crinkle, line, scrunch up, rumple, ruck up.

create ▶ verb ① she has created a work of stunning originality: PRODUCE, generate, bring into being, make, fabricate, fashion, build, construct; design, devise, originate, frame, de-





velop, shape, form, forge ② *regular socializing creates a good team spirit* **BRING ABOUT**, give rise to, lead to, result in, cause, breed, generate, engender, produce, make for, promote, foster, sow the seeds of, contribute to ③ *the governments planned to create a free-trade zone* **ESTABLISH**, found, initiate, institute, constitute, inaugurate, launch, set up, form, organize, develop ④ *she was created a life peer in 1990* **APPOINT**, make, invest as, install as
-OPPOSITES destroy

creation ▶ **noun** ① *the creation of a coalition government* **ESTABLISHMENT**, formation, foundation, initiation, institution, inauguration, constitution, production, generation, fabrication, fashioning, building, construction, origination, development ② *the whole of creation* **THE WORLD**, the universe, the cosmos, the living world, the natural world, nature, life, living things ③ *Dickens's literary creations* **WORK**, work of art, production, opus, oeuvre, achievement
-OPPOSITES destruction

creative ▶ **adjective** **INVENTIVE**, imaginative, innovative, innovatory, experimental, original, artistic, expressive, inspired, visionary, enterprising, resourceful

creativity ▶ **noun** **INVENTIVENESS**, imagination, imaginativeness, innovation, innovativeness, originality, individuality, artistry, inspiration, vision, enterprise, initiative, resourcefulness

creator ▶ **noun** **AUTHOR**, writer, designer, deviser, maker, producer, originator, inventor, architect, mastermind, prime mover, *poetic/literary* begetter

creature ▶ **noun** ① *the earth and its creatures* **ANIMAL**, beast, brute, living thing, living being, *N Amer informal* critter ② *you're such a lazy creature!* **PERSON**, individual, human being, character, soul, wretch, customer, *informal* devil, beggar, sort, type, *Brit informal* bod, *archaic* wight ③ *she was denounced as a creature of the liberals* **LACKEY**, minion, hireling, servant, puppet, tool, cat's paw, pawn, *informal* stooge, yes-man, *Brit informal* poodle

credence ▶ **noun** ① *the government placed little credence in the scheme* **BELIEF**, faith, trust, confidence, reliance ② *later reports lent credence to this view* **CREDIBILITY**, plausibility, *archaic* credit

credentials ▶ **plural noun** **DOCUMENTS**, documentation, papers, identity papers, bona fides, ID, ID card, identity card, passport, proof of identity, certificates, diplomas, certification

credibility ▶ **noun** ① *the whole tale lacks credibility* **PLAUSIBILITY**, believability, tenability, probability, feasibility, likelihood, credence, authority, cogency; *archaic* credit ② *the party lacked moral credibility* **TRUSTWORTHINESS**, reliability, dependability, integrity

credible ▶ **adjective** **BELIEVABLE**, plausible, tenable, able to hold water, conceivable, likely, probable, possible, feasible, reasonable, with a ring of truth, persuasive

credit ▶ **noun** ① *he never got much credit for the show's success* **PRAISE**, commendation, acclaim, acknowledgement, recognition, kudos, glory, esteem, respect, admiration, tributes, bouquets, thanks, gratitude, appreciation, *informal* brownie points ② *the speech did his credit no good in the House of Commons* **REPUTATION**, repute, image, (good) name, character, prestige, standing, sta-

tus, estimation, credibility ③ (*archaic*) *his theory has been given very little credit* **CREDENCE**, belief, faith, trust, reliance, confidence

▶ **verb** ① *the wise will seldom credit all they hear* **BELIEVE**, accept, give credence to, trust, have faith in, *informal* buy, swallow, fall for, take something as gospel ② *the scheme's success can be credited to the team's frugality* **ASCRIBE**, attribute, assign, accredit, chalk up, put down

■ **on credit** **ON HIRE PURCHASE**, on (the) HP, by instalments, on account, *informal* on tick, on the slate, *Brit informal* on the never-never

creditable ▶ **adjective** **COMMENDABLE**, praiseworthy, laudable, admirable, honourable, estimable, meritorious, worthy, deserving, respectable

-OPPOSITES deplorable

credulous ▶ **adjective** **GULLIBLE**, naive, over-trusting, over-trustful, easily taken in, impressionable, unsuspecting, unsuspicious, unwary, unquestioning, innocent, ingenuous, inexperienced, unsophisticated, unworried, wide-eyed, *informal* born yesterday, wet behind the ears

-OPPOSITES suspicious

creed ▶ **noun** ① *people of many creeds and cultures* **FAITH**, religion, religious belief, religious persuasion, Church, denomination, sect ② *his political creed* **SYSTEM OF BELIEF**, (set of) beliefs, principles, articles of faith, ideology, credo, doctrine, teaching, dogma, tenets, canons

creek ▶ **noun** **INLET**, arm of the sea, bay, estuary, bight, fjord, sound, *Scottish* firth, frith, (*in Orkney & Shetland*) voe

creep ▶ **verb** ① *Tim crept out of the house* **TIPTOE**, steal, sneak, slip, slink, sidle, pad, edge, inch, skulk, prowl ② (*informal*) *they're always creeping to the boss* **GROVEL** to, ingratiate oneself with, curry favour with, toady to, truckle to, kowtow to, bow and scrape to, pander to, fawn on/over, make up to, *informal* crawl to, suck up to, lick someone's boots, butter up

creeper ▶ **noun** **CLIMBING PLANT**, trailing plant, vine, climber, Rambler

creeps

■ **give someone the creeps** (*informal*) **REPEL**, repulse, revolt, disgust, sicken, nauseate, make someone's flesh creep, make someone's skin crawl, scare, frighten, terrify, horrify, *N Amer informal* gross out

creepy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) **FRIGHTENING**, eerie, disturbing, sinister, weird, hair-raising, menacing, threatening, *Scottish* eldritch, *informal* spooky, scary

crescent ▶ **noun** **HALF-MOON**, sickle-shape, demilune, lunula, lunette, arc, curve, bow

crest ▶ **noun** ① *the bird's crest* **COMB**, plume, tuft of feathers ② *the crest of the hill* **SUMMIT**, peak, top, tip, pinnacle, brow, crown, apex ③ *the Duke of Wellington's crest* **INSIGNIA**, regalia, badge, emblem, heraldic device, coat of arms, arms, *Heraldry* bearing, charge

crestfallen ▶ **adjective** **DOWNHEARTED**, downcast, despondent, disappointed, disconsolate, disheartened, discouraged, dispirited, dejected, depressed, desolate, in the doldrums, sad, glum, gloomy, dismayed, doleful, miserable, unhappy, woebegone, forlorn; *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps

-OPPOSITES cheerful

Cricketing Terms and Expressions

all-rounder	declare	keeper	out	silly point
appeal	deep midwicket	last man	outfield	single
bails	deep square leg	late cut	outswinger	six
ball	dismiss	leg before wicket	over	skyer/skier
ball-tampering	dolly	(lbw)	overarm	slip
bat	drive	leg break	overpitch	slog
batsman/	duck	leg bye	overthrow	spin
batswoman	extra cover	leg side	pace	spinner
batting crease	extras	lob	paceman	square
bodyline bowling	fielder	long hop	partnership	square cut
bouncer	fieldsman	long leg	pitch	square leg
boundary	fine leg	long off	pitch of the ball	stonewalling
bowler	follow on	long on	point	striker
bowling crease	four	longstop	popping crease	stumped
break	full pitch	maiden over	return crease	stumps
bye	full toss	mid-off	round-arm	sundries
century	glance	mid-on	bowling	third man
chinaman	googly	midwicket	run	third umpire
chucker	gully	misfield	runner	top-spinner
cover drive	hat-trick	nightwatchman	run out	twelfth man
cover point	hit wicket	no-ball (nb)	run-up	umpire
the covers	hook	non-striker	seam bowler	wicket
crease	how's that?/	off drive	seamer	wicketkeeper
cut	howzat?	off side	short leg	wide
daisy-cutter	infield	on drive	short midwicket	yorker
dead bat	innings	opener	silly mid-off	
declaration	inswinger	opening batsman	silly mid-on	



crevasse ► **noun** CHASM, abyss, fissure, cleft, crack, split, breach, rift, hole, cavity

crevice ► **noun** CRACK, fissure, cleft, chunk, interstice, cranny, nook, slit, split, rift, fracture, breach, opening, gap, hole

crew ► **noun** ① the ship's crew SAILORS, mariners, hands, ship's company, ship's complement ② a crew of cameramen and sound engineers TEAM, group, company, unit, corps, party, gang ③ (informal) a crew of inebriated locals CROWD, group, band, gang, mob, pack, troop, swarm, herd, posse, informal bunch, gaggle

crib ► **noun** ① the baby's crib COT, cradle, bassinet, Moses basket, carrycot ② the oxen's cribs MANGER, stall, feeding trough, fodder rack

► **verb** (informal) she cribbed the plot from a Shakespeare play COPY, plagiarize, poach, appropriate, steal, 'borrow', informal rip off, lift, Bnt informal nick, pinch

crick ► **verb** STRAIN, twist, nck, sprain, pull, wrench, injure, hurt, damage

cricket ► **noun**. See list

crime ► **noun** ① kidnapping is a very serious crime OFFENCE, unlawful act, felony, misdemeanour, misdeed, wrong, Law tort ② the increase in crime. LAWBREAKING, delinquency, wrongdoing, criminality, misconduct, illegality, villainy, informal crookedness, Law malfeasance ③ a crime against humanity SIN, evil, immoral act, wrong, atrocity, abomination, disgrace, outrage

criminal ► **noun** a convicted criminal: LAWBREAKER, offender, villain, delinquent, felon, convict, malefactor, wrongdoer, culprit, miscreant, thief, burglar, robber, armed robber, gunman, gangster, terrorist; informal crook, con, jailbird, (old) lag; N Amer informal hood, yardbird, Austral / NZ informal crim; Law malfeasant

► **adjective** ① criminal conduct UNLAWFUL, illegal, il-

licit, lawless, felonious, delinquent, fraudulent, actionable, culpable, villainous, nefarious, corrupt, wrong, bad, evil, wicked, iniquitous, informal crooked, Bnt informal bent, Law malfeasant ② (informal) a criminal waste of taxpayer's money DEPLORABLE, shameful, reprehensible, disgraceful, inexcusable, unforgivable, unpardonable, outrageous, monstrous, shocking, scandalous, wicked

—OPPOSITES lawful

crimp ► **verb** PLEAT, flute, corrugate, ruffle, fold, crease, crinkle, pucker, gather, pinch, compress, press together, squeeze together

crimped ► **adjective** crimped blonde hair CURLY, wavy, curled, frizzy, ringlety

cringe ► **verb** ① she cringed as he bellowed in her ear COWER, shrink, recoil, shy away, flinch, blench, draw back, shake, tremble, quiver, quail, quake ② it makes me cringe when I think of it WINCE, shudder, squirm, feel embarrassed/mortified

crinkle ► **verb** WRINKLE, crease, pucker, furrow, corrugate, line, rumple, scrunch up, ruck up

crinkly ► **adjective** WRINKLED, wrinkly, crinkled, creased, crumpled, rumpled, crimped, corrugated, fluted, puckered, furrowed, wavy

cripple ► **verb** ① the accident crippled her DISABLE, paralyse, immobilize, lame, incapacitate, handicap. ② the company had been crippled by the recession DEVASTATE, ruin, destroy, wipe out, paralyse, hamstring, bring to a standstill, put out of action, put out of business, bankrupt, break, bring someone to their knees.

crippled ► **adjective** DISABLED, paralysed, incapacitated, physically handicapped, lame, immobilized, bedridden, confined to a wheelchair; euphemistic physically challenged; archaic halt.

crisis ► **noun** ① the situation had reached a crisis CRITICAL POINT, turning point, crossroads, cli-



macternic, head, moment of truth, zero hour, point of no return, Rubicon, doomsday, *informal* crunch ② the current economic crisis EMERGENCY, disaster, catastrophe, calamity, predicament, plight, mess, trouble, dire straits, difficulty, extremity

crisp ▶ **adjective** ① *crisp bacon* CRUNCHY, crispy, brittle, crumbly, friable, breakable, firm, dry ② a crisp autumn day INVIGORATING, bracing, brisk, fresh, refreshing, exhilarating, tonic, energizing, cool, chill, chilly, cold, *informal* nippy, *Bnt informal* parky ③ her answer was crisp BRISK, decisive, businesslike, no-nonsense, incisive, to the point, matter of fact, brusque, terse, succinct, concise, brief, short, short and sweet, laconic, *informal* snappy ④ crisp white bed-linen SMOOTH, uncreased, ironed, starched
—OPPOSITES soft, sultry, rambling

criterion ▶ **noun** STANDARD, specification, measure, gauge, test, scale, benchmark, yardstick, touchstone, barometer, principle, rule, law, canon

critic ▶ **noun** ① a literary critic REVIEWER, commentator, evaluator, analyst, judge, pundit ② critics of the government DETRACTOR, attacker, fault-finder

critical ▶ **adjective** ① a highly critical report CENSORIOUS, condemnatory, condemning, denunciatory, disparaging, disapproving, scathing, fault-finding, judgemental, negative, unfavourable, *informal* nit-picking, picky ② a critical essay EVALUATIVE, analytical, interpretative, expository, explanatory ③ the situation is critical GRAVE, serious, dangerous, risky, perilous, hazardous, precarious, touch-and-go, in the balance, uncertain, parlous, desperate, dire, acute, life-and-death ④ the choice of materials is critical for product safety CRUCIAL, vital, essential, of the essence, all-important, paramount, fundamental, key, pivotal, decisive, deciding, climacteric
—OPPOSITES complimentary, unimportant

criticism ▶ **noun** ① she was stung by his criticism CENSURE, condemnation, denunciation, disapproval, disparagement, opprobrium, fault-finding, attack, broadside, brickbats, stricture, recrimination, *informal* flak, a bad press, pan-nung; *Bnt informal* stick, slating, *formal* exco-riation ② literary criticism EVALUATION, assessment, appraisal, analysis, judgement, commen-tary, interpretation, explanation, explication, elucidation

criticize ▶ **verb** FIND FAULT WITH, censure, de-nounce, condemn, attack, lambaste, pillory, rail against, inveigh against, arraign, cast as-per-sions on, pour scorn on, disparage, deni-grate, give a bad press to, run down, *informal* knock, pan, slam, hammer, lay into, pull to pieces, pick holes in, *Bnt informal* slag off, slate, rubbish, *N Amer. informal* pummel, trash, *Austral / NZ informal* bag, monster, *formal* exconate.
—OPPOSITES praise

critique ▶ **noun** ANALYSIS, evaluation, assess-ment, appraisal, appreciation, criticism, review, study, commentary, exposition, exegesis

crook ▶ **noun** ① a crock of honey POT, jar; jug, pitcher, ewer; container, receptacle, vessel. ② (crocks) a pile of dirty crocks See CROCKERY ③ (informal) he's a bit of an old crock INVALID, val-etudinarian; geriatric, dotard; *informal* crumbly, wrinkly

crockery ▶ **noun** DISHES, crocks, china, table-ware, plates, bowls, cups, saucers See list at POTTERY

crony ▶ **noun** (informal) FRIEND, companion, bosom friend, intimate, confidant(e), familiar, associate, comrade, *informal* pal, chum, sidekick, *Bnt informal* mate, *N Amer informal* buddy, amigo, compadre, *archaic* compeer

crook ▶ **noun** ① (informal) a small-time crook. CRIMINAL, lawbreaker, offender, villain, delinquent, felon, convict, malefactor, culprit, wrongdoer, rogue, scoundrel, cheat, swindler, racketeer, confidence trickster, thief, robber, burglar, *informal* (old) lag, shark, con man, con, jailbird, *N Amer informal* hood, yardbird, *Austral / NZ informal* crim, *Law* malefasant ② the crook of a tree branch BEND, fork, curve, angle

▶ **verb** he crooked his finger and called the waiter COCK, flex, bend, curve, curl

crooked ▶ **adjective** ① narrow, crooked streets WINDING, twisting, zigzag, meandering, tortu-ous, serpentine ② a crooked spine BENT, twist-ed, misshapen, deformed, malformed, contort-ed, out of shape, wry, warped, bowed, distort-ed, *Scottish* thrawn ③ the picture over the bed looked crooked LOPSIDED, askew, awry, off-centre, uneven, out of true, out of line, asym-metrical, tilted, at an angle, aslant, slanting, squint, *Scottish* agley, *informal* cock-eyed, *Bnt infor-mal* skew-whiff, wonky ④ (informal) a crooked cop | crooked deals DISHONEST, unscrupulous, un-principled, untrustworthy, corrupt, corruptible, buyable, venal, criminal, illegal, unlawful, ne-farious, fraudulent, *Bnt informal* bent, dodgy
—OPPOSITES straight, honest

croon ▶ **verb** SING SOFTLY, hum, warble, trill

crop ▶ **noun** ① some farmers lost their entire crop HARVEST, year's growth, yield, fruits, produce ② a bumper crop of mail BATCH, lot, assortment, selection, collection, supply, intake ③ the bird's crop CRAW, gullet, throat ④ a rider's crop WHIP, switch, cane, stick

▶ **verb** ① she's had her hair cropped CUT SHORT, cut, clip, shear, shave, lop off, chop off, hack off, dock ② a flock of sheep were cropping the turf GRAZE ON, browse on, feed on, nibble, eat ③ the hay was cropped several times this summer HARVEST, reap, mow, gather (in), collect, pick, bring home

■ **crop up** HAPPEN, occur, arise, turn up, spring up, pop up, emerge, materialize, surface, ap-pear, come to light, present itself, *poetic/literary* come to pass, befall, *archaic* hap

cross ▶ **noun** ① a bronze cross CRUCIFIX, rood ② we all have our crosses to bear BURDEN, trouble, worry, trial, tribulation, affliction, curse, bane, misfortune, adversity, hardship, vicissitude; millstone, albatross, thorn in one's flesh/side, misery, woe, pain, sorrow, suffering; *informal* hassle, headache. ③ a cross between a yak and a cow HYBRID, hybridization, cross-breed, half-breed, mongrel; mixture, amalgam, blend, combination.

▶ **verb** ① they crossed the hills on foot: TRAVEL ACROSS, traverse, range over; negotiate, navi-gate, cover ② a lake crossed by a fine stone bridge. SPAN, bridge; extend/stretch across, pass over. ③ the point where the two roads cross: INTERSECT, meet, join, connect, criss-cross. ④ no one dared cross him OPPOSE, resist, defy, obstruct, impede, hinder, hamper, contradict, argue with, quarrel

with, stand up to, take a stand against, take issue with, *formal* gainsay ⑤ the breed was crossed with the similarly coloured Friesian HYBRIDIZE, cross-breed, interbreed, cross-fertilize, cross-pollinate

► **adjective** Jane was getting cross ANGRY, annoyed, irate, irritated, in a bad mood, vexed, irked, piqued, out of humour, put out, displeased, irritable, short-tempered, bad-tempered, snappish, crotchety, grouchy, grumpy, fractious, testy, tetchy, crabby, *informal* mad, hot under the collar, peeved, riled, snappy, on the warpath, up in arms, steamed up, in a paddy, *Brit informal* aerated, shirty, stroppy, ratty, *N Amer informal* sore, bent out of shape, teed off, ticked off; *Austral / NZ informal* ropeable, snaky, crook
-OPPOSITES pleased

■ **cross something out** DELETE, strike out, ink out, score out, edit out, blue-pencil, cancel, obliterate, *Printing* delete

cross-examine ► **verb** INTERROGATE, question, cross-question, quiz, catechize, give someone the third degree, *informal* grill, pump, put someone through the wringer/mangle

cross-grained ► **adjective** BAD-TEMPERED, cantankerous, irascible, grumpy, grouchy, awkward, perverse, contrary, uncooperative, unhelpful, obstructive, disobliging, recalcitrant, stubborn, obstinate, mulish, pig-headed, intractable, *informal* cussed, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, bolshie, stroppy, *N Amer informal* balky, *formal* refractory
-OPPOSITES good-humoured

crossing ► **noun** ① a busy road crossing JUNCTION, crossroads, intersection, interchange, level crossing ② a short ferry crossing JOURNEY, passage, voyage

crosswise, crossways ► **adverb** DIAGONALLY, obliquely, transversely, askant, cornerwise, at an angle, on the bias, *N Amer* cater-cornered, kitty-corner

crotch ► **noun** GROIN, crutch, lap

crotchety ► **noun** WHIM, whimsy, fancy, notion, vagary, caprice, foible, quirk, eccentricity, *archaic* megrim

crotchety ► **adjective** BAD-TEMPERED, irascible, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, cantankerous, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, waspish, crabbed, crabby, crusty, prickly, touchy, *informal* snappish, snappy, chippy, *Brit informal* shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery, *Austral / NZ informal* snaky
-OPPOSITES good-humoured

crouch ► **verb** SQUAT, bend (down), hunker down, hunch over, stoop, kneel (down), duck, cower.

crow ► **verb** ① a cock crowed CRY, squawk, screech, caw ② try to avoid crowing about your success BOAST, brag, trumpet, swagger, swank, gloat, show off, preen oneself, sing one's own praises, blow one's own trumpet, *informal* talk big, lay it on thick, *Austral / NZ informal* skate.

crowd ► **noun** ① a crowd of people THRONG, horde, mass, multitude, host, army, herd, flock, drove, swarm, sea, troupe, pack, press, crush, mob, rabble, collection, company, gathering, assembly, assemblage, congregation; *informal* gaggle, bunch, gang, posse, *archaic* rout

② she wanted to stand out from the crowd MAJORITY, multitude, common people, populace, general public, masses, rank and file, *Brit informal* Joe Public ③ he's been hanging round with Hurley's crowd SET, group, circle, clique, coterie, camp, *informal* gang, crew, lot ④ the final attracted a capacity crowd AUDIENCE, spectators, listeners, viewers, house, turnout, attendance, gate, congregation, *Brit informal* punters

► **verb** ① reporters crowded round her CLUSTER, flock, swarm, mill, throng, huddle, gather, assemble, congregate, converge ② the guests all crowded into the dining room SURGE, push one's way, jostle, elbow one's way, squeeze, pile, cram ③ the quayside was crowded with holiday-makers THRONG, pack, jam, cram, fill ④ stop crowding me PRESSURIZE, pressure, harass, hound, pester, harry, badger, nag, *informal* hassle, lean on

crowded ► **adjective** PACKED, full, filled to capacity, full to bursting, congested, overcrowded, overflowing, teeming, swarming, thronged, populous, overpopulated, busy, *informal* jam-packed, stuffed, chock-a-block, chock-full, bursting at the seams, full to the gunwales, wall-to-wall, *Austral / NZ informal* chocker
-OPPOSITES deserted

crown ► **noun** ① a jewelled crown CORONET, diadem, circlet, *poetic/literary* coronal, *historical* taj ② the world heavyweight crown TITLE, award, accolade, distinction, trophy, cup, medal, plate, shield, belt, prize, laurels, bays, palm ③ his family were loyal servants of the Crown MONARCH, sovereign, king, queen, emperor, empress, monarchy, royalty, *informal* royals ④ the crown of the hill TOP, crest, summit, peak, pinnacle, tip, head, brow, apex

► **verb** ① David II was crowned in 1331 ENTHRONE, install, invest, induct ② a teaching post at Harvard crowned his career ROUND OFF, cap, be the climax of, be the culmination of, top off, consummate, perfect, complete, put the finishing touch(es) to ③ a steeple crowned by a gilded weathercock TOP, cap, tip, head, surmount ④ (*informal*) someone crowned him with a poker See HIT verb sense 1

crucial ► **adjective** ① negotiations were at a crucial stage PIVOTAL, critical, key, climactic, decisive, deciding, life-and-death ② confidentiality is crucial in this case ALL-IMPORTANT, of the utmost importance, of the essence, critical, pre-eminent, paramount, essential, vital
-OPPOSITES unimportant

crucify ► **verb** ① two thieves were crucified with Jesus NAIL TO A CROSS, execute, put to death, kill ② she had been crucified by his departure DEVASTATE, crush, shatter, cut to the quick, wound, pain, harrow, torture, torment, agonize ③ (*informal*) the fans would crucify us if we lost See CRITICIZE

crude ► **adjective** ① crude oil. UNREFINED, unpurified, unprocessed, untreated, unmilled, unpolished; coarse, raw, natural ② a crude barricade PRIMITIVE, simple, basic, homespun, rudimentary, rough, rough and ready, rough-hewn, make-do, makeshift, improvised, unfinished, dated rude ③ crude jokes VULGAR, rude, naughty, suggestive, bawdy, off colour, indecent, obscene, offensive, lewd, salacious, licentious, ribald, coarse, uncouth, indelicate, tasteless, crass, smutty, dirty, filthy, scatological; *informal* blue

—OPPOSITES refined, sophisticated

cruel ▶ **adjective** ① a cruel man BRUTAL, savage, inhuman, barbaric, barbarous, brutish, bloodthirsty, murderous, vicious, sadistic, wicked, evil, fiendish, diabolical, monstrous, abominable, callous, ruthless, merciless, pitiless, remorseless, uncaring, heartless, stony-hearted, hard-hearted, cold-blooded, cold-hearted, unfeeling, unkind, inhumane, *dated* dastardly, *poetic/literary* fell ② her death was a cruel blow HARSH, severe, bitter, harrowing, heartbreaking, heart-rending, painful, agonizing, traumatic, *formal* grievous

—OPPOSITES compassionate

cruelty ▶ **noun** BRUTALITY, savagery, inhumanity, barbarity, barbarousness, brutishness, bloodthirstiness, viciousness, sadism, wickedness, callousness, ruthlessness, lack of compassion

cruise ▶ **noun** a cruise down the Nile BOAT TRIP, sea trip, voyage, journey

▶ **verb** ① she cruised across the Atlantic SAIL, voyage, journey ② a taxi cruised past DRIVE SLOWLY, drift, *informal* mosey, tootle, *Brit informal* pootle

crumb ▶ **noun** FRAGMENT, bit, morsel, particle, speck, scrap, shred, sliver, atom, grain, trace, tinge, mite, iota, jot, whit, ounce, scintilla, soupçon, *informal* smidgen, tad

crumble ▶ **verb** DISINTEGRATE, fall apart, fall to pieces, fall down, break up, collapse, fragment, decay, fall into decay, deteriorate, degenerate, go to rack and ruin, decompose, rot, moulder, perish

crumbly ▶ **adjective** BRITTLE, breakable, friable, powdery, granular, short, crisp, crispy

crumple ▶ **verb** ① she crumpled the note in her fist CRUSH, scrunch up, screw up, squash, squeeze, *Brit* scrumple ② his trousers were dirty and crumpled CREASE, wrinkle, crinkle, rumple, ruck up ③ her resistance crumpled COLLAPSE, give way, cave in, go to pieces, break down, crumble, be overcome

crunch ▶ **verb** she crunched the biscuit with relish MUNCH, chomp, champ, scrunch, bite into

▶ **noun** (*informal*) when the crunch comes, she'll be forced to choose MOMENT OF TRUTH, critical point, crux, crisis, decision time, zero hour, point of no return, showdown

crusade ▶ **noun** ① the medieval crusades HOLY WAR; Islam jihad ② a crusade against crime CAMPAIGN, drive, push, movement, effort, struggle, battle, war, offensive

▶ **verb** she likes crusading for the cause of the underdog: CAMPAIGN, fight, do battle, battle, take up arms, take up the cudgels, work, strive, struggle, agitate, lobby, champion, promote

crusader ▶ **noun** CAMPAIGNER, fighter, champion, advocate, reformer

crush ▶ **verb** ① essential oils are released when the herbs are crushed SQUASH, squeeze, press, compress, pulp, mash, macerate, mangle; flatten, trample on, tread on; *informal* squidge, splat, *N Amer informal* smush. ② your dress will get crushed CREASE, crumple, rumple, wrinkle, crinkle, scrunch up, ruck up; *Brit* scrumple up ③ crush the biscuits with a rolling pin: PULVERIZE, pound, grind, break up, smash, crumble, mill; *technical* triturate, comminute, *archaic* bray, levigate ④ he crushed her in his arms: HUG, squeeze, hold tight, embrace, enfold. ⑤ the new regime crushed

all popular uprisings SUPPRESS, put down, quell, quash, stamp out, put an end to, overcome, overpower, defeat, triumph over, break, repress, subdue, extinguish ⑥ Alan was crushed by her words MORTIFY, humiliate, abash, chagrin, deflate, demoralize, flatten, squash, devastate, shatter, put someone in their place, *informal* shoot down in flames, cut down to size, knock the stuffing out of

▶ **noun** ① the crush of people CROWD, throng, horde, swarm, sea, mass, pack, press, mob, *archaic* rout ② (*informal*) a teenage crush INFATUATION, obsession, love, passion, *informal* pash, puppy love, calf love ③ lemon crush: SQUASH, fruit juice, cordial, drink

crust ▶ **noun** ① a crust of ice COVERING, layer, coating, cover, coat, sheet, thickness, film, skin, topping, incrustation, scab ② the earth's crust See list ③ (*informal*) I'm just trying to earn an honest crust LIVING, livelihood, income, daily bread, means of subsistence, *informal* bread and butter

Layers of the Earth's Crust

asthenosphere	oceanic crust
continental crust	slab
lithosphere	transition zone
lower mantle	upper mantle
Mohorovičić discontinuity	

crusty ▶ **adjective** ① crusty French bread CRISP, crispy, well baked, crumbly, brittle, friable ② a crusty old man IRRITABLE, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, crabby, curmudgeonly, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, prickly, waspish, peppery, cross-grained, *informal* snappish, snappy, chippy, *Brit informal* stroppy, narky, ratty; *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery, *Austral/NZ informal* snaky

—OPPOSITES soft, good-natured

crux ▶ **noun** NUB, heart, essence, central point, main point, core, centre, nucleus, kernel, *informal* the bottom line

cry ▶ **verb** ① Mandy started to cry WEEP, shed tears, sob, wail, cry one's eyes out, bawl, howl, snivel, whimper, squall, mewl, bleat, lament, grieve, mourn, keen, *Scottish* greet, *informal* boo-hoo, blub, blubber, turn on the waterworks, *Brit informal* grizzle, *poetic/literary* pule ② 'Wait!' he cried CALL, shout, exclaim, sing out, yell, shriek, scream, screech, bawl, bellow, roar, vociferate, squeal, yelp, *informal* holler, *dated* ejaculate

—OPPOSITES laugh, whisper

▶ **noun** ① Leonora had a good cry: SOB, weep, crying fit ② a cry of despair CALL, shout, exclamation, yell, shriek, scream, screech, bawl, bellow, roar, howl, yowl, squeal, yelp, interjection, *informal* holler; *dated* ejaculation. ③ fundraisers have issued a cry for help: APPEAL, plea, entreaty, cry from the heart, *cri de cœur*.

■ cry someone/something down (*dated*) DISPARAGE, run down, belittle, make light of, denigrate, decry, deprecate, depreciate, play down, trivialize, minimize; *archaic* hold cheap.



■ **cry off** (informal) BACK OUT, pull out, cancel, withdraw, beg off, excuse oneself, change one's mind; informal get cold feet, cop out

crypt ▶ noun TOMB, vault, mausoleum, burial chamber, sepulchre, catacomb, ossuary, undercroft

cryptic ▶ adjective ENIGMATIC, mysterious, confusing, mystifying, perplexing, puzzling, obscure, abstruse, arcane, oracular, Delphic, ambiguous, elliptical, oblique, informal as clear as mud
-OPPOSITES clear

cub ▶ noun ① a lioness and her cubs (cubs) YOUNG, offspring, pups, archaic whelps ② a cub reporter TRAINEE, apprentice, probationer, novice, tyro, learner, beginner, N Amer tenderfoot, informal rookie, newbie, N Amer informal greenhorn, probie
-OPPOSITES veteran

cubbyhole ▶ noun SMALL ROOM, booth, cubicle, den, snug, N Amer cubby

cube ▶ noun ① a shape that was neither a cube nor a sphere HEXAHEDRON, cuboid, parallelepiped ② a cube of soap BLOCK, lump, chunk, brick

cuddle ▶ verb ① she picked up the baby and cuddled her HUG, embrace, clasp, hold tight, hold/fold in one's arms ② the pair were kissing and cuddling EMBRACE, hug, caress, pet, fondle, informal canoodle, smooch, informal, dated spoon, bill and coo ③ I cuddled up to him SNUGGLE, nestle, curl, nuzzle, burrow against

cuddly ▶ adjective HUGGABLE, cuddlesome, plump, curvaceous, rounded, buxom, soft, warm, attractive, endearing, lovable, N Amer informal zaftig

cudgel ▶ noun a thick wooden cudgel CLUB, bludgeon, stick, truncheon, baton, blackthorn, shillelagh, mace, N Amer blackjack, billy, nightstick, Brit life preserver, Brit informal cosh

▶ verb she was cudgelled to death BLUDGEON, club, beat, batter, bash, Brit informal cosh

cue ▶ noun SIGNAL, sign, indication, prompt, reminder, nod, word, gesture

cuff ▶ verb Cullam cuffed him on the head HIT, strike, slap, smack, thump, beat, punch, informal clout, wallop, belt, whack, thwack, bash, clobber, bop, biff, sock, Brit informal slosh, N Amer informal boff, slug, archaic smite

■ off the cuff (informal) ① an off-the-cuff remark IMPROMPTU, extempore, ad lib; unrehearsed, unscripted, unprepared, improvised, spontaneous, unplanned ② I spoke off the cuff WITHOUT PREPARATION, without rehearsal, impromptu, ad lib, informal off the top of one's head

cuisine ▶ noun COOKING, cookery, haute cuisine, cordon bleu, nouvelle cuisine

cul-de-sac ▶ noun NO THROUGH ROAD, blind alley, dead end

cull ▶ verb ① anecdotes culled from Greek history SELECT, choose, pick, take, obtain, glean ② he sees culling deer as a necessity SLAUGHTER, kill, destroy

culminate ▶ verb the festival culminated in a dramatic fire-walking ceremony COME TO A CLIMAX, come to a head, peak, climax, reach a pinnacle; build up to, lead up to, end with, finish with, conclude with.

culmination ▶ noun CLIMAX, pinnacle, peak, high point, highest point, height, high water

mark, top, summit, crest, zenith, crowning moment, apotheosis, apex, apogee, consummation, completion, finish, conclusion
-OPPOSITES nadir

culpable ▶ adjective TO BLAME, guilty, at fault, in the wrong, answerable, accountable, responsible, blameworthy, censurable
-OPPOSITES innocent

culprit ▶ noun GUILTY PARTY, offender, wrongdoer, miscreant, criminal, malefactor, lawbreaker, felon, delinquent, informal baddy, crook

cult ▶ noun ① a religious cult SECT, denomination, group, movement, church, persuasion, body, faction ② the cult of youth in Hollywood OBSESSION WITH, fixation on, mania for, passion for, idolization of, devotion to, worship of, veneration of

cultivate ▶ verb ① the peasants cultivated the land TILL, plough, dig, hoe, farm, work, fertilize, mulch ② they were encouraged to cultivate basic food crops GROW, raise, rear, plant, sow ③ Tessa tried to cultivate her WIN SOMEONE'S FRIENDSHIP, woo, court, pay court to, keep sweet, curry favour with, ingratiate oneself with, informal get in someone's good books, butter up, suck up to, N Amer informal shine up to ④ he wants to cultivate his mind IMPROVE, better, refine, elevate, educate, train, develop, enrich

cultivated ▶ adjective CULTURED, educated, well read, civilized, enlightened, discerning, discriminating, refined, polished, sophisticated, urbane, cosmopolitan

cultivation ▶ noun. See FARMING

cultural ▶ adjective ① cultural differences ETHNIC, racial, folk, societal, lifestyle ② cultural achievements AESTHETIC, artistic, intellectual, educational, edifying, civilizing

culture ▶ noun ① 20th century popular culture THE ARTS, the humanities, intellectual achievement, literature, music, painting, philosophy ② a man of culture INTELLECTUAL/ARTISTIC AWARENESS, education, cultivation, enlightenment, discernment, discrimination, good taste, taste, refinement, polish, sophistication ③ Afro-Caribbean culture CIVILIZATION, society, way of life, lifestyle, customs, traditions, heritage, habits, ways, mores, values ④ the culture of crops CULTIVATION, farming, agriculture, husbandry, agronomy

cultured ▶ adjective CULTIVATED, intellectually/artistically aware, artistic, enlightened, civilized, educated, well educated, well read, well informed, learned, knowledgeable, discerning, discriminating, refined, polished, sophisticated, informal arty
-OPPOSITES ignorant

culvert ▶ noun CHANNEL, conduit, watercourse, trough, drain, gutter

cumbersome ▶ adjective ① a cumbersome diving suit UNWIELDY, unmanageable, awkward, clumsy, inconvenient, incommensurable, bulky, large, heavy, hefty, weighty, burdensome; informal hulking, clunky ② cumbersome procedures COMPLICATED, complex, involved, inefficient, unwieldy, slow
-OPPOSITES manageable, straightforward

cumulative ▶ adjective INCREASING, accumulative, growing, mounting, collective, aggregate, amassed, Brit knock-on



cunning ▶ **adjective** *a cunning scheme* CRAFTY, wily, artful, guileful, devious, sly, scheming, designing, calculating, Machiavellian, shrewd, astute, clever, canny, deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous, *informal* foxy, *archaic* subtle

—OPPOSITES honest

▶ **noun** *his political cunning* GUILF, craftiness, deviousness, slyness, trickery, duplicity, shrewdness, astuteness

cup ▶ **noun** ① *a cup and saucer* teacup, coffee cup, demitasse, mug, beaker, *historical* chalice ② *the winner was presented with a silver cup* TROPHY, award, prize

cupboard ▶ **noun** CABINET, sideboard, dresser, armoire, credenza, buffet, *Brit* chiffonier, *informal* glory hole See list

Cupboards and Cabinets

almirah	hope chest
aumbry	larder
armoire	locker
buffet	lowboy
canterbury	pantry
cassone	press
cellaret/cellarette	safe
chest	sea chest
chest of drawers	sideboard
chiffonier	tabernacle
closet	tailboy
commode	tansu
console	wardrobe
credenza	Welsh dresser
dresser	whatnot
highboy	

Cupid ▶ **noun** EROS, the god of love, amoreto

cupidity ▶ **noun** GREED, avarice, avariciousness, acquisitiveness, covetousness, rapacity, materialism, mercenariness, Mammonism, *informal* money-grubbing, an itching palm

—OPPOSITES generosity

cur ▶ **noun** ① *a mangy cur* MONGREL, tyke, *N Amer* yellow dog, *NZ* kuni, *informal* mutt, *Austral* *informal* mong, bitzer ② (*informal*) Neil was beginning to feel like a cur See SCOUNDREL

curable ▶ **adjective** REMEDIABLE, treatable, medical, operable

curative ▶ **adjective** HEALING, therapeutic, medicinal, remedial, corrective, restorative, tonic, health-giving, *archaic* sanative

curator ▶ **noun** CUSTODIAN, keeper, conservator, guardian, caretaker, steward

curb ▶ **noun** *a curb on public spending* RESTRAINT, restriction, check, brake, rein, control, limitation, limit, constraint, *informal* crackdown, *poetic/literary* trammel

▶ **verb** *he tried to curb his temper* RESTRAIN, hold back/in, keep back, repress, suppress, fight back, bite back, keep in check, check, control, rein in, contain, bridle, subdue, *informal* keep a/ the lid on

curdle ▶ **verb** CLOT, coagulate, congeal, solidify, thicken; turn, sour, ferment

cure ▶ **verb** ① *he was cured of the disease* HEAL, restore to health, make well/better, *archaic* cleanse ② *economic equality cannot cure all social ills* RECTIFY, remedy, put/set right, right, fix, mend, repair, heal, make better, solve, sort

out, be the answer/solution to, eliminate, end, put an end to ③ *some farmers cured their own bacon* PRESERVE, smoke, salt, dry, pickle

▶ **noun** ① *a cure for cancer* REMEDY, medicine, medication, medicament, antidote, antiserum, treatment, therapy, *archaic* physic ② *interest rate cuts are not the cure for the problem* SOLUTION, answer, antidote, nostrum, panacea, cure-all; *informal* quick fix, magic bullet

cure-all ▶ **noun** PANACEA, cure for all ills, sovereign remedy, heal-all, nostrum, *informal* magic bullet

curio ▶ **noun** TRINKET, knick-knack, bibelot, ornament, bauble, objet d'art, collector's item, object of virtu, rarity, curiosity, *N Amer* kickshaw

curiosity ▶ **noun** ① *his evasiveness roused my curiosity* INTEREST, spirit of inquiry, inquisitiveness ② *the shop is a treasure trove of curiosities* ODDITY, curio, conversation piece, object of virtu, collector's item

curious ▶ **adjective** ① *she was curious to know what had happened* INTRIGUED, interested, eager/dying to know, agog, inquisitive ② *her curious behaviour* STRANGE, odd, peculiar, funny, unusual, bizarre, weird, eccentric, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, extraordinary, abnormal, out of the ordinary, anomalous, surprising, incongruous, unconventional, unorthodox, *informal* offbeat, *Brit* out of the common, *Scottish* unco, *Brit* *informal* rum

—OPPOSITES uninterested, ordinary

curl ▶ **verb** ① *smoke curled up from his cigarette* SPIRAL, coil, wreath, twirl, swirl, wind, curve, bend, twist (and turn), loop, meander, snake, corkscrew, zigzag ② *Ruth curled her arms around his neck* WIND, twine, entwine, wrap ③ *she washed and curled my hair* CRIMP, perm, tong ④ *they curled up together on the sofa* NESTLE, snuggle, cuddle, *N Amer* snug down

▶ **noun** ① *the tangled curls of her hair* RINGLET, corkscrew, kink, kiss-curl ② *a curl of smoke* SPIRAL, coil, twirl, swirl, twist, corkscrew, curl/cue, helix

curly ▶ **adjective** WAVY, curling, curled, ringlety, crimped, permed, frizzy, kinky, corkscrew

—OPPOSITES straight

currency ▶ **noun** ① *foreign currency* MONEY, legal tender, cash, banknotes, notes, coins, coinage, specie, *N Amer* bills See list at COUNTRY ② *a term which has gained new currency* PREVALENCE, circulation, exposure, acceptance, popularity

current ▶ **adjective** ① *current events* CONTEMPORARY, present-day, modern, present, contemporaneous, topical, in the news, live, burning ② *the idea is still current* PREVALENT, prevailing, common, accepted, in circulation, circulating, on everyone's lips, popular, widespread ③ *a current driving licence* VALID, usable, up to date ④ *the current prime minister* INCUMBENT, present, in office, in power, reigning

—OPPOSITES past, out of date, former

▶ **noun** ① *a current of air* FLOW, stream, backdraught, slipstream, airstream, thermal, updraught, draught; undercurrent, undertow, tide ② *the current of human life* COURSE, progress, progression, flow, tide, movement ③ *the current of opinion* TREND, drift, direction, tendency



curriculum ▶ noun SYLLABUS, course/programme of study, subjects, modules

curse ▶ noun ① she put a curse on him MALEDICTION, the evil eye, *N Amer* hex, *Ins* cuss, *informal* jinx, *formal* imprecation, *poetic/literary* anathema ② the curse of racism EVIL, blight, scourge, plague, cancer, canker, poison ③ the curse of unemployment AFFLICTION, burden, cross to bear, bane ④ muffled curses: SWEAR WORD, expletive, oath, profanity, four-letter word, dirty word, obscenity, blasphemy, *informal* cuss, cuss word, *formal* imprecation

▶ verb ① it seemed as if the family had been cursed PUT A CURSE ON, put the evil eye on, hoodoo, anathematize, damn, *N Amer* hex, *informal* jinx, *archaic* imprecate ② she was cursed with feelings of inadequacy AFFLICT, trouble, plague, bedevil ③ drivers cursed and sounded their horns SWEAR, blaspheme, take the Lord's name in vain, *informal* cuss, turn the air blue, eff and blind, *archaic* execrate

cursed ▶ adjective ① a cursed city UNDER A CURSE, damned, doomed, ill-fated, ill-starred, *informal* jinxed, *poetic/literary* accursed, star-crossed ② (*informal, dated*) those cursed children See ANNOYING

cursory ▶ adjective PERFUNCTORY, desultory, casual, superficial, token, hasty, quick, hurried, rapid, brief, passing, fleeting
-OPPOSITES thorough

curt ▶ adjective TERSE, brusque, abrupt, clipped, blunt, short, monosyllabic, summary, snappish, sharp, tart, gruff, offhand, unceremonious, ungracious, rude, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, *informal* snappy
-OPPOSITES expansive

curtail ▶ verb ① economic policies designed to curtail spending REDUCE, cut, cut down, decrease, lessen, pare down, trim, retrench, restrict, limit, curb, rein in/back, *informal* slash ② his visit was curtailed SHORTEN, cut short, truncate
-OPPOSITES increase, lengthen

curtain ▶ noun he drew the curtains WINDOW HANGING, screen, blind, *N Amer* diape

▶ verb the bed was curtained off from the rest of the room CONCEAL, hide, screen, shield, separate, isolate

curtsy ▶ verb she curtsied to the king BEND ONE'S KNEE, drop/bob a curtsy, genuflect

▶ noun she made a curtsy BOB, genuflection, obeisance

curvaceous ▶ adjective SHAPELY, voluptuous, sexy, full-figured, buxom, full-bosomed, bosomy, Junoesque, cuddly, *informal* curvy, well-endowed, pneumatic, busty, *archaic* comely
-OPPOSITES skinny

curve ▶ noun the serpentine curves of the river BEND, turn, loop, curl, twist, hook, arc, arch, bow, half-moon, undulation, curvature
-RELATED TERMS sinuous

▶ verb the road curved back on itself BEND, turn, loop, wind, meander, undulate, snake, spiral, twist, coil, curl, arc, arch

curved ▶ adjective BENT, arched, bowed, crescent, curving, wavy, sinuous, serpentine, meandering, undulating, curvilinear, curvy
-OPPOSITES straight

cushion ▶ noun a cushion against inflation PROTECTION, buffer, shield, defence, bulwark

▶ verb ① she cushioned her head on her arms: SUP-

PORT, cradle, prop (up), rest. ② to cushion the blow, wages and pensions were increased SOFTEN, lessen, diminish, decrease, mitigate, temper, allay, alleviate, take the edge off, dull, deaden ③ residents are cushioned from the outside world PROTECT, shield, shelter, cocoon

cushy ▶ adjective (*informal*) a cushy job EASY, undemanding, comfortable, secure, *Brit informal* jammy

-OPPOSITES difficult

custodian ▶ noun CURATOR, keeper, conservator, guardian, overseer, superintendent, caretaker, steward, protector

custody ▶ noun the parent who has custody of the child CARE, guardianship, charge, keeping, safe keeping, wardship, responsibility, protection, tutelage, custodianship, trusteeship, *archaic* ward

■ In custody IN PRISON, in jail, imprisoned, incarcerated, locked up, under lock and key, interned, detained, on remand, *informal* behind bars, doing time, inside, *Brit informal* banged up

custom ▶ noun ① his unfamiliarity with the local customs TRADITION, practice, usage, observance, way, convention, formality, ceremony, ritual, shibboleth, sacred cow, unwritten rule, mores, *formal* praxis ② it is our custom to visit the Lake District in October HABIT, practice, routine, way, policy, rule, *formal* wont ③ (*Brit*) if you keep me waiting I will take my custom elsewhere BUSINESS, patronage, trade

customarily ▶ adverb USUALLY, traditionally, normally, as a rule, generally, ordinarily, commonly, habitually routinely
-OPPOSITES occasionally

customary ▶ adjective ① customary social practices USUAL, traditional, normal, conventional, familiar, accepted, routine, established, time-honoured, regular, prevailing ② her customary good sense USUAL, accustomed, habitual, *poetic/literary* wonted
-OPPOSITES unusual

customer ▶ noun CONSUMER, buyer, purchaser, patron, client, shopper, *Brit informal* punter

customs ▶ plural noun. See TAX noun sense 1

cut ▶ verb ① the knife slipped and cut his finger GASH, slash, lacerate, sever, slit, pierce, penetrate, wound, injure, scratch, graze, nick, snick, incise, score, lance ② cut the pepper into small pieces CHOP, cut up, slice, dice, cube, mince, carve, *N Amer* hash ③ cut back the new growth to about half its length TRIM, snip, clip, crop, barber, shear, shave, pare, prune, pollard, poll, lop, dock, mow ④ I went to cut some flowers PICK, pluck, gather, *poetic/literary* cull ⑤ lettering had been cut into the stonework CARVE, engrave, incise, etch, score, chisel, whittle ⑥ the government cut public expenditure REDUCE, cut back/down on, decrease, lessen, retrench, trim, slim down, rationalize, downsize, slendernize, mark down, discount, lower, *informal* slash ⑦ the text has been substantially cut. SHORTEN, abridge, condense, abbreviate, truncate, edit, bowdlerize, expurgate ⑧ you need to cut at least ten lines per page DELETE, remove, take out, excise, blue-pencil ⑨ oil supplies to the area had been cut DISCONTINUE, break off, suspend, interrupt, stop, end, put an end to ⑩ the point where the line cuts the vertical axis: CROSS, inter-

sect, bisect, meet, join ① (dated) the banker's wife cut her at church **SNUB**, ignore, shun, give someone the cold shoulder, cold-shoulder, cut dead, look right through, rebuff, turn one's back on, informal freeze out.

► **noun** ① a cut on his jaw **GASH**, slash, laceration, incision, wound, injury, scratch, graze, nick, snick ② a cut of beef **JOINT**, piece, section ③ (informal) the directors are demanding their cut **SHARE**, portion, bit, quota, percentage, informal slice of the cake, rake-off, piece of the action, *Brit* informal whack. ④ his hair was in need of a cut **HAIR CUT**, trim, clip, crop ⑤ a smart cut of the whip **BLOW**, slash, stroke ⑥ he followed this with the unkindest cut of all **INSULT**, slight, affront, slap in the face, jibe, barb, cutting remark, informal put-down, dig ⑦ a cut in interest rates **REDUCTION**, cutback, decrease, lessening, *N Amer* rollback ⑧ the elegant cut of his jacket **STYLE**, design, tailoring, lines, fit

■ **cut back** companies cut back on foreign investment **REDUCE**, cut, cut down on, decrease, lessen, retrench, economize on, trim, slim down, scale down, rationalize, downsize, pull/draw in one's horns, tighten one's belt, informal slash

■ **cut someone/something down** ① 24 hectares of trees were cut down **FELL**, chop down, hack down, saw down, hew ② he was cut down in his prime **KILL**, slaughter, shoot down, mow down, gun down, informal take out, blow away, poetic/literary slay

■ **cut and dried** **DEFINITE**, decided, settled, explicit, specific, precise, unambiguous, clear-cut, unequivocal, black and white, hard and fast

■ **cut in** **INTERRUPT**, butt in, break in, interject, interpose, chime in, *Brit* informal chip in

■ **cut someone/something off** ① they cut off his finger **SEVER**, chop off, hack off, amputate ② oil and gas supplies were cut off **DISCONTINUE**, break off, disconnect, suspend, stop, end, bring to an end ③ a community cut off from the mainland by the flood waters **ISOLATE**, separate, keep apart, seclude, closet, cloister, sequester

■ **cut out** **STOP WORKING**, stop, fail, give out, break down, informal die, give up the ghost, conk out, *Brit* informal pack up

■ **cut someone/something out** ① cut out all the diseased wood. **REMOVE**, take out, excise, extract, snip out, clip out ② it's best to cut out alcohol altogether. **GIVE UP**, refrain from, abstain from, go without, informal quit, leave off, pack in, lay off, knock off ③ his mother cut him out of her will **EXCLUDE**, leave out, omit, eliminate

■ **cut something short** **BREAK OFF**, shorten, truncate, curtail, terminate, end, stop, abort, bring to an untimely end

■ **cut someone short** **INTERRUPT**, cut off, butt in on, break in on

cutback ► **noun** **REDUCTION**, cut, decrease, economy, saving, *N Amer* rollback
—**OPPOSITES** increase

cute ► **adjective** **ENDEARING**, adorable, lovable, sweet, lovely, appealing, engaging, delightful, dear, darling, winning, winsome, attractive, pretty, informal cutesy, twee, *Brit* informal dinky

cut-price ► **adjective** **CHEAP**, marked down, reduced, on (special) offer, discount, *N Amer* cut-rate

cut-throat ► **noun** (dated) a band of robbers and cut-throats **MURDERER**, killer, assassin, informal hit man, dated homicide

► **adjective** cut-throat competition between rival firms **RUTHLESS**, merciless, fierce, intense, aggressive, dog-eat-dog

cutting ► **noun** ① a newspaper cutting **CLIPPING**, clip, snippet, article, piece, column, paragraph ② plant cuttings **SCION**, slip, graft ③ fabric cuttings **PIECE**, bit, fragment, trimming

► **adjective** ① a cutting remark **HURTFUL**, wounding, barbed, pointed, scathing, acerbic, mordant, caustic, acid, sarcastic, sardonic, snide, spiteful, malicious, mean, nasty, cruel, unkind, informal bitchy, catty, *Brit* informal sarky, *N Amer* informal snarky ② cutting winter winds **ICY**, icy-cold, freezing, arctic, Siberian, glacial, bitter, chilling, chilly, chill, biting, piercing, penetrating, raw, keen, sharp

—**OPPOSITES** friendly, warm

cut up ► **adjective** (informal) he's pretty cut up about it See **UPSET** adjective sense 1

cycle ► **noun** ① the cycle of birth, death, and rebirth **ROUND**, rotation, pattern, rhythm ② the painting is one of a cycle of seven **SERIES**, sequence, succession, run, set ③ cycles may be hired from the station See **BICYCLE**

cyclical ► **adjective** **RECURRENT**, recurring, regular, repeated, periodic, seasonal, circular

cyclone ► **noun** **HURRICANE**, typhoon, tropical storm, storm, tornado, windstorm, whirlwind, tempest, *Austral* willy-willy, *N Amer* informal twister

cynic ► **noun** **SCEPTIC**, doubter, doubting Thomas, pessimist, prophet of doom, doomsayer, Cassandra, informal doom (and gloom) merchant

—**OPPOSITES** idealist

cynical ► **adjective** **SCEPTICAL**, doubtful, distrustful, suspicious, disbelieving, pessimistic, negative, world-weary, disillusioned, disenchanting, jaundiced, sardonic
—**OPPOSITES** idealistic

cynicism ► **noun** **SCEPTICISM**, doubt, distrust, mistrust, suspicion, disbelief, pessimism, negativity, world-weariness, disenchantment
—**OPPOSITES** idealism

cyst ► **noun** **GROWTH**, lump, abscess, wen, boil, carbuncle

Dd

dab ► **verb** *she dabbed disinfectant on the cut* PAT, press, touch, blot, mop, swab, daub, apply, wipe, stroke

► **noun** ① *a dab of glue* DROP, spot, smear, splash, speck, taste, trace, touch, hint, bit, *informal* smidgen, tad, lick ② *apply concealer with light dabs* PAT, touch, blot, wipe

dabble ► **verb** ① *they dabbled their feet in rock pools* SPLASH, dip, paddle, trail, immerse ② *he dabbled in politics* TOY WITH, dip into, flirt with, tinker with, trifle with, play with, dally with

dabbler ► **noun** AMATEUR, dilettante, layman, layperson, tinkerer, trifler
—OPPOSITES professional

daemon ► **noun** NUMEN, genius (loci), attendant spirit, tutelary spirit

daft ► **adjective** (*Brit informal*) ① *a daft idea* AB SURD, preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, laughable, idiotic, stupid, foolish, silly, inane, fatuous, hare-brained, half-baked, *informal* crazy, cock-eyed, *Brit informal* barmy ② *are you daft?* SIMPLE-MINDED, stupid, idiotic, slow, witless, feeble-minded, empty-headed, vacuous, vapid, unhinged, insane, mad, *informal* thick, dim, dopey, dumb, dim-witted, half-witted, birdbrained, pea-brained, slow on the uptake, soft in the head, brain-dead, not all there, touched, crazy, mental, nuts, batty, bonkers, *Brit informal* potty, not the full shilling, barmy, crackers, *N Amer informal* chowderheaded ③ *she's daft about him* INFATUATED WITH, enamoured of, smitten with, besotted by, very fond of, *informal* crazy, mad, nuts, *Brit informal* potty, *informal*, dated sweet on
—OPPOSITES sensible

dagger ► **noun**. See list at KNIFE

daily ► **adjective** *a daily event* EVERYDAY, day-to-day, quotidian, diurnal, circadian

► **adverb** *the museum is open daily* EVERY DAY, once a day, day after day, diurnally

dainty ► **adjective** ① *a dainty china cup* DELICATE, fine, neat, elegant, exquisite, *Brit informal* dinky ② *a dainty morsel* TASTY, delicious, choice, palatable, luscious, mouth-watering, delectable, toothsome, appetizing, inviting, tempting, *informal* scrumptious, yummy, scrummy, finger-licking, moreish ③ *a dainty eater* FASTIDIOUS, fussy, finicky, finical, faddish, particular, discriminating, *informal* choosy, picknickety, picky, *Brit informal* faddy
—OPPOSITES unwieldy, unpalatable, indiscriminating

► **noun** *home-made dainties* DELICACY, titbit, fancy, luxury, treat, nibble, savoury, appetizer, confection, bonbon, *informal* goody, *archaic* sweet-meat

dais ► **noun** PLATFORM, stage, podium, rostrum, stand, apron, soapbox, stump

dale ► **noun** VALLEY, vale, hollow, basin, gully, gorge, ravine, *Brit* dene, combe, *N English* clough, *Scottish* glen, strath, *poetic/literary* dell.

daily ► **verb** ① *don't dally on the way to work* DAWDLE, delay, loiter, linger, waste time, lag,

trail, straggle, fall behind, amble, meander, drift, *informal* dilly-dally, *archaic* tarry ② *he likes dallying with film stars* TRIFLE, toy, amuse oneself, flirt, play fast and loose, philander, carry on, *informal* play around

—OPPOSITES hurry

dam ► **noun** *the dam burst* BARRAGE, barrier, wall, embankment, barricade, obstruction

► **verb** *the river was dammed* BLOCK (UP), obstruct, bung up, close, *technical* occlude

damage ► **noun** ① *did the thieves do any damage?* HARM, destruction, vandalism, injury, impairment, desecration, vitiation, detriment, ruin, havoc, devastation ② (*humorous*) *what's the damage?* COST, price, expense, charge, total ③ *she won £4,300 damages* COMPENSATION, recompense, restitution, redress, reparation(s), indemnification, indemnity, *N Amer informal* comp ► **verb** *the parcel had been damaged* HARM, deface, mutilate, mangle, impair, injure, disfigure, vandalize, tamper with, sabotage, ruin, destroy, wreck, *N Amer informal* trash, *formal* vitiate
—OPPOSITES repair

damaging ► **adjective** HARMFUL, detrimental, injurious, hurtful, inimical, dangerous, destructive, ruinous, deleterious, bad, malign, adverse, undesirable, prejudicial, unfavourable, unhealthy, unwholesome
—OPPOSITES beneficial

damn ► **verb** ① *they were all were damning him* CURSE, put the evil eye on, hoodoo, anathematize, *N Amer* hex, *informal* jinx, *archaic* imprecate ② *we are not going to damn the new product* CON DEMN, censure, criticize, attack, denounce, revile, find fault with, give something a bad press, deprecate, disparage, *informal* slam, lay into, blast, *Brit informal* slate, slag off, have a go at
—OPPOSITES bless, praise

► **noun** (*informal*) *I don't care a damn* JOT, whit, iota, rap, scrap, bit, *informal* hoot, two hoots

damnable ► **adjective** ① *a damnable nuisance* UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, objectionable, horrible, horrid, awful, nasty, dreadful, terrible, annoying, irritating, maddening, exasperating, hateful, detestable, loathsome, abominable, *Brit informal* beastly ② *suicide was thought damnable* SINFUL, wicked, evil, iniquitous, heinous, base, execrable

damnation ► **noun** CONDEMNATION TO HELL, eternal punishment, perdition, doom, hellfire, curse, anathema, *N Amer* hex, *formal* imprecation, *archaic* execration

damned ► **adjective** ① *damned souls* CURSED, doomed, lost, condemned to hell, anathematized, *poetic/literary* accursed ② (*informal*) *this damned car won't start* WRETCHED, *informal* blasted, bloody, damn, damnable, flaming, rotten, *Brit informal* blessed, flipping, blinking, blooming, bleeding, ruddy, *informal*, dated confounded, dated accursed

Dances and Types of Dancing

allemande	conga	gavotte	Lambeth Walk	pas seul	Sir Roger de
Apache	contradance	Gay Gordons	lancers	pata-pata	Coverley
ballet	contredanse	gigue	ländler	Paul Jones	skank
ballroom	corroboree	goombay	lap dance	pavane	slam dance
barn dance	Cossack dance	gopak	limbo	polka	snake dance
basse danse	cotillion	habanera	Lindy Hop	polonaise	soft-shoe
beguine	country dance	haka	llon dance	quadrille	shuffle
belly dance	courante	hay	Madison	quickstep	square dance
black bottom	csardas	(Helston) floral	malagueña	rain dance	stomp
body popping	cueca	dance	mambo	reel	strathspey
bolero	cumbia	(Helston) furry	mashed potato	rigadoon	strip the
boogaloo	Dashing White	Highland fling	madixe	ring-shout	willow
boogie	Sergeant	hoedown	maypole dance	robotic	strut
bop	devil dance	hokey-cokey	mazurka	dancing	sun dance
bossa nova	disco	hora	merengue	rock and roll	sword dance
Boston	do-si-do	hornpipe	Mexican hat	ronde	sytarki
bourrée	double shuffle	hula-hula	military two-	round dance	tambourin
branle	ecossaise	hully gully	step	roundelay	tango
break-dancing	eightsome reel	hustle	minuet	rumba	tap dance
buck-and-wing	excuse-me	Irish jig	moonstomp	sakkie-sakkie	tarantella
bunny hug	fan dance	Irish reel	moonwalk	salsa	tickey-draai
cachucha	fandango	jaleo	morris dance	saltarello	torch
cakewalk	farandole	jazz dance	mosh	samba	turkey trot
cancan	farruca	jig	musette	saraband	twist
capoeira	flamenco	jitterbug	nautch	seguidilla	twosome reel
carioca	fling	jive	old-time	sequence	two-step
cha-cha	folk dance	jota	one-step	dance	veleta
cha-cha-cha	formation	juba	palais glide	shag	vogueing
chaconne	dancing	Kathak	pantsula	shake	volta
character	foxtrot	Kathakali	pas de deux	Shango	waltz
dance	frug	kazachoc	pas de quatre	shimmy	war dance
charleston	galliard	kolo	pas de trois	shuffle	Watusi
circle dance	gallopade	kwela	paso doble	siciliano/	zambra
clog dance	galop	lambada	passepied	siciliana	zapateado

damning ▶ **adjective** INCRIMINATING, condemnatory, damnatory, damaging, derogatory, conclusive, strong

damp ▶ **adjective** *her hair was damp* MOIST, moistened, wettish, dampened, dampish, humid, steamy, muggy, clammy, sweaty, sticky, dank, moisture-laden, wet, wetted, rainy, drizzly, showery, misty, foggy, vaporous, dewy

—OPPOSITES dry
▶ **noun** *the damp in the air* MOISTURE, dampness, humidity, wetness, wet, water, condensation, steam, vapour, clamminess, dankness, rain, dew, drizzle, precipitation, spray, perspiration, sweat.

—OPPOSITES dryness
▶ **verb** ① *sweat damped his hair* See DAMPEN sense 1 ② *nothing damped my enthusiasm* See DAMPEN sense 2

dampen ▶ **verb** ① *the rain dampened her face* MOISTEN, damp, wet, dew, water, poetic/literary bedew ② *nothing could dampen her enthusiasm* LESSEN, decrease, diminish, reduce, moderate, damp, put a damper on, throw cold water on, cool, discourage, suppress, extinguish, quench, stifle, curb, limit, check, restrain, inhibit, deter

—OPPOSITES dry, heighten.

damper ▶ **noun** CURB, check, restraint, restriction, limit, limitation, constraint, rein, brake, control, impediment, chill, pall, gloom.

dampness ▶ **noun.** See DAMP noun.

damsel ▶ **noun** (poetic/literary). See GIRL sense 2.

dance ▶ **verb** ① *he danced with her* sway, trip, twirl, whirl, pirouette, gyrate, informal bop, disco, shake a leg, hoof it, cut a rug, trip the light fantastic, *N Amer informal* get down ② *little girls danced round me* CAPER, cavort, frisk, frolic, skip, prance, gambol, jig, leap, jump, hop, bounce ③ *flames danced in the fireplace* FLICKER, leap, dart, play, flit, quiver, twinkle, shimmer

▶ **noun** *the school dance* BALL, discotheque, masquerade, *N Amer* prom, hoedown, informal disco, hop, bop See lists here and at BALLET

dancer ▶ **noun** danseur, danseuse, informal bopper, hooper See list at BALLET

dandle ▶ **verb** BOUNCE, jiggle, dance, rock

dandy ▶ **noun** *he became something of a dandy* FOP, man about town, bright young thing, glamour boy, rake, informal sharp dresser, snappy dresser, trendy, dude, pretty boy, informal, dated swell, popinjay, dated beau, archaic buck, coxcomb

▶ **adjective** (*N Amer informal*) *our trip was dandy* See EXCELLENT

danger ▶ **noun** ① *an element of danger* PERIL, hazard, risk, jeopardy, perilousness, riskiness, precariousness, uncertainty, instability, insecurity ② *he is a danger to society* MENACE, hazard, threat, risk. ③ *a serious danger of fire* POSSIBILITY, chance, risk, probability, likelihood, fear, prospect

—OPPOSITES safety.

dangerous ▶ **adjective** ① *a dangerous animal* MENACING, threatening, treacherous; savage, wild, vicious, murderous, desperate; rare min-

acious ② *dangerous wiring* **HAZARDOUS**, perilous, risky, high-risk, unsafe, unpredictable, precarious, insecure, touch-and-go, chancy, treacherous, *informal* dicey, hairy, *Brit informal* dodgy
-OPPOSITES harmless, safe

dangle ▶ **verb** ① *a chain dangled from his belt* **HANG (DOWN)**, droop, swing, sway, wave, trail, stream ② *he dangled the keys* **WAVE**, swing, jiggle, brandish, flourish ③ *he dangled money in front of the locals* **OFFER**, hold out, entice someone with, tempt someone with

dangling ▶ **adjective** **HANGING**, drooping, droopy, suspended, pendulous, pendent, trailing, flowing, tumbling

dank ▶ **adjective** **DAMP**, musty, chilly, clammy, moist, wet, unaired, humid
-OPPOSITES dry

dapper ▶ **adjective** **SMART**, spruce, trim, debonaire, neat, well dressed, well groomed, well turned out, elegant, chic, dashing, *informal* snazzy, snappy, natty, sharp, *N Amer informal* spiffy, fly
-OPPOSITES scruffy

dapple ▶ **verb** **DOT**, spot, fleck, streak, speck, speckle, mottle, marble

dappled ▶ **adjective** **SPECKLED**, blotched, blotchy, spotted, spotty, dotted, mottled, mottled, flecked, freckled, piebald, pied, brindle, pinto, tabby, patchy, variegated, *informal* splotchy, splodgy

dare ▶ **verb** ① *nobody dared to say a word* **BE BRAVE ENOUGH**, have the courage, venture, have the nerve, have the temerity, be so bold as, have the audacity, risk, hazard, take the liberty of, *N Amer* take a flyer, *informal* stick one's neck out, go out on a limb ② *she dared him to go* **CHALLENGE**, defy, invite, bid, provoke, goad, throw down the gauntlet

▶ **noun** *she accepted the dare* **CHALLENGE**, provocation, goad, gauntlet, invitation

daredevil ▶ **noun** *a young daredevil crashed his car* **MADCAP**, hothead, adventurer, exhibitionist, swashbuckler, stuntman, *Brit* tearaway, *informal* show-off

▶ **adjective** *a daredevil skydiver* **DARING**, bold, audacious, intrepid, fearless, madcap, death-or-glory, dauntless, heedless, reckless, rash, impulsive, impetuous, foolhardy, incautious, imprudent, *Brit* tearaway, harum-scarum
-OPPOSITES cowardly, cautious

daring ▶ **adjective** *a daring attack* **BOLD**, audacious, intrepid, venturesome, fearless, brave, unafraid, undaunted, dauntless, valiant, valorous, heroic, dashing, madcap, rash, reckless, heedless, *informal* gutsy, spunky

▶ **noun** *his sheer daring* **BOLDNESS**, audacity, temerity, fearlessness, intrepidity, bravery, courage, valour, heroism, pluck, spirit, mettle, recklessness, rashness, foolhardiness, *informal* nerve, guts, spunk, grit, *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* moxie, sand.

dark ▶ **adjective** ① *a dark night* **BLACK**, pitch-black, jet-black, inky, unlit, unilluminated, starless, moonless; dingy, gloomy, dusky, shadowy, shady; *poetic/literary* Stygian. ② *a dark secret* **MYSTERIOUS**, secret, hidden, concealed, veiled, covert, clandestine; enigmatic, arcane, esoteric, obscure, abstruse, impenetrable, incomprehensible, cryptic. ③ *dark hair* **BRUNETTE**, dark brown, chestnut, sable, jet-black, ebony ④ *dark*

skin **SWARTHY**, dusky, olive, black, ebony; tanned, bronzed ⑤ *dark days* **TRAGIC**, disastrous, calamitous, catastrophic, cataclysmic, dire, awful, terrible, dreadful, horrible, horrendous, atrocious, nightmarish, harrowing, wretched, woeful ⑥ *dark thoughts* **GLOOMY**, dismal, pessimistic, negative, downbeat, bleak, grim, fatalistic, black, sombre, despairing, despondent, hopeless, cheerless, melancholy, glum, grave, morose, mournful, doleful. ⑦ *a dark look* **MOODY**, brooding, sullen, dour, scowling, glowering, angry, forbidding, threatening, ominous ⑧ *dark deeds* **EVIL**, wicked, sinful, immoral, bad, iniquitous, ungodly, unholy, base, vile, unspeakable, foul, monstrous, shocking, atrocious, abominable, hateful, despicable, odious, horrible, heinous, execrable, diabolical, fiendish, murderous, barbarous, black, sordid, degenerate, depraved, dishonourable, dishonest, unscrupulous, *informal* low-down, dirty, crooked, shady

-OPPOSITES bright, blonde, pale, happy, good

▶ **noun** ① *he's afraid of the dark* **DARKNESS**, blackness, gloom, murkiness, shadow, shade, dusk, twilight, gloaming ② *she went out after dark* **NIGHT**, night-time, darkness, nightfall, evening, twilight, sunset

-OPPOSITES light, day

■ **in the dark** (*informal*) **UNAWARE**, ignorant, oblivious, uninformed, unenlightened, unacquainted, unobservant

darken ▶ **verb** ① *the sky darkened* **GROW DARK**, blacken, dim, cloud over, lour, shade, fog ② *his mood darkened* **BLACKEN**, become angry, become annoyed, sadden, become gloomy, become unhappy, become depressed, become dejected, become dispirited, become troubled

darkness ▶ **noun** ① *lights shone in the darkness* **DARK**, blackness, gloom, dimness, murkiness, shadow, shade, dusk, twilight, gloaming ② *darkness fell* **NIGHT**, night-time, dark ③ *the forces of darkness* **EVIL**, wickedness, sin, iniquity, immorality, devilry, the Devil

darling ▶ **noun** ① *good night, darling* **DEAR**, dearest, love, lover, sweetheart, sweet, beloved, *informal* honey, angel, pet, sweetie, sugar, babe, baby, poppet, treasure ② *the darling of the media* **FAVOURITE**, pet, idol, hero, heroine, *Brit informal* blue-eyed boy/girl

▶ **adjective** ① *his darling wife* **DEAR**, dearest, precious, adored, loved, beloved, cherished, treasured, esteemed, worshipped ② *a darling little hat* **ADORABLE**, appealing, charming, cute, sweet, enchanting, bewitching, endearing, dear, delightful, lovely, beautiful, attractive, gorgeous, fetching, *Scottish & N English* bonny

darn ▶ **verb** *he was darning his socks* **MEND**, repair, reinforce, sew up, stitch, patch

▶ **noun** *a sweater with darns in the elbows* **PATCH**, repair, reinforcement, stitch

dart ▶ **noun** ① *a poisoned dart* **SMALL ARROW**, flechette, bolt, missile, projectile ② *she made a dart for the door* **DASH**, rush, run, bolt, break, start, charge, sprint, bound, leap, dive, scurry, scamper, scramble

▶ **verb** ① *Karl darted across the road* **DASH**, rush, tear, run, bolt, fly, shoot, charge, race, sprint, bound, leap, dive, gallop, scurry, scamper, scramble, *informal* scoot ② *he darted a glance at her* **DIRECT**, cast, throw, shoot, send, flash

dash ▶ **verb** ① *he dashed home* RUSH, race, run, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper, *informal* tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip, hotfoot it, leg it, *Brit informal* bomb, go like the clappers, *N Amer informal* barrel ② *he dashed the glass to the ground* HURL, smash, crash, slam, throw, toss, fling, pitch, cast, project, propel, send; *informal* chuck, heave, sling, bung, *N Amer informal* peg, dated shy ③ *rain dashed against the walls* BE HURLED, crash, smash, batter, strike, beat, pound, lash ④ *her hopes were dashed* SHATTER, destroy, wreck, ruin, crush, devastate, demolish, blight, overturn, scotch, spoil, frustrate, thwart, check, *informal* banjax, do for, blow a hole in, put paid to, *Brit informal* scupper

—OPPOSITES dawdle, raise

▶ **noun** ① *a dash for the door* RUSH, race, run, sprint, bolt, dart, leap, charge, bound, break, scramble ② *a dash of salt* PINCH, touch, sprinkle, taste, spot, drop, dab, speck, smattering, sprinkling, splash, bit, modicum, little, *informal* smidgen, tad, lick ③ *he led off with such dash* VERVE, style, flamboyance, gusto, zest, confidence, self-assurance, elan, flair, vigour, vivacity, sparkle, brio, panache, éclat, vitality, dynamism, *informal* pizzazz, pep, oomph

dashing ▶ **adjective** ① *a dashing pilot* DEBONAIR, devil-may-care, raffish, sporty, spirited, lively, dazzling, energetic, animated, exuberant, flamboyant, dynamic, bold, intrepid, daring, adventurous, plucky, swashbuckling, romantic, attractive, gallant ② *he looked exceptionally dashing* STYLISH, smart, elegant, chic, dapper, spruce, trim, debonair, fashionable, modish, vogueish, *informal* trendy, with it, hip, sharp, snazzy, classy, natty, swish, *N Amer informal* fly, spiffy

dastardly ▶ **adjective** (dated) WICKED, evil, heinous, villainous, diabolical, fiendish, barbarous, cruel, black, dark, rotten, vile, monstrous, abominable, despicable, degenerate, sordid, bad, base, mean, low, dishonourable, dishonest, unscrupulous, unprincipled, *informal* low-down, dirty, shady, rascally, scoundrelly, crooked, *Brit informal* beastly

—OPPOSITES noble

data ▶ **noun** FACTS, figures, statistics, details, particulars, specifics, information, intelligence, material, input, *informal* info, gen

date ▶ **noun** ① *the only date he has to remember* DAY (OF THE MONTH), occasion, time, year, anniversary ② *a later date is suggested for this bridge* AGE, time, period, era, epoch, century, decade, year ③ *a lunch date* APPOINTMENT, meeting, engagement, rendezvous, assignation, commitment ④ (informal) *a date for tonight* PARTNER, escort, girlfriend, boyfriend, *informal* steady, bird, fella

▶ **verb** ① *the sculpture can be dated accurately* ASSIGN A DATE TO, ascertain the date of, put a date on ② *the building dates from the 16th century* WAS MADE IN, was built in, originates in, comes from, belongs to, goes back to ③ *the best films don't date* BECOME OLD-FASHIONED, become outmoded, become dated, show its age ④ (informal) *he's dating Jill* GO OUT WITH, take out, go around with, be involved with, see, woo, *informal* go steady with; dated court

■ **to date** SO FAR, thus far, yet, as yet, up to now, till now, until now, up to the present (time), hitherto

dated ▶ **adjective** OLD-FASHIONED, outdated, outmoded, passé, behind the times, archaic, obsolete, antiquated, unfashionable, unstylish, crusty, olde worlde, prehistoric, antediluvian, *informal* old hat, out, out of the ark

—OPPOSITES modern

daub ▶ **verb** *he daubed a rock with paint* SMEAR, bedaub, plaster, splash, spatter, splatter, cake, cover, smother, coat

▶ **noun** *daubs of paint* SMEAR, smudge, splash, blot, spot, patch, blotch, *informal* splodge, splotch

daughter ▶ **noun** FEMALE CHILD, girl

daunt ▶ **verb** DISCOURAGE, deter, demoralize, put off, dishearten, dispirit, intimidate, abash, take aback, throw, cow, overawe, awe, frighten, scare, unman, dismay, disconcert, discompose, perturb, unsettle, unnerve, throw off balance, *informal* rattle, faze, shake up

—OPPOSITES hearten

dauntless ▶ **adjective** FEARLESS, determined, resolute, indomitable, intrepid, doughty, plucky, spirited, mettlesome, undaunted, undismayed, unflinching, unshrinking, bold, audacious, valiant, brave, courageous, daring, *informal* gutsy, spunky, feisty

dawdle ▶ **verb** ① *they dawdled over breakfast* LINGER, dally, take one's time, be slow, waste time, idle, delay, procrastinate, stall, *informal* dilly-dally, *archaic* tarry ② *Ruth dawdled home* AMBLE, stroll, trail, walk slowly, move at a snail's pace, *informal* mosey, tootle, *Brit informal* pootle, mooch

—OPPOSITES hurry

dawn ▶ **noun** ① *we got up at dawn* DAYBREAK, sunrise, first light, daylight, cockcrow, first thing in the morning, *N Amer* sunup ② *the dawn of civilization* BEGINNING, start, birth, inception, origination, genesis, emergence, advent, appearance, arrival, dawning, rise, origin, onset, unfolding, development, infancy, *informal* kick-off

—OPPOSITES dusk, end

▶ **verb** ① *Thursday dawned crisp and sunny* BEGIN, break, arrive, emerge ② *a bright new future has dawned* BEGIN, start, commence, be born, appear, arrive, emerge, arise, rise, break, unfold, develop ③ *the reality dawned on him* OCCUR TO, come to, strike, hit, enter someone's mind, register with, enter someone's consciousness, cross someone's mind, suggest itself

—OPPOSITES end

day ▶ **noun** ① *I stayed for a day* TWENTY-FOUR-HOUR PERIOD, twenty-four hours ② *enjoy the beach during the day* DAYTIME, daylight, waking hours ③ *the leading architect of the day* PERIOD, time, age, era, generation. ④ *In his day he had great influence* HEYDAY, prime, time, peak, height, zenith, ascendancy, youth, springtime, salad days

—RELATED TERMS diurnal

—OPPOSITES night, decline

■ **day after day** REPEATEDLY, again and again, over and over (again), time and (time) again, frequently, often, time after time, {day in, day out}, night and day, all the time, persistently, recurrently, constantly, continuously, continu-

ally, relentlessly, regularly, habitually, unfailingly, always, *N Amer* oftentimes, *informal* 24-7, *poetic/literary* oft, oft-times

■ **day by day** ① *day by day they were forced to retreat* GRADUALLY, slowly, progressively, bit by bit, inch by inch, little by little, inchmeal ② *they follow the news day by day* DAILY, every day, day after day, diurnally

■ **day in, day out.** See DAY AFTER DAY

daybreak ► **noun** DAWN, crack of dawn, sunrise, first light, first thing in the morning, cockcrow, daylight, *N Amer* sunup
-OPPOSITES nightfall

daydream ► **noun** ① *she was lost in a daydream* REVERIE, trance, fantasy, vision, fancy, brown study, inattentiveness, wool-gathering, preoccupation, absorption, self-absorption, absent-mindedness, abstraction ② *a big house was one of her daydreams* DREAM, pipe dream, fantasy, castle in the air, castle in Spain, fond hope, wishful thinking, *informal* pie in the sky

► **verb** stop daydreaming! DREAM, muse, stare into space, fantasize, be in cloud cuckoo land, build castles in the air, build castles in Spain

daydreamer ► **noun** DREAMER, fantasist, fantasizer, romantic, wishful thinker, idealist, visionary, theorizer, utopian, Walter Mitty

daylight ► **noun** ① *do the test in daylight* NATURAL LIGHT, sunlight ② *she only went there in daylight* DAYTIME, day, broad daylight ③ *police moved in at daylight* DAWN, daybreak, break of day, crack of dawn, sunrise, first light, first thing in the morning, early morning, cockcrow, *N Amer* sunup
-OPPOSITES darkness, night-time, nightfall

■ **see daylight** ① *Sam finally saw daylight* UNDERSTAND, comprehend, realize, see the light, *informal* cotton on, catch on, latch on, get the picture, get the message, get it, *Brit informal* twig ② *his project never saw daylight* BE COMPLETED, be accomplished, see (the) light of day

day-to-day ► **adjective** REGULAR, everyday, daily, routine, habitual, frequent, normal, standard, usual, typical

daze ► **verb** ① *he was dazed by his fall* STUN, stupefy, knock unconscious, knock out, *informal* knock the stuffing out of ② *she was dazed by the revelations* ASTOUND, amaze, astonish, startle, dumbfound, stupefy, overwhelm, stagger, shock, confound, bewilder, take aback, non-plus, shake up, *informal* flabbergast, knock sideways, bowl over, blow away, *Brit informal* knock for six

► **noun** she is in a daze STUPOR, trance, haze, spin, whirl, muddle, jumble

dazzle ► **verb** ① *she was dazzled by the headlights* BLIND TEMPORARILY, deprive of sight ② *I was dazzled by the exhibition* OVERWHELM, overcome, impress, move, stir, affect, touch, awe, overawe, leave speechless, take someone's breath away, spellbind, hypnotize; *informal* bowl over, blow away, knock out

► **noun** ① *dazzle can be a problem to sensitive eyes* GLARE, brightness, brilliance, shimmer, radiance, shine. ② *the dazzle of the limelight* SPARKLE, glitter, brilliance, glory, splendour, magnificence, glamour, attraction, lure, allure, draw, appeal; *informal* razzle-dazzle, razzmatazz

dazzling ► **adjective** ① *the sunlight was dazzling* BRIGHT, blinding, glaring, brilliant. ② *a dazzling*

performance IMPRESSIVE, remarkable, extraordinary, outstanding, exceptional, incredible, amazing, astonishing, phenomenal, breathtaking, thrilling, excellent, wonderful, magnificent, marvellous, superb, first-rate, superlative, matchless, *informal* mind-blowing, out of this world, fabulous, fab, super, sensational, ace, A1, cool, awesome, *Brit informal* smashing, brill.

dead ► **adjective** ① *my parents are dead* PASSED ON/AWAY, expired, departed, gone, no more, late, lost, lamented, perished, fallen, slain, slaughtered, killed, murdered, lifeless, extinct, *informal* (as) dead as a doornail, six feet under, pushing up daisies, *formal* deceased, *euphemistic* with God, asleep ② *patches of dead ground* BARREN, lifeless, bare, desolate, sterile ③ *a dead language* OBSOLETE, extinct, defunct, disused, abandoned, discarded, superseded, vanished, forgotten, archaic, antiquated, ancient, *poetic/literary* of yore ④ *the phone was dead* NOT WORKING, out of order, inoperative, inactive, in disrepair, broken, malfunctioning, defective, *informal* kaput, conked out, on the blink, bust, *Brit informal* knackered ⑤ *a dead leg* NUMB, numbed, deadened, desensitized, unfeeling, paralysed, crippled, incapacitated, immobilized, frozen ⑥ *she has dead eyes* EMOTIONLESS, unemotional, unfeeling, impassive, unresponsive, indifferent, dispassionate, inexpressive, wooden, stony, cold, deadpan, flat, blank, vacant ⑦ *his affection for her was dead* EXTINGUISHED, quashed, stifled, finished, over, gone, no more, ancient history ⑧ *a dead town* UNEVENTFUL, uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, dull, boring, flat, quiet, sleepy, slow, lacklustre, lifeless, *informal* one-horse, dead-and-alive, *N Amer informal* dullsville ⑨ *dead silence* COMPLETE, absolute, total, utter, out-and-out, thorough, unmitigated ⑩ *a dead shot* UNERRING, unfailing, impeccable, sure, true, accurate, precise, deadly, lethal, *Brit informal* spot on, bang on
-OPPOSITES alive, fertile, modern, lively, poor

► **adverb** ① *he was dead serious* COMPLETELY, absolutely, totally, utterly, deadly, perfectly, entirely, quite, thoroughly, definitely, certainly, positively, categorically, unquestionably, undoubtedly, surely, in every way, one hundred per cent ② *flares were seen dead ahead* DIRECTLY, exactly, precisely, immediately, right, straight, due, squarely, *informal* bang, slap bang ③ (*Brit informal*) *it's dead easy* See VERY

deadbeat ► **noun** (*informal*) LAYABOUT, loafer, idler, good-for-nothing, *informal* waster, *Brit informal* skiver, *N Amer informal* bum, *poetic/literary* wastrel

deadend ► **verb** ① *surgeons tried to deaden the pain* NUMB, dull, blunt, suppress, alleviate, mitigate, diminish, reduce, lessen, ease, soothe, relieve, assuage ② *the wood panelling deadened any noise* MUFFLE, mute, smother, stifle, dull, damp (down), silence, quieten, soften, cushion, buffer, absorb ③ *laughing might deaden us to the moral issue* DESENSITIZE, numb, anaesthetize, harden (one's heart), toughen
-OPPOSITES intensify, amplify, sensitize

deadline ► **noun** TIME LIMIT, limit, finishing date, target date, cut-off point

deadlock ► **noun** ① *the strike reached a deadlock* STALEMATE, impasse, checkmate, stand-off, standstill, halt, (full) stop, dead end. ② (*Brit*) -the



deadlock is opened with a key BOLT, lock, latch, catch, *Scottish* snick, snib

deadly ▶ **adjective** ① *these drugs can be deadly* FATAL, lethal, mortal, death-dealing, life-threatening, dangerous, injurious, harmful, detrimental, deleterious, unhealthy, noxious, toxic, poisonous, *poetic/literary* deathly ② *deadly enemies* MORTAL, irreconcilable, implacable, unappeasable, unforgiving, remorseless, merciless, pitiless, bitter, hostile, antagonistic ③ *deadly seriousness* INTENSE, great, marked, extreme ④ *he was deadly pale* DEATHLY, ghostly, ashen, white, pallid, wan, pale, ghastly ⑤ *his aim is deadly* UNERRING, unfailing, impeccable, perfect, flawless, faultless, sure, true, precise, accurate, exact, *Brit informal* spot on, bang on ⑥ *(informal) life here can be deadly* See BORING

—OPPOSITES harmless, mild, inaccurate, exciting

▶ **adverb** *deadly calm* COMPLETELY, absolutely, totally, utterly, perfectly, entirely, wholly, quite, dead, thoroughly, in every way, one hundred per cent, to the hilt

deadpan ▶ **adjective** BLANK, expressionless, unexpressive, impassive, inscrutable, poker-faced, straight-faced, stony, wooden, vacant, fixed, lifeless
—OPPOSITES expressive

deaf ▶ **adjective** ① *she is deaf and blind* HARD OF HEARING, having impaired hearing, *informal* deaf as a post ② *she was deaf to their pleading* UNMOVED BY, untouched by, unaffected by, indifferent to, unresponsive to, unconcerned by, unaware of, oblivious to, impervious to

deafen ▶ **verb** MAKE DEAF, deprive of hearing, impair someone's hearing

deafening ▶ **adjective** VERY LOUD, very noisy, ear-splitting, ear-shattering, overwhelming, almighty, mighty, tremendous, booming, thunderous, roaring, resounding, resonant, reverberating
—OPPOSITES quiet

deal ▶ **noun** *completion of the deal* AGREEMENT, understanding, pact, bargain, covenant, contract, treaty, arrangement, compromise, settlement, terms, transaction, sale, account, *Law* indenture

▶ **verb** ① *how to deal with difficult children* COPE WITH, handle, manage, treat, take care of, take charge of, take in hand, sort out, tackle, take on, control, act towards, behave towards ② *the article deals with advances in chemistry* CONCERN, be about, have to do with, discuss, consider, cover, pertain to; tackle, study, explore, investigate, examine, review, analyse ③ *the company deals in high-tech goods* TRADE IN, buy and sell, sell, purvey, supply, stock, market, merchandise, traffic, smuggle, *informal* push, *Brit informal* flog ④ *the cards were dealt*, DISTRIBUTE, give out, share out, divide out, hand out, pass out, pass round, dole out, dispense, allocate, *informal* divvy up. ⑤ *the court dealt a blow to government reforms* DELIVER, administer, dispense, inflict, give, impose, aim

■ **a great deal/a good deal** A LOT, a large amount, a fair amount, much, plenty, *informal* lots, loads, heaps, bags, masses, tons, *Brit informal* a shedload.

dealer ▶ **noun** ① *an antique dealer* TRADER, tradesman, tradesperson, merchant, salesman/woman, seller, vendor, purveyor, pedlar, hawk-

er, buyer, merchandiser, distributor, supplier, shopkeeper, retailer, wholesaler, *Brit* stockist ② *a dealer in a bank* STOCKBROKER, broker-dealer, broker, agent

dealing ▶ **noun** ① *dishonest dealing* BUSINESS METHODS, business practices, business, commerce, trading, transactions, behaviour, conduct, actions ② *the UK's dealings with China* RELATIONS, relationship, association, connections, contact, intercourse, negotiations, bargaining, transactions, trade, trading, business, commerce, traffic, *informal* truck, doings

dean ▶ **noun** *the dean of the college* FACULTY HEAD, department head, college head, provost, university official, chief, director, principal, president, governor

dear ▶ **adjective** ① *a dear friend* BELOVED, loved, adored, cherished, precious, esteemed, respected, worshipped, close, intimate, bosom, boon, best ② *her pictures were too dear to part with* PRECIOUS, treasured, valued, prized, cherished, special ③ *such a dear man* ENDEARING, adorable, lovable, appealing, engaging, charming, captivating, winsome, lovely, nice, pleasant, delightful, sweet, darling ④ *rather dear meals* EXPENSIVE, costly, high-priced, overpriced, exorbitant, extortionate, *Brit* over the odds, *informal* pricey, steep, stiff
—OPPOSITES hated, disagreeable, cheap

▶ **noun** ① *don't worry, my dear* DARLING, dearest, love, beloved, sweetheart, sweet, precious, treasure, *informal* sweetie, sugar, honey, baby, pet, sunshine, poppet ② *he's such a dear* LOVABLE PERSON, darling, sweetheart, pet, angel, gem, treasure, *informal* star

▶ **adverb** *they buy cheaply and sell dear* AT A HIGH PRICE, at an exorbitant price, at high cost

dearly ▶ **adverb** ① *I love my son dearly* VERY MUCH, a great deal, greatly, deeply, profoundly, extremely, fondly, devotedly, tenderly ② *our freedom has been bought dearly* AT GREAT COST, at a high price, with much suffering, with much sacrifice

dearth ▶ **noun** LACK, scarcity, shortage, shortfall, want, deficiency, insufficiency, inadequacy, paucity, sparseness, scantiness, rareness, absence
—OPPOSITES surfeit

death ▶ **noun** ① *her father's death* DEMISE, dying, end, passing, loss of life, eternal rest, quietus, murder, assassination, execution, slaughter, massacre, *informal* curtains, *formal* decease, *archaic* expiry ② *the death of their dream* END, finish, termination, extinction, extinguishing, collapse, destruction, eradication, obliteration ③ *Death gestured towards a grave* THE GRIM REAPER, the Dark Angel, the Angel of Death
—OPPOSITES life, birth

■ **put someone to death** EXECUTE, hang, behead, guillotine, decapitate, electrocute, shoot, gas, crucify, stone, kill, murder, assassinate, eliminate, terminate, exterminate, destroy, *informal* bump off, polish off, do away with, do in, knock off, top, string up, take out, croak, stiff, blow away, *N Amer informal* ice, rub out, waste, whack, smoke, *poetic/literary* slay

deathless ▶ **adjective** IMMORTAL, undying, imperishable, indestructible; enduring, everlasting, eternal, timeless, ageless
—OPPOSITES mortal, ephemeral.

deathly ▶ **adjective** ① a deathly pallor **DEATH** LIKE, deadly, ghostly, ghastly, ashen, chalky, white, pale, pallid, bloodless, wan, anaemic, pasty ② (poetic/literary) the eagle's deathly grasp **DEADLY**, fatal, lethal, mortal, death-dealing, terrible, baleful, dangerous, perilous

debacle ▶ **noun** **FIASCO**, failure, catastrophe, disaster, mess, ruin, downfall, collapse, defeat, informal foul-up, screw-up, hash, botch, washout, *Bnt* informal cock-up, pig's ear, bodge, *N Amer* informal snafu

debar ▶ **verb** ① women were debarred from the club **EXCLUDE**, ban, bar, disqualify, declare ineligible, preclude, shut out, lock out, keep out, reject, blackball, *N Amer* disfellowship ② the unions were debarred from striking **PREVENT**, prohibit, proscribe, disallow, ban, interdict, block, stop, forbid to, *Law* enjoin, estop
-**OPPOSITES** admit, allow

debase ▶ **verb** ① the moral code has been debased **DEGRADE**, devalue, demean, cheapen, prostitute, discredit, drag down, tarnish, blacken, blemish, disgrace, dishonour, shame, damage, harm, undermine ② the added copper debases the silver **REDUCE IN VALUE**, reduce in quality, depreciate, contaminate, adulterate, pollute, taint, sully, corrupt, dilute, alloy
-**OPPOSITES** enhance

debased ▶ **adjective** ① their debased amusements **IMMORAL**, debauched, dissolute, perverted, degenerate, wicked, sinful, vile, base, iniquitous, corrupt, lewd, lascivious, lecherous, prurient, indecent ② the myth lives on in a debased form **CORRUPT**, corrupted, bastardized, adulterated, diluted, tainted, sullied
-**OPPOSITES** honourable, original

debatable ▶ **adjective** **ARGUABLE**, disputable, questionable, open to question, controversial, contentious, doubtful, dubious, uncertain, unsure, unclear, borderline, inconclusive, moot, unsettled, unresolved, unconfirmed, undetermined, undecided, up in the air, informal iffy

debate ▶ **noun** a debate on the reforms **DISCUSSION**, discourse, parley, dialogue, argument, dispute, wrangle, war of words, argumentation, disputation, dissension, disagreement, contention, conflict, negotiations, talks, informal con fab, powwow

▶ **verb** ① MPs will debate our future **DISCUSS**, talk over/through, talk about, thrash out, argue, dispute, informal kick around/about, bat around/about ② he debated whether to call her **CONSIDER**, think over/about, chew over, mull over, weigh up, ponder, deliberate, contemplate, muse, meditate, formal cogitate

debauch ▶ **verb** ① public morals have been debauched **CORRUPT**, debase, deprave, warp, pervert, lead astray, ruin ② (dated) he debauched six schoolgirls **SEDUCE**, deflower, defile, violate, poetic/literary ravish

debauched ▶ **adjective** **DISSOLUTE**, dissipated, degenerate, corrupt, depraved, sinful, unprincipled, immoral, lascivious, lecherous, lewd, lustful, libidinous, licentious, promiscuous, loose, wanton, abandoned, decadent, profligate, intemperate, sybaritic
-**OPPOSITES** wholesome

debauchery ▶ **noun** **DISSIPATION**, degeneracy, corruption, vice, depravity; immodesty, indecency, perversion, iniquity, wickedness, sin-

fulness, impropriety, immorality, lasciviousness, salaciousness, lechery, lewdness, lust, promiscuity, wantonness, profligacy, decadence, intemperance, sybaritism, formal turpitude

debilitate ▶ **verb** **WEAKEN**, enfeeble, enervate, devitalize, sap, drain, exhaust, weary, fatigue, prostrate, undermine, impair, indispose, incapacitate, cripple, disable, paralyse, immobilize, lay low, informal knock out, do in
-**OPPOSITES** invigorate

debility ▶ **noun** **FRAILTY**, weakness, enfeeblement, enervation, devitalization, lassitude, exhaustion, weariness, fatigue, prostration, incapacity, indisposition, infirmity, illness, sickness, sickliness, informal weediness, *Medicine* asthenia

debonair ▶ **adjective** **SUAVE**, urbane, sophisticated, cultured, self-possessed, self-assured, confident, charming, gracious, courteous, gallant, chivalrous, gentlemanly, refined, polished, well bred, genteel, dignified, courtly, well groomed, elegant, stylish, smart, dashing, informal smooth, swish, sharp, cool
-**OPPOSITES** unsophisticated

debrief ▶ **verb** **QUESTION**, quiz, interview, examine, cross-examine, interrogate, probe, sound out, informal grill, pump

debris ▶ **noun** **DETRITUS**, refuse, rubbish, waste, litter, scrap, dross, chaff, flotsam and jetsam, lumber, rubble, wreckage, remains, scraps, dregs, *N Amer* trash, garbage, *Austral/NZ* mullock, informal dreck, junk

debt ▶ **noun** ① he couldn't pay his debts **BILL**, account, dues, arrears, charges, financial obligation, outstanding payment, money owing, *N Amer* check, informal tab ② his debt to the author **INDEBTEDNESS**, obligation, gratitude, appreciation, thanks

■ **in debt** **OWING MONEY**, in arrears, behind with payments, overdrawn, insolvent, bankrupt, ruined, *Bnt* in liquidation, informal in the red, in Queer Street, on the rocks

■ **in someone's debt** **INDEBTED TO**, beholden to, obliged to, duty-bound to, honour-bound to, obligated to, grateful, thankful, appreciative

debtor ▶ **noun** **BORROWER**, mortgagor, bankrupt, insolvent, defaulter
-**OPPOSITES** creditor

debunk ▶ **verb** **EXPLODE**, deflate, quash, drive a coach and horses through, discredit, disprove, contradict, controvert, invalidate, negate, challenge, call into question, informal shoot full of holes, blow sky-high, formal confute
-**OPPOSITES** confirm

debut ▶ **noun** **FIRST APPEARANCE**, first performance, launch, coming out, entrance, premiere, introduction, inception, inauguration, informal kick-off

decadence ▶ **noun** ① the decadence of modern society **DISSIPATION**, degeneracy, debauchery, corruption, depravity, vice, sin, moral decay, immorality, immoderateness, intemperance, licentiousness, self-indulgence, hedonism ② the decadence of nations **DECLINE**, fall, decay, degeneration, deterioration, degradation, retrogression.
-**OPPOSITES** morality, rise

decadent ▶ **adjective** ① decadent city life **DISSOLUTE**, dissipated, depravity; immodesty, depraved, sinful, unprincipled, immoral, licen-



tious, abandoned, profligate, intemperate, sybaritic, hedonistic, pleasure-seeking, self-indulgent ② *the decadent empire* DECLINING, decaying, ebbing, degenerating, deteriorating

decamp ▶ **verb** ① *he decamped with the profits* ABSCOND, make off, run off/away, flee, bolt, take flight, disappear, vanish, steal away, sneak away, escape, make a run for it, leave, depart, *informal* split, scam, vamoose, cut and run, do a disappearing act, head for the hills, go AWOL, *Brit informal* do a bunk, do a runner, scarper, *N Amer informal* take a powder, go on the lam ② (archaic) *the armies decamped* STRIKE ONE'S TENTS, break camp, move on

decant ▶ **verb** POUR OUT/OFF, draw off, siphon off, drain, tap, transfer

decapitate ▶ **verb** BEHEAD, guillotine, *archaic* decollate

decay ▶ **verb** ① *the corpses had decayed* DECOMPOSE, rot, putrefy, go bad, go off, spoil, fester, perish, deteriorate, degrade, break down, moulder, mortify, shrivel, wither ② *the cities continue to decay* DETERIORATE, degenerate, decline, go downhill, slump, slide, go to rack and ruin, go to seed, disintegrate, fall to pieces, fall into disrepair, fail, collapse, *informal* go to pot, go to the dogs, go down the toilet, *Austral/NZ informal* go to the pack

▶ **noun** ① *signs of decay* DECOMPOSITION, putrefaction, festering, rot, mould, mildew, fungus ② *tooth decay* ROT, corrosion, decomposition, canes, cavities, holes ③ *the decay of American values* DETERIORATION, degeneration, debasement, degradation, decline, weakening, atrophy, crumbling, disintegration, collapse

decayed ▶ **adjective** DECOMPOSED, decomposing, rotten, putrescent, putrid, bad, off, spoiled, perished, mouldy, festering, fetid, rancid, rank, maggoty, wormy, flyblown

decaying ▶ **adjective** ① *decaying fish* DECOMPOSING, decomposed, rotting, rotten, putrescent, putrid, bad, off, perished, mouldy, festering, fetid, rancid, rank, maggoty, wormy, flyblown ② *a decaying city* DECLINING, degenerating, dying, crumbling, run down, tumbledown, ramshackle, shabby, decrepit, in decline, in ruins, *informal* on the way out

decease ▶ **noun** (formal) *her decease was imminent* DEATH, dying, demise, end, passing, loss of life, quietus, *informal* curtains, croaking, snuffing, *archaic* expiry

▶ **verb** (archaic) *he deceased at his palace* See DIE sense 1

deceased ▶ **adjective** (formal) DEAD, expired, departed, gone, no more, passed on/away, late, lost, lamented, perished, fallen, slain, slaughtered, killed, murdered, lifeless, extinct, *informal* (as) dead as a doornail, six feet under, pushing up daisies, *euphemistic* with God, asleep

deceit ▶ **noun** ① *her endless deceit* DECEPTION, deceitfulness, duplicity, double-dealing, fraud, cheating, trickery, chicanery, deviousness, slyness, wiliness, guile, bluff, lying, pretence, treachery; *informal* crookedness, monkey business, jiggery-pokery; *N Amer informal* monkeyshines ② *their life is a deceit* SHAM, fraud, pretence, hoax, fake, blind, artifice, trick, stratagem, device, ruse, scheme, dodge, machination, deception, subterfuge; cheat, swindle, in-

formal con, set-up, scam, flimflam, *N Amer informal* bunco

—OPPOSITES honesty

deceitful ▶ **adjective** ① *a deceitful woman* DISHONEST, untruthful, mendacious, insincere, false, disingenuous, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, two-faced, duplicitous, double-dealing, underhand, crafty, cunning, sly, scheming, calculating, treacherous, Machiavellian, *informal* sneaky, tricky, foxy, crooked, *Brit informal* bent ② *a deceitful allegation* FRAUDULENT, counterfeit, fabricated, invented, concocted, made up, trumped up, untrue, false, bogus, fake, spurious, fallacious, deceptive, misleading, *euphemistic* economical with the truth

deceive ▶ **verb** ① *she was deceived by a con man* SWINDLE, defraud, cheat, trick, hoodwink, hoax, dupe, take in, mislead, delude, fool, outwit, lead on, inveigle, beguile, double-cross, gull, *informal* con, bamboozle, do, gyp, diddle, swizzle, rip off, shaft, pull a fast one on, take for a ride, pull the wool over someone's eyes, sell a pup to, *N Amer informal* sucker, snooker, stiff ② *he deceived her with another woman* BE UNFAITHFUL TO, cheat on, betray, play someone false, *informal* two-time

decelerate ▶ **verb** SLOW DOWN/UP, ease up, slack up, reduce speed, brake

decency ▶ **noun** ① *standards of taste and decency* PROPRIETY, decorum, good taste, respectability, dignity, correctness, good form, etiquette, morality, virtue, modesty, delicacy ② *he didn't have the decency to tell me* COURTESY, politeness, good manners, civility, respect, consideration, thoughtfulness, tact, diplomacy

decent ▶ **adjective** ① *a decent Christian burial* PROPER, correct, appropriate, apt, fitting, suitable, respectable, dignified, decorous, seemly, nice, tasteful, conventional, accepted, standard, traditional, orthodox, comme il faut, *informal* pukka ② (*Brit informal*) *a very decent chap* HONOURABLE, honest, trustworthy, dependable, respectable, upright, clean-living, virtuous, good, obliging, helpful, accommodating, unselfish, generous, kind, thoughtful, considerate, neighbourly, hospitable, pleasant, agreeable, amiable ③ *a job with decent pay* SATISFACTORY, reasonable, fair, acceptable, adequate, sufficient, ample, not bad, all right, tolerable, passable, suitable, *informal* OK, okay, up to snuff
—OPPOSITES unpleasant, unsatisfactory

deception ▶ **noun** ① *they obtained money by deception* DECEIT, deceitfulness, duplicity, double-dealing, fraud, cheating, trickery, chicanery, deviousness, slyness, wiliness, guile, bluff, lying, pretence, treachery, *informal* crookedness, monkey business, jiggery-pokery, *N Amer informal* monkeyshines ② *it was all a deception* TRICK, deceit, sham, fraud, pretence, hoax, fake, blind, artifice, stratagem, device, ruse, scheme, dodge, machination, subterfuge, cheat, swindle, *informal* con, set-up, scam, flimflam, *N Amer informal* bunco

deceptive ▶ **adjective** ① *distances are very deceptive* MISLEADING, illusory, illusionary, specious; ambiguous; distorted, poetic/literary illusive ② *deceptive practices* DECEITFUL, duplicitous, fraudulent, counterfeit, underhand, cunning, crafty, sly, guileful, scheming, treacherous, Machiavellian, disingenuous, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, dishonest, insincere, false,

informal crooked, sharp, shady, sneaky, tricky, foxy, *Brit informal* bent

decide ▶ **verb** ① *she decided to become a writer* RESOLVE, determine, make up one's mind, make a decision, elect, choose, opt, plan, aim, have the intention, have in mind, set one's sights on ② *research to decide a variety of questions* SETTLE, resolve, determine, work out, answer, *informal* sort out, figure out ③ *the court is to decide the case* ADJUDICATE, arbitrate, adjudge, judge, hear, try, examine, sit in judgement on, pronounce on, give a verdict on, rule on

decided ▶ **adjective** ① *they have a decided advantage* DISTINCT, clear, marked, pronounced, obvious, striking, noticeable, unmistakable, patent, manifest, definite, certain, positive, emphatic, undeniable, indisputable, unquestionable, assured, guaranteed ② *he was very decided* DETERMINED, resolute, firm, strong-minded, strong-willed, emphatic, dead set, unwavering, unyielding, unbending, inflexible, unshakeable, unrelenting, obstinate, stubborn, *N Amer* rock-ribbed ③ *our future is decided* SETTLED, established, resolved, determined, agreed, designated, chosen, ordained, prescribed, set, fixed, *informal* sewn up, wrapped up

decidedly ▶ **adverb** DISTINCTLY, clearly, markedly, obviously, noticeably, unmistakably, patiently, manifestly, definitely, certainly, positively, absolutely, downright, undeniably, unquestionably, extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, particularly, especially, very, *N English* right, *informal* terrifically, devilishly, ultra, mega, majorly, *Brit informal* jolly, ever so, dead, well, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful, *archaic* exceedingly

deciding ▶ **adjective** DETERMINING, decisive, conclusive, key, pivotal, crucial, critical, significant, major, chief, principal, prime

decipher ▶ **verb** ① *he deciphered the code* DECODE, decrypt, break, work out, solve, interpret, translate, make sense of, get to the bottom of, unravel, *informal* crack, figure out, *Brit informal* twig, suss (out) ② *the writing was hard to decipher* MAKE OUT, discern, perceive, read, follow, fathom, make sense of, interpret, understand, comprehend, grasp
—OPPOSITES encode

decision ▶ **noun** ① *they came to a decision* RESOLUTION, conclusion, settlement, commitment, resolve, determination, choice, option, selection ② *the judge's decision* VERDICT, finding, ruling, recommendation, judgement, pronouncement, adjudication, arbitration, order, rule, findings, results, *Law* determination, *N Amer* resolve ③ *his order had a ring of decision* DECISIVENESS, determination, resolution, resolve, firmness, strong-mindedness, purpose, purposefulness

decisive ▶ **adjective** ① *a decisive man* RESOLUTE, firm, strong-minded, strong-willed, determined, purposeful, forceful, dead set, unwavering, unyielding, unbending, inflexible, unshakeable, obstinate, stubborn, *N Amer* rock-ribbed ② *the decisive factor* DECIDING, conclusive, determining, key, pivotal, critical, crucial, significant, influential, major, chief, principal, prime.

deck ▶ **verb** ① *the street was decked with bunting* DECORATE, bedeck, adorn, ornament, trim, trick out, garnish, cover, hang, festoon, garland,

swathe, wreath, embellish, beautify, prettify, enhance, grace, set off, *informal* get up, do up, do out, tart up, *poetic/literary* bejewel, bedizen, caparison, furbelow ② *Ingrid was decked out in blue* DRESS (UP), clothe, attire, garb, robe, drape, turn out, fit out, rig out, outfit, costume, *informal* doll up, get up, do up

declaim ▶ **verb** ① *a preacher declaiming from the pulpit* MAKE A SPEECH, give an address, give a lecture, deliver a sermon, speak, hold forth, orate, preach, lecture, sermonize, moralize; *informal* sound off, spout, speechify, preachify ② *they loved to hear him declaim poetry* RECITE, read aloud, read out loud, read out, deliver; *informal* spout ③ *he declaimed against the evils of society* SPEAK OUT, rail, inveigh, fulminate, rage, thunder, rant, expostulate, condemn, criticize, attack, decry, disparage

declamation ▶ **noun** SPEECH, address, lecture, sermon, homily, discourse, oration, recitation, disquisition, monologue

declaration ▶ **noun** ① *they issued a declaration* ANNOUNCEMENT, statement, communication, pronouncement, proclamation, communiqué, edict, *N Amer* advisory ② *the declaration of war* PROCLAMATION, notification, announcement, revelation, disclosure, broadcasting ③ *a declaration of faith* ASSERTION, profession, affirmation, acknowledgement, revelation, disclosure, manifestation, confirmation, testimony, validation, certification, attestation, pledge, avowal, vow, oath, protestation

declare ▶ **verb** ① *she declared her political principles* PROCLAIM, announce, state, reveal, air, voice, articulate, express, vent, set forth, publicize, broadcast, *informal* come out with, shout from the rooftops ② *he declared that they were guilty* ASSERT, maintain, state, affirm, contend, argue, insist, hold, profess, claim, avow, swear, *formal* aver ③ *his speech declared him a gentleman* SHOW TO BE, reveal as, confirm as, prove to be, attest to someone's being

decline ▶ **verb** ① *she declined all invitations* TURN DOWN, reject, brush aside, refuse, rebuff, spurn, repulse, dismiss, forgo, deny oneself, pass up, abstain from, say no, *informal* give the thumbs down to, give something a miss, give someone the brush-off, *Brit informal* knock back ② *the number of traders has declined* DECREASE, reduce, lessen, diminish, dwindle, contract, shrink, fall off, tail off, drop, fall, go down, slump, plummet, *informal* nosedive, take a header, crash ③ *standards steadily declined* DETERIORATE, degenerate, decay, crumble, collapse, slump, slip, slide, go downhill, worsen, weaken, wane, ebb, *informal* go to pot, go to the dogs, go down the toilet, *Austral/NZ informal* go to the pack
—OPPOSITES accept, increase, rise

▶ **noun** ① *a decline in profits* REDUCTION, decrease, downturn, downswing, devaluation, depreciation, diminution, ebb, drop, slump, plunge, *informal* nosedive, crash ② *forest decline* DETERIORATION, degeneration, degradation, shrinkage, death, decay

■ **In decline** DECLINING, decaying, crumbling, collapsing, failing, disappearing, dying, moribund, *informal* on its last legs, on the way out.

decode ▶ **verb** DECIPHER, decrypt, work out, solve, interpret, translate, make sense of, get to the bottom of, unravel, find the key to, *informal* crack, figure out, *Brit informal* twig, suss (out)



decompose ▶ **verb** ① *the chemical prevents corpses decomposing* DECAY, rot, putrefy, go bad, go off, spoil, fester, perish, deteriorate, de-grade, break down, moulder, mortify, shrivel, wither ② *some minerals decompose rapidly* BREAK UP, fragment, disintegrate, crumble, dissolve, break down, decay ③ *decompose words into simpler elements* SEPARATE, divide, break down, dissect, resolve, reduce

decomposition ▶ **noun** ① *an advanced state of decomposition* DECAY, putrefaction, putrescence, putridity ② *the decomposition of granite* DISINTEGRATION, dissolution, breaking down, decay ③ *the decomposition of a sentence* SEPARATION, division, breakdown, dissection, dissolution, resolution, analysis, reduction

decontaminate ▶ **verb** SANITIZE, sterilize, disinfect, clean, cleanse, purify, fumigate

decor ▶ **noun** DECORATION, furnishing, ornamentation, colour scheme

decorate ▶ **verb** ① *the door was decorated with a wreath* ORNAMENT, adorn, trim, embellish, garnish, furnish, enhance, grace, prettify, festoon, garland, bedeck ② *he started to decorate his home* PAINT, WALLPAPER, paper, refurbish, furnish, renovate, redecorate, *informal* do up, spruce up, do over, fix up, give something a facelift ③ *he was decorated for courage* GIVE A MEDAL TO, honour, cite, reward

decoration ▶ **noun** ① *a ceiling with rich decoration* ORNAMENTATION, adornment, trimming, embellishment, garnishing, gilding, beautification, prettification, enhancements, enrichments, frills, accessories, trimmings, finery, frippery ② *internal decoration* See DECOR ③ *a Christmas tree decoration* ORNAMENT, bauble, trinket, knick-knack, spangle, trimming, tinsel ④ *a decoration won on the battlefield* MEDAL, award, star, ribbon, laurel, trophy, prize, *Military slang* fruit salad, *Brit. informal* gong

decorative ▶ **adjective** ORNAMENTAL, embellishing, garnishing, fancy, ornate, attractive, pretty, showy
-OPPOSITES functional

decorous ▶ **adjective** PROPER, seemly, decent, becoming, befitting, tasteful, correct, appropriate, suitable, fitting, tactful, polite, well mannered, genteel, respectable, formal, restrained, modest, demure, gentlemanly, ladylike
-OPPOSITES unseemly

decorum ▶ **noun** ① *he had acted with decorum* PROPRIETY, seemliness, decency, good taste, correctness, politeness, courtesy, good manners, dignity, respectability, modesty, demureness ② *a breach of decorum* ETIQUETTE, protocol, good form, custom, convention, formalities, niceties, punctilios, politeness
-OPPOSITES impropriety

decoy ▶ **noun** *a decoy to distract their attention* LURE, bait, red herring, enticement, inducement, temptation, attraction, carrot, snare, trap

▶ **verb** *he was decoyed to the mainland* LURE, entice, tempt, entrap, snare, trap.

decrease ▶ **verb** ① *pollution levels decreased* LESSEN, reduce, drop, diminish, decline, dwindle, fall off, die down, abate, subside, tail off, ebb, wane; plummet, plunge ② *decrease the amount of fat in your body* REDUCE, lessen, lower,

cut, curtail, slim down, tone down, deplete, minimize, *informal* slash

-OPPOSITES increase

▶ **noun** *a decrease in crime* REDUCTION, drop, decline, downturn, cut, cutback, diminution, ebb, wane

-OPPOSITES increase

decree ▶ **noun** ① *a presidential decree* ORDER, edict, command, commandment, mandate, proclamation, dictum, fiat, law, statute, act, formal ordinance ② *a court decree* JUDGEMENT, verdict, adjudication, ruling, resolution, decision

▶ **verb** *he decreed that a stadium should be built* ORDER, command, rule, dictate, pronounce, proclaim, ordain, direct, decide, determine

decrepit ▶ **adjective** ① *a decrepit old man* FEEBLE, infirm, weak, weakly, frail, disabled, incapacitated, crippled, doddering, tottering, old, elderly, aged, ancient, senile, *informal* past it, over the hill, no spring chicken ② *a decrepit house* DILAPIDATED, rickety, run down, tumble-down, ramshackle, derelict, ruined, in (a state of) disrepair, gone to rack and ruin, battered, decayed, crumbling, deteriorating
-OPPOSITES strong, sound

decry ▶ **verb** DENOUNCE, condemn, criticize, censure, attack, rail against, run down, pillory, lambaste, vilify, revile, disparage, deprecate, cast aspersions on, *informal* slam, blast, knock, *Brit. informal* slate

-OPPOSITES praise

dedicate ▶ **verb** ① *she dedicated her life to the sick* DEVOTE, commit, pledge, give, surrender, sacrifice, set aside, allocate, consign ② *a book dedicated to a noblewoman* INSCRIBE, address, assign ③ *the chapel was dedicated to the Virgin Mary* DEVOTE, assign, bless, consecrate, sanctify, *formal* hallow

dedicated ▶ **adjective** ① *a dedicated socialist* COMMITTED, devoted, staunch, firm, steadfast, resolute, unwavering, loyal, faithful, true, dyed-in-the-wool, wholehearted, single-minded, enthusiastic, keen, earnest, zealous, ardent, passionate, fervent, *informal* card-carrying, deep-dyed ② *data is accessed by a dedicated machine* EXCLUSIVE, custom built, customized
-OPPOSITES indifferent

dedication ▶ **noun** ① *sport requires dedication* COMMITMENT, application, diligence, industry, resolve, enthusiasm, zeal, conscientiousness, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, drive, staying power, hard work, effort ② *her dedication to the job* DEVOTION, commitment, loyalty, adherence, allegiance ③ *the book has a dedication to his wife* INSCRIPTION, address, message ④ *the dedication of the church* BLESSING, consecration, sanctification, benediction
-OPPOSITES apathy

deduce ▶ **verb** CONCLUDE, reason, work out, infer, glean, divine, intuit, understand, assume, presume, conjecture, surmise, reckon, *informal* figure out, *Brit. informal* suss out

deduct ▶ **verb** SUBTRACT, take away, take off, debit, dock, discount, abstract, remove; *informal* knock off

-OPPOSITES add

deduction ▶ **noun** ① *the deduction of tax* SUBTRACTION, removal, debit, abstraction ② *gross pay, before deductions* STOPPAGE, subtraction ③ *she was right in her deduction* CONCLUSION, in-

ference, supposition, hypothesis, assumption, presumption, suspicion, conviction, belief, reasoning

deed ▶ **noun** ① *knighly deeds* ACT, action, feat, exploit, achievement, accomplishment, endeavour, undertaking, enterprise ② *unity must be established in deed and word* FACT, reality, actuality ③ *mortgage deeds* LEGAL DOCUMENT, contract, indenture, instrument

deem ▶ **verb** CONSIDER, regard as, judge, adjudge, hold to be, view as, see as, take for, class as, count, find, esteem, suppose, reckon, think, believe, feel

deep ▶ **adjective** ① *a deep ravine* CAVERNOUS, yawning, gaping, huge, extensive, bottomless, fathomless, unfathomable, *archaic* profound ② *two inches deep* IN DEPTH, downwards, inwards, in vertical extent ③ *deep affection* IN TENSE, heartfelt, wholehearted, deep-seated, deep-rooted, sincere, genuine, earnest, enthusiastic, great ④ *a deep sleep* SOUND, heavy, intense ⑤ *a deep thinker* PROFOUND, serious, philosophical, complex, weighty, abstruse, esoteric, recondite, mysterious, obscure, intelligent, intellectual, learned, wise, scholarly, discerning, penetrating, perceptive, insightful ⑥ *he was deep in concentration* RAPT, absorbed, engrossed, preoccupied, immersed, lost, gripped, intent, engaged ⑦ *a deep mystery* OBSCURE, mysterious, secret, unfathomable, opaque, abstruse, recondite, esoteric, enigmatic, arcane, puzzling, baffling, mystifying, inexplicable ⑧ *his deep voice* LOW-PITCHED, low, bass, rich, powerful, resonant, booming, sonorous ⑨ *a deep red* DARK, intense, rich, strong, bold, warm

—OPPOSITES shallow, superficial, high, light

▶ **noun** ① (*poetic/literary*) *creatures of the deep* THE SEA, the ocean, *informal* the drink, *Brit informal* the briny, *poetic/literary* the profound ② *the deep of night* THE MIDDLE, the midst, the depths, the dead, the thick

▶ **adverb** ① *I dug deep* FAR DOWN, way down, to a great depth ② *he brought them deep into woodland* FAR, a long way, a great distance

deepen ▶ **verb** ① *his love for her had deepened* GROW, increase, intensify, strengthen, heighten, amplify, augment, *informal* step up, *Brit informal* hot up ② *they deepened the hole* DIG OUT, dig deeper, excavate

deeply ▶ **adverb** PROFOUNDLY, greatly, enormously, extremely, very much, strongly, powerfully, intensely, keenly, acutely, thoroughly, completely, entirely, *informal* well, seriously, majorly

deep-rooted ▶ **adjective** DEEP-SEATED, deep, profound, fundamental, basic, established, ingrained, entrenched, unshakeable, inveterate, inbuilt, secure, persistent, abiding, lingering.

—OPPOSITES superficial

deep-seated ▶ **adjective**. See DEEP-ROOTED

deer ▶ **noun**. See list

—RELATED TERMS cervine

deface ▶ **verb** VANDALIZE, disfigure, mar, spoil, ruin, sully, damage, blight, impair; *N Amer informal* trash.

de facto ▶ **adverb** *the republic is de facto two states* IN PRACTICE, in effect, in fact, in reality, really, actually

Deer and Antelopes

addax	grysbok	reindeer
axis deer	guemal	rhebok
barasingha	hartebeest	roan antelope
beira	hirola	roe deer
beisa	hog deer	royal antelope
blackbuck	impala	royal stag
blesbok	klipspringer	rusa
bongo	kob	sable antelope
bontebok	kudu	salga
brocket	lechwe	sambar
bushbuck	marsh deer	sasin
caribou	moose	serow
chamois	mountain	sika
chevrotain	goat	sitatunga
Chinese	mouse deer	sorel
water deer	mule deer	springbok
chital	muntjac	steenbok
Clark's	musk deer	sun
gazelle	musk ox	swamp deer
dibatag	nilgai	takin
dik-dik	nyala	thamin
duiker	okapi	topi
eland	oribi	tsessebi
elk	oryx	tufted deer
fallow deer	Père David's	wapiti
gazelle	deer	waterbuck
gemsbok	pronghorn	water deer
gerenuk	antelope	white-tailed
gnu	pudu	deer
goat-	puku	wildebeest
antelope	red deer	
goral	reedbuck	

—OPPOSITES de jure

▶ **adjective** *de facto control* ACTUAL, real, effective

—OPPOSITES de jure

defamation ▶ **noun** LIBEL, slander, calumny, character assassination, vilification, scandal-mongering, malicious gossip, aspersions, muckraking, abuse, disparagement, denigration, smear, slur, *informal* mud-slinging

defamatory ▶ **adjective** LIBELLOUS, slanderous, scandal-mongering, malicious, vicious, backbiting, muckraking, abusive, disparaging, denigratory, insulting; *informal* mud-slinging, bitchy, catty, *formal* calumnious, calumnious

defame ▶ **verb** LIBEL, slander, malign, cast aspersions on, smear, traduce, give someone a bad name, run down, speak ill of, vilify, besmirch, stigmatize, disparage, denigrate, discredit, decry, *informal* do a hatchet job on, drag through the mud, *N Amer* slur, *informal* bad-mouth, *Brit informal* slag off, *formal* calumniate

—OPPOSITES compliment

default ▶ **noun** ① *the incidence of defaults on loans* NON-PAYMENT, failure to pay, non-remittance ② *I became a teacher by default* INACTION, omission, lapse, neglect, negligence, disregard, absence, non-appearance

▶ **verb** ① *the customer defaulted* FAIL TO PAY, not pay, renege, back out, go back on one's word, *informal* welsh, bilk ② *the program will default to its own style* REVERT, select automatically

defaulter ▶ **noun** ① *a mortgage defaulter* NON-PAYER, debt-dodger, tax-dodger; *N Amer* delinquent ② (*Brit Military*) *the defaulters' room*: OFFENDER, wrongdoer, felon, delinquent.



defeat ▶ **verb** ① the army which defeated the Scots BEAT, conquer, win against, triumph over, get the better of, vanquish, rout, trounce, overcome, overpower, crush, subdue, *informal* lick, thrash, whip, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, clobber, slaughter, demolish, cane, *Brit informal* stuff; *N Amer informal* cream, skunk ② these complex plans defeat their purpose THWART, frustrate, foil, ruin, scotch, debar, snooker, derail, obstruct, impede, hinder, hamper, *informal* put the kibosh on, put paid to, stymie, *Brit informal* scupper, nobble ③ the motion was defeated REJECT, overthrow, throw out, dismiss, outvote, turn down, *informal* give the thumbs down ④ how to make it work defeats me BAFFLE, perplex, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound, throw, *informal* beat, flummox, faze, stump, fox

▶ **noun** ① a crippling defeat LOSS, conquest, vanquishment, rout, trouncing, downfall, *informal* thrashing, hiding, drubbing, licking, pasting, massacre, slaughter ② the defeat of his plans FAILURE, downfall, collapse, ruin, rejection, frustration, abortion, miscarriage, undoing, reverse

—OPPOSITES victory, success

defeatist ▶ **adjective** a defeatist attitude PESSIMISTIC, fatalistic, negative, cynical, despondent, despairing, hopeless, bleak, gloomy

—OPPOSITES optimistic

▶ **noun** PESSIMIST, fatalist, cynic, prophet of doom, doomster, misery, killjoy, worrier, *informal* quitter, wet blanket

—OPPOSITES optimist

defecate ▶ **verb** EXCRETE (FAECES), have a bowel movement, evacuate one's bowels, void excrement, relieve oneself, go to the lavatory, *informal* do number two, do a pooh

defect¹ ▶ **noun** he spotted a defect in my work FAULT, flaw, imperfection, deficiency, weakness, weak spot, inadequacy, shortcoming, limitation, failing, kink, deformity, blemish, mistake, error, *Computing* bug, *informal* glitch, gremlin

defect² ▶ **verb** his chief intelligence officer defected DESERT, change sides, turn traitor, rebel, renege, abscond, quit, escape, break faith, secede from, revolt against, *informal* rat on, *Military* go AWOL, *poetic/literary* forsake, *rare* tergiversate

defection ▶ **noun** DESERTION, absconding, decamping, flight, apostasy, secession, treason, betrayal, disloyalty, *poetic/literary* perfidy, *rare* tergiversation

defective ▶ **adjective** ① a defective seat belt FAULTY, flawed, imperfect, shoddy, inoperative, malfunctioning, out of order, unsound, in disrepair, broken, *informal* on the blink, *Brit informal* knackered, duff ② these methods are defective LACKING, wanting, deficient, inadequate, insufficient ③ (dated) a mentally defective child IMPAIRED, slow, simple, backward, retarded, dated deficient, subnormal, educationally subnormal, ESN

—OPPOSITES perfect

defector ▶ **noun** DESERTER, turncoat, traitor, renegade, Judas, quisling, *informal* rat; *rare* tergiversator.

defence ▶ **noun** ① the defence of the fortress PROTECTION, guarding, security, fortification, resistance, deterrent. ② the enemy's defences BARRI-

CADE, fortification, fortress, keep, rampart, bulwark, bastion ③ he spoke in defence of his boss VINDICATION, justification, support, advocacy, endorsement, apology, explanation, exoneration ④ more spending on defence ARMAMENTS, weapons, weaponry, arms, the military, the armed forces ⑤ the prisoner's defence VINDICATION, explanation, mitigation, justification, rationalization, excuse, alibi, reason, plea, pleading, testimony, declaration, case

defenceless ▶ **adjective** ① defenceless animals VULNERABLE, helpless, powerless, impotent, weak, susceptible ② the country is wholly defenceless UNDEFENDED, unprotected, unguarded, unshielded, unarmed, vulnerable, assailable, exposed, insecure, pregnable

—OPPOSITES resilient

defend ▶ **verb** ① a fort built to defend Ireland PROTECT, guard, safeguard, secure, shield, fortify, garrison, barricade, uphold, support, watch over ② he defended his policy JUSTIFY, vindicate, argue for, support, make a case for, plead for, excuse, explain ③ the manager defended his players SUPPORT, back, stand by, stick up for, stand up for, argue for, champion, endorse, *informal* throw one's weight behind

—OPPOSITES attack, criticize

defendant ▶ **noun** ACCUSED, prisoner (at the bar), appellant, litigant, respondent, suspect

—OPPOSITES plaintiff

defender ▶ **noun** ① defenders of the environment PROTECTOR, guard, guardian, preserver, custodian, watchdog, keeper, overseer, superintendent, caretaker ② a defender of colonialism SUPPORTER, upholder, backer, champion, advocate, apologist, proponent, exponent, promoter, adherent, believer ③ he passed two defenders and scored FULLBACK, back, sweeper, (defenders) back four

defensible ▶ **adjective** ① a defensible attitude JUSTIFIABLE, arguable, tenable, defendable, supportable, plausible, sound, sensible, reasonable, rational, logical, acceptable, valid, legitimate, excusable, pardonable, understandable ② a defensible territory SECURE, safe, fortified, invulnerable, impregnable, impenetrable, unassailable

—OPPOSITES untenable, vulnerable

defensive ▶ **adjective** ① troops in defensive positions DEFENDING, protective, wary, watchful ② a defensive response SELF-JUSTIFYING, oversensitive, prickly, paranoid, neurotic, *informal* uptight, twitchy

defer¹ ▶ **verb** the committee will defer their decision POSTPONE, put off, delay, hold over/off, put back, shelve, suspend, stay, mothball, *N Amer* put over, table, take a rain check on, *informal* put on ice, put on the back burner, put in cold storage

defer² ▶ **verb** they deferred to Joseph's judgement YIELD, submit, give way, give in, surrender, capitulate, acquiesce, respect, honour

deference ▶ **noun** RESPECT, respectfulness, dutifulness, submissiveness, submission, obedience, surrender, accession, capitulation, acquiescence, complaisance, obeisance

—OPPOSITES disrespect

deferential ▶ **adjective** RESPECTFUL, humble, obsequious; dutiful, obedient, submissive, subservient, yielding, acquiescent, complaisant, compliant, tractable, biddable, docile

deferment ▶ **noun** POSTPONEMENT, deferral, suspension, delay, adjournment, interruption, pause, respite, stay, moratorium, reprieve, grace

defiance ▶ **noun** RESISTANCE, opposition, non-compliance, disobedience, insubordination, dissent, recalcitrance, subversion, rebellion, contempt, disregard, scorn, insolence, truculence
-OPPOSITES obedience

defiant ▶ **adjective** INTRANSIGENT, resistant, obstinate, uncooperative, non-compliant, recalcitrant, obstreperous, truculent, dissenting, disobedient, insubordinate, subversive, rebellious, mutinous, *informal* feisty, *Brit informal* stroppy, bolshie
-OPPOSITES cooperative

deficiency ▶ **noun** ① a vitamin deficiency INSUFFICIENCY, lack, shortage, want, dearth, inadequacy, deficit, shortfall, scarcity, paucity, absence, undersupply, deprivation, shortness ② the team's big deficiency DEFECT, fault, flaw, imperfection, weakness, weak point, inadequacy, shortcoming, limitation, failing
-OPPOSITES surplus, strength

deficient ▶ **adjective** ① a diet deficient in vitamin A LACKING, wanting, inadequate, insufficient, limited, poor, scant, short of/on, low on ② deficient leadership DEFECTIVE, faulty, flawed, inadequate, imperfect, shoddy, weak, inferior, unsound, substandard, second-rate, poor, *Brit informal* duff

deficit ▶ **noun** SHORTFALL, deficiency, shortage, undersupply, debt, arrears, negative amount, loss
-OPPOSITES surplus

defile ▶ **verb** ① her capacity for love had been defiled SPOIL, sully, mar, impair, debase, degrade, poison, taint, tarnish, destroy, ruin ② the sacred bones were defiled DESECRATE, profane, violate, contaminate, pollute, debase, degrade, dishonour ③ (archaic) she was defiled by a married man RAPE, violate, poetic/literary ravish, dated deflower
-OPPOSITES sanctify

definable ▶ **adjective** DETERMINABLE, ascertainable, known, definite, clear-cut, precise, exact, specific

define ▶ **verb** ① the dictionary defines it succinctly EXPLAIN, expound, interpret, elucidate, describe, clarify, give the meaning of, put into words ② he defined the limits of the middle class DETERMINE, establish, fix, specify, designate, decide, stipulate, set out, demarcate, delineate ③ the farm buildings defined against the fields OUTLINE, delineate, silhouette

definite ▶ **adjective** ① a definite answer EXPLICIT, specific, express, precise, exact, clear-cut, direct, plain, outright, fixed, established, confirmed, concrete ② definite evidence CERTAIN, sure, positive, conclusive, decisive, firm, concrete, unambiguous, unequivocal, clear, unmistakable, proven, guaranteed, assured, cut and dried ③ she had a definite dislike for Robert UNMISTAKABLE, unequivocal, unambiguous, certain, undisputed, decided, marked, distinct ④ a definite geographical area: FIXED, marked, demarcated, delimited, stipulated, particular
-OPPOSITES vague, ambiguous, indeterminate.

definitely ▶ **adverb** CERTAINLY, surely, for sure, unquestionably, without doubt, without question, undoubtedly, indubitably, positively, absolutely, undeniably, unmistakably, plainly, clearly, obviously, patently, palpably, transparently, unequivocally, as sure as eggs is eggs

definition ▶ **noun** ① the definition of 'intelligence' MEANING, denotation, sense, interpretation, explanation, elucidation, description, clarification, illustration ② the definition of the picture CLARITY, visibility, sharpness, crispness, acuteness, resolution, focus, contrast

definitive ▶ **adjective** ① a definitive decision CONCLUSIVE, final, ultimate, unconditional, unqualified, absolute, categorical, positive, definite ② the definitive guide AUTHORITATIVE, exhaustive, best, finest, consummate, classic, standard, recognized, accepted, official

deflate ▶ **verb** ① he deflated the tyres LET DOWN, flatten, void, puncture ② the balloon deflated GO DOWN, collapse, shrink, contract ③ the news had deflated him SUBDUED, humble, cow, chasten, dispirit, dismay, discourage, dishearten, squash, crush, bring down, take the wind out of someone's sails, *informal* knock the stuffing out of ④ the budget deflated the economy REDUCE, slow down, diminish, devalue, depreciate, depress
-OPPOSITES inflate

deflect ▶ **verb** ① she wanted to deflect attention from herself TURN ASIDE/AWAY, divert, avert, sidetrack, distract, draw away, block, parry, fend off, stave off ② the ball deflected off the wall BOUNCE, glance, ricochet, diverge, deviate, veer, swerve, slew

deform ▶ **verb** DISFIGURE, bend out of shape, contort, buckle, warp, damage, impair

deformed ▶ **adjective** MISSHAPEN, distorted, malformed, contorted, out of shape, twisted, crooked, warped, buckled, gnarled, crippled, humpbacked, hunchbacked, disfigured, grotesque, injured, damaged, mutilated, mangled

deformity ▶ **noun** MALFORMATION, misshapeness, distortion, crookedness, imperfection, abnormality, irregularity, disfigurement, defect, flaw, blemish

defraud ▶ **verb** SWINDLE, cheat, rob; deceive, dupe, hoodwink, double-cross, trick, *informal* con, do, sting, diddle, rip off, shaft, bilk, rook, gyp, pull a fast one on, put one over on, sell a pup to, *N Amer informal* sucker, snooker, stiff, *Austral informal* pull a swifty on

defray ▶ **verb** PAY (FOR), cover, meet, square, settle, clear, discharge, foot the bill for, *N Amer informal* pick up the tab for

deft ▶ **adjective** SKILFUL, adept, adroit, dexterous, agile, nimble, handy, able, capable, skilled, proficient, accomplished, expert, polished, slick, professional, masterly, clever, shrewd, astute, canny, sharp, *informal* nifty, nippy.
-OPPOSITES clumsy

defunct ▶ **adjective** DISUSED, unused, inoperative, non-functioning, unusable, obsolete, no longer existing, discontinued, extinct.
-OPPOSITES working, extant

defuse ▶ **verb** ① he tried to defuse the grenade DEACTIVATE, disarm, disable, make safe. ② an attempt to defuse the tension REDUCE, lessen, di-





minish, lighten, relieve, ease, alleviate, moderate, mitigate

—OPPOSITES activate, intensify

defy ▶ **verb** ① *he defied European law* DISOBEY, go against, flout, fly in the face of, disregard, ignore, break, violate, contravene, breach, infringe, *informal* cock a snook at ② *his actions defy belief* ELUDE, escape, defeat, frustrate, thwart, baffle ③ *he glowered, defying her to mock him* CHALLENGE, dare
—OPPOSITES obey

degeneracy ▶ **noun** CORRUPTION, decadence, moral decay, dissipation, dissolution, profligacy, vice, immorality, sin, sinfulness, ungodliness, debauchery, *formal* turpitude

degenerate ▶ **adjective** ① *a degenerate form of classicism* DEBASED, degraded, corrupt, impure, *formal* vitiated ② *her degenerate brother* CORRUPT, decadent, dissolute, dissipated, debauched, reprobate, profligate, sinful, ungodly, immoral, unprincipled, amoral, dishonourable, disreputable, unsavoury, sordid, low, ignoble
—OPPOSITES pure, moral

▶ **noun** *a group of degenerates* REPROBATE, debauchee, profligate, libertine, roué, loose-liver

▶ **verb** ① *their quality of life had degenerated* DETERIORATE, decline, slip, slide, worsen, lapse, slump, go downhill, regress, retrogress, go to rack and ruin, *informal* go to pot, go to the dogs, hit the skids, go down the toilet ② *the muscles started to degenerate* WASTE (AWAY), atrophy, weaken
—OPPOSITES improve

degradation ▶ **noun** ① *poverty brings with it degradation* HUMILIATION, shame, loss of self-respect, abasement, indignity, ignominy ② *the degradation of women* DEMEANING, debasement, discrediting ③ *the degradation of the tissues* DETERIORATION, degeneration, atrophy, decay, breakdown

degrade ▶ **verb** ① *prisons should not degrade prisoners* Demean, debase, cheapen, devalue, shame, humiliate, humble, mortify, abase, dishonour, dehumanize, brutalize ② *the polymer will not degrade* BREAK DOWN, deteriorate, degenerate, decay
—OPPOSITES dignify

degraded ▶ **adjective** ① *I feel so degraded* HUMILIATED, demeaned, cheapened, cheap, ashamed. ② *his degraded sensibilities* DEGENERATE, corrupt, depraved, dissolute, dissipated, debauched, immoral, base, sordid
—OPPOSITES proud, moral

degrading ▶ **adjective** HUMILIATING, demeaning, shameful, mortifying, ignominious, undignified, inglorious, wretched, *informal* infra dig

degree ▶ **noun** LEVEL, standard, grade, mark, amount, extent, measure, magnitude, intensity, strength, proportion, ratio

■ **by degrees** GRADUALLY, little by little, bit by bit, inch by inch, step by step, slowly, piecemeal

■ **to a degree** TO SOME EXTENT, to a certain extent, up to a point.

dehydrate ▶ **verb** ① *alcohol dehydrates the skin* DRY (OUT), desiccate, dehumidify, effloresce ② *frogs can dehydrate quickly* DRY UP/OUT, lose water.

—OPPOSITES hydrate

deify ▶ **verb** ① *she was deified by the early Romans* WORSHIP, revere, venerate, reverence, hold sacred, immortalize ② *he was deified by the press* IDOLIZE, lionize, hero-worship, extol, idealize, glorify, aggrandize, *informal* put on a pedestal
—OPPOSITES demonize

deign ▶ **verb** CONDESCEND, stoop, lower oneself, demean oneself, humble oneself, consent, vouchsafe, *informal* come down from one's high horse

deity ▶ **noun** GOD, goddess, divine being, supreme being, divinity, immortal, creator, demiurge, godhead *See lists at GOD*

dejected ▶ **adjective** DOWNCAST, downhearted, despondent, disconsolate, dispirited, crestfallen, disheartened, depressed, crushed, desolate, heartbroken, in the doldrums, sad, unhappy, doleful, melancholy, miserable, woebegone, forlorn, wretched, glum, gloomy, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, *Brit informal* brassed off, cheesed off
—OPPOSITES cheerful

de jure ▶ **adverb & adjective** BY RIGHT, rightfully, legally, according to the law, rightful, legal
—OPPOSITES de facto

delay ▶ **verb** ① *we were delayed by the traffic* DETAIN, hold up, make late, slow up/down, bog down, hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct ② *they delayed no longer* LINGER, dally, drag one's feet, be slow, hold back, dawdle, waste time, procrastinate, stall, hang fire, mark time, temporize, hesitate, dither, shilly-shally, *informal* dilly-dally, *archaic* tarry ③ *he may delay the cut in interest rates* POSTPONE, put off, defer, hold over, shelve, suspend, stay, reschedule, *N Amer* put over, table, *informal* put on ice, put on the back burner, put in cold storage
—OPPOSITES hurry, advance

▶ **noun** ① *drivers will face lengthy delays* HOLD-UP, wait, detainment, hindrance, impediment, obstruction, setback ② *the delay of his trial* POSTPONEMENT, deferral, deferment, stay, respite, adjournment ③ *I set off without delay* PROCRASTINATION, stalling, hesitation, dithering, dallying, dawdling

delectable ▶ **adjective** ① *a delectable meal* DELICIOUS, mouth-watering, appetizing, flavour-some, flavourful, toothsome, palatable, succulent, luscious, tasty, *informal* scrumptious, delish, scrummy, yummy, *Brit informal* moreish, *N Amer informal* finger-licking, nummy ② *the delectable Ms Davis* DELIGHTFUL, lovely, captivating, charming, enchanting, appealing, beguiling, beautiful, attractive, ravishing, gorgeous, stunning, alluring, sexy, seductive, desirable, luscious, *informal* divine, heavenly, dreamy, *Brit informal* tasty
—OPPOSITES unpalatable, unattractive

delectation ▶ **noun** (*humorous*) ENJOYMENT, gratification, delight, pleasure, satisfaction, relish, entertainment, amusement, titillation.

delegate ▶ **noun** *trade union delegates* REPRESENTATIVE, envoy, emissary, commissioner, agent, deputy, commissary; spokesperson, spokesman/woman, ambassador, plenipotentiary

▶ **verb** ① *she must delegate routine tasks* ASSIGN, entrust, pass on, hand on/over, turn over, devolve, depute, transfer. ② *they were delegated to negotiate with the States* AUTHORIZE, commission,

depute, appoint, nominate, mandate, empower, charge, choose, designate, elect

delegation ▶ noun ① the delegation from South Africa DEPUTATION, delegacy, legation, (diplomatic) mission, commission; delegates, representatives, envoys, emissaries, deputies ② the delegation of tasks to others ASSIGNMENT, entrusting, giving, devolution, deputation, transference

delete ▶ verb REMOVE, cut out, take out, edit out, expunge, excise, eradicate, cancel, cross out, strike out, blue-pencil, ink out, scratch out, obliterate, white out, rub out, erase, efface, wipe out, blot out, *Pnning* delete
-OPPOSITES add

deleterious ▶ adjective HARMFUL, damaging, detrimental, injurious, bad, adverse, disadvantageous, unfavourable, unfortunate, undesirable
-OPPOSITES beneficial

deliberate ▶ adjective ① a deliberate attempt to provoke him INTENTIONAL, calculated, conscious, intended, planned, studied, knowing, wilful, wanton, purposeful, purposive, premeditated, pre-planned, voluntary, volitional, *Law dated* premeditated ② small, deliberate steps CAREFUL, cautious, measured, regular, even, steady ③ a deliberate worker METHODOICAL, systematic, careful, painstaking, meticulous, thorough
-OPPOSITES accidental, hasty, careless

▶ verb she deliberated on his words THINK ABOUT OVER, ponder, consider, contemplate, reflect on, muse on, meditate on, ruminate on, mull over, give thought to, weigh up, brood over, dwell on, *N Amer* think on

deliberately ▶ adverb ① he deliberately hurt me INTENTIONALLY, on purpose, purposely, by design, knowingly, wittingly, consciously, purposefully, wilfully, wantonly, *Law* with malice aforethought ② he walked deliberately down the aisle CAREFULLY, cautiously, slowly, steadily, evenly

deliberation ▶ noun ① after much deliberation, I accepted THOUGHT, consideration, reflection, contemplation, meditation, rumination, formal cogitation ② he replaced the glass with deliberation CARE, carefulness, caution, steadiness

delicacy ▶ noun ① the fabric's delicacy FINENESS, exquisiteness, delicateness, daintiness, airiness, flimsiness, gauziness, floatiness, silkiness ② the children's delicacy SICKLISS, ill health, frailty, fragility, weakness, debility, infirmity, valetudinarianism ③ the delicacy of the situation DIFFICULTY, trickiness, sensitivity, ticklishness, awkwardness ④ treat this matter with delicacy CARE, sensitivity, tact, discretion, diplomacy, subtlety, sensibility ⑤ an Australian delicacy CHOICE FOOD, gourmet food, dainty, treat, luxury, *bonne bouche*; speciality

delicate ▶ adjective ① delicate embroidery FINE, exquisite, intricate, dainty, flimsy, gauzy, filmy, floaty, diaphanous, wispy, insubstantial ② a delicate shade of blue SUBTLE, soft, muted, pastel, pale, light ③ delicate china cups FRAGILE, breakable, frail; *formal* frangible ④ his wife is delicate SICKLY, unhealthy, frail, feeble, weak, debilitated; unwell, infirm; *formal* valetudinarian ⑤ a delicate issue DIFFICULT, tricky, sensitive, ticklish, awkward, problematical, touchy, prickly, embarrassing; *informal* sticky, dicey ⑥ the matter

required delicate handling CAREFUL, sensitive, tactful, diplomatic, discreet, kid-glove, softly-softly ⑦ his delicate palate DISCRIMINATING, discerning, FASTIDIOUS, fussy, finicky, dainty, *informal* picky, choosy, pernickety ⑧ a delicate mechanism SENSITIVE, precision, precise
-OPPOSITES coarse, lurid, strong, robust, clumsy

delicious ▶ adjective ① a delicious meal DELECTABLE, mouth-watering, appetizing, tasty, flavoursome, flavourful, toothsome, palatable, succulent, luscious, *informal* scrumptious, delish, scrummy, yummy, *Brit informal* moreish, *N Amer informal* finger-licking, nummy ② a delicious languor stole over her DELIGHTFUL, exquisite, lovely, pleasurable, pleasant, *informal* heavenly, divine
-OPPOSITES unpalatable, unpleasant

delight ▶ verb ① her manners delighted him PLEASE GREATLY, charm, enchant, captivate, entrance, thrill, gladden, gratify, appeal to, entertain, amuse, divert, *informal* send, tickle pink, bowl over ② Fabia delighted in his touch TAKE PLEASURE, revel, luxuriate, wallow, glory, adore, love, relish, savour, lap up, *informal* get a kick out of, get a buzz out of, get a thrill out of, dig, *N Amer informal* get a charge out of
-OPPOSITES dismay, disgust, dislike

▶ noun she squealed with delight PLEASURE, happiness, joy, glee, gladness, excitement, amusement, bliss, rapture, elation, euphoria
-OPPOSITES displeasure

delighted ▶ adjective PLEASED, glad, happy, thrilled, overjoyed, ecstatic, elated, on cloud nine, walking on air, in seventh heaven, jumping for joy, enchanted, charmed, amused, diverted, gleeful, cock-a-hoop, *informal* over the moon, tickled pink, as pleased as Punch, on top of the world, as happy as Larry, blissed out, *Brit informal* chuffed, *N English informal* made up, *Austral informal* wrapped

delightful ▶ adjective ① a delightful evening PLEASANT, lovely, pleasurable, enjoyable, amusing, entertaining, diverting, gratifying, satisfying, marvellous, wonderful, splendid, sublime, thrilling; *informal* great, super, fabulous, fab, terrific, heavenly, divine, grand, *Brit informal* brilliant, brill, smashing, *N Amer informal* peachy, ducky, *Austral / NZ informal* beaut, bonzer ② the delightful Sally CHARMING, enchanting, captivating, bewitching, appealing, sweet, endearing, cute, lovely, adorable, delectable, delicious, gorgeous, ravishing, beautiful, pretty, *Scottish & N English* bonny, *informal* dreamy, divine

delimit ▶ verb DETERMINE, establish, set, fix, demarcate, define, delineate

delineate ▶ verb ① the aims of the study as delineated by the boss DESCRIBE, set forth/out, present, outline, depict, represent, map out, define, specify, identify ② a section delineated in red marker pen: OUTLINE, trace, block in, mark (out/off), delimit

delinquency ▶ noun ① teenage delinquency CRIME, wrongdoing, lawbreaking, lawlessness, misconduct, misbehaviour, misdemeanours, offences, misdeeds ② (formal) grave delinquency on the host's part. NEGLIGENCE, dereliction of duty, irresponsibility

delinquent ▶ adjective ① delinquent teenagers LAWLESS, lawbreaking, criminal, errant, badly behaved, troublesome, difficult, unruly, dis-



obedient, uncontrollable ② (formal) delinquent parents face tough penalties NEGLIGENT, neglectful, remiss, irresponsible, lax, slack, *N Amer* derelict

—OPPOSITES dutiful.

► **noun** teenage delinquents OFFENDER, wrongdoer, malefactor, lawbreaker, culprit, criminal, hooligan, vandal, ruffian, hoodlum, young offender, informal tearaway

delirious ► **adjective** ① she was delirious but had lucid intervals INCOHERENT, raving, babbling, irrational; feverish, frenzied, deranged, demented, unhinged, mad, insane, out of one's mind ② the delirious crowd ECSTATIC, euphoric, elated, thrilled, overjoyed, beside oneself, walking on air, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, carried away, transported, rapturous, hysterical, wild, frenzied, informal blissed out, over the moon, on a high

delirium ► **noun** ① she had fits of delirium DERANGEMENT, dementia, madness, insanity, incoherence, irrationality, hysteria, feverishness, hallucination ② the delirium of desire ECSTASY, rapture, transports, wild emotion, passion, wildness, excitement, frenzy, feverishness, fever, euphoria, elation
—OPPOSITES lucidity

deliver ► **verb** ① the parcel was delivered to his house BRING, take, convey, carry, transport, send, dispatch, remit ② the money was delivered up to the official HAND OVER, turn over, make over, sign over, surrender, give up, yield, cede, consign, commit, entrust, trust ③ he was delivered from his enemies SAVE, rescue, free, liberate, release, extricate, emancipate, redeem ④ the court delivered its verdict UTTER, give, make, read, broadcast, pronounce, announce, declare, proclaim, hand down, return, set forth ⑤ she delivered a blow to his head ADMINISTER, deal, inflict, give, informal land ⑥ he delivered the first ball. BOWL, pitch, hurl, throw, cast, lob ⑦ the trip delivered everything she wanted PROVIDE, supply, furnish ⑧ we must deliver on our commitments FULFIL, live up to, carry out, carry through, make good, informal deliver the goods, come across ⑨ she returned home to deliver her child GIVE BIRTH TO, bear, be delivered of, have, bring into the world, *N Amer* birth, informal drop

deliverance ► **noun** ① their deliverance from prison LIBERATION, release, delivery, discharge, rescue, emancipation, salvation ② the tone he adopted for such deliverances UTTERANCE, statement, announcement, pronouncement, declaration, proclamation, lecture, speech.

delivery ► **noun** ① the delivery of the goods CONVEYANCE, carriage, transportation, transport, distribution, dispatch, remittance; freightage, haulage, shipment ② we get several deliveries a day CONSIGNMENT, load, shipment ③ the deliveries take place in hospital BIRTH, childbirth, formal parturition ④ her delivery was stilted. SPEECH, pronunciation, enunciation, articulation, elocution, utterance, recitation, recital, execution

delude ► **verb** MISLEAD, deceive, fool, take in, trick, dupe, hoodwink, gull, lead on; informal con, pull the wool over someone's eyes, lead up the garden path, take for a ride; *N Amer* informal sucker, snooker, Austral informal pull a swifty on

deluge ► **noun** ① homes were swept away by the deluge FLOOD, torrent, *Brit* spate ② the deluge turned the pitch into a swamp DOWNPOUR, torrential rain, thunderstorm, rainstorm, cloudburst ③ a deluge of complaints BARRAGE, volley, flood, torrent, avalanche, stream, spate, rush, outpouring

► **verb** ① homes were deluged by the rains FLOOD, inundate, submerge, swamp, drown ② we have been deluged with calls INUNDATE, overwhelm, overrun, flood, swamp, snow under, engulf, bombard

delusion ► **noun** ① a common male delusion MISAPPREHENSION, misconception, misunderstanding, mistake, error, misinterpretation, misconception, misbelief, fallacy, illusion, fantasy ② a web of delusion DECEPTION, trickery

de luxe ► **adjective** LUXURIOUS, luxury, sumptuous, palatial, opulent, lavish, grand, high-class, quality, exclusive, choice, fancy, expensive, costly, *Brit* upmarket, informal plush, posh, classy, ritzy, swanky, pricey, *Brit* informal swish, *N Amer* informal swank
—OPPOSITES basic, cheap

delve ► **verb** ① she delved in her pocket RUMMAGE, search, hunt, scabble about/around, root about/around, ferret, fish about/around in, dig, go through, rifle through, *Brit* informal rootle around in ② we must delve deeper into the matter INVESTIGATE, enquire, probe, explore, research, look into, go into

demagogue ► **noun** RABBLE-ROUSER, political agitator, soapbox orator, firebrand, informal tub-thumper

demand ► **noun** ① I gave in to her demands REQUEST, call, command, order, dictate, ultimatum, stipulation ② the demands of a young family REQUIREMENT, need, desire, wish, want, claim, imposition ③ the big demand for such toys MARKET, call, appetite, desire, run on, rush on

► **verb** ① workers demanded wage increases CALL FOR, ask for, request, push for, hold out for, insist on, claim ② Harvey demanded that I tell him the truth ORDER, command, enjoin, urge, poetic/literary bid ③ 'Where is she?' he demanded ASK, inquire, question, interrogate, challenge ④ an activity demanding detailed knowledge. REQUIRE, need, necessitate, call for, involve, entail. ⑤ they demanded complete anonymity INSIST ON, stipulate, make a condition of, expect, look for ■ in demand SOUGHT-AFTER, desired, coveted, wanted, requested, marketable, desirable, popular, all the rage, at a premium, like gold dust, informal big, trendy, hot

demanding ► **adjective** ① a demanding task DIFFICULT, challenging, taxing, exacting, tough, hard, onerous, burdensome, formidable, arduous, uphill, rigorous, gruelling, back-breaking, punishing ② a demanding child NAGGING, clamorous, importunate, insistent, trying, tiresome, hard to please
—OPPOSITES easy.

demarcate ► **verb** SEPARATE, divide, mark (out/off), delimit, delineate; bound.

demarcation ► **noun** ① clear demarcation of function. SEPARATION, distinction, differentiation, division, delimitation, definition. ② territorial demarcations: BOUNDARY, border, borderline, frontier; dividing line, divide.

demean ▶ **verb** DISCREDIT, lower, degrade, debase, devalue, cheapen, abase, humble, humiliate, disgrace, dishonour
 —OPPOSITES dignify

demeaning ▶ **adjective** DEGRADING, humiliating, shameful, mortifying, abject, ignominious, undignified, inglorious, *informal* infra dig

demeanour ▶ **noun** MANNER, air, attitude, appearance, look, bearing, carriage, behaviour, conduct, *formal* comportment

demented ▶ **adjective** MAD, insane, deranged, out of one's mind, crazed, lunatic, unbalanced, unhinged, disturbed, non compos mentis, *informal* crazy, mental, off one's head, off one's rocker, nutty, round the bend, raving mad, batty, cuckoo, loopy, loony, bananas, screwy, touched, gaga, not all there, out to lunch, *Brit informal* barmy, bonkers, crackers, barking, round the twist, off one's trolley, not the full shilling, *N Amer informal* buggy, nutso, squirrelly, wacko
 —OPPOSITES sane

dementia ▶ **noun** MENTAL ILLNESS, madness, insanity, derangement, lunacy, Alzheimer's (disease)

demise ▶ **noun** ① *her tragic demise* DEATH, dying, passing, loss of life, end, quietus, *formal* decease, *archaic* expiry ② *the demise of the Ottoman empire* END, break-up, disintegration, fall, downfall, collapse
 —OPPOSITES birth

demobilize ▶ **verb** DISBAND, decommission, discharge, *Brit informal* demob

democracy ▶ **noun** REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT, elective government, constitutional government, self-government, autonomy, republic, commonwealth
 —OPPOSITES dictatorship

democratic ▶ **adjective** ELECTED, representative, parliamentary, popular, egalitarian, classless, self-governing, autonomous, republican

demolish ▶ **verb** ① *they demolished a block of flats* KNOCK DOWN, pull down, tear down, bring down, destroy, flatten, raze (to the ground), level, bulldoze, topple, blow up, dismantle, disassemble ② *he demolished her credibility* DESTROY, ruin, wreck, refute, disprove, discredit, overturn, explode, drive a coach and horses through, *informal* shoot full of holes, do for ③ (*informal*) *our team were demolished* See TROUNCE ④ (*informal*) *she demolished a sausage roll* See DEVOUR sense 1
 —OPPOSITES construct, strengthen

demolition ▶ **noun** ① *the demolition of the building* DESTRUCTION, levelling, bulldozing, clearance, obliteration ② *the demolition of his theory* DESTRUCTION, refutation ③ (*informal*) *New Zealand's demolition of England* See DEFEAT noun sense 1

demon ▶ **noun** ① *the demons from hell* DEVIL, fiend, evil spirit, cacodemon, incubus succubus; hellhound. ② *the man was a demon* MONSTER, ogre, fiend, devil, brute, savage, beast, barbarian, animal. ③ *Surrey's fast-bowling demon* GENIUS, expert, master, virtuoso, maestro, past master, marvel; star; *informal* hotshot, whizz, buff, pro, ace. ④ *the demon of creativity* See DAE MON
 —OPPOSITES angel, saint

demonic, demoniac, demoniacal

▶ **adjective** ① *demonic powers* DEVILISH, fiendish, diabolical, satanic, Mephistophelean, hellish, infernal, evil, wicked ② *the demonic intensity of his playing* FRENZIED, wild, feverish, frenetic, frantic, furious, manic, like one possessed.

demonstrable ▶ **adjective** VERIFIABLE, provable, attestable, verified, proven, confirmed, obvious, clear, clear-cut, evident, apparent, manifest, patent, distinct, noticeable, unmushtakable, undeniable

demonstrate ▶ **verb** ① *his findings demonstrate that boys commit more crimes* SHOW, indicate, determine, establish, prove, confirm, verify, corroborate, substantiate ② *she was asked to demonstrate quilting* GIVE A DEMONSTRATION OF, show how something is done, display, show, illustrate, exemplify ③ *his work demonstrated an analytical ability* REVEAL, bespeak, indicate, signify, signal, denote, show, display, exhibit, bear witness to, testify to, imply, intimate, give away ④ *they demonstrated against the Government* PROTEST, rally, march, stage a sit-in, picket, strike, walk out, mutiny, rebel

demonstration ▶ **noun** ① *there is no demonstration of God's existence* PROOF, substantiation, confirmation, affirmation, corroboration, verification, validation, evidence, indication, witness, testament ② *a demonstration of woodcarving* EXHIBITION, presentation, display, exposition, teach-in, *informal* demo, expo, taster ③ *his paintings are a demonstration of his talent* MANIFESTATION, indication, sign, mark, token, embodiment, expression ④ *an anti-racism demonstration* PROTEST, march, rally, lobby, sit-in, stoppage, strike, walkout, picket (line), *informal* demo

demonstrative ▶ **adjective** ① *a very demonstrative family*: EXPRESSIVE, open, forthcoming, communicative, unreserved, emotional, effusive, gushing, affectionate, cuddly, loving, warm, friendly, approachable, *informal* touchy-feely, lovey-dovey ② *the successes are demonstrative of their skill* INDICATIVE, indicatory, suggestive, illustrative ③ *demonstrative evidence of his theorem* CONVINCING, definite, positive, telling, conclusive, certain, decisive, incontrovertible, irrefutable, undeniable, indisputable, unassailable

—OPPOSITES reserved, inconclusive

demoralize ▶ **verb** DISHEARTEN, dispirit, defeat, cast down, depress, dismay, daunt, discourage, unman, unnerve, crush, shake, throw, cow, subdue, break someone's spirit, *informal* knock the stuffing out of, knock sideways, *Brit informal* knock for six
 —OPPOSITES hearten

demoralized ▶ **adjective** DISPIRITED, disheartened, downhearted, dejected, downcast, low, depressed, despairing, disconsolate, crestfallen, disappointed, dismayed, daunted, discouraged, crushed, humbled, subdued

demote ▶ **verb** DOWNGRADE, relegate, declass, reduce in rank, depose, unseat, displace, oust, *Military* cashier, disrate
 —OPPOSITES promote

demotic ▶ **adjective** POPULAR, vernacular, colloquial, idiomatic, vulgar, common, informal, everyday, slangy
 —OPPOSITES formal



demur ▶ **verb** Steed demurred when the suggestion was made **OBJECT**, take exception, take issue, protest, cavil, dissent, voice reservations, be unwilling, be reluctant, balk, think twice, drag one's heels, refuse, *informal* boggle, kick up a fuss

▶ **noun** they accepted without demur **OBJECTION**, protest, protestation, complaint, dispute, dissent, opposition, resistance, reservation, hesitation, reluctance, disinclination, doubts, qualms, misgivings, second thoughts, a murmur, a word

demure ▶ **adjective** MODEST, unassuming, meek, mild, reserved, retiring, quiet, shy, bashful, diffident, reticent, timid, shrinking, coy, decorous, decent, seemly, ladylike, respectable, proper, virtuous, pure, innocent, chaste, sober, sedate, staid, prim, goody-goody, strait-laced, *informal* butter-wouldn't-melt
—OPPOSITES brazen

den ▶ **noun** ① the mink left its den **LAIR**, sett, earth, drey, burrow, hole, dugout, covert, shelter, hiding place, hideout ② a notorious drinking den **HAUNT**, site, hotbed, nest, pit, hole, *informal* joint, dive ③ the poet scribbled in his den **STUDY**, studio, library, sanctum, retreat, sanctuary, hideaway, snug, cubbyhole, *informal* hidey-hole

denial ▶ **noun** ① the reports met with a denial **CONTRADICTION**, refutation, rebuttal, repudiation, disclaimer, negation, dissent, Law disaffirmation ② the denial of insurance to certain people **REFUSAL**, withholding, rejection, rebuff, repulse, veto, turnaround, *informal* knock-back, *N Amer* formal declination ③ the denial of worldly values **RENUNCIATION**, eschewal, repudiation, disavowal, rejection, abandonment, surrender, relinquishment

denigrate ▶ **verb** DISPARAGE, belittle, deprecate, decry, cast aspersions on, criticize, attack, speak ill of, give someone a bad name, defame, slander, libel, run down, abuse, insult, revile, malign, vilify, *N Amer* slur, *informal* bad-mouth, pull to pieces, *Brit* *informal* rubbish, slate, slag off, *formal* calumniate
—OPPOSITES extol

denizen ▶ **noun** (*formal*) **INHABITANT**, resident, townsman/woman, native, local, occupier, occupant, dweller, *archaic* burgher

denominate ▶ **verb** (*formal*) **CALL**, name, term, designate, style, dub, label, entitle

denomination ▶ **noun** ① a Christian denomination **RELIGIOUS GROUP**, sect, cult, movement, body, branch, persuasion, order, school, Church See list at **CHRISTIANITY** ② banknotes in a number of denominations **VALUE**, unit, size ③ (*formal*) the invention's denomination still stands today **NAME**, title, term, designation, epithet, label, tag, *informal* handle, moniker, *formal* appellation

denote ▶ **verb** ① the headdresses denoted warriors **DENIGATE**, indicate, be a mark of, signify, signal, symbolize, represent, mean, typify, characterize, distinguish, mark, identify ② his manner denoted an inner strength **SUGGEST**, point to, smack of, indicate, show, reveal, intimate, imply, convey, betray, bespeak; *informal* spell.

denouement ▶ **noun** ① the film's denouement **FINALE**, final scene, epilogue, coda, end, ending, finish, close; culmination, climax, conclusion, resolution, solution. ② the debate had an unexpected denouement **OUTCOME**, upshot, consequence, result, end, *informal* pay-off

—OPPOSITES beginning, origin

denounce ▶ **verb** ① the pope denounced abortion **CONDEMN**, criticize, attack, censure, decry, revile, vilify, discredit, damn, reject, proscribe, malign, rail against, run down, *N Amer* slur, *informal* knock, slam, hit out at, lay into, *Brit* *informal* slate, slag off, *formal* castigate ② he was denounced as a traitor **EXPOSE**, betray, inform on, incriminate, implicate, cite, name, accuse, *archaic* inculpate
—OPPOSITES praise

dense ▶ **adjective** ① a dense forest **THICK**, close-packed, tightly packed, closely set, crowded, compact, solid, tight, overgrown, jungly, impenetrable, impassable ② dense smoke **THICK**, heavy, opaque, soupy, murky, smoggy, concentrated, condensed ③ (*informal*) they were dense enough to believe me **STUPID**, unintelligent, ignorant, brainless, mindless, foolish, slow, witless, simple-minded, empty-headed, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, imbecilic, *informal* thick, dim, moronic, dumb, dopey, dozy, wooden-headed, lame-brained, birdbrained, pea-brained, *Brit* *informal* daft

—OPPOSITES sparse, thin, clever

density ▶ **noun** **SOLIDITY**, solidness, denseness, thickness, substance, mass, compactness, tightness, hardness

dent ▶ **noun** ① I made a dent in his car **INDENTATION**, dint, dimple, dip, depression, hollow, crater, pit, trough ② a nasty dent in their finances **REDUCTION**, depletion, deduction, cut
—OPPOSITES increase

▶ **verb** ① Jamie dented his bike **DINT**, indent, mark ② the experience dented her confidence **DIMINISH**, reduce, lessen, shrink, weaken, erode, undermine, sap, shake, damage, impair

dentist ▶ **noun**. See list at **DOCTOR**

denude ▶ **verb** **STRIP**, clear, deprive, bereave, rob, lay bare, uncover, expose, deforest, defoliate, *dated* divest
—OPPOSITES cover

deny ▶ **verb** ① the report was denied by witnesses **CONTRADICT**, repudiate, challenge, contest, oppose, disprove, debunk, explode, discredit, refute, rebut, invalidate, negate, nullify, quash, *informal* shoot full of holes, *formal* gainsay, *Law* disaffirm ② he denied the request **REFUSE**, turn down, reject, rebuff, repulse, decline, veto, dismiss, *informal* knock back, give the thumbs down to, give the red light to ③ she had to deny her parents **RENOUNCE**, eschew, repudiate, disavow, disown, wash one's hands of, reject, discard, cast aside, abandon, give up, *formal* forswear, *poetic/literary* forsake
—OPPOSITES confirm, accept

deodorant ▶ **noun** an underarm deodorant **ANTI PERSPIRANT**, body spray, perfume, scent.

deodorize ▶ **verb** **FRESHEN**, sweeten, purify, disinfect, sanitize, sterilize, fumigate, aerate, air, ventilate.

depart ▶ **verb** ① James departed after lunch **LEAVE**, go (away), withdraw, absent oneself, abstract oneself, quit, exit, decamp, retreat, retire, make off, run off/away; set off/out, get under way, be on one's way; *informal* make tracks, up sticks, clear off/out, take off, split, *Brit* *informal* sling one's hook. ② the budget departed from the norm **DEVIATE**, diverge, digress, drift, stray, veer; differ, vary; contrast with.

-OPPOSITES ACTIVE

departed ► **adjective** DEAD, expired, gone, no more, passed on/away, perished, fallen, *informal* six feet under, pushing up daisies, *formal* deceased, *euphemistic* with God, asleep

department ► **noun** ① *the public health department* DIVISION, section, sector, unit, branch, arm, wing, office, bureau, agency, ministry ② *rural departments* DISTRICT, canton, province, territory, state, county, shire, parish, region, area ③ *the food is Kay's department* DOMAIN, territory, province, area, line, responsibility, duty, function, business, affair, charge, task, concern, *informal* pigeon, baby, bag, bailiwick.

departure ► **noun** ① *he tried to delay her departure* LEAVING, going, leave-taking, withdrawal, exit, egress, retreat ② *a departure from normality* DEVIATION, divergence, digression, shift, variation, change ③ *an exciting departure for film-makers* CHANGE, innovation, novelty, rarity

depend ► **verb** ① *her career depends on a good reference* BE CONTINGENT ON, be conditional on, be dependent on, hinge on, hang on, rest on, rely on, be decided by ② *my family depends on me* RELY ON, lean on, count on, bank on, trust (in), have faith in, believe in, pin one's hopes on

dependable ► **adjective** RELIABLE, trustworthy, trusty, faithful, loyal, unfailing, sure, steadfast, stable, honourable, sensible, responsible

dependant ► **noun** CHILD, minor, ward, charge, protégé, relative, (**dependants**) offspring, progeny

dependence ► **noun**. See DEPENDENCY senses 1, 2, 3

dependency ► **noun** ① *her dependency on her husband* DEPENDENCE, reliance, need for ② *the association of retirement with dependency* HELPlessness, dependence, weakness, defencelessness, vulnerability ③ *drug dependency* ADDICTION, dependence, reliance, craving, compulsion, fixation, obsession, abuse ④ *a British dependency* COLONY, protectorate, province, outpost, satellite state, holding, possession ⑤ *a dependency of the firm* SUBSIDIARY, adjunct, offshoot, auxiliary, attachment, satellite, derivative

-OPPOSITES independence

dependent ► **adjective** ① *your placement is dependent on her decision* CONDITIONAL, contingent, based, subject to, determined by, influenced by ② *the army is dependent on volunteers* RELIANT ON, relying on, counting on, sustained by ③ *she is dependent on drugs* ADDICTED TO, reliant on, *informal* hooked on ④ *he is ill and dependent* RELIANT, needy, helpless, weak, infirm, invalid, incapable, debilitated, disabled ⑤ *a UK dependent territory* SUBSIDIARY, subject, satellite, ancillary; puppet

depict ► **verb** ① *the painting depicts the Last Supper* PORTRAY, represent, picture, illustrate, delineate, reproduce, render; draw, paint. ② *the process depicted by Darwin's theory* DESCRIBE, detail, relate, present, set forth, set out, outline, delineate, represent, portray, characterize

depiction ► **noun** ① *a depiction of Aphrodite*. PICTURE, painting, portrait, drawing, sketch, study, illustration, image, likeness. ② *the film's depiction of women*: PORTRAYAL, representation, presentation, characterization.

deplete ► **verb** EXHAUST, use up, consume, expend, drain, empty, milk, reduce, decrease, diminish, slim down, cut back

-OPPOSITES augment

depletion ► **noun** EXHAUSTION, use, consumption, expenditure, reduction, decrease, diminution, impoverishment

deplorable ► **adjective** ① *your conduct is deplorable* DISGRACEFUL, shameful, dishonourable, unworthy, inexcusable, unpardonable, unforgivable, reprehensible, despicable, abominable, contemptible, execrable, heinous, beyond the pale ② *the garden is in a deplorable state* LAMENTABLE, regrettable, unfortunate, wretched, atrocious, awful, terrible, dreadful, diabolical, sorry, poor, inadequate, *informal* appalling, dire, abysmal, woeful, lousy, *formal* grievous.

-OPPOSITES admirable

deplore ► **verb** ① *we deplore violence* ABHOR, find unacceptable, frown on, disapprove of, take a dim view of, take exception to, detest, despise, condemn, denounce ② *he deplored their lack of flair* REGRET, lament, mourn, rue, bemoan, bewail, complain about, grieve over, sigh over

-OPPOSITES applaud

deploy ► **verb** ① *forces were deployed at strategic points* POSITION, station, post, place, install, locate, situate, site, establish, base, distribute, dispose ② *she deployed all her skills* USE, utilize, employ, take advantage of, exploit, bring into service, call on, turn to, resort to

deport ► **verb** ① *they were fined and deported* EXPEL, banish, exile, transport, expatriate, extradite, repatriate, evict, oust, throw out, *informal* kick out, boot out, send packing, *Brit informal* turf out ② (*archaic*) *he deported himself with dignity* See BEHAVE sense 1

-OPPOSITES admit

deportment ► **noun** ① (*Brit*) *poise is concerned with good deportment* POSTURE, carriage, bearing, stance, gait, *formal* comportment ② (*N Amer*) *unprofessional deportment* BEHAVIOUR, conduct, performance, manners, practices, actions

depose ► **verb** ① *the president was deposed* OVERTHROW, unseat, dethrone, topple, remove, supplant, displace, dismiss, oust, drum out, throw out, expel, eject, *informal* chuck out, boot out, get rid of, show someone the door, *Brit informal* turf out ② (*Law*) *a witness deposed that he had seen me* SWEAR, testify, attest, assert, declare, claim, *rare* asseverate

deposit ► **noun** ① *a thick deposit of ash* ACCUMULATION, sediment, layer, covering, coating, blanket ② *a copper deposit* SEAM, vein, lode, layer, stratum, bed ③ *they paid a deposit* DOWN PAYMENT, advance payment, prepayment, instalment, retainer, stake

► **verb** ① *she deposited her books on the table* PUT (DOWN), place, set (DOWN), unload, rest, drop, *informal* dump, park, plonk, *N Amer informal* plunk ② *the silt deposited by flood water*: LEAVE (BEHIND), precipitate, dump, wash up, cast up ③ *the gold was deposited at the bank* LODGE, bank, house, store, stow, put away, *informal* stash, squirrel away.

deposition ► **noun** ① *the King's deposition*. OVERTHROW, downfall, removal, dethronement, displacement, dismissal, expulsion, ejection; *N Amer* ouster. ② (*Law*) *depositions from witnesses*



STATEMENT, affidavit, attestation, affirmation, assertion, allegation, declaration, testimony, evidence, *rare* asseveration ① the deposition of calcium DEPOSITING, accumulation, build-up, precipitation

depository ▶ noun REPOSITORY, cache, store, storeroom, storehouse, warehouse, vault, strongroom, safe, treasury, container, receptacle, *informal* lock-up

depot ▶ noun ① the bus depot TERMINAL, terminus, station, garage, headquarters, base ② an arms depot STOREHOUSE, warehouse, store, repository, depository, cache, arsenal, magazine, armoury, ammunition dump

deprave ▶ verb CORRUPT, lead astray, warp, subvert, pervert, debauch, debase, degrade, defile, sully, pollute

depraved ▶ adjective CORRUPT, perverted, deviant, degenerate, debased, immoral, unprincipled, debauched, dissolute, licentious, lecherous, prurient, indecent, sordid, wicked, sinful, vile, iniquitous, nefarious, *informal* warped, twisted, perky, sick

depravity ▶ noun CORRUPTION, vice, perversion, deviance, degeneracy, immorality, debauchery, dissipation, profligacy, licentiousness, lechery, prurience, obscenity, indecency, wickedness, sin, iniquity, *informal* perviness, *formal* turpitude

deprecate ▶ verb ① the school deprecates this behaviour DEPLORE, abhor, disapprove of, frown on, take a dim view of, take exception to, detest, despise, criticize, censure ② he deprecates the value of television BELITTLE, disparage, denigrate, run down, discredit, decry, play down, trivialize, underrate, undervalue, underestimate, depreciate, scoff at, sneer at, scorn, disdain, *informal* pooh-pooh
-OPPOSITES praise, overrate

deprecatory ▶ adjective ① deprecatory remarks DISAPPROVING, censorious, critical, scathing, damning, condemnatory, denunciatory, disparaging, denigratory, derogatory, negative, unflattering, disdainful, derisive, snide ② a deprecatory smile APOLOGETIC, rueful, regretful, sorry, remorseful, contrite, penitent, repentant, shamefaced, sheepish

depreciate ▶ verb ① these cars will depreciate DECREASE IN VALUE, lose value, fall in price ② the decision to depreciate property DEVALUE, cheapen, reduce, lower in price, mark down, cut, discount, *informal* slash ③ they depreciate the importance of art BELITTLE, disparage, denigrate, decry, depreciate, underrate, undervalue, underestimate, diminish, trivialize, disdain, sneer at, scoff at, scorn, *informal* knock, bad-mouth, sell short, pooh-pooh, do down, *Brit* *informal* rubbish

depredation ▶ noun PLUNDERING, plunder, looting, pillaging, robbery, devastation, destruction, damage, rape, ravages, raids

depress ▶ verb ① the news depressed him SADEN, dispirit, cast down, get down, dishearten, demoralize, crush, shake, desolate, weigh down, oppress, upset, distress, grieve, haunt, harrow; *informal* give someone the blues, make someone fed up ② new economic policies depressed sales SLOW DOWN, reduce, lower, weaken, impair; limit, check, inhibit, restrict ③ imports will depress farm prices REDUCE, lower, cut, cheapen, keep down, discount, deflate, depreci-

ate, devalue, diminish, axe, *informal* slash ④ depress each key in turn PRESS, push, hold down, thumb, tap, operate, activate
-OPPOSITES encourage, raise

depressant ▶ noun SEDATIVE, tranquilizer, calnative, sleeping pill, soporific, opiate, hypnotic, *informal* downer, trunk, sleeper, dope, *Medicine* neuroleptic
-OPPOSITES stimulant

depressed ▶ adjective ① he felt lonely and depressed SAD, unhappy, miserable, gloomy, glum, melancholy, dejected, disconsolate, downhearted, downcast, down, despondent, dispirited, low, heavy-hearted, morose, dismal, desolate, tearful, upset, *informal* blue, down in the dumps, down in the mouth, fed up ② a depressed economy WEAK, enervated, devitalized, impaired, inactive, flat, slow, slack, sluggish, stagnant ③ depressed prices REDUCED, low, cut, cheap, marked down, discounted, discount, *informal* slashed ④ a depressed town POVERTY-STRICKEN, poor, disadvantaged, deprived, needy, distressed, run down, *informal* slummy ⑤ a depressed fracture SUNKEN, hollow, concave, indented, recessed
-OPPOSITES cheerful, strong, inflated, prosperous, laised

depressing ▶ adjective ① depressing thoughts UPSETTING, distressing, painful, heartbreaking, dismal, bleak, black, sombre, gloomy, grave, unhappy, melancholy, sad, wretched, doleful, *informal* morbid, blue ② a depressing room GLOOMY, bleak, dreary, grim, drab, sombre, dark, dingy, funereal, cheerless, joyless, comfortless, uninviting

depression ▶ noun ① she ate to ease her depression UNHAPPINESS, sadness, melancholy, melancholia, misery, sorrow, woe, gloom, despondency, low spirits, heavy heart, despair, desolation, hopelessness, upset, tearfulness, *informal* the dumps, the doldrums, the blues, one's black dog, a (blue) funk, *Psychiatry* dysthymia ② an economic depression RECESSION, slump, decline, downturn, standstill, stagnation, *Economics* stagflation ③ a depression in the ground HOLE, indentation, dent, dint, cavity, concavity, dip, pit, hole, sinkhole, trough, crater, basin, bowl

deprivation ▶ noun ① unemployment and deprivation POVERTY, impoverishment, penury, privation, hardship, destitution, need, want, distress, indigence, beggary, ruin, straitened circumstances, *rare* pauperdom ② deprivation of political rights DISPOSSESSION, withholding, withdrawal, removal, divestment, expropriation, seizure, confiscation, denial, forfeiture, loss, absence, lack
-OPPOSITES wealth

deprive ▶ verb DISPOSSESS, strip, divest, relieve, bereave, deny, rob, cheat out of, *informal* do out of

deprived ▶ adjective DISADVANTAGED, underprivileged, poverty-stricken, impoverished, poor, destitute, needy, unable to make ends meet, *Brit* on the breadline.

depth ▶ noun ① the depth of the caves DEEPNESS, distance downwards, distance inwards; drop, vertical extent; *archaic* profundity. ② the depth of his knowledge EXTENT, range, scope, breadth, width, magnitude, scale, degree. ③ her lack of

depth PROFUNDITY, deepness, wisdom, understanding, intelligence, sagacity, discernment, penetration, insight, astuteness, acumen, shrewdness, *formal* perspicuity ① *a work of great depth* COMPLEXITY, intricacy, profundity, gravity, weight ② *depth of colour* INTENSITY, richness, deepness, vividness, strength, brilliance ③ *the depths of the sea* DEEPEST PART, bottom, floor, bed, abyss

—OPPOSITES shallowness, triviality, surface

■ **In depth** THOROUGHLY, extensively, comprehensively, rigorously, exhaustively, completely, fully, meticulously, scrupulously, painstakingly

deputation ► **noun** DELEGATION, delegacy, legation, commission, committee, (diplomatic) mission, contingent, group, party

depute ► **verb** ① *he was deputed to handle negotiations* APPOINT, designate, nominate, assign, commission, charge, choose, select, elect, empower, authorize ② *the judge deputed smaller cases to others* DELEGATE, transfer, hand over, pass on, consign, assign, entrust, give

deputize ► **verb** STAND IN, sit in, fill in, cover, substitute, replace, take someone's place, understudy, be a locum, relieve, take over, hold the fort, step into the breach, act for, act on behalf of, *informal* sub

deputy ► **noun** *he handed over to his deputy* SEC-OND (IN COMMAND), number two, subordinate, junior, assistant, personal assistant, PA, aide, helper, right-hand man/woman, underling, man/girl Friday, substitute, stand-in, fill-in, relief, understudy, locum tenens, representative, proxy, agent, spokesperson, *Scottish* depute, *informal* sidekick, locum, temp

► **adjective** *her deputy editor* ASSISTANT, substitute, stand-in, acting, reserve, fill-in, caretaker, temporary, provisional, stopgap, surrogate, *pro* tempore, ad interim, *informal* second-string

deranged ► **adjective** INSANE, mad, disturbed, unbalanced, unhinged, unstable, irrational, crazed, demented, berserk, frenzied, lunatic, certifiable, non compos mentis, *informal* touched, crazy, mental, *Brit informal* barmy, barking (mad), round the twist
—OPPOSITES rational

derelict ► **adjective** ① *a derelict building* DILAPIDATED, ramshackle, run down, tumbledown, in ruins, falling apart, rickety, creaky, deteriorating, crumbling, neglected, untended, gone to rack and ruin ② *a derelict airfield* DISUSED, abandoned, deserted, discarded, rejected, neglected, untended ③ (*N Amer*) *he was derelict in his duty* NEGLIGENT, neglectful, remiss, lax, careless, sloppy, slipshod, slack, irresponsible, delinquent

► **noun** *the derelicts who survive on the streets* TRAMP, vagrant, vagabond, down-and-out, homeless person, drifter, beggar, mendicant, outcast, *informal* dossier, bag lady; *N Amer informal* hobo, bum

dereliction ► **noun** ① *buildings were reclaimed from dereliction* DILAPIDATION, disrepair, deterioration, ruin, rack and ruin, abandonment, neglect, disuse ② *dereliction of duty* NEGLIGENCE, neglect, delinquency, failure, carelessness, laxity, sloppiness, slackness, irresponsibility, oversight, omission

deride ► **verb** RIDICULE, mock, scoff at, jibe at, make fun of, poke fun at, laugh at, hold up to

ridicule, pillory, disdain, disparage, denigrate, dismiss, slight; sneer at, scorn, insult, *informal* knock, pooh-pooh, take the mickey out of.
—OPPOSITES praise

de rigueur ► **adjective** ① *straight hair was de rigueur* FASHIONABLE, in fashion, in vogue, modish, up to date, up to the minute, all the rage, *informal* trendy, with it ② *an address is de rigueur for business cards* CUSTOMARY, standard, conventional, normal, orthodox, usual, *comme il faut*, compulsory, *informal* done

derision ► **noun** MOCKERY, ridicule, jeers, sneers, taunts, disdain, disparagement, denigration, disrespect, insults, scorn, contempt, lampooning, satire

derisive ► **adjective** MOCKING, jeering, scoffing, teasing, derisory, snide, sneering, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, taunting, insulting, scathing, sarcastic, *informal* snidey, *Brit informal* sarky

derisory ► **adjective** ① *a derisory sum* INAD-EQUATE, insufficient, tiny, small, trifling, paltry, pitiful, miserly, miserable, negligible, token, nominal, ridiculous, laughable, ludicrous, preposterous, insulting, *informal* measly, stingy, lousy, pathetic, piddling, piffling, mingy, poxy ② *derisory calls from the crowd* See DERISIVE

derivation ► **noun** ① *the derivation of theories from empirical observation* DERIVING, induction, deduction, inference, extraction, eliciting ② *the derivation of a word* ORIGIN, etymology, root, etymon, provenance, source, origination, beginning, foundation, basis, cause, development, evolution

derivative ► **adjective** *her poetry was derivative* IMITATIVE, unoriginal, uninventive, unimaginative, uninspired, copied, plagiarized, plagiaristic, second-hand, trite, hackneyed, clichéd, stale, stock, banal, *informal* copycat, cribbed, old hat
—OPPOSITES original

► **noun** ① *a derivative of opium* BY-PRODUCT, subsidiary product, spin-off ② *a derivative of a verb* DERIVED WORD

derive ► **verb** ① *he derives consolation from his poetry* OBTAIN, get, take, gain, acquire, procure, extract, attain, glean ② *'coffee' derives from the Turkish 'kahveh'* ORIGINATE IN, stem from, descend from, spring from, be taken from ③ *his fortune derives from property* ORIGINATE IN, be rooted in, stem from, come from, spring from, proceed from, issue from

derogate ► **verb** (*formal*) ① *his contribution was derogated by critics* DISPARAGE, denigrate, belittle, deprecate, deflate, decry, discredit, cast aspersions on, run down, criticize, defame, vilify, abuse, insult, attack, pour scorn on, *informal* pull apart, drag through the mud, knock, slam, bash, bad-mouth, *Brit informal* rubbish, slate, slag off ② *the act would derogate from the king's majesty* DETRACT FROM, devalue, diminish, reduce, lessen, depreciate, demean, cheapen ③ *rules which derogate from an Act of Parliament* DEVIATE, diverge, depart, digress, stray, differ, vary, conflict with, be incompatible with
—OPPOSITES praise, increase

derogatory ► **adjective** DISPARAGING, denigratory, deprecatory, disrespectful, demeaning; critical, pejorative, negative, unfavourable, uncomplimentary, unflattering, insulting; offen-



sive, personal, abusive, rude, nasty, mean, hurtful, defamatory, slanderous, libellous, *informal* bitchy, catty

—OPPOSITES complimentary

descend ► **verb** ① the plane started descending GO DOWN, come down, drop, fall, sink, dive, plummet, plunge, nosedive ② she descended the stairs CLIMB DOWN, go down, come down, shin down ③ the road descends to a village SLOPE, dip, slant, go down, fall away. ④ she saw Leo descend from the bus ALIGHT, disembark, get down, get off, dismount ⑤ they would not to descend to such mean tricks STOOP, lower oneself, demean oneself, debase oneself, resort, be reduced, go as far as ⑥ the army descended into chaos DEGENERATE, deteriorate, decline, sink, slide, fall ⑦ they descended on the pub COME IN FORCE, arrive in hordes, attack, assail, assault, storm, invade, swoop on, charge ⑧ he is descended from a Flemish family BE A DESCENDANT OF, originate from, issue from, spring from, derive from ⑨ his estates descended to his son BE HANDED DOWN, be passed down, be inherited by —OPPOSITES ascend, climb, board

descendant ► **noun** SUCCESSOR, scion, heir, (descendants) offspring, progeny, family, lineage, Law issue, archaic seed, fruit of one's loins —OPPOSITES ancestor

descent ► **noun** ① the plane began its descent DIVE, drop, fall, pitch ② their descent of the mountain DOWNWARD CLIMB ③ a steep descent SLOPE, incline, dip, drop, gradient, declivity, slant, hill ④ his descent into alcoholism DECLINE, slide, fall, degeneration, deterioration, regression ⑤ she is of Italian descent ANCESTRY, parentage, ancestors, family, antecedents, extraction, origin, derivation, birth, lineage, line, genealogy, heredity, stock, pedigree, blood, bloodline, roots, origins ⑥ the descent of property INHERITANCE, succession ⑦ the sudden descent of the cavalry ATTACK, assault, raid, onslaught, charge, thrust, push, drive, incursion, foray

describe ► **verb** ① he described his experiences REPORT, recount, relate, tell of, set out, chronicle, detail, catalogue, give a rundown of, explain, illustrate, discuss, comment on ② she described him as a pathetic figure DESIGNATE, pronounce, call, label, style, dub, characterize, class, portray, depict, brand, paint ③ the pen described a circle DELINEATE, mark out, outline, trace, draw

description ► **noun** ① a description of my travels ACCOUNT, report, rendition, explanation, illustration, chronicle, narration, narrative, story, commentary, portrayal, portrait, details ② the description of coal as 'bottled sunshine' DESIGNATION, labelling, naming, dubbing, pronunciation, characterization, classification, branding, portrayal, depiction ③ vehicles of every description SORT, variety, kind, type, category, order, breed, class, designation, specification, genre, genus, brand, make, character, ilk; N Amer stripe

descriptive ► **adjective** ILLUSTRATIVE, expressive, graphic, detailed, lively, vivid, striking, explanatory, elucidatory, explicative.

describ ► **verb** (poetic/literary). See NOTICE verb

desecrate ► **verb** VIOLATE, profane, defile, debase, degrade, dishonour, vandalize, damage, destroy, deface.

desert¹ ► **verb** ① his wife deserted him ABANDON, leave, turn one's back on, throw over, jilt, break up with, leave high and dry, leave in the lurch, leave behind, strand, maroon, *informal* walk out on, run out on, drop, dump, ditch, poetic/literary forsake ② his allies were deserting the cause RENOUNCE, repudiate, relinquish, wash one's hands of, abandon, turn one's back on, betray, disavow, formal abjure, poetic/literary forsake ③ soldiers deserted in droves ABSCOND, defect, run away, make off, decamp, flee, turn tail, take French leave, depart, quit, Military go AWOL

desert² ► **noun** an African desert WASTELAND, wastes, wilderness, wilds, barren land, dust bowl See list

► **adjective** ① desert conditions ARID, dry, moistureless, parched, scorched, hot, barren, bare, stark, infertile, unfruitful, dehydrated, sterile ② a desert island UNINHABITED, empty, lonely, desolate, bleak, wild, uncultivated —OPPOSITES fertile

Deserts

DESERT	LOCATION
Arabian or Eastern	Egypt
Atacama	Chile
Chihuahuan	USA and Mexico
Colorado	USA
Danakil Depression	Ethiopia and Djibouti
Death Valley	USA
Gibson	Australia
Gobi	Mongolia and China
Great Basin	USA
Great Sand Sea	Libya and Egypt
Great Sandy	Australia
Great Victoria	Australia
Kalahari	South Africa, Namibia, and Botswana
Kara Kum	Turkmenistan
Kyzyl Kum	Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan
Libyan	Libya
Lut	Iran
Mojave	USA
Nafud	Saudi Arabia
Namib	Namibia
Negev	Israel
Nubian	Sudan
Ogaden	Ethiopia
Painted	USA
Patagonian	Argentina
Qattara Depression	NE Africa
Rub' al Khali	Saudi Arabia, Oman, Yemen, and United Arab Emirates
Sahara	North Africa
Simpson	Australia
Sonora	USA and Mexico
Sturt	Australia
Syrian	Syria, Iraq, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia
Taklimakan	China
Thar or Great Indian	India and Pakistan

deserted ► **adjective** ① a deserted wife ABANDONED, thrown over, jilted, cast aside; neglected, stranded, marooned, forlorn, bereft; *informal* dumped, ditched, dropped; poetic/literary forsaken. ② a deserted village: EMPTY, uninhabited,

unoccupied, unpeopled, abandoned, evacuated, vacant, untenanted, tenantless, neglected, desolate, lonely, godforsaken
 -OPPOSITES populous

deserter ▶ noun ABSCONDER, runaway, fugitive, truant, escapee, renegade, defector, turncoat, traitor

desertion ▶ noun ① his wife's desertion of him ABANDONMENT, leaving, jilting ② the desertion of the president's colleagues DEFECTION, betrayal, renunciation, repudiation, apostasy, formal abjuration ③ soldiers were executed for desertion ABSCONDING, running away, truancy, going absent without leave, taking French leave, escape, defection, treason, Military going AWOL

deserve ▶ verb MERIT, earn, warrant, rate, justify, be worthy of, be entitled to, have a right to, be qualified for

deserved ▶ adjective WELL EARNED, merited, warranted, justified, justifiable, rightful, due, right, just, fair, fitting, appropriate, suitable, proper, apt, *archaic* meet

deserving ▶ adjective ① the deserving poor WORTHY, meritorious, commendable, praiseworthy, admirable, estimable, creditable, respectable, decent, honourable, righteous ② a lapse deserving of punishment MERITING, waiting, justifying, suitable for, worthy of

desiccated ▶ adjective DRIED, dry, dehydrated, powdered
 -OPPOSITES moist

desideratum ▶ noun REQUIREMENT, prerequisite, need, indispensable thing, sine qua non, essential, requisite, necessary

design ▶ noun ① a design for the offices PLAN, blueprint, drawing, sketch, outline, map, plot, diagram, draft, representation, scheme, model ② tableware with a gold design PATTERN, motif, device, style, composition, make-up, layout, construction, shape, form See list at PATTERN ③ his design of reaching the top INTENTION, aim, purpose, plan, intent, objective, object, goal, end, target, hope, desire, wish, dream, aspiration, ambition

▶ verb ① the church was designed by Hicks PLAN, outline, map out, draft, draw ② they designed a new engine INVENT, originate, create, think up, come up with, devise, formulate, conceive, make, produce, develop, fashion, *informal* dream up ③ this paper is designed to provoke discussion INTEND, aim, devise, contrive, purpose, plan, tailor, fashion, adapt, gear, mean, destine

■ by design DELIBERATELY, intentionally, on purpose, purposefully, knowingly, wittingly, consciously, calculatedly

designate ▶ verb ① some firms designate a press officer APPOINT, nominate, depute, delegate, select, choose, pick, elect, name, identify, assign ② the rivers are designated 'Sites of Special Scientific Interest' CLASSIFY, class, label, tag, name, call, entitle, term, dub; *formal* denominate

designation ▶ noun ① the designation of a leader APPOINTMENT, nomination, naming, selection, election ② the designation of nature reserves CLASSIFICATION, specification, definition, earmarking, pinpointing ③ the designation 'Generalissimo' TITLE, name, epithet, tag, nickname, by-name, sobriquet; *informal* moniker, handle, *formal* denomination, appellation.

designer ▶ noun ① a designer of farmhouses. CREATOR, planner, deviser, inventor, originator; maker, architect, builder. See lists at ARCHITECT, ENGINEER, INVENTOR ② young designers made the dress COUTURIER, tailor, costumier, dressmaker See list at FASHION

designing ▶ adjective SCHEMING, calculating, conniving, cunning, crafty, artful, wily, devious, guileful, manipulative, treacherous, sly, underhand, deceitful, double-dealing, *informal* crooked, foxy

desirability ▶ noun ① the desirability of the property APPEAL, attractiveness, allure, agreeableness, worth, excellence ② the desirability of a different economy ADVISABILITY, advantage, expedience, benefit, merit, value, profit, profitability ③ her obvious desirability ATTRACTIVE, sexual attraction, beauty, good looks, charm, seductiveness, *informal* sexiness

desirable ▶ adjective ① a desirable location ATTRACTIVE, sought-after, in demand, popular, desired, covetable, enviable, appealing, agreeable, pleasant, valuable, good, excellent, *informal* to die for ② it is desirable that they should meet ADVANTAGEOUS, advisable, wise, sensible, recommendable, helpful, useful, beneficial, worthwhile, profitable, preferable ③ a very desirable woman (SEXUALLY) ATTRACTIVE, beautiful, pretty, appealing, seductive, alluring, enchanting, beguiling, captivating, bewitching, irresistible, *informal* sexy, beddable
 -OPPOSITES unattractive, unwise, ugly

desire ▶ noun ① a desire to see the world WISH, want, aspiration, fancy, inclination, impulse, yearning, longing, craving, hankering, hunger, eagerness, enthusiasm, determination, *informal* yen, itch ② his eyes glittered with desire LUST, sexual attraction, passion, sensuality, sexuality, lasciviousness, lechery, salaciousness, libidinousness, *informal* the hots, raunchiness, horniness, *Brit informal* randiness

▶ verb ① they desired peace WANT, wish for, long for, yearn for, crave, hanker after, be desperate for, be bent on, covet, aspire to, fancy, *informal* have a yen for, yen for ② she desired him BE ATTRACTED TO, lust after, burn for, be infatuated by, *informal* fancy, have the hots for, have a crush on, be mad about

desired ▶ adjective ① cut the cloth to the desired length REQUIRED, necessary, proper, right, correct, appropriate, suitable, preferred, chosen, selected ② the desired results WISHED FOR, wanted, coveted, sought-after, longed for, yearned for

desirous ▶ adjective EAGER, desiring, anxious, keen, craving, yearning, longing, hungry, ambitious, aspiring, covetous, envious, *informal* dying, itching

desist ▶ verb ABSTAIN, refrain, forbear, hold back, keep, stop, cease, discontinue, suspend, give up, break off, drop, dispend with, eschew, *informal* lay off, give over, quit, pack in
 -OPPOSITES continue

desk ▶ noun WRITING TABLE, bureau, *escritoire*, *secrétaire*, *Brit* davenport See list at TABLE

desolate ▶ adjective ① desolate moorlands BLEAK, stark, bare, dismal, grim, wild, inhospitable, deserted, uninhabited, godforsaken, abandoned, unpeopled, untenanted, empty; unfrequented, unvisited, isolated, remote ② she is

desolate MISERABLE, despondent, depressed, disconsolate, devastated, despairing, inconsolable, broken-hearted, grief-stricken, crushed, bereft, sad, unhappy, downcast, down, dejected, forlorn, upset, distressed, *informal* blue, cut up
 -OPPOSITES populous, joyful

► **verb** ① *droughts desolated the plains* DEVASTATE, ravage, ruin, lay waste to, level, raze, demolish, wipe out, obliterate ② *she was desolated by the loss of her husband* DISHEARTEN, depress, sadden, cast down, make miserable, weigh down, crush, upset, distress, *informal* shatter

desolation ► **noun** ① *the desolation of the Gobi desert* BLEAKNESS, starkness, barrenness, sterility, wildness, isolation, loneliness, remoteness ② *a feeling of utter desolation* MISERY, sadness, unhappiness, despondency, sorrow, depression, grief, woe, broken-heartedness, wretchedness, dejection, devastation, despair, anguish, distress

despair ► **noun** HOPELESSNESS, disheartenment, discouragement, desperation, distress, anguish, unhappiness, despondency, depression, disconsolateness, melancholy, misery, wretchedness, defeatism, pessimism
 -OPPOSITES hope, joy

► **verb** LOSE HOPE, abandon hope, give up, lose heart, be discouraged, be despondent, be demoralized, resign oneself, be pessimistic, look on the black side

■ **be the despair of** BE THE BANE OF, be the scourge of, be a burden on, be a trial to, be a thorn in the flesh/side of

despairing ► **adjective** HOPELESS, in despair, dejected, depressed, despondent, disconsolate, gloomy, miserable, wretched, desolate, inconsolable, disheartened, discouraged, demoralized, devastated, defeatist, pessimistic

despatch ► **verb & noun**. See DISPATCH

desperado ► **noun** (dated) BANDIT, criminal, outlaw, lawbreaker, villain, renegade, robber, cut-throat, gangster, pirate

desperate ► **adjective** ① *a desperate look* DESPAIRING, hopeless, anguished, distressed, wretched, desolate, forlorn, distraught, fraught, out of one's mind, at one's wits' end, beside oneself, at the end of one's tether ② *a desperate attempt to escape* LAST-DITCH, last-gasp, eleventh-hour, do-or-die, final, frantic, frenzied, wild, futile, hopeless, doomed ③ *a desperate shortage of teachers* GRAVE, serious, critical, acute, risky, precarious, dire, awful, terrible, dreadful, urgent, pressing, crucial, vital, drastic, extreme, *informal* chronic ④ *they were desperate for food* IN GREAT NEED OF, urgently requiring, in want of; eager, longing, yearning, hungry, crying out, *informal* dying ⑤ *a desperate act* VIOLENT, dangerous, lawless, reckless, rash, hasty, impetuous, foolhardy, incautious, hazardous, risky; death-or-glory, do-or-die

desperately ► **adverb** ① *he screamed desperately for help* IN DESPERATION, in despair, despairingly, in anguish, in distress; wretchedly, hopelessly, desolately, forlornly ② *they are desperately ill* SERIOUSLY, critically, gravely, severely, acutely, dangerously, perilously; very, extremely, dreadfully; hopelessly, irremediably; *informal* terribly ③ *he desperately wanted to talk* URGENTLY, pressingly; intensely, eagerly.

desperation ► **noun** HOPELESSNESS, despair, distress, anguish, agony, torment, misery, wretchedness, disheartenment, discouragement

despicable ► **adjective** CONTEMPTIBLE, loathsome, hateful, detestable, reprehensible, abhorrent, abominable, awful, heinous, odious, vile, low, mean, abject, shameful, ignominious, shabby, ignoble, disreputable, discreditable, unworthy, *informal* dirty, rotten, low-down, *Brit informal* beastly, *archaic* scurvy
 -OPPOSITES admirable

despise ► **verb** DETEST, hate, loathe, abhor, execrate, deplore, dislike, scorn, disdain, look down on, deride, sneer at, revile, spurn, shun, *formal* abominate
 -OPPOSITES adore

despite ► **preposition** IN SPITE OF, notwithstanding, regardless of, in the face of, for all, even with

despoil ► **verb** ① *a village despoiled by invaders* PLUNDER, pillage, rob, ravage, raid, ransack, rape, loot, sack, devastate, lay waste, ruin ② *the robbers despoiled him of all he had* ROB, strip, deprive, dispossess, denude, divest, relieve, clean out

despondency ► **noun** HOPELESSNESS, despair, disheartenment, discouragement, low spirits, wretchedness, melancholy, gloom, misery, desolation, disappointment, dejection, sadness, unhappiness, *informal* the blues, heartache

despondent ► **adjective** DISHEARTENED, discouraged, dispirited, downhearted, downcast, crestfallen, down, low, disconsolate, despairing, wretched, melancholy, gloomy, morose, dismal, woebegone, miserable, depressed, dejected, sad, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps
 -OPPOSITES hopeful, cheerful

despot ► **noun** TYRANT, oppressor, dictator, absolute ruler, totalitarian, autocrat

despotic ► **adjective** AUTOCRATIC, dictatorial, totalitarian, absolutist, undemocratic, unaccountable, one-party, autarchic, monocratic, tyrannical, tyrannous, oppressive, repressive, draconian, illiberal
 -OPPOSITES democratic

despotism ► **noun** TYRANNY, dictatorship, totalitarianism, absolute rule, absolutism, oppression, repression, autocracy, monocracy, autarchy

dessert ► **noun** PUDDING, sweet, second course, last course, *Brit informal* afters, pud See list at CAKE

destabilize ► **verb** UNDERMINE, weaken, damage, subvert, sabotage, unsettle, upset, disrupt
 -OPPOSITES strengthen

destination ► **noun** JOURNEY'S END, end of the line, terminus, stop, stopping place, port of call, goal, target, end

destined ► **adjective** ① *he is destined to lead a troubled life*: FATED, ordained, predestined, meant; certain, sure, bound, assured, likely; doomed. ② *computers destined for Pakistan* HEADING, bound, en route, scheduled; intended, meant, designed, designated, allotted, reserved

destiny ► **noun** ① *master of his own destiny*: FUTURE, fate, fortune, doom; lot; *archaic* portion. ② *she was sent by destiny* FATE, providence; pre-

destination, divine decree, God's will, kismet, the stars, luck, fortune, chance, karma

destitute ► **adjective** ① *she was left destitute* PENNILESS, poor, impoverished, poverty-stricken, impecunious, without a penny to one's name, needy, in straitened circumstances, distressed, badly off, *Bnt* on the breadline, *informal* hard up, (flat) broke, strapped (for cash), without a brass farthing, without two pennies to rub together, without a bean, *Bnt informal* stony broke, skint, *N Amer informal* stone broke, without a red cent ② *we were destitute of clothing* DEVOID, bereft, deprived, in need, lacking, without, deficient in, wanting
—OPPOSITES rich

destitution ► **noun** POVERTY, impoverishment, penury, pennilessness, privation, pauperism, hardship, need, want, straitened circumstances, dire straits, deprivation, (financial) distress

destroy ► **verb** ① *their offices were destroyed by bombing* DEMOLISH, knock down, level, raze (to the ground), fell, wreck, ruin, shatter, blast, blow up, dynamite, explode, bomb ② *traffic would destroy the conservation area* SPOIL, ruin, wreck, disfigure, blight, mar, impair, deface, scar, injure, harm, devastate, damage, wreak havoc on ③ *illness destroyed his career chances* WRECK, ruin, spoil, disrupt, undo, upset, put an end to, put a stop to, terminate, frustrate, blight, crush, quash, dash, scotch, devastate, demolish, sabotage, *Bnt* throw a spanner in the works of, *informal* mess up, muck up, foul up, put paid to, put the kibosh on, do for, queer, blow a hole in, *Bnt informal* scupper, *archaic* bring to naught ④ *the horse had to be destroyed* KILL, put down, put to sleep, slaughter, terminate, exterminate ⑤ *we had to destroy the enemy* ANNIHILATE, wipe out, obliterate, wipe off the face of the earth, eliminate, eradicate, liquidate, finish off, ease, kill, slaughter, massacre, exterminate, *informal* take out, rub out, snuff out, *N Amer informal* waste
—OPPOSITES build, preserve, raise, spare

destruction ► **noun** ① *the destruction by allied bombers* DEMOLITION, wrecking, ruination, blasting, bombing, wreckage, ruins ② *the destruction of the countryside* SPOILIATION, devastation, ruination, blighting, disfigurement, impairment, scarring, harm, desolation ③ *the destruction of cattle* SLAUGHTER, killing, putting down, extermination, termination ④ *the destruction of the enemies' forces* ANNIHILATION, obliteration, elimination, eradication, liquidation, killing, slaughter, massacre, extermination

destructive ► **adjective** ① *the most destructive war* DEVASTATING, ruinous, disastrous, catastrophic, calamitous, cataclysmic, harmful, damaging, detrimental, deleterious, injurious, crippling, violent, savage, fierce, brutal, deadly, lethal ② *destructive criticism* NEGATIVE, hostile, vicious, unfriendly, unhelpful, obstructive, discouraging

desultory ► **adjective** CASUAL, cursory, superficial, token, perfunctory, half-hearted, lukewarm, random, aimless, erratic, unmethodical, unsystematic, chaotic, inconsistent, irregular, intermittent, sporadic, fitful.
—OPPOSITES keen.

detach ► **verb** ① *he detached the lamp from its bracket*: UNFASTEN, disconnect, disengage, separate, uncouple, remove, loose, unhitch, unhook,

free, disunite, pull off, cut off, break off ② *he detached himself from the crowd* FREE, separate, segregate, move away, split off; leave, abandon ③ *he has detached himself from his family* DISSOCIATE, divorce, alienate, separate, segregate, isolate, cut off, break away, disaffiliate, defect, leave, quit, withdraw from, break with
—OPPOSITES attach, join

detached ► **adjective** ① *a detached collar* UNFASTENED, disconnected, separated, separate, loosened, untied, unhitched, undone, unhooked, unbuttoned, free, severed, cut off ② *a detached observer* DISPASSIONATE, disinterested, objective, uninvolved, outside, neutral, unbiased, unprejudiced, impartial, non-partisan, indifferent, aloof, remote, distant, impersonal ③ *a detached house* STANDING ALONE, separate

detachment ► **noun** ① *she looked on everything with detachment* OBJECTIVITY, dispassion, disinterest, open-mindedness, neutrality, impartiality, indifference, aloofness ② *a detachment of soldiers* UNIT, detail, squad, troop, contingent, outfit, task force, patrol, crew, platoon, company, corps, regiment, brigade, battalion ③ *the detachment of the wallpaper* LOOSENING, disconnection, disengagement, separation, removal

detail ► **noun** ① *the picture is correct in every detail* PARTICULAR, respect, feature, characteristic, attribute, specific, aspect, facet, part, unit, component, constituent, fact, piece of information, point, element, circumstance, consideration ② *that's just a detail* UNIMPORTANT POINT, trivial fact, triviality, technicality, nicety, subtlety, trifle, fine point, incidental, inessential, nothing ③ *records with a considerable degree of detail* PRECISION, exactness, accuracy, thoroughness, carefulness, scrupulousness, particularity ④ *a guard detail* UNIT, detachment, squad, troop, contingent, outfit, task force, patrol ⑤ *I got the toilet detail* DUTY, task, job, chore, charge, responsibility, assignment, function, mission, engagement, occupation, undertaking, errand

► **verb** ① *the report details our objections* DESCRIBE, explain, expound, relate, catalogue, list, spell out, itemize, particularize, identify, specify, state, declare, present, set out, frame, cite, quote, instance, mention, name ② *troops were detailed to prevent the escape* ASSIGN, allocate, appoint, delegate, commission, charge, send, post, nominate, vote, elect, co-opt
■ **in detail** THOROUGHLY, in depth, exhaustively, minutely, closely, meticulously, rigorously, scrupulously, painstakingly, carefully, completely, comprehensively, fully, extensively.

detailed ► **adjective** COMPREHENSIVE, full, complete, thorough, exhaustive, all-inclusive, elaborate, minute, intricate, explicit, specific, precise, exact, accurate, meticulous, painstaking, itemized, blow-by-blow
—OPPOSITES general

detain ► **verb** ① *they were detained for questioning* HOLD, take into custody, take (in), confine, imprison, lock up, put in jail, intern, arrest, apprehend, seize, *informal* pick up, run in, haul in, nab, collar, *Bnt informal* nick. ② *don't let me detain you*. DELAY, hold up, make late, keep, slow up/down; hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct
—OPPOSITES release.

detect ► **verb** ① *no one detected the smell of diesel*: NOTICE, perceive, discern, be aware of, note,



make out, spot, recognize, distinguish, remark, identify, diagnose, catch, sense, see, smell, scent, taste, *Brit* informal clock ② they are responsible for detecting fraud DISCOVER, uncover, find out, turn up, unearth, dig up, root out, expose, reveal ③ help the police to detect crime SOLVE, clear up, get to the bottom of, find the person behind, *informal* crack ④ the hackers were detected CATCH, hunt down, track down, find, expose, reveal, unmask, smoke out, apprehend, arrest, *informal* nail

detection ▶ noun ① the detection of methane DISCERNMENT, perception, awareness, recognition, identification, diagnosis, sensing, sight, smelling, tasting ② the detection of insider dealing, DISCOVERY, uncovering, unearthing, exposure, revelation ③ the detection rate for burglary SOLVING, clear-up ④ he managed to escape detection CAPTURE, identification, exposure, apprehension, arrest

detective ▶ noun INVESTIGATOR, private investigator, private detective, operative, *Brit* enquiry agent, *informal* private eye, PI, sleuth, snoop, *N Amer* *informal* shamus, gumshoe, *informal*, dated dick

detention ▶ noun CUSTODY, imprisonment, confinement, incarceration, internment, detainment, captivity, arrest, house arrest, quarantine

deter ▶ verb ① the high cost deterred many DISCOURAGE, dissuade, put off, scare off, dishearten, demoralize, daunt, intimidate ② the presence of a caretaker deters crime PREVENT, stop, avert, fend off, stave off, ward off, block, halt, check, hinder, impede, hamper, obstruct, foil, forestall, counteract, inhibit, curb
-OPPOSITES encourage

detergent ▶ noun washing detergent CLEANER, cleanser, washing powder, washing-up liquid, soap

▶ adjective detergent action CLEANING, cleansing, surface-active

deteriorate ▶ verb ① his health deteriorated WORSEN, decline, degenerate, fail, slump, slip, go downhill, go backwards, wane, ebb, *informal* go to pot ② these materials deteriorate if stored wrongly DECAY, degrade, degenerate, break down, decompose, rot, go off, spoil, perish, break up, disintegrate, crumble, fall apart
-OPPOSITES improve

deterioration ▶ noun ① a deterioration in law and order DECLINE, collapse, failure, drop, downturn, slump, slip, retrogression ② deterioration of the roof structure DECAY, degradation, degeneration, breakdown, decomposition, rot, atrophy, weakening, break-up, disintegration, dilapidation

determinate ▶ adjective FIXED, settled, specified, established, defined, explicit, known, determined, definitive, conclusive, express, precise, categorical, positive, definite

determination ▶ noun ① it took great determination to win RESOLUTION, resolve, will power, strength of character, single-mindedness, purposefulness, intentness, staunchness, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, staying power, strong-mindedness, backbone, stubbornness, doggedness, obstinacy, spirit, courage, pluck, grit, stout-heartedness; *informal* guts, spunk; *formal* pertinacity ② the determination of the rent

SETTING, specification, settlement, designation, arrangement, establishment, prescription ③ the determination of the speed of light CALCULATION, discovery, ascertainment, establishment, deduction, divination, diagnosis, discernment, verification, confirmation

determine ▶ verb ① chromosomes determine the sex of the embryo CONTROL, decide, regulate, direct, dictate, govern, affect, influence, mould ② he determined to sell up RESOLVE, decide, make up one's mind, choose, elect, opt, *formal* purpose ③ the rent shall be determined by an accountant SPECIFY, set, fix, decide on, settle, assign, designate, arrange, choose, establish, ordain, prescribe, decree ④ determine the composition of the fibres ASCERTAIN, find out, discover, learn, establish, calculate, work out, make out, deduce, diagnose, discern, check, verify, confirm, *informal* figure out

determined ▶ adjective ① he was determined to have his way INTENT ON, bent on, set on, insistent on, resolved to, firm about, committed to, single-minded about, obsessive about ② a very determined man RESOLUTE, purposeful, purposive, adamant, single-minded, unswerving, unwavering, undaunted, intent, insistent, steadfast, staunch, stalwart, persevering, persistent, indefatigable, tenacious, strong-minded, strong-willed, unshakeable, steely, four-square, dedicated, committed, stubborn, dogged, obstinate, inflexible, intransigent, unyielding, immovable, *N Amer* rock-ribbed, *formal* pertinacious

determining ▶ adjective DECIDING, decisive, conclusive, final, definitive, key, pivotal, crucial, critical, major, chief, prime

deterrent ▶ noun DISINCENTIVE, discouragement, damper, curb, check, restraint, obstacle, hindrance, impediment, obstruction, block, barrier, inhibition
-OPPOSITES incentive

detest ▶ verb ABHOR, hate, loathe, despise, shrink from, be unable to bear, find intolerable, dislike, disdain, have an aversion to, *formal* abominate
-OPPOSITES love

detestable ▶ adjective ABHORRENT, hateful, loathsome, despicable, abominable, execrable, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, disgusting, distasteful, horrible, horrid, awful, heinous, reprehensible, obnoxious, odious, offensive, contemptible

dethrone ▶ verb DEPOSE, unseat, uncrown, oust, topple, overthrow, bring down, dislodge, displace, supplant, usurp, eject, drum out
-OPPOSITES crown

detonate ▶ verb ① the charge detonated under the engine EXPLODE, go off, blow up, shatter, erupt, ignite, bang, blast, boom ② they detonated the bomb SET OFF, explode, discharge, let off, touch off, trigger; ignite, kindle

detonation ▶ noun EXPLOSION, discharge, blowing up, ignition, blast, bang, report.

detour ▶ noun DIVERSION, roundabout route, indirect route, scenic route; bypass, ring road; digression, deviation, *Brit* relief road

detract ▶ verb ① my reservations should not detract from the book's excellence: BELITTLE, take away from, diminish, reduce, lessen, minimize, play down, trivialize, decry, depreciate, de-

value, deprecate ② the patterns will detract attention from each other DIVERT, distract, draw away, deflect, avert, shift one's attention

detractor ► noun CRITIC, disparager, denigrator, deprecator, belittler, attacker, fault-finder, backbiter, slanderer, libeller, *informal* knocker

detriment ► noun HARM, damage, injury, hurt, impairment, loss, disadvantage, disservice, mischief

—OPPOSITES benefit

detrimental ► adjective HARMFUL, damaging, injurious, hurtful, inimical, deleterious, destructive, ruinous, disastrous, bad, malign, adverse, undesirable, unfavourable, unfortunate, unhealthy, unwholesome

—OPPOSITES benign

detritus ► noun DEBRIS, waste, refuse, rubbish, litter, scrap, flotsam and jetsam, lumber, rubble, remains, remnants, fragments, scraps, dregs, leavings, sweepings, dross, scum, *N Amer* trash, garbage, *Austral/NZ* mullock, *informal* dreck

devalue ► verb BELITTLE, depreciate, disparage, denigrate, decry, deprecate, treat lightly, discredit, underrate, undervalue, underestimate, deflate, diminish, trivialize, run down, *informal* knock, sell short, put down, pooh-pooh, do down, pick holes in, *Brit informal* rubbish

devastate ► verb ① the city was devastated by an earthquake DESTROY, ruin, wreck, lay waste, ravage, demolish, raze (to the ground), level, flatten ② he was devastated by the news SHATTER, shock, stun, daze, dumbfound, traumatize, crush, overwhelm, overcome, distress, *informal* knock sideways, *Brit informal* knock for six

devastating ► adjective ① a devastating cyclone DESTRUCTIVE, ruinous, disastrous, catastrophic, calamitous, cataclysmic, harmful, damaging, injurious, detrimental, crippling, violent, savage, fierce, dangerous, fatal, deadly, lethal ② devastating news SHATTERING, shocking, traumatic, overwhelming, crushing, distressing, terrible ③ (informal) he presented devastating arguments INCISIVE, highly effective, penetrating, cutting, withering, blistering, searing, scathing, fierce, savage, stinging, biting, caustic, harsh, unsparing

devastation ► noun ① the hurricane left a trail of devastation DESTRUCTION, ruin, desolation, havoc, wreckage, ruins, ravages ② the devastation of Prussia DESTRUCTION, wrecking, ruination, despoliation, demolition, annihilation ③ the devastation you have caused the family SHOCK, trauma, distress, stress, strain, pain, anguish, suffering, upset, agony, misery, heartache

develop ► verb ① the industry developed rapidly GROW, expand, spread, advance, progress, evolve, mature, prosper, thrive, flourish, blossom ② a plan was developed INITIATE, instigate, set in motion, originate, invent, form, establish, generate ③ children should develop their talents EXPAND, augment, broaden, supplement, reinforce, enhance, refine, improve, polish, perfect. ④ a row developed START, begin, emerge, erupt, break out, burst out, arise, break, unfold, happen. ⑤ he developed the disease last week FALL ILL WITH, be stricken with, succumb to; contract, catch, get, pick up, come down with, become infected with

development ► noun ① the development of the firm EVOLUTION, growth, maturation, expansion, enlargement, spread, progress, success ② the development of an idea FORMING, establishment, initiation, instigation, origination, invention, generation ③ keep abreast of developments EVENT, occurrence, happening, circumstance, incident, situation, issue ④ a housing development ESTATE, complex, site

deviant ► adjective deviant behaviour ABERRANT, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, irregular, non-standard, nonconformist, perverse, uncommon, unusual, freakish, strange, odd, peculiar, bizarre, eccentric, idiosyncratic, unorthodox, exceptional, warped, perverted, *informal* kinky, quirky

—OPPOSITES normal

► noun we were seen as deviants NONCONFORMIST, eccentric, maverick, individualist, outsider, misfit, *informal* oddball, weirdo, freak, *N Amer informal* screwball, kook

deviate ► verb DIVERGE, digress, drift, stray, slew, veer, swerve, get sidetracked, branch off, differ, vary, run counter to, contrast with

deviation ► noun DIVERGENCE, digression, departure, difference, variation, variance, aberration, abnormality, irregularity, anomaly, inconsistency, discrepancy

device ► noun ① a device for measuring pressure IMPLIMENT, gadget, utensil, tool, appliance, apparatus, instrument, machine, mechanism, contrivance, contraption, *informal* gizmo, widget ② an ingenious legal device PLOY, tactic, move, stratagem, scheme, plot, trick, ruse, manoeuvre, machination, contrivance, expedient, dodge, wile, *Brit informal* wheeze ③ their shields bear his device EMBLEM, symbol, logo, badge, crest, insignia, coat of arms, escutcheon, seal, mark, design, motif, monogram, hallmark, trademark

devil ► noun ① God and the Devil SATAN, Beelzebub, Lucifer, the Lord of the Flies, the Prince of Darkness, *informal* Old Nick See list ② they drove out the devils from their bodies EVIL SPIRIT, demon, cacodemon, fiend, bogle, *informal* spook ③ look what the cruel devil has done BRUTE, beast, monster, fiend, villain, sadist, barbarian, ogre ④ he's a naughty little devil RASCAL, rogue, imp, fiend, monkey, wretch, *informal* monster, horror, scamp, tyke, *Brit informal* perisher, *N Amer informal* varmint ⑤ (informal) the poor devils looked ill WRETCH, unfortunate, creature, soul, person, fellow, *informal* thing, beggar

devilish ► adjective ① a devilish grin DIABOLICAL, fiendish, demonic, satanic, demoniac, demoniacal, hellish, infernal ② a devilish torture WICKED, evil, iniquitous, vile, foul, abominable, unspeakable, loathsome, monstrous, atrocious, heinous, hideous, odious, horrible, appalling, dreadful, awful, terrible, ghastly, abhorrent, despicable, depraved, dark, black, immoral, vicious, cruel, savage, barbaric. ③ a devilish job DIFFICULT, tricky, ticklish, troublesome, thorny, awkward, problematic

devil-may-care ► adjective RECKLESS, rash, incautious, heedless, impetuous, impulsive, daredevil, hot-headed, wild, foolhardy, audacious, death-or-glory, nonchalant, casual, breezy, flippant, insouciant, happy-go-lucky, easy-going, unworried, untroubled, unconcerned, harum-scarum, *Brit* tearaway.





Names for the Devil

Abbadon	Lucifer
the Adversary	Mephisto
Apollyon	Mephistopheles
the Arch-enemy	Moloch
the Arch-fiend	the old gentleman (in black)
the Auld Thief	Old Harry
Beelzebub	Old Homie
Belial	Old Nick
Clootie	Old Scratch
the Dail	the Prince of Darkness
the Evil One	Satan
the fiend	the Tempter
the Foul Fiend	the Wicked One
His Satanic Majesty	
the Lord of the Flies	

devilment ► noun. See DEVILRY sense 2

devilry, devilry ► noun ① some devilry was afoot WICKEDNESS, evil, sin, iniquity, vileness, badness, wrongdoing, dishonesty, unscrupulousness, villainy, delinquency, devilishness, fiendishness, informal crookedness, shadiness ② she had a perverse sense of devilry MISCHIEF, mischievousness, naughtiness, badness, perversity, impishness, misbehaviour, troublemaking, misconduct, pranks, tricks, roguery, devilment, informal monkey business, shenanigans ③ they dabbled in devilry BLACK MAGIC, sorcery, witchcraft, wizardry, necromancy, enchantment, spell-working, incantation, the supernatural, occultism, the occult, the black arts, divination, voodoo, witchery, N Amer mojo, orenda

devious ► adjective ① the devious ways in which they bent the rules UNDERHAND, deceitful, dishonest, dishonourable, unethical, unprincipled, immoral, unscrupulous, fraudulent, dubious, unfair, treacherous, duplicitous, crafty, cunning, calculating, artful, conniving, scheming, sly, wily, sneaky, furtive, secret, clandestine, surreptitious, covert, N Amer snide, snidey, informal crooked, shady, dirty, low-down, Brt informal dodgy ② a devious route around the coast CIRCUITOUS, roundabout, indirect, meandering, tortuous

devise ► verb CONCEIVE, think up, dream up, work out, formulate, concoct, design, invent, coin, originate, compose, construct, fabricate, create, produce, develop, discover, hit on, hatch, contrive, informal cook up

devitalize ► verb WEAKEN, enfeeble, debilitate, enervate, sap, drain, tax, exhaust, weary, tire (out), fatigue, wear out, prostrate, indispose, incapacitate, lay low, informal knock out, do in, shatter, whack, bush, frazzle, poop; Brt informal knacker
—OPPOSITES strengthen

devoid ► adjective FREE, empty, vacant, bereft, denuded, deprived, destitute, bankrupt, (devoid of) lacking, without, wanting, informal minus.

devolution ► noun DECENTRALIZATION, delegation, redistribution, transfer, surrender, relinquishment.

devolve ► verb DELEGATE, depute, pass (down/on), hand down/over/on, transfer, transmit, assign, consign, convey, entrust, turn over, give,

cede, surrender, relinquish, deliver, bestow, grant

devote ► verb ALLOCATE, assign, allot, commit, give (over), apportion, consign, pledge; dedicate, consecrate, set aside, earmark, reserve, designate

devoted ► adjective LOYAL, faithful, true (blue), staunch, steadfast, constant, committed, dedicated, devout, fond, loving, affectionate, caring, admiring

devotee ► noun ① a devotee of rock music ENTHUSIAST, fan, lover, aficionado, admirer; informal buff, freak, nut, fiend, fanatic, addict, maniac ② devotees thronged the temple FOLLOWER, adherent, supporter, advocate, disciple, votary, member, stalwart, fanatic, zealot, believer, worshipper

devotion ► noun ① her devotion to her husband LOYALTY, faithfulness, fidelity, constancy, commitment, adherence, allegiance, dedication, fondness, love, admiration, affection, care ② a life of devotion DEVOUTNESS, piety, religiousness, spirituality, godliness, holiness, sanctity ③ morning devotions (RELIGIOUS) WORSHIP, religious observance, prayers, vespers, matins, prayer meeting, church service

devotional ► adjective RELIGIOUS, sacred, spiritual, divine, church, ecclesiastical
—OPPOSITES secular

devour ► verb ① he devoured his meal EAT HUNGRILY, eat greedily, gobble (up/down), guzzle, gulp (down), bolt (down), cram down, gorge oneself on, wolf (down), feast on, consume, eat up, informal pack away, demolish, dispose of, make short work of, polish off, shovel down, stuff oneself with, pig oneself on, put away, get outside of, Brt informal scoff ② flames devoured the house. CONSUME, engulf, envelop, destroy, demolish, lay waste, devastate, gut, ravage, ruin, wreck ③ he was devoured by remorse AFFLICT, plague, bedevil, trouble, harrow, rack, consume, swallow up, overcome, overwhelm

devout ► adjective ① a devout Christian PIOUS, religious, devoted, dedicated, reverent, God-fearing, holy, godly, saintly, faithful, dutiful, righteous, churchgoing, orthodox ② a devout soccer fan. DEDICATED, devoted, committed, loyal, faithful, staunch, genuine, firm, steadfast, unwavering, sincere, wholehearted, keen, enthusiastic, zealous, passionate, ardent, fervent, active, sworn, pledged, informal card-carrying, true blue, deep-dyed

dexterity ► noun ① painting china demanded dexterity DEFTNESS, adeptness, adroitness, agility, nimbleness, handiness, ability, talent, skill, proficiency, expertise, experience, efficiency, mastery, delicacy, knack, artistry, finesse ② his political dexterity SHREWDSNESS, astuteness, sharp-wittedness, acumen, acuity, intelligence, ingenuity, inventiveness, cleverness, smartness; canniness, sense, discernment, insight, understanding, penetration, perception, perspicacity, discrimination, cunning, artfulness, craftiness, informal nous, horse sense, savvy.

dexterous ► adjective ① a dexterous flick of the wrist DEFT, adept, adroit, agile, nimble, neat, handy, able, capable, skilful, skilled, proficient, expert, practised, polished, efficient, effortless, slick, professional, masterly; informal nifty, mean, ace. ② his dexterous accounting abilities:

SHREWD, ingenious, inventive, clever, intelligent, brilliant, smart, sharp, acute, astute, canny, intuitive, discerning, perceptive, insightful, incisive, judicious, cunning, artful, crafty, wily, *informal* on the ball, quick off the mark, quick on the uptake, brainy, savvy, *Brit informal* suss

—OPPOSITES clumsy, stupid

diabolical, diabolic ▶ **adjective** ① *his diabolical skill* DEVILISH, fiendish, satanic, demonic, demoniacal, hellish, infernal, evil, wicked, ungodly, unholy ② (*informal*) *a diabolical performance* VERY BAD, dreadful, awful, terrible, disgraceful, shameful, lamentable, deplorable, appalling, atrocious, inferior, substandard, unsatisfactory, inadequate, second-rate, third-rate, shoddy, inept, *informal* crummy, dire, dismal, God-awful, abysmal, rotten, pathetic, pitiful, lousy, *Brit informal* duff, rubbish, ropy ③ (*informal*) *a diabolical liberty* EXTREME, excessive, undue, inordinate, immoderate, unconscionable, outrageous, intolerable, unacceptable, unreasonable, unjustifiable, unwarrantable, inexcusable, unpardonable

diadem ▶ **noun** CROWN, coronet, tiara, circlet, chaplet, *poetic/literary* coronal, *historical* taj

diagnose ▶ **verb** IDENTIFY, determine, distinguish, recognize, detect, pinpoint

diagnosis ▶ **noun** ① *the diagnosis of coeliac disease* IDENTIFICATION, detection, recognition, determination, discovery, pinpointing ② *the results confirmed his diagnosis* OPINION, judgement, verdict, conclusion

diagonal ▶ **adjective** CROSSWISE, crossways, slanting, slanted, aslant, squint, oblique, angled, at an angle, cornerways, cornerwise, *N Amer* cater-cornered, kitty-cornered

diagram ▶ **noun** DRAWING, line drawing, sketch, representation, draft, illustration, picture, plan, outline, delineation, figure, *Computing* graphic

diagrammatic ▶ **adjective** GRAPHIC, graphical, representational, representative, schematic, simplified

dial ▶ **verb** PHONE, telephone, call, ring, make/place a call (to), *informal* buzz, *Brit informal* get on the blower, *N Amer informal* get someone on the horn

dialect ▶ **noun** REGIONAL LANGUAGE, local language, local speech, vernacular, patois, idiom; regionalisms, localisms, *informal* lingo

dialectic ▶ **noun** DISCUSSION, debate, dialogue, logical argument, reasoning, argumentation, polemics, *formal* ratiocination

dialogue ▶ **noun** ① *a book consisting of a series of dialogues* CONVERSATION, talk, discussion, interchange, discourse; chat, tête-à-tête, *informal* confab, *formal* colloquy, confabulation, *archaic* converse ② *they called for a serious political dialogue* DISCUSSION, exchange, debate, exchange of views, talk, head-to-head, consultation, conference, parley, talks, negotiations, *informal* pow-wow, *N Amer informal* skull session

diameter ▶ **noun** BREADTH, width, thickness, calibre, bore, gauge.

diametrical, diametric ▶ **adjective** DIRECT, absolute, complete, exact, extreme, polar, antipodal.

diaphanous ▶ **adjective** SMEER, fine, delicate, light, thin, insubstantial, floaty, flimsy, filmy, silken, chuffy, gossamer, gossamer-thin, gauzy, translucent, transparent, see-through

—OPPOSITES thick, opaque

diarrhoea ▶ **noun** loose motions, *informal* the runs, the trots, gippy tummy, holiday tummy, Delhi belly, Montezuma's revenge, *Brit informal* the squits, *N Amer informal* turista, *archaic* the flux

—OPPOSITES constipation

diary ▶ **noun** ① *he put the date in his diary* APPOINTMENT BOOK, engagement book, personal organizer, trademark Filofax ② *her World War II diaries* JOURNAL, memoir, chronicle, log, log-book, history, annal, record, *N Amer* daybook

diatribe ▶ **noun** TIRADE, harangue, onslaught, attack, polemic, denunciation, broadside, fulmination, condemnation, censure, criticism, *informal* blast, *poetic/literary* philippic

dicey ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) RISKY, uncertain, unpredictable, touch-and-go, precarious, unsafe, dangerous, fraught with danger, hazardous, perilous, high-risk, difficult, *informal* chancy, hairy, iffy, *Brit informal* dodgy, *N Amer informal* gnarly

—OPPOSITES safe

dichotomy ▶ **noun** CONTRAST, difference, polarity, conflict, gulf, chasm, division, separation, split, *rare* contrariety

dicky ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) WEAK, unhealthy, ailing, poorly, sickly, frail, unsound, unreliable, unsteady

—OPPOSITES robust

dictate ▶ **verb** ① *the tsar's attempts to dictate policy* PRESCRIBE, lay down, impose, set down, order, command, decree, ordain, direct, determine, decide, control, govern ② *you are in no position to dictate to me* GIVE ORDERS TO, order about/around, lord it over, lay down the law, *informal* boss about/around, push around/about, throw one's weight about/around ③ *choice is often dictated by availability* DETERMINE, control, govern, decide, influence, affect

▶ **noun** *the dictates of his superior* ORDER, command, commandment, decree, edict, ruling, dictum, diktat, directive, direction, instruction, pronouncement, mandate, requirement, stipulation, injunction, demand, *formal* ordinance, *poetic/literary* behest

dictator ▶ **noun** AUTOCRAT, absolute ruler, despot, tyrant, oppressor, autarch

dictatorial ▶ **adjective** ① *a dictatorial regime* AUTOCRATIC, undemocratic, totalitarian, authoritarian, autarchic, despotic, tyrannical, tyrannous, absolute, unrestricted, unlimited, unaccountable, arbitrary ② *his dictatorial manner* DOMINEERING, autocratic, authoritarian, oppressive, imperious, officious, overweening, overbearing, peremptory, dogmatic, high and mighty, severe, strict, *informal* bossy, high-handed.

—OPPOSITES democratic, meek.

dictatorship ▶ **noun** ABSOLUTE RULE, undemocratic rule, despotism, tyranny, autocracy, autarchy, authoritarianism, totalitarianism, Fascism; oppression, repression.

—OPPOSITES democracy.

diction ▶ **noun** ① *his careful diction*: ENUNCIATION, articulation, elocution, locution, pronunciation,

speech, intonation, inflection, delivery ② *the need for contemporary diction in poetry* PHRASE OLOGY, phrasing, turn of phrase, wording, language, usage, vocabulary, terminology, expressions, idioms

dictionary ► noun LEXICON, wordbook, word list, glossary

—RELATED TERMS lexicographic

dictum ► noun ① *he received the head's dictum with evident reluctance* PRONOUNCEMENT, proclamation, direction, injunction, dictate, command, commandment, order, decree, edict, mandate, diktat ② *the old dictum 'might is right'* SAYING, maxim, axiom, proverb, adage, aphorism, saw, precept, epigram, motto, truism, commonplace, expression, phrase, tag

didactic ► adjective INSTRUCTIVE, instructional, educational, educative, informative, informational, edifying, improving, preceptive, pedagogic, moralistic

die ► verb ① *her father died last year* PASS AWAY, pass on, lose one's life, expire, breathe one's last, meet one's end, meet one's death, lay down one's life, perish, go the way of all flesh, go to one's last resting place, go to meet one's maker, cross the great divide, *informal* give up the ghost, kick the bucket, croak, buy it, turn up one's toes, cash in one's chips, shuffle off this mortal coil, *Brit informal* snuff it, peg out, pop one's clogs, *N Amer informal* bite the big one, buy the farm, *archaic* de cease, depart this life ② *the wind had died down* ABATE, subside, drop, lessen, ease (off), let up, moderate, fade, dwindle, peter out, wane, ebb, relent, weaken, melt away, dissolve, vanish, disappear, *archaic* remit ③ (*informal*) *the engine died* FAIL, cut out, give out, stop, break down, stop working, *informal* conk out, go kaput, give up the ghost, *Brit informal* pack up ④ (*informal*) *she's dying to meet you* LONG, yearn, burn, ache, *informal* itch

—OPPOSITES live, intensify

diehard ► adjective HARD-LINE, reactionary, ultra-conservative, conservative, traditionalist, dyed-in-the-wool, deep-dyed, intransigent, inflexible, uncompromising, rigid, entrenched, set in one's ways, staunch, steadfast, *informal* blimpish

diet¹ ► noun health problems related to your diet SELECTION OF FOOD, food, foodstuffs, *informal* grub, nosh See list

► verb *she dieted for most of her life* BE ON A DIET, eat sparingly, slim, lose weight, watch one's weight, *N Amer* reduce, *informal* weight-watch, *N Amer informal* slenderize

diet² ► noun the diet's lower house LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, legislature, parliament, congress, senate, council, assembly

differ ► verb ① *the second set of data differed from the first* CONTRAST WITH, be different/dissimilar to, be unlike, vary from, diverge from, deviate from, conflict with, run counter to, be incompatible with, be at odds with, go against, contradict ② *the two sides differed over this issue* DISAGREE, conflict, be at variance/odds, be in dispute, not see eye to eye

—OPPOSITES resemble, agree

difference ► noun ① *the difference between the two sets of data* DISSIMILARITY, contrast, distinction, differentiation, variance, variation, divergence, disparity, deviation, polarity, gulf, gap,

Dietary Habits

TERM	THING EATEN
anthropophagous	fellow humans
cannibalistic	members of the same species
carnivorous	meat
coprophagous	faeces
detritivorous	plant detritus
entomophagous	insects
folivorous	leaves
frugivorous	fruit
fungivorous	fungi
graminivorous	grass
herbivorous	plants
insectivorous	insects, worms, and other invertebrates
mellivorous	honey
nectarivorous	nectar
omnivorous	all kinds of plants and meat
omophagous	raw food, especially raw meat
pisivorous	fish
vermivorous	

imbalance, contradiction, contradistinction, *formal* dissimilitude ② *we've had our differences in the past* DISAGREEMENT, difference of opinion, dispute, argument, quarrel, wrangle, contretemps, altercation, *informal* tiff, set-to, run-in, spat, *Brit informal* row ③ *I am willing to pay the difference* BALANCE, remainder, rest, remaining amount, residue

—OPPOSITES similarity

different ► adjective ① *people with different lifestyles* DISSIMILAR, unlike, unlike, contrasting, contrastive, divergent, differing, varying, disparate, poles apart, incompatible, mismatched, conflicting, clashing, *informal* like chalk and cheese ② *suddenly everything in her life was different* CHANGED, altered, transformed, new, unfamiliar, unknown, strange ③ *two different occasions* DISTINCT, separate, individual, discrete, independent ④ (*informal*) *he wanted to try something different* UNUSUAL, out of the ordinary, unfamiliar, novel, new, fresh, original, unconventional, exolic, uncommon

—OPPOSITES similar, related, ordinary

differential ► adjective (technical) ① *the differential achievements of boys and girls* DIFFERENT, dissimilar, contrasting, unlike, divergent, disparate, contrastive ② *the differential features between benign and malignant tumours* DISTINCTIVE, distinguishing

—OPPOSITES similar

differentiate ► verb ① *he unable to differentiate between fantasy and reality* DISTINGUISH, discriminate, make/draw a distinction, tell the difference, tell apart ② *this differentiates their business from all other booksellers* MAKE DIFFERENT, distinguish, set apart, single out, separate, mark off

differentiation ► noun DISTINCTION, distinctness, difference, separation, demarcation, delimitation.

difficult ► adjective ① *a very difficult job* HARD, strenuous, arduous, laborious, tough, onerous, burdensome, demanding, punishing, gruelling, back-breaking, exhausting, tiring, fatiguing, wearsome, *informal* hellish, killing, no picnic; *archaic* toilsome. ② *she found maths very difficult* HARD, complicated, complex, involved, impene-

trable, unfathomable, over/above one's head, beyond one, puzzling, baffling, perplexing, confusing, mystifying, problematic, intricate, knotty, thorny, ticklish ④ a difficult child TROUBLESOME, tiresome, trying, exasperating, awkward, demanding, perverse, contrary, recalcitrant, unmanageable, obstreperous, unaccommodating, unhelpful, uncooperative, disobliging, hard to please, fussy, finicky, formal refractory ④ you've come at a difficult time INCONVENIENT, awkward, inopportune, unfavourable, unfortunate, inappropriate, unsuitable, untimely, ill-timed ⑤ the family have been through very difficult times BAD, tough, grim, dark, black, hard, adverse, distressing, straitened, hard-pressed
-OPPOSITES easy, simple, accommodating

difficulty ► noun ① the difficulty of balancing motherhood with a career STRAIN, trouble, problems, toil, struggle, laboriousness, arduousness, informal hassle, stress ② practical difficulties PROBLEM, complication, snag, hitch, pitfall, handicap, impediment, hindrance, obstacle, hurdle, obstruction, barrier, stumbling block, fly in the ointment, *Bnt* spanner in the works, informal headache, hiccup ③ Charles got into difficulties TROUBLE, predicament, plight hard times, dire straits, quandary, dilemma, informal deep water, a fix, a jam, a spot, a scrape, a stew, a hole, a pickle
-OPPOSITES ease

diffidence ► noun SHYNESS, bashfulness, modesty, self-effacement, meekness, unassertiveness, timidity, humility, hesitancy, reticence, insecurity, self-doubt, uncertainty, self-consciousness

diffident ► adjective SHY, bashful, modest, self-effacing, unassuming, meek, unconfident, unassertive, timid, timorous, humble, shrinking, reticent, hesitant, insecure, self-doubting, doubtful, uncertain, unsure, self-conscious, informal mousy
-OPPOSITES confident

diffuse ► verb such ideas were diffused widely in the 1970s SPREAD, spread around, send out, disseminate, scatter, disperse, distribute, put about, circulate, communicate, purvey, propagate, transmit, broadcast, promulgate

► adjective ① a diffuse community centred on the church SPREAD OUT, scattered ② a diffuse narrative VERBOSE, wordy, prolix, long-winded, long-drawn-out, discursive, rambling, wandering, meandering, maundering, digressive, circuitous, roundabout, circumlocutory, periphrastic, *Bnt* informal waffly

diffusion ► noun SPREAD, dissemination, scattering, dispersal, distribution, circulation, propagation, transmission, broadcasting, promulgation

dig ► verb ① she began to dig the heavy clay soil TURN OVER, work, break up, till, harrow, plough ② he took a spade and dug a hole EXCAVATE, dig out, quarry, hollow out, scoop out, gouge out, cut, bore, tunnel, burrow, mine ③ the bodies were hastily dug up EXHUME, disinter, unearth ④ Winnie dug her elbow into his ribs POKE, prod, jab, stab, shove, ram, push, thrust, drive ⑤ he'd been digging into my past: DELVE, probe, search, inquire, look, investigate, re-search, examine, scrutinize, check up on; informal check out ⑥ I dug up some disturbing information UNCOVER, discover, find (out), unearth,

dredge up, root out, ferret out, turn up, reveal, bring to light, expose ⑦ (informal, dated) I dig talking with him See ENJOY verb sense 1

► noun ① a dig in the ribs POKE, prod, jab, stab, shove, push ② (informal) they're always making digs at each other SNIDE REMARK, cutting remark, jibe, jeer, taunt, sneer, insult, barb, insinuation, informal wisecrack, crack, put-down

digest ► verb Liz digested this information ASSIMILATE, absorb, take in, understand, comprehend, grasp, consider, think about, reflect on, ponder, contemplate, mull over

► noun a digest of their findings. SUMMARY, synopsis, abstract, precis, résumé, summation, compilation, *N Amer* informal wrap-up

digestion ► noun. See list

Parts of the Human Digestive System

alimentary canal	ileum	rectum
anus	intestine	salivary glands
buccal cavity	jejunum	stomach
colon	liver	teeth
duodenum	mouth	tongue
gall bladder	oesophagus	
	pancreas	

digit ► noun ① the door code has ten digits NUMERAL, number, figure, integer ② our frozen digits FINGER, thumb, toe, extremity

dignified ► adjective STATELY, noble, courtly, majestic, distinguished, proud, august, lofty, exalted, regal, lordly, imposing, impressive, grand, solemn, serious, grave, formal, proper, ceremonious, decorous, reserved, composed, sedate

dignify ► verb ENNOBLE, enhance, distinguish, add distinction to, honour, grace, exalt, magnify, glorify, elevate

dignitary ► noun WORTHY, personage, VIP, grandee, notable, notability, pillar of society, luminary, leading light, big name, informal heavyweight, bigwig, top brass, top dog, big gun, big shot, big noise, big cheese, big chief, supremo, *N Amer* informal big wheel, big kahuna, big enchilada, top banana

dignity ► noun ① the dignity of the Crown: STATELINESS, nobility, majesty, regality, courtliness, augustness, loftiness, lordliness, grandeur, solemnity, gravity, gravitas, formality, decorum, propriety, sedateness ② he had lost his dignity SELF-RESPECT, pride, self-esteem, self-worth, amour propre ③ Cnut promised dignities to the noblemen HIGH RANK, high standing, high station, status, elevation, eminence, honour, glory, greatness

digress ► verb DEVIATE, go off at a tangent, get off the subject, get sidetracked, lose the thread, diverge, turn aside/away, depart, drift, stray, wander

digression ► noun DEVIATION, detour, diversion, departure, divergence, excursus, aside, incidental remark.

digs ► plural noun (informal) LODGINGS, rooms, accommodation, living quarters, flat, house, home, informal pad, place; *Bnt* informal bedsit, formal abode, dwelling, dwelling place, residence, domicile, habitation



dilapidated ▶ **adjective** RUN DOWN, tumble-down, ramshackle, broken-down, in disrepair, shabby, battered, rickety, shaky, unsound, crumbling, in ruins, ruined, decayed, decaying, decrepit; neglected, uncared-for, untended, the worse for wear, falling to pieces, falling apart, gone to rack and ruin, gone to seed

dilate ▶ **verb** ① *her nostrils dilated* ENLARGE, widen, expand, distend ② *Diane dilated on the joys of her married life* EXPATiate, expound, enlarge, elaborate, speak/write at length
—OPPOSITES contract

dilatory ▶ **adjective** ① *he had been dilatory in appointing a solicitor* SLOW, tardy, unhurried, sluggish, sluggardly, snail-like, tortoise-like, lazy ② *dilatory procedural tactics* DELAYING, stalling, temporizing, procrastinating, time-wasting, Fabian
—OPPOSITES fast

dilemma ▶ **noun** QUANDARY, predicament, catch-22, vicious circle, plight, mess, muddle, difficulty, problem, trouble, perplexity, confusion, conflict, *informal* no-win situation, fix, tight spot/corner, *Brit informal* sticky wicket
■ **on the horns of a dilemma** BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BLUE SEA, between Scylla and Charybdis, *informal* between a rock and a hard place

dilettante ▶ **noun** DABBLER, amateur, non-professional, non-specialist, layman, layperson
—OPPOSITES professional

diligence ▶ **noun** CONSCIENTIOUSNESS, assiduousness, assiduity, hard work, application, concentration, effort, care, industriousness, rigour, meticulousness, thoroughness, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, dedication, commitment, tirelessness, indefatigability, doggedness

diligent ▶ **adjective** INDUSTRIOUS, hard-working, assiduous, conscientious, particular, punctilious, meticulous, painstaking, rigorous, careful, thorough, sedulous, earnest, persevering, persistent, tenacious, zealous, dedicated, committed, unflagging, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, dogged, *archaic* laborious
—OPPOSITES lazy

dilly-dally ▶ **verb** (*informal*) WASTE TIME, dally, dawdle, loiter, linger, take one's time, delay, temporize, stall, procrastinate, pussyfoot around, drag one's feet, dither, hesitate, falter, vacillate, waver, *Brit* haver, hum and haw, *informal* shilly-shally, let the grass grow under one's feet, *archaic* tarry
—OPPOSITES hurry

dilute ▶ **verb** ① *strong bleach can be diluted with water* MAKE WEAKER, weaken, water down, thin out, thin, doctor, adulterate, *informal* cut ② *the original plans have been diluted* WEAKEN, moderate, tone down, water down

▶ **adjective** a dilute acid See DILUTED

diluted ▶ **adjective** WEAK, dilute, thin, watered down, watery; adulterated.
—OPPOSITES concentrated

dim ▶ **adjective** ① *the dim light*: FAINT, weak, feeble, soft, pale, dull, subdued, muted, wishy-washy ② *long dim corridors*: DARK, badly lit, ill-lit, dingy, dismal, gloomy, murky, *poetic/literary* tenebrous ③ *a dim figure*: INDISTINCT, ill-defined, unclear, vague, shadowy, nebulous, obscured, blurred, blurry, fuzzy. ④ *dim memories*: VAGUE, imprecise, imperfect, unclear, indistinct,

sketchy, hazy, blurred, shadowy ⑤ (*informal*) I'm awfully dim See STUPID sense 1 ⑥ *their prospects for the future looked dim* GLOOMY, unpromising, unfavourable, discouraging, disheartening, depressing, dispiriting, hopeless

—OPPOSITES bright, distinct, encouraging

▶ **verb** ① *the lights were dimmed* TURN DOWN, lower, dip, soften, subdue, mute, *poetic/literary* bedim ② *my memories have not dimmed with time* FADE, become vague, dwindle, blur ③ *the fighting dimmed hopes of peace* DIMINISH, reduce, lessen, weaken, undermine
—OPPOSITES brighten, sharpen, intensify

dimension ▶ **noun** ① *the dimensions of the room* SIZE, measurements, proportions, extent, length, width, breadth, depth, area, volume, capacity, footage, acreage ② *the dimension of the problem* SIZE, scale, extent, scope, magnitude, importance, significance ③ *the cultural dimensions of the problem* ASPECT, feature, element, facet, side

diminish ▶ **verb** ① *the pain will gradually diminish* DECREASE, lessen, decline, reduce, subside, die down, abate, dwindle, fade, slacken off, moderate, let up, ebb, wane, recede, die away/out, peter out, *archaic* remit ② *new legislation diminished the courts' authority* REDUCE, decrease, lessen, curtail, cut, cut down/back, constrict, restrict, limit, curb, check, weaken, blunt, erode, undermine, sap ③ *she lost no opportunity to diminish him* BELITTLE, disparage, denigrate, defame, deprecate, run down, decry, demean, cheapen, devalue, *formal* derogate
—OPPOSITES increase

diminution ▶ **noun** REDUCTION, decrease, lessening, decline, dwindling, moderation, fading, weakening, ebb

diminutive ▶ **adjective** TINY, small, little, petite, elfin, minute, miniature, mini, minuscule, compact, pocket, toy, midget, undersized, short, *Scottish* wee, *informal* teeny, weeny, teeny-weeny, teensy-weensy, itty-bitty, itsy-bitsy, tidily, dinky, baby, pint-sized, knee-high to a grasshopper, *Brit informal* titchy, *N Amer informal* little-bitty
—OPPOSITES enormous

dimple ▶ **noun** INDENTATION, hollow, cleft, dint

dimwit ▶ **noun** (*informal*) See FOOL noun sense 1

dim-witted ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) See STUPID senses 1, 2

din ▶ **noun** *he shouted above the din* NOISE, racket, rumpus, cacophony, babel, hubbub, tumult, uproar, commotion, clangour, clatter, shouting, yelling, screaming, caterwauling, clamour, outcry, *Scottish & N English* stramash; *informal* hullabaloo, *Brit informal* row
—OPPOSITES silence.

▶ **verb** ① *she had had the evils of drink dinned into her* INSTIL, inculcate, drive, drum, hammer, drill, ingrain, indoctrinate, brainwash ② *the sound dinning in my ears*: BLARE, blast, clang, clatter, crash, clamour

dine ▶ **verb** ① *we dined at a restaurant*: HAVE DINNER, have supper, eat; *dated* sup, break bread ② *they dined on lobster* EAT, feed on, feast on, banquet on, partake of; *informal* tuck into

dingle ▶ **noun** (*poetic/literary*) VALLEY, dale, vale, hollow; *Brit* dene; *Scottish* glen, strath; *poetic/literary* dell.

dingy ► **adjective** GLOOMY, dark, dull, badly/ poorly lit, murky, dim, dismal, dreary, drab, sombre, grim, cheerless, dirty, grimy, shabby, faded, worn, dowdy, seedy, run down
—OPPOSITES bright

dinky ► **adjective** (*Brit informal*) SMALL, little, petite, dainty, neat, diminutive, mini, miniature, sweet, cute, dear, adorable, *Scottish wee, informal* teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy-weensy, *N Amer informal* little-bitty

dinner ► **noun** EVENING MEAL, supper, main meal, lunch, feast, banquet, dinner party, *Brit* tea, *informal* spread, blowout, *Brit informal* nosh-up, slap-up meal, *formal* repast
—RELATED TERMS prandial

dinosaur ► **noun**. See list

Dinosaurs

Alamosaurus	Melanorosaurus
Albertosaurus	Microvenator
Allosaurus	Monoclonius
Anchiceratops	Orthinomimus
Anchisaurus	Orthiholestes
Ankylosaurus	Ostrich dinosaur
Apatosaurus	Oviraptor
Barosaurus	Pachycephalosaurus
Brachiosaurus	Parasaurolophus
Brontosaurus	Pentaceratops
Camarasaurus	Plateosaurus
Camptosaurus	Procompsognathus
Ceratosaurus	Protoceratops
Cetiosaurus	Psittacosaurus
Chasmosaurus	Raptor
Coelophysis	Riojasaurus
Coelosaurus	Saurolophus
Compsognathus	Sauropod
Corythosaurus	Scelidosaurus
Deinonychus	Seismosaurus
Deinoceramus	Staurikosaurus
Dilophosaurus	Stegosaurus
Diplodocus	Stegoceras
Dromaeosaurus	Styracosaurus
Dryosaurus	Syntarsus
Duck-billed dinosaur	Tarbosaurus
Edmontosaurus	Thescelosaurus
Fabrosaurus	Titanosaurus
Gallimimus	Torosaurus
Heterodontosaurus	Triceratops
Iguanodon	Troodon
Kentrosaurus	Tyrannosaurus
Leptoceratops	Ultrasaurus
Megalosaurus	Utahraptor
	Velociraptor

dint ► **noun** DENT, indentation, hollow, depression, dip, dimple, cleft, pit

■ **by dint of** BY MEANS OF, by virtue of, on account of, as a result of, as a consequence of, owing to, on the strength of, due to, thanks to, by; *formal* by reason of

diocese ► **noun** BISHOPRIC, see

dip ► **verb** ① he dipped a rag in the water IMMERSE, submerge, plunge, duck, dunk, lower, sink. ② the sun dipped below the horizon SINK, set, drop, go/drop down, fall, descend, disappear, vanish. ③ the president's popularity has dipped DECREASE, fall, drop, fall off, decline, diminish, dwindle, slump, plummet, plunge, *informal* hit the floor. ④ the road dipped: SLOPE DOWN, des-

cend, go down, drop away, fall, sink. ⑤ he dipped his headlights DIM, LOWER, turn down. ⑥ you might have to dip into your savings DRAW ON, use, make use of, have recourse to, spend. ⑦ an interesting book to dip into BROWSE THROUGH, skim through, look through, flick through, glance at, peruse, run one's eye over
—OPPOSITES rise, increase

► **noun** ① a relaxing dip in the pool SWIM, bathe, paddle. ② give the fish a ten-minute dip in a salt bath IMMERSION, plunge, ducking, dunking. ③ chicken satay with peanut dip SAUCE, relish, dressing. See list at SAUCE. ④ the hedge at the bottom of the dip SLOPE, incline, decline, descent, hollow, concavity, depression, basin, indentation. ⑤ a dip in sales DECREASE, fall, drop, downturn, decline, falling-off, slump, reduction, diminution, ebb

diplomacy ► **noun** ① diplomacy failed to win them independence STATESMANSHIP, statecraft, negotiation(s), discussion(s), talks, dialogue, international relations, foreign affairs. ② Jack's quiet diplomacy TACT, tactfulness, sensitivity, discretion, subtlety, finesse, delicacy, savoir faire, politeness, thoughtfulness, care, judiciousness, prudence

diplomat ► **noun** AMBASSADOR, attaché, consul, chargé d'affaires, envoy, emissary, plenipotentiary, *archaic* legate

diplomatic ► **adjective** ① diplomatic activity AMBASSADORIAL, consular, foreign-office. ② he tried to be diplomatic TACTFUL, sensitive, subtle, delicate, polite, discreet, thoughtful, careful, judicious, prudent, politic, clever, skilful
—OPPOSITES tactless

dire ► **adjective** ① the dire economic situation TERRIBLE, dreadful, appalling, frightful, awful, atrocious, grim, alarming, grave, serious, disastrous, ruinous, hopeless, irretrievable, wretched, desperate, parlous, *formal* grievous. ② he was in dire need of help URGENT, desperate, pressing, crying, sore, grave, serious, extreme, acute, drastic. ③ dire warnings of fuel shortages OMINOUS, gloomy, grim, dismal, unpropitious, inauspicious, unfavourable, pessimistic. ④ (*informal*) the concert was dire. See AWFUL sense 2

direct ► **adjective** ① the most direct route STRAIGHT, undeviating, unswerving, shortest, quickest. ② a direct flight NON-STOP, unbroken, uninterrupted, through. ③ he is very direct FRANK, candid, straightforward, honest, open, blunt, plain-spoken, outspoken, forthright, downright, no-nonsense, matter-of-fact, not afraid to call a spade a spade, *informal* upfront. ④ direct contact with the president FACE TO FACE, personal, head-on, immediate, first-hand, tête-à-tête. ⑤ a direct quotation VERBATIM, word for word, to the letter, faithful, exact, precise, accurate, correct. ⑥ the direct opposite EXACT, absolute, complete, diametrical

► **verb** ① an economic elite directed the nation's affairs MANAGE, govern, run, administer, control, conduct, handle, be in charge/control of, preside over, lead, head, rule, be at the helm of, supervise, superintend, oversee, regulate, orchestrate, coordinate, *informal* run the show, call the shots/tune, be in the driving seat. ② was that remark directed at me? AIM AT, target at, address to, intend for, mean for, design for. ③ a man in uniform directed them to the hall GIVE DIRECTIONS, show the way, guide, lead, conduct,

accompany, usher, escort ① the judge directed the jury to return a not guilty verdict INSTRUCT, tell, command, order, charge, require, poetic/literary bid

direction ▶ noun ① a northerly direction WAY, route, course, line, run, bearing, orientation ② the newspaper's political direction ORIENTATION, inclination, leaning, tendency, bent, bias, preference, drift, tack, attitude, tone, tenor, mood, current, trend. ③ his direction of the project ADMINISTRATION, management, conduct, handling, running, supervision, superintendence, regulation, orchestration, control, command, rule, leadership, guidance ④ explicit directions about nursing care INSTRUCTION, order, command, prescription, rule, regulation, requirement

directive ▶ noun INSTRUCTION, direction, command, order, charge, injunction, prescription, rule, ruling, regulation, law, dictate, decree, dictum, edict, mandate, fiat, formal ordinance

directly ▶ adverb ① they flew directly to New York STRAIGHT, right, as the crow flies, by a direct route ② I went directly after breakfast IMMEDIATELY, at once, instantly, right away, straight away, post-haste, without delay, without hesitation, forthwith, quickly, speedily, promptly, informal pronto ③ the houses directly opposite EXACTLY, right, immediately, diametrically; informal bang ④ she spoke simply and directly FRANKLY, candidly, openly, bluntly, forthrightly, without beating around the bush

director ▶ noun ADMINISTRATOR, manager, chairman, chairwoman, chairperson, chair, head, chief, principal, leader, governor, president; managing director, MD, chief executive, CEO, supervisor, controller, overseer, informal boss, kingpin, top dog, gaffer, head honcho, numero uno, N Amer informal Mister Big See list at FILM

directory ▶ noun INDEX, list, listing, register, catalogue, record, archive, inventory

dirge ▶ noun ELEGY, lament, threnody, requiem, dead march, Insh keen, & Scottish coronach

dirt ▶ noun ① his face was streaked with dirt GRIME, filth; dust, soot, smut, muck, mud, mire, sludge, slime, ooze, dross, smudges, stains, informal crud, yuck, grunge, Bnt informal grot, gunge. ② the packed dirt of the road EARTH, soil, loam, clay, silt, ground ③ (informal) dog dirt See EXCREMENT. ④ (informal) they tried to dig up dirt on the President SCANDAL, gossip, revelations, rumour(s), information.

dirty ▶ adjective ① a dirty sweatshirt | dirty water SOILED, grimy, grubby, filthy, mucky, stained, unwashed, greasy, smeared, smeary, spotted, smudged, cloudy, muddy, dusty, sooty; unclean, sullied, impure, tarnished, polluted, contaminated, defiled, foul, unhygienic, insanitary, unsanitary, informal cruddy, yucky, icky, Bnt informal manky, gungy, grotty; poetic/literary befouled, besmirched, begrimed ② a dirty joke INDECENT, obscene, rude, naughty, vulgar, smutty, coarse, crude, filthy, bawdy, suggestive, ribald, racy, salacious, risqué, offensive, off colour, lewd, pornographic, explicit, X-rated; informal blue, euphemistic adult. ③ dirty tricks: DISHONEST, deceitful, unscrupulous, dishonourable, unsporting, ungentlemanly, below the belt, unfair, unethical, unprincipled; crooked, double-dealing, underhand, sly, crafty, devious, sneaky, Bnt informal out of order, not cricket. ④ (informal) a

dirty cheat DESPICABLE, contemptible, hateful, vile, low, mean, unworthy, worthless, beyond contempt, sordid, informal rotten, archaic scurvy ⑤ a dirty look MALEVOLENT, resentful, hostile, black, dark, angry, cross, indignant, annoyed, disapproving, informal peevish ⑥ dirty weather UNPLEASANT, nasty, foul, inclement, bad, rough, stormy, squally, gusty, windy, blowy, rainy, murky, overcast, louring

—OPPOSITES clean, innocent, honourable, pleasant

▶ verb the dog had dirtied her dress SOIL, stain, muddy, blacken, mess up, mark, spatter, bespatter, smudge, smear, splatter, sully, pollute, foul, defile, poetic/literary befoul, besmirch, begrime

—OPPOSITES clean

disability ▶ noun HANDICAP, disablement, incapacity, impairment, infirmity, defect, abnormality, condition, disorder, affliction

disable ▶ verb ① an injury that could disable somebody for life INCAPACITATE, put out of action, debilitate, handicap, cripple, lame, maim, immobilize, paralyse ② the bomb squad disabled the device DEACTIVATE, defuse, disarm ③ he was disabled from holding public office DISQUALIFY, prevent, preclude

disabled ▶ adjective HANDICAPPED, incapacitated, debilitated, infirm, out of action, crippled, lame, paralysed, immobilized, bedridden, euphemistic physically challenged, differently abled

—OPPOSITES able-bodied

disabuse ▶ verb DISILLUSION, set straight, open someone's eyes, correct, enlighten, disenchant, shatter someone's illusions

disadvantage ▶ noun DRAWBACK, snag, downside, stumbling block, fly in the ointment, catch, hindrance, obstacle, impediment, flaw, defect, weakness, fault, handicap, con, trouble, difficulty, problem, complication, nuisance, Bnt disbenefit, spanner in the works, informal minus

—OPPOSITES benefit

disadvantaged ▶ adjective DEPRIVED, underprivileged, depressed, in need, needy, poor, impoverished, indigent, hard up, Bnt on the breadline

disadvantageous ▶ adjective UNFAVOURABLE, adverse, unfortunate, unlucky, bad, detrimental, prejudicial, deleterious, harmful, damaging, injurious, hurtful, inconvenient, inopportune, ill-timed, untimely, inexpedient

disaffected ▶ adjective DISSATISFIED, disgruntled, discontented, malcontent, frustrated, alienated; disloyal, rebellious, mutinous, seditious, dissident, up in arms, hostile, antagonistic, unfriendly

—OPPOSITES contented

disagree ▶ verb ① no one was willing to disagree with him. TAKE ISSUE, challenge, contradict, oppose, be at variance/odds, not see eye to eye, differ, dissent, be in dispute, debate, argue, quarrel, wrangle, clash, be at loggerheads, cross swords, lock horns; formal gainsay. ② their accounts disagree on details. DIFFER, be dissimilar, be different, vary, diverge; contradict each other, conflict, clash, contrast. ③ the spicy food disagreed with her: MAKE ILL, make unwell, nauseate, sicken, upset.

disagreeable ▶ adjective ① *a disagreeable smell* UNPLEASANT, displeasing, nasty, offensive, off-putting, obnoxious, objectionable, horrible, horrid, dreadful, frightful, abominable, odious, repugnant, repulsive, repellent, revolting, disgusting, foul, vile, nauseating, sickening, unpalatable ② *a disagreeable man* BAD-TEMPERED, ill-tempered, curmudgeonly, cross, crabbed, irritable, grumpy, peevish, sullen, prickly, unfriendly, unpleasant, nasty, mean, mean-spirited, rude, surly, discourteous, impolite, brusque, abrupt, churlish, disobliging
—OPPOSITES pleasant

disagreement ▶ noun ① *there was some disagreement over possible solutions* DISSENT, dispute, difference of opinion, variance, controversy, discord, discord, contention, division ② *a heated disagreement* ARGUMENT, debate, quarrel, wrangle, squabble, falling-out, altercation, dispute, disputation, war of words, contretemps, informal tiff, set-to, spat, ding-dong, *Brit* informal row, barney, *Scottish* informal rammy ③ *the disagreement between the results of the two assessments* DIFFERENCE, dissimilarity, variation, variance, discrepancy, disparity, divergence, deviation, nonconformity, incompatibility, contradiction, conflict, clash, contrast, formal dissimilitude

disallow ▶ verb REJECT, refuse, dismiss, say no to, ban, bar, block, debar, forbid, prohibit, cancel, invalidate, overrule, quash, overturn, countermand, reverse, throw out, set aside, *informal* give the thumbs down to

disappear ▶ verb ① *by 4 o'clock the mist had disappeared* VANISH, pass from sight, be lost to view/sight, recede from view, fade (away), melt away, clear, dissolve, disperse, evaporate, dematerialize, poetic/literary evanesce ② *this way of life has disappeared* DIE OUT, die, cease to exist, come to an end, end, pass away, pass into oblivion, perish, vanish
—OPPOSITES materialize

disappoint ▶ verb ① *I'm sorry to have disappointed you* LET DOWN, fail, dissatisfy, dash someone's hopes, upset, dismay, sadden, disenchant, disillusion, shatter someone's illusions, disabuse ② *his hopes were disappointed* THWART, frustrate, foil, dash, put a/the damper on, *informal* throw cold water on
—OPPOSITES fulfil.

disappointed ▶ adjective UPSET, saddened, let down, cast down, disheartened, downhearted, downcast, depressed, dispirited, discouraged, despondent, dismayed, crestfallen, distressed, chagrined, disenchanted, disillusioned, displeased, discontented, dissatisfied, frustrated, disgruntled, *informal* choked, miffed, cut up, *Brit* informal gutted, as sick as a parrot
—OPPOSITES pleased.

disappointing ▶ adjective REGRETTABLE, unfortunate, sorry, discouraging, disheartening, dispiriting, depressing, dismaying, upsetting, saddening, dissatisfactory, unsatisfactory; *informal* not all it's cracked up to be

disappointment ▶ noun ① *she tried to hide her disappointment*: SADNESS, regret, dismay, sorrow, dispiritedness, despondency, distress, chagrin, disenchantment, disillusionment; displeasure, dissatisfaction, disgruntlement ② *the trip was a bit of a disappointment*: LET-DOWN, non-event, anticlimax, *Brit* damp squib, *informal* washout, lead balloon.

—OPPOSITES satisfaction

disapprobation ▶ noun. See DISAPPROVAL

disapproval ▶ noun DISAPPROBATION, objection, dislike, dissatisfaction, disfavour, displeasure, distaste, exception, criticism, censure, condemnation, denunciation, deprecation, *informal* the thumbs down

disapprove ▶ verb ① *he disapproved of gamblers*: OBJECT TO, have a poor opinion of, look down one's nose at, take exception to, dislike, take a dim view of, look askance at, frown on, be against, not believe in, deplore, criticize, censure, condemn, denounce, decry, deprecate ② *the board disapproved the plan* REJECT, veto, refuse, turn down, disallow, throw out, dismiss, rule against, *informal* give the thumbs down to

disapproving ▶ adjective REPROACHFUL, reproving, critical, censorious, condemnatory, disparaging, denigratory, deprecatory, unfavourable, dissatisfied, displeased, hostile

disarm ▶ verb ① *the UN must disarm the country* DEMILITARIZE, demobilize ② *the militia refused to disarm* LAY DOWN ONE'S ARMS, demilitarize, poetic/literary turn swords into ploughshares ③ *police disarmed the bomb* DEFUSE, disable, deactivate, put out of action, make harmless ④ *the warmth in his voice disarmed her* WIN OVER, charm, persuade, thaw, mollify, appease, placate, pacify, conciliate, propitiate

disarmament ▶ noun DEMILITARIZATION, demobilization, decommissioning, arms reduction, arms limitation, arms control, the zero option

disarming ▶ adjective WINNING, charming, irresistible, persuasive, beguiling, conciliatory, mollifying

disarrange ▶ verb DISORDER, throw into disarray/disorder, put out of place, disorganize, disturb, displace, mess up, make untidy, make a mess of, jumble, mix up, muddle, turn upside-down, scatter, dishevel, touse, rumple, *informal* turn topsy-turvy, make a shambles of, *N Amer* *informal* muss up

disarray ▶ noun *the room was in disarray* DISORDER, confusion, chaos, untidiness, disorganization, dishevelment, mess, muddle, clutter, jumble, tangle, hotchpotch, shambles

—OPPOSITES tidiness

▶ verb *her clothes were disarrayed* See DISARRANGE

disassemble ▶ verb DISMANTLE, take apart, take to pieces, take to bits, deconstruct, break up, strip down

disaster ▶ noun ① *a railway disaster* CATASTROPHE, calamity, cataclysm, tragedy, act of God, holocaust, accident. ② *a string of personal disasters* MISFORTUNE, mishap, misadventure, mischance, setback, reversal, stroke of bad luck, blow. ③ *(informal) the film was a disaster* FAILURE, fiasco, catastrophe, debacle, *informal* flop, dud, washout, dead loss

—OPPOSITES success

disastrous ▶ adjective CATASTROPHIC, calamitous, cataclysmic, tragic, devastating, ruinous, harmful, dire, terrible, awful, shocking, appalling, dreadful, black, dark, unfortunate, unlucky, ill-fated, ill-starred, inauspicious, *formal* grievous.

disavow ► **verb** DENY, disclaim, disown, wash one's hands of, repudiate, reject, renounce

disavowal ► **noun** DENIAL, rejection, repudiation, renunciation, disclaimer

disband ► **verb** BREAK UP, disperse, demobilize, dissolve, scatter, separate, go separate ways, part company

—OPPOSITES assemble

disbelief ► **noun** ① she stared at him in disbelief INCREDULITY, incredulousness, scepticism, doubt, doubtfulness, dubiousness, cynicism, suspicion, distrust, mistrust, formal dubiety ② I'll burn in hell for disbelief ATHEISM, unbelief, godlessness, irreligion, agnosticism, nihilism

disbelieve ► **verb** NOT BELIEVE, give no credence to, discredit, discount, doubt, distrust, mistrust, be incredulous, be unconvinced, reject, repudiate, question, challenge, informal take with a pinch of salt

disbeliever ► **noun** UNBELIEVER, non-believer, atheist, irreligionist, nihilist, sceptic, doubter, agnostic, doubting Thomas, cynic, rare nullifidian

disbelieving ► **adjective** INCREDULOUS, doubtful, dubious, unconvinced, distrustful, mistrustful, suspicious, cynical, sceptical

disburden ► **verb** RELIEVE, free, liberate, unburden, disencumber, discharge, excuse, absolve

disburse ► **verb** PAY OUT, spend, expend, dole out, dish out, hand out, part with, donate, give, informal fork out, shell out, lay out, Brit informal stump up, N Amer informal ante up, pony up

disc, disk ► **noun** ① the sun was a huge scarlet disc CIRCLE, round, saucer, discus, ring ② computer disks DISKETTE, floppy disk, floppy, hard disk, CD-ROM ③ (dated) an old T-Rex disc RECORD, gramophone record, album, LP, vinyl

discard ► **verb** DISPOSE OF, throw away/out, get rid of, toss out, jettison, scrap, dispense with, cast aside/off, throw on the scrap heap, reject, repudiate, abandon, drop, have done with, shed, informal chuck (away/out), dump, ditch, bin, junk, get shut of, Brit informal get shot of, N Amer informal trash

—OPPOSITES keep

discern ► **verb** PERCEIVE, make out, pick out, detect, recognize, notice, observe, see, spot, identify, determine, distinguish, poetic/literary descry, espy

discernible ► **adjective** VISIBLE, detectable, noticeable, perceptible, observable, distinguishable, recognizable, identifiable, apparent, evident, distinct, appreciable, clear, obvious, manifest, conspicuous

discerning ► **adjective** DISCRIMINATING, judicious, shrewd, clever, astute, intelligent, sharp, selective, sophisticated, tasteful, sensitive, perceptive, percipient, perspicacious, wise, aware, knowing

discharge ► **verb** ① he was discharged from the RAF DISMISS, eject, expel, throw out, give someone notice, make redundant; release, let go, Military cashier, informal sack, give someone the sack, fire, boot out, give someone the boot, turf out, give someone their cards, give someone their marching orders, give someone the push ② he was discharged from prison RELEASE,

free, set free, let go, liberate, let out ③ oil is routinely discharged from ships SEND OUT, release, eject, let out, pour out, void, give off ④ the swelling will burst and discharge pus EMIT, exude, ooze, leak ⑤ he accidentally discharged a pistol FIRE, shoot, let off, set off, loose off, trigger, explode, detonate ⑥ the ferry was discharging passengers UNLOAD, offload, put off, remove, archaic unlade ⑦ they discharged their duties efficiently CARRY OUT, perform, execute, conduct, do, fulfil, accomplish, achieve, complete ⑧ the executor must discharge the funeral expenses PAY, pay off, settle, clear, honour, meet, liquidate, defray, make good, informal square

—OPPOSITES recruit, imprison, absorb

► **noun** ① his discharge from the service DISMISSAL, release, removal, ejection, expulsion, conge, Military cashiering, informal the sack, the boot ② her discharge from prison RELEASE, liberation ③ a discharge of diesel oil into the river LEAK, leakage, emission, release, flow ④ a watery discharge from the eyes EMISSION, secretion, excretion, seepage, suppuration, pus, matter, Medicine exudate ⑤ a single discharge of his gun SHOT, firing, blast, explosion, detonation ⑥ the discharge of their duties CARRYING OUT, performance, performing, execution, conduct, fulfilment, accomplishment, completion ⑦ the discharge of all debts PAYMENT, repayment, settlement, clearance, meeting, liquidation, defrayal

disciple ► **noun** ① the disciples of Jesus APOSTLE, follower See list at APOSTLE ② a disciple of Rousseau FOLLOWER, adherent, believer, admirer, devotee, acolyte, votary, pupil, student, learner, upholder, supporter, advocate, proponent, apologist

disciplinarian ► **noun** MARTINET, hard taskmaster, authoritarian, stickler for discipline, tyrant, despot, N Amer ramrod, informal slave-driver

discipline ► **noun** ① a lack of proper parental discipline CONTROL, training, teaching, instruction, regulation, direction, order, authority, rule, strictness, a firm hand, routine, regimen, drill, drilling ② he was able to maintain discipline among his men GOOD BEHAVIOUR, orderliness, control, obedience, self-control, self-discipline, self-government, self-restraint ③ sociology is a fairly new discipline FIELD (OF STUDY), branch of knowledge, subject, area, speciality, specialty

► **verb** ① she had disciplined herself to ignore the pain TRAIN, drill, teach, school, coach, regiment ② she learned to discipline her emotions CONTROL, restrain, regulate, govern, keep in check, check, curb, keep a tight rein on, rein in, bridle, tame, bring into line ③ he was disciplined by the management PUNISH, penalize, bring to book, reprimand, rebuke, reprove, chastise, upbraid, informal dress down, give someone a dressing-down, rap over the knuckles, give someone a roasting, Brit informal carpet, formal castigate

disclaim ► **verb** ① the school disclaimed responsibility for his death DENY, refuse to accept/acknowledge, reject, wash one's hands of. ② (Law) the earl disclaimed his title RENOUNCE, relinquish, resign, give up, abandon

—OPPOSITES accept

disclose ► **verb** ① the information must not be disclosed to anyone: REVEAL, make known, divulge, tell, impart, communicate, pass on,

vouchsafe, release, make public, broadcast, publish, report, unveil, leak, betray, let slip, let drop, give away, *informal* let on, blab, spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, *Bnt informal* blow the gaff, *archaic* discover, unbosom ② *exploratory surgery disclosed an aneurysm* UNCOVER, reveal, show, bring to light
-OPPOSITES conceal

disclosure ▶ **noun** ① *she was embarrassed by this unexpected disclosure* REVELATION, declaration, announcement, news, report, exposé, leak ② *the disclosure of official information* PUBLISHING, broadcasting, revelation, communication, release, uncovering, unveiling, exposure, leakage

discoloration ▶ **noun** STAIN, mark, patch, soiling, streak, spot, blotch, tarnishing, blemish, flaw, defect, bruise, contusion, birthmark, naevus, liver spot, age spot, *informal* splodge, splotch, *Medicine* ecchymosis

discolour ▶ **verb** STAIN, mark, soil, dirty, streak, smear, spot, tarnish, sully, spoil, mar, blemish, blacken, char, fade, bleach

discoloured ▶ **adjective** STAINED, marked, spotted, dirty, soiled, tarnished, blackened, bleached, faded, yellowed

discomfit ▶ **verb** EMBARRASS, abash, disconcert, nonplus, discompose, discomfort, take aback, set someone back on their heels, unsettle, unnerve, put someone off their stroke, ruffle, confuse, fluster, agitate, disorientate, upset, disturb, perturb, distress, chagrin, mortify, *informal* faze, rattle, *N Amer informal* discombobulate

discomfiture ▶ **noun** EMBARRASSMENT, unease, uneasiness, awkwardness, discomfort, discomposure, abashment, confusion, agitation, nervousness, disorientation, perturbation, distress, chagrin, mortification, shame, humiliation, *N Amer informal* discombobulation

discomfort ▶ **noun** ① *abdominal discomfort* PAIN, aches and pains, soreness, tenderness, irritation, stiffness, ache, twinge, pang, throb, cramp, *Bnt informal* gyp ② *the discomforts of life at sea* INCONVENIENCE, difficulty, bother, nuisance, vexation, drawback, disadvantage, trouble, problem, trial, tribulation, hardship, *informal* hassle ③ *Ruth flushed and Thomas noticed her discomfort* EMBARRASSMENT, discomfiture, unease, uneasiness, awkwardness, discomposure, confusion, nervousness, flusteredness, perturbation, distress, anxiety, chagrin, mortification, shame, humiliation.

▶ **verb** *his purpose was to discomfort the Prime Minister* See DISCOMFIT

discomposure ▶ **noun** AGITATION, discomfiture, discomfort, uneasiness, unease, confusion, disorientation, perturbation, distress, nervousness, anxiety, worry, consternation, disquiet, disquietude, embarrassment, abashment, chagrin, loss of face; *N Amer informal* discombobulation

disconcert ▶ **verb** UNSETTLE, nonplus, discomfit, throw/catch off balance, take aback, rattle, set someone back on their heels, unnerve, disorient, perturb, disturb, perplex, confuse, bewilder, baffle, fluster, ruffle, shake, upset, agitate, worry, dismay, discountenance, surprise, take by surprise, startle, put someone off (their stroke/stride), distract; *informal* throw, faze, *N Amer informal* discombobulate.

disconcerting ▶ **adjective** UNSETTLING, unnerving, discomfiting, disturbing, perturbing, troubling, upsetting, worrying, alarming, distracting, off-putting, confusing, bewildering, perplexing

disconnect ▶ **verb** ① *the trucks were disconnected from the train* DETACH, disengage, uncouple, decouple, unhook, unhitch, undo, unfasten, unyoke ② *she felt as if she had been disconnected from the real world* SEPARATE, cut off, divorce, sever, isolate, divide, part, disengage, dissociate, remove ③ *an engineer disconnected the appliance* DEACTIVATE, shut off, turn off, switch off, unplug

-OPPOSITES attach

disconnected ▶ **adjective** ① *a world that seemed disconnected from reality* DETACHED, separate, separated, divorced, cut off, isolated, dissociated, disengaged, apart ② *a disconnected narrative* DISJOINTED, incoherent, garbled, confused, jumbled, mixed up, rambling, wandering, disorganized, uncoordinated, ill-thought-out

disconsolate ▶ **adjective** SAD, unhappy, doleful, woebegone, dejected, downcast, downhearted, despondent, dispirited, crestfallen, cast down, depressed, down, disappointed, disheartened, discouraged, demoralized, low-spirited, forlorn, in the doldrums, melancholy, miserable, long-faced, glum, gloomy, *informal* blue, choked, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, *poetic/literary* dolorous
-OPPOSITES cheerful

discontent ▶ **noun** DISSATISFACTION, disaffection, discontentment, discontentedness, disgruntlement, grievances, unhappiness, displeasure, bad feelings, resentment, envy, restlessness, unrest, uneasiness, unease, frustration, irritation, annoyance, *informal* a chip on one's shoulder
-OPPOSITES satisfaction

discontented ▶ **adjective** DISSATISFIED, disgruntled, disaffected, discontent, malcontent, unhappy, aggrieved, displeased, resentful, envious, restless, frustrated, irritated, annoyed, *informal* fed up, fed up to the (back) teeth, browned off, hacked off, *Bnt informal* cheesed off, brassed off, *N Amer informal* teed off, ticked off
-OPPOSITES satisfied

discontinue ▶ **verb** STOP, end, terminate, put an end to, put a stop to, wind up, finish, call a halt to, cancel, drop, abandon, dispense with, do away with, get rid of, axe, abolish, suspend, interrupt, break off, withdraw, *informal* cut, pull the plug on, sciap, knock something on the head

discontinuity ▶ **noun** DISCONNECTEDNESS, disconnection, break, disruption, interruption, disjointedness

discontinuous ▶ **adjective** INTERMITTENT, sporadic, broken, fitful, interrupted, on and off, disrupted, erratic, disconnected

discord ▶ **noun** ① *stress resulting from family discord* STRIFE, conflict, friction, hostility, antagonism, antipathy, enmity, bad feeling, ill feeling, bad blood, argument, quarrelling, squabbling, bickering, wrangling, feuding, contention, disagreement, dissension, dispute, difference of opinion, disunity, division, opposition ② *the music faded in discord* DISSONANCE, discordance, disharmony, cacophony, jangling

—OPPOSITES accord, harmony

discordant ▶ **adjective** ① the messages from Washington and London were discordant DIFFERENT, in disagreement, at variance, at odds, divergent, discrepant, contradictory, contrary, in conflict, conflicting, opposite, opposed, opposing, clashing, incompatible, inconsistent, irreconcilable ② discordant sounds INHARMONIOUS, tuneless, off-key, dissonant, harsh, jarring, grating, jangling, jangly, strident, shrill, screeching, screechy, cacophonous, sharp, flat —OPPOSITES harmonious

discount ▶ **noun** students get a 10 per cent discount REDUCTION, deduction, markdown, price cut, cut, concession, rebate

▶ **verb** ① I'd heard rumours, but discounted them DISREGARD, pay no attention to, take no notice of, take no account of, dismiss, ignore, overlook, disbelieve, reject, informal take with a pinch of salt, pooh-pooh ② the RRP is discounted in many stores REDUCE, mark down, cut, lower, informal knock down ③ top Paris hotels discounted 20 per cent off published room rates DEDUCT, take off, rebate, informal knock off, slash —OPPOSITES believe, increase

discountenance ▶ **verb** ① she was not discountenanced by the accusation DISCONCERT, discomfit, unsettle, nonplus, throw/catch off balance, take aback, unnerve, disorient, perturb, disturb, perplex, fluster, ruffle, shake, upset, agitate, worry, dismay, discompose, abash, informal throw, faze, rattle, N Amer informal discombobulate ② a family environment in which alcohol consumption is discountenanced DISAPPROVE OF, frown on, take a dim view of, object to

discourage ▶ **verb** ① we want to discourage children from smoking DETER, dissuade, disincline, put off, talk out of, advise against, urge against ② she was discouraged by his hostile tone DISHEARTEN, dispirit, demoralize, cast down, depress, disappoint, dash someone's hopes, put off, unnerve, daunt, intimidate, cow, crush ③ he sought to discourage further conversation PREVENT, stop, put a stop to, avert, fend off, stave off, ward off, inhibit, hinder, check, curb, put a damper on, throw cold water on —OPPOSITES encourage

discouraged ▶ **adjective** DISHEARTENED, dispirited, demoralized, deflated, disappointed, let down, disconsolate, despondent, dejected, cast down, downcast, depressed, crestfallen, dismayed, low-spirited, gloomy, glum, pessimistic, unenthusiastic, put off, daunted, intimidated, cowed, crushed, informal down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, unenthused, archaic chap-fallen

discouraging ▶ **adjective** DEPRESSING, demoralizing, disheartening, dispiriting, disappointing, gloomy, off-putting, unfavourable, unpromising, inauspicious —OPPOSITES encouraging

discourse ▶ **noun** ① they prolonged their discourse outside the door DISCUSSION, conversation, talk, dialogue, conference, debate, consultation; parley, powwow, chat, informal confab; formal confabulation, colloquy, archaic converse ② a discourse on critical theory ESSAY, treatise, dissertation, paper, study, critique, monograph, disquisition, tract; lecture, address, speech, oration; sermon, homily

▶ **verb** ① he discoursed at length on his favourite topic

HOLD FORTH, expatiate, pontificate, talk, give a talk, give a speech, lecture, sermonize, preach, informal spout, sound off, formal perorate ② Edward was discoursing with his friends CONVERSE, talk, speak, debate, confer, consult, parley, chat, formal confabulate

discourteous ▶ **adjective** RUDE, impolite, ill-mannered, bad-mannered, disrespectful, uncivil, unmannerly, unchivalrous, ungentelemanly, unladylike, ill-bred, churlish, boorish, crass, ungracious, graceless, uncouth, insolent, impudent, cheeky, audacious, presumptuous, curt, brusque, blunt, offhand, uncereemonious, short, sharp, informal ignorant, archaic malapert —OPPOSITES polite

discourtesy ▶ **noun** RUDENESS, impoliteness, ill manners, bad manners, incivility, disrespect, ungraciousness, churlishness, boorishness, ill breeding, uncouthness, crassness, insolence, impudence, impertinence, curtness, brusqueness, abruptness

discover ▶ **verb** ① firemen discovered a body in the debris FIND, locate, come across/upon, stumble on, chance on, light on, bring to light, uncover, unearth, turn up, track down, run to earth, run to ground ② eventually, I discovered the truth FIND OUT, learn, realize, recognize, see, ascertain, work out, fathom out, dig up/out, ferret out, root out, informal figure out, tumble to, Brit informal twig, rumble, suss out, N Amer informal dope out ③ scientists discovered a new way of dating fossil crustaceans HIT ON, come up with, invent, originate, devise, design, contrive, conceive of, pioneer, develop

discoverer ▶ **noun** ORIGINATOR, inventor, creator, deviser, designer, pioneer See lists at EXPLORER, INVENTOR

discovery ▶ **noun** ① the discovery of the body FINDING, location, uncovering, unearthing ② the discovery that she was pregnant REALIZATION, recognition, revelation, disclosure ③ the discovery of new drugs INVENTION, origination, devising, pioneering ④ he failed to take out a patent on his discoveries FIND, finding, invention, breakthrough, innovation

discredit ▶ **verb** ① an attempt to discredit him and his company BRING INTO DISREPUTE, disgrace, dishonour, damage the reputation of, blacken the name of, put/show in a bad light, reflect badly on, compromise, stigmatize, smear, tarnish, taint, N Amer slur ② that theory has been discredited DISPROVE, invalidate, explode, drive a coach and horses through, refute, informal debunk, shoot full of holes, blow sky-high, formal confute

▶ **noun** ① crimes which brought discredit on the administration. DISHONOUR, disrepute, disgrace, shame, humiliation, ignominy, infamy, notoriety, censure, blame, reproach, opprobrium, stigma; dated disesteem ② the ships were a discredit to the country DISGRACE, source of shame, reproach, blot on the escutcheon —OPPOSITES honour, glory

discreditable ▶ **adjective** DISHONOURABLE, reprehensible, shameful, deplorable, disgraceful, disreputable, blameworthy, ignoble, shabby, objectionable, regrettable, unacceptable, unworthy —OPPOSITES praiseworthy

discreet ▶ **adjective** ① *discreet enquiries* CAREFUL, circumspect, cautious, wary, chary, guarded, tactful, diplomatic, prudent, judicious, strategic, politic, delicate, sensitive, kid-glove, *informal* softly-softly ② *discreet lighting* UNOBTUSIVE, inconspicuous, subtle, low-key, understated, subdued, muted, soft, restrained

discrepancy ▶ **noun** DIFFERENCE, disparity, variance, variation, deviation, divergence, disagreement, inconsistency, dissimilarity, mismatch, discordance, incompatibility, conflict, *formal* dissimilitude

—OPPOSITES correspondence

discrete ▶ **adjective** SEPARATE, distinct, individual, detached, unattached, disconnected, discontinuous, disjunct, disjointed

—OPPOSITES connected

discretion ▶ **noun** ① *you can rely on his discretion* CIRCUMSPECTION, carefulness, caution, wariness, chariness, guardedness, TACT, tactfulness, diplomacy, delicacy, sensitivity, prudence, judiciousness ② *honorary fellowships awarded at the discretion of the council* CHOICE, option, preference, disposition, volition, pleasure, liking, wish, will, inclination, desire

discretionary ▶ **adjective** OPTIONAL, voluntary, at one's discretion, elective, *Law* permissive

—OPPOSITES compulsory

discriminate ▶ **verb** ① *he cannot discriminate between fact and opinion* DIFFERENTIATE, distinguish, draw a distinction, tell the difference, tell apart, separate, separate the sheep from the goats, separate the wheat from the chaff ② *existing employment policies discriminate against women* BE BIASED, be prejudiced, treat differently, treat unfairly, put at a disadvantage, disfavour, victimize

discriminating ▶ **adjective** DISCERNING, perceptive, astute, shrewd, judicious, perspicacious, insightful, keen, selective, fastidious, tasteful, refined, sensitive, cultivated, cultured, artistic, aesthetic

—OPPOSITES indiscriminate

discrimination ▶ **noun** ① *racial discrimination* PREJUDICE, bias, bigotry, intolerance, narrow-mindedness, unfairness, inequity, favouritism, one-sidedness, partisanship, sexism, chauvinism, racism, racialism, anti-Semitism, heterosexism, ageism, classism, positive discrimination, (*in S Africa, historical*) apartheid ② *a man with no discrimination* DISCERNMENT, judgement, perception, perceptiveness, perspicacity, acumen, astuteness, shrewdness, judiciousness, insight, selectivity, (good) taste, fastidiousness, refinement, sensitivity, cultivation, culture

—OPPOSITES impartiality

discriminatory ▶ **adjective** PREJUDICIAL, biased, prejudiced, preferential, unfair, unjust, invidious, inequitable, weighted, one-sided, partisan, sexist, chauvinistic, chauvinist, racist, racialist, anti-Semitic, ageist, classist

—OPPOSITES impartial

discursive ▶ **adjective** ① *dull, discursive prose* RAMBLING, digressive, meandering, wandering, maundering, diffuse, long, lengthy, wordy, verbose, long-winded, prolix, circuitous, roundabout, circumlocutory; *Brit. informal* waffly ② *an elegant discursive style* FLUENT, flowing, fluid, eloquent, expansive.

—OPPOSITES concise, terse

discuss ▶ **verb** ① *I discussed the matter with my wife* TALK OVER, talk about, talk through, converse about, debate, confer about, deliberate about, chew over, consider, weigh up, consider the pros and cons of, thrash out, *informal* kick around/about, bat around/about ② *chapter three discusses this topic in detail* EXAMINE, explore, study, analyse, go into, deal with, treat, consider, concern itself with, tackle

discussion ▶ **noun** ① *a long discussion with her husband* CONVERSATION, talk, dialogue, discourse, conference, debate, exchange of views, consultation, deliberation, powwow, chat, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart, negotiations, parley, *informal* confab, chit-chat, rap, *N Amer informal* skull session, bull session, *formal* confabulation, colloquy, *archaic* converse ② *the book's candid discussion of sexual matters* EXAMINATION, exploration, analysis, study, treatment, consideration

disdain ▶ **noun** *she looked at him with disdain* CONTEMPT, scorn, scornfulness, contemptuousness, derision, disrespect, disparagement, condescension, superciliousness, hauteur, haughtiness, arrogance, snobbishness, indifference, dismissiveness, distaste, dislike, disgust, *archaic* despire

—OPPOSITES respect

▶ **verb** ① *she disdained such vulgar exhibitionism* SCORN, deride, pour scorn on, regard with contempt, sneer at, sniff at, curl one's lip at, look down one's nose at, look down on, despise, *informal* turn up one's nose at, pooh-pooh, *archaic* contemn ② *she disdained his invitation* SPURN, reject, refuse, rebuff, disregard, ignore, snub, decline, turn down, brush aside

disdainful ▶ **adjective** CONTEMPTUOUS, scornful, derisive, sneering, withering, slighting, disparaging, disrespectful, condescending, patronizing, supercilious, haughty, superior, arrogant, proud, snobbish, lordly, aloof, indifferent, dismissive, *informal* high and mighty, hoity-toity, snuffy, snotty, *archaic* contumelious

—OPPOSITES respectful

disease ▶ **noun** ILLNESS, sickness, ill health, infection, ailment, malady, disorder, complaint, affliction, condition, indisposition, upset, problem, trouble, infirmity, disability, defect, abnormality, pestilence, plague, cancer, canker, blight, *informal* bug, virus, *Brit informal* lurgy, *dated* contagion See lists at ILLNESS

—RELATED TERMS pathological

diseased ▶ **adjective** UNHEALTHY, ill, sick, unwell, ailing, sickly, unsound, infected, septic, contaminated, blighted, rotten, bad, abnormal

disembark ▶ **verb** GET OFF, step off, leave, alight, pile out, go ashore, debark, detrain, land, arrive; *N Amer* deplane

disembodied ▶ **adjective** BODILESS, incorporeal, discarnate, spiritual, intangible, insubstantial, impalpable; ghostly, spectral, phantom, wraithlike

disembowel ▶ **verb** GUT, draw, remove the guts from, *formal* eviscerate

disenchanted ▶ **adjective** DISILLUSIONED, disappointed, disabused, let down, dissatisfied, discontented, cynical, soured, jaundiced, sick, out of love, indifferent, *informal* fed up



disenchantment ► **noun** DISILLUSIONMENT, disappointment, dissatisfaction, discontent, discontentedness, rude awakening, cynicism

disengage ► **verb** ① *I disengaged his hand from mine* REMOVE, detach, disentangle, extricate, separate, release, free, loosen, loose, disconnect, unfasten, unclasp, uncouple, undo, unhook, unhitch, untie, unyoke, disentwine ② *American forces disengaged from the country* WITHDRAW, leave, pull out of, quit, retreat from —OPPOSITES attach, enter

disentangle ► **verb** ① *Allen was disentangling a coil of rope* UNTANGLE, unravel, untwist, unwind, undo, untie, straighten out, smooth out, comb, card ② *he disentangled his fingers from her hair* EXTRICATE, extract, free, remove, disengage, untwine, disentwine, release, loosen, detach, unfasten, unclasp, disconnect

disfavour ► **noun** DISAPPROVAL, disapprobation, dislike, displeasure, distaste, dissatisfaction, low opinion, *dated* disesteem, *archaic* disrelish

disfigure ► **verb** MAR, spoil, deface, scar, blemish, uglify, damage, injure, impair, blight, mutilate, deform, maim, ruin, vandalize —OPPOSITES adorn

disfigurement ► **noun** ① *the disfigurement of Victorian buildings* DEFACEMENT, spoiling, scarring, uglification, mutilation, damage, vandalizing, ruin ② *a permanent facial disfigurement* BLEMISH, flaw, defect, imperfection, discoloration, blotch, scar, pockmark, deformity, malformation, abnormality, injury, wound

disgorge ► **verb** ① *the combine disgorged a stream of grain* POUR OUT, discharge, eject, throw out, emit, expel, spit out, spew out, belch forth, spout, vomit, regurgitate ② *they were made to disgorge all the profits* SURRENDER, relinquish, hand over, give up, turn over, yield

disgrace ► **noun** ① *he brought disgrace on the family* DISHONOUR, shame, discredit, ignominy, degradation, disrepute, ill-repute, infamy, scandal, stigma, opprobrium, obloquy, condemnation, vilification, contempt, disrespect, humiliation, embarrassment, loss of face, *Austral* strife, *dated* disesteem ② *the unemployment figures are a disgrace* SCANDAL, outrage, discredit, reproach, affront, insult, stain, blemish, blot, blot on the escutcheon, black mark, *informal* crime, sin —OPPOSITES honour

► **verb** ① *you have disgraced the family name* BRING SHAME ON, shame, dishonour, discredit, bring into disrepute, degrade, debase, defame, stigmatize, taint, sully, tarnish, besmirch, stain, blacken, drag through the mud/mire ② *he was publicly disgraced* DISCREDIT, dishonour, stigmatize, humiliate, cause to lose face, chasten, humble, demean, put someone in their place, take down a peg or two, cut down to size. —OPPOSITES honour

■ **in disgrace** OUT OF FAVOUR, unpopular, in bad odour, under a cloud, disgraced; *informal* in someone's bad/black books, in the doghouse, *NZ informal* in the dogbox

disgraceful ► **adjective** SHAMEFUL, shocking, scandalous, deplorable, despicable, contemptible, beyond contempt, beyond the pale, dishonourable, discreditable, reprehensible, base, mean, low, blameworthy, unworthy, ignoble,

shabby, inglorious, outrageous, abominable, atrocious, appalling, dreadful, terrible, disgusting, shameless, vile, odious, monstrous, heinous, iniquitous, unspeakable, loathsome, sordid, nefarious, *archaic* scurvy

—OPPOSITES admirable

disgruntled ► **adjective** DISSATISFIED, discontented, aggrieved, resentful, displeased, unhappy, disappointed, disaffected, angry, irate, annoyed, cross, exasperated, indignant, vexed, irritated, piqued, irked, put out, *informal* peeved, miffed, fed up, aggravated, hacked off, browned off, riled, peed off, hot under the collar, in a huff, *Brit informal* cheesed off, shirty, narked, *N Amer informal* sore, teed off, ticked off

disguise ► **verb** *his controlled voice disguised his true feelings* CAMOUFLAGE, conceal, hide, cover up, dissemble, mask, screen, shroud, veil, cloak, paper over, gloss over, put up a smoke-screen

—OPPOSITES expose

■ **disguise oneself as** DRESS UP AS, pretend to be, pass oneself off as, impersonate, pose as, *formal* personate

disguised ► **adjective** IN DISGUISE, camouflaged incognito, under cover

disgust ► **noun** a look of disgust REVULSION, repugnance, aversion, distaste, nausea, abhorrence, loathing, detestation, odium, horror, contempt, outrage, *archaic* disrelish —OPPOSITES delight

► **verb** ① *the hospital food disgusted me* REVOLT, repel, repulse, sicken, nauseate, turn someone's stomach, make someone's gorge rise, *informal* turn off, *N Amer informal* gross out ② *Toby's behaviour disgusted her* OUTRAGE, shock, horrify, appal, scandalize, offend

disgusting ► **adjective** ① *the food was disgusting* REVOLTING, repellent, repulsive, sickening, nauseating, stomach-churning, stomach-turning, off-putting, unpalatable, distasteful, foul, nasty, *N Amer* vomitous, *informal* yucky, icky, gross, sick-making ② *I find racism disgusting* ABHORRENT, loathsome, offensive, appalling, outrageous, objectionable, shocking, horrifying, scandalous, monstrous, unspeakable, shameful, vile, odious, obnoxious, detestable, hateful, sickening, contemptible, despicable, deplorable, abominable, beyond the pale, *informal* gross, ghastly, sick

—OPPOSITES delicious, appealing

dish ► **noun** ① *a china dish* BOWL, plate, platter, salver, paten, container, receptacle, *historical* porringer, *archaic* trencher, charger ② *vegetarian dishes* RECIPE, meal, course, (*dishes*) food, fare ③ (*informal*) *she's quite a dish* See BEAUTY sense 2

■ **dish something out** DISTRIBUTE, dispense, issue, hand out/round, give out, pass out, round, deal out, dole out, share out, allocate, allot, apportion

■ **dish something up** SERVE (UP), spoon out, ladle out, scoop out.

disharmony ► **noun** DISCORD, friction, strife, conflict, hostility, acrimony, bad blood, bad feeling, enmity, dissension, disagreement, feuding, quarrelling, disunity, division, divisiveness

dishearten ► **verb** DISCOURAGE, dispirit, demoralize, cast down, depress, disappoint, dismay, dash someone's hopes; put off, deter, unnerve, daunt, intimidate, cow, crush.

—OPPOSITES encourage

disheartened ▶ **adjective** DISCOURAGED, disappointed, demoralized, deflated, disappointed, let down, disconsolate, despondent, dejected, cast down, downcast, depressed, crestfallen, dismayed, low-spirited, gloomy, glum, pessimistic, unenthusiastic, daunted, intimidated, cowed, crushed, *informal* down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, unenthused, *archaic* chap-fallen

dishevelled ▶ **adjective** UNTIDY, unkempt, scruffy, messy, in a mess, disordered, disarranged, rumpled, bedraggled, uncombed, tousled, tangled, tangly, knotted, knotty, shaggy, straggly, windswept, wind-blown, wild, slovenly, slatternly, blowsy, flowzy, *informal* ratty, *N Amer informal* mussed (up), *archaic* draggle-tailed
—OPPOSITES tidy

dishonest ▶ **adjective** FRAUDULENT, corrupt, swindling, cheating, double-dealing, underhand, crafty, cunning, devious, treacherous, unfair, unjust, dirty, unethical, immoral, dishonourable, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, amoral, criminal, illegal, unlawful, false, untruthful, deceitful, deceiving, lying, mendacious, *informal* crooked, shady, tricky, sharp, shifty, *Brit informal* bent, dodgy, *Austral/NZ informal* shonky, *poetic/literary* perfidious

dishonesty ▶ **noun** FRAUD, fraudulence, sharp practice, corruption, cheating, chicanery, double-dealing, deceit, deception, duplicity, lying, falseness, falsity, falsehood, untruthfulness, craft, cunning, trickery, artifice, underhandedness, subterfuge, skulduggery, treachery, untrustworthiness, unscrupulousness, criminality, misconduct, *informal* crookedness, dirty tricks shenanigans, *Brit informal* jiggery-pokery, *poetic/literary* perfidy
—OPPOSITES probity

dishonour ▶ **noun** the incident brought dishonour upon the police profession DISGRACE, shame, discredit, humiliation, degradation, ignominy, scandal, infamy, disrepute, ill repute, loss of face, disfavour, ill favour, debasement, opprobrium, obloquy, stigma, *dated* disesteem

▶ **verb** his family name has been dishonoured DISGRACE, shame, discredit, bring into disrepute, humiliate, degrade, debase, lower, cheapen, drag down, drag through the mud, blacken the name of, give a bad name to, sully, stain, taint, besmirch, smear, mar, blot, stigmatize

dishonourable ▶ **adjective** DISGRACEFUL, shameful, disreputable, discreditable, degrading, ignominious, ignoble, blameworthy, contemptible, despicable, reprehensible, shabby, shoddy, sordid, sorry, base, low, improper, unseemly, unworthy, unprincipled, unscrupulous, corrupt, untrustworthy, treacherous, traitorous, *informal* shady, dirty, *poetic/literary* perfidious, *archaic* scurvy

disillusion ▶ **verb** DISABUSE, enlighten, set straight, open someone's eyes, disenchant, shatter someone's illusions, disappoint, make sadder and wiser
—OPPOSITES deceive

disillusioned ▶ **adjective** DISENCHANTED, disabused, disappointed, let down, discouraged, cynical, sour, negative, world-weary

disincentive ▶ **noun** DETERRENT, discouragement, damper, brake, curb, check, restraint, in-

hibitor, obstacle, impediment, hindrance, obstruction, block, barrier

disinclination ▶ **noun** RELUCTANCE, unwillingness, lack of enthusiasm, indisposition, hesitancy, aversion, dislike, distaste, objection, demur, resistance, opposition, *archaic* disrelish
—OPPOSITES enthusiasm

disinclined ▶ **adjective** RELUCTANT, unwilling, unenthusiastic, unprepared, indisposed, ill-disposed, not in the mood, hesitant, loath, averse, antipathetic, resistant, opposed
—OPPOSITES willing

disinfect ▶ **verb** STERILIZE, sanitize, clean, cleanse, purify, decontaminate, fumigate
—OPPOSITES contaminate

disinfectant ▶ **noun** ANTISEPTIC, bactericide, germicide, sterilizer, cleanser, decontaminant, fumigant

disingenuous ▶ **adjective** INSINCERE, dishonest, untruthful, false, deceitful, duplicitous, lying, mendacious, hypocritical, *archaic* hollow-hearted

disinherit ▶ **verb** CUT SOMEONE OUT OF ONE'S WILL, cut off, dispossess, disown, repudiate, reject, cast off/aside, wash one's hands of, have nothing more to do with, turn one's back on, *informal* cut off without a penny

disintegrate ▶ **verb** BREAK UP, break apart, fall apart, fall to pieces, fragment, fracture, shatter, splinter, explode, blow up, blow apart, fly apart, crumble, deteriorate, decay, decompose, rot, moulder, perish, dissolve, collapse, go to rack and ruin, degenerate, *informal* bust, be smashed to smithereens

disinter ▶ **verb** EXHUME, unearth, dig up, disentomb

disinterest ▶ **noun** ① scholarly disinterest IM PARTIALITY, neutrality, objectivity, detachment, disinterestedness, lack of bias, lack of prejudice, open-mindedness, fairness, fair-mindedness, equity, balance, even-handedness ② he looked at us with complete disinterest INDIFFERENCE, lack of interest, unconcern, impassivity, boredom, apathy
—OPPOSITES bias

disinterested ▶ **adjective** ① disinterested advice UNBIASED, unprejudiced, impartial, neutral, non-partisan, detached, uninvolved, objective, dispassionate, impersonal, clinical, open-minded, fair, just, equitable, balanced, even-handed, with no axe to grind, without fear or favour ② he looked at her with disinterested eyes UNINTERESTED, indifferent, incurious, unconcerned, unmoved, unresponsive, impassive, passive, detached, unenthusiastic, lukewarm, bored, apathetic, *informal* couldn't-care-less

disjointed ▶ **adjective** UNCONNECTED, disconnected, disunited, discontinuous, fragmented, disorganized, disordered, muddled, mixed up, jumbled, garbled, incoherent, confused; rambling, wandering

dislike ▶ **verb** a man she had always disliked FIND DISTASTEFUL, regard with distaste, be averse to, have an aversion to, have no liking/taste for, disapprove of, object to, take exception to, hate, detest, loathe, abhor, despise, be unable to bear/stand, shrink from, shudder at, find repellent, *informal* be unable to stomach, *formal* abominate, *archaic* disrelish





► **noun** she viewed the other woman with dislike **DIS** TASTE, aversion, disfavour, disapproval, disapprobation, enmity, animosity, hostility, antipathy, antagonism, hate, hatred, detestation, loathing, disgust, repugnance, abhorrence, disdain, contempt, *archaic* disrelish

dislocate ► **verb** ① she dislocated her hip **PUT** OUT OF JOINT, *informal* put out, *Medicine* luxate ② trade was dislocated by a famine **DISRUPT**, disturb, throw into disarray, throw into confusion, play havoc with, interfere with, disorganize, upset, *informal* mess up

dislodge ► **verb** ① replace any stones you dislodge **DISPLACE**, knock out of place/position, move, shift, knock over, upset ② economic sanctions failed to dislodge the dictator **REMOVE**, force out, drive out, oust, eject, get rid of, evict, unseat, depose, topple, drum out, *informal* kick out, boot out, *Brit informal* turf out

disloyal ► **adjective** UNFAITHFUL, faithless, false, false-hearted, untrue, inconstant, untrustworthy, unreliable, undependable, fickle, treacherous, traitorous, subversive, seditious, unpatriotic, two-faced, double-dealing, double-crossing, deceitful, dissident, renegade, adulterous, *informal* back-stabbing, two-timing, *poetic/literary* perfidious, *archaic* hollow-hearted

disloyalty ► **noun** UNFAITHFULNESS, infidelity, inconstancy, faithlessness, fickleness, unreliability, untrustworthiness, betrayal, falseness; duplicity, double-dealing, treachery, treason, subversion, sedition, dissidence, adultery, *informal* back-stabbing, two-timing, *poetic/literary* perfidy, perfidiousness

dismal ► **adjective** ① a dismal look **GLOOMY**, glum, melancholy, morose, doleful, woe-begone, forlorn, dejected, depressed, dispirited, downcast, despondent, disconsolate, miserable, sad, unhappy, sorrowful, desolate, wretched, *informal* blue, fed up, down in the dumps/mouth, *poetic/literary* dolorous ② a dismal hall **DINGY**, dim, dark, gloomy, dreary, drab, dull, bleak, cheerless, depressing, uninviting, unwelcoming ③ (informal) a dismal performance See **POOR**-sense 2

—OPPOSITES cheerful, bright

dismantle ► **verb** TAKE APART, take to pieces/bits, pull apart, pull to pieces, disassemble, break up, strip (down), knock down, pull down, demolish

—OPPOSITES assemble, build

dismay ► **verb** he was dismayed by the change in his friend **APPAL**, horrify, shock, shake (up), disconcert, take aback, alarm, unnerve, unsettle, throw off balance, discompose, disturb, upset, distress, *informal* rattle, faze, knock sideways, *Brit informal* knock for six

—OPPOSITES encourage, please

► **noun** they greeted his decision with dismay **ALARM**, shock, surprise, consternation, concern, perturbation, disquiet, discomposure, distress

—OPPOSITES pleasure, relief

dismember ► **verb** **DISJOINT**, joint, pull apart, cut up, chop up, butcher

dismiss ► **verb** ① the president dismissed five ministers. **GIVE SOMEONE THEIR NOTICE**, get rid of, discharge; lay off, make redundant; *informal* sack, give someone the sack, fire, boot out, give someone the boot/elbow/push, give someone their marching orders, show someone the

door, *Brit informal* give someone their cards, *Military* cashier ② the guards were dismissed **SEND AWAY**, let go, disband, dissolve, discharge ③ he dismissed all morbid thoughts **BANISH**, set aside, disregard, brush off, shrug off, put out of one's mind, reject, deny, repudiate, spurn

—OPPOSITES engage

dismissal ► **noun** ① the threat of dismissal **ONE'S NOTICE**, discharge, redundancy, laying off, *informal* the sack, sacking, firing, the push, the boot, the axe, the elbow, one's marching orders, *Brit informal* one's cards, the chop, *Military* cashiering ② a condescending dismissal **REJECTION**, repudiation, repulse, non-acceptance

—OPPOSITES recruitment

dismissive ► **adjective** CONTEMPTUOUS, disdainful, scornful, sneering, snide, disparaging, negative, *informal* sniffy

—OPPOSITES admiring

dismount ► **verb** ① the cyclist dismounted **ALIGHT**, get off/down ② the horse dismounted the trooper **UNSEAT**, dislodge, throw, unhorse

disobedient ► **adjective** INSUBORDINATE, unruly, wayward, badly behaved, naughty, delinquent, disruptive, troublesome, rebellious, defiant, mutinous, recalcitrant, uncooperative, wilful, intractable, obstreperous, *Brit informal* bolshie, *archaic* contumacious

disobey ► **verb** **DEFY**, go against, flout, contravene, infringe, transgress, violate, disregard, ignore, pay no heed to

disobliging ► **adjective** UNHELPFUL, uncooperative, unaccommodating, unamenable, unreasonable, awkward, difficult, discourteous, uncivil, unfriendly

—OPPOSITES helpful

disorder ► **noun** ① he hates disorder **UNTIDINESS**, disorderliness, mess, disarray, chaos, confusion, clutter, jumble, a muddle, a shambles ② incidents of public disorder **UNREST**, disturbance, disruption, upheaval, turmoil, mayhem, pandemonium, violence, fighting, rioting, lawlessness, anarchy, breach of the peace, fracas, rumpus, melee, *Law, dated* affray, *informal* aggro ③ a blood disorder **DISEASE**, infection, complaint, condition, affliction, malady, sickness, illness, ailment, infirmity, irregularity See **LISTS** at **ILLNESS**

—OPPOSITES tidiness, peace

disordered ► **adjective** ① her grey hair was disordered **UNTIDY**, unkempt, messy, in a mess, disorganized, chaotic, confused, jumbled, muddled, *N Amer informal* mussed (up), *Brit informal* shambolic ② a disordered digestive system **DYSFUNCTIONAL**, disturbed, unsettled, unbalanced, upset, poorly

disorderly ► **adjective** ① a disorderly desk. **UNTIDY**, disorganized, messy, cluttered, in disarray, in a mess, in a jumble, in a muddle, at sixes and sevens; *informal* like a bomb's hit it, higgledy-piggledy; *Brit informal* shambolic ② disorderly behaviour **UNRULY**, boisterous, rough, rowdy, wild, riotous; disruptive, troublesome, undisciplined, lawless, unmanageable, uncontrollable, out of hand, out of control.

—OPPOSITES tidy, peaceful

disorganized ► **adjective** ① a disorganized tool box **DISORDERLY**, disordered, unorganized, jumbled, muddled, untidy, messy, chaotic, topsyturvy, haphazard; in disorder, in disarray, in a

mess, in a muddle, in a shambles, *informal* higgledy-piggledy, *Brit informal* shambolic
 ② *muddled and disorganized* UNMETHODOICAL, unsystematic, undisciplined, badly organized, inefficient, haphazard, careless, sloppy, slapdash, *informal* hit-or-miss

—OPPOSITES orderly

disorientated, disoriented ▶ **adjective** CONFUSED, bewildered, (all) at sea, lost, adrift, off-course, having lost one's bearings, *informal* not knowing whether one is coming or going, *archaic* mazed

disown ▶ **verb** REJECT, cast off/aside, abandon, renounce, deny, turn one's back on, wash one's hands of, have nothing more to do with, *poetic/literary* forsake

disparage ▶ **verb** BELITTLE, denigrate, depreciate, play down, trivialize, make light of, undervalue, underrate, ridicule, deride, mock, scorn, scoff at, sneer at, run down, defame, discredit, speak badly of, cast aspersions on, impugn, vilify, traduce, criticize, *N Amer informal* do down, pick holes in, knock, slam, pan, bad-mouth, pooh-pooh, *Brit informal* rubbish, slate, *formal* calumniate, derogate

—OPPOSITES praise, overrate

disparaging ▶ **adjective** DEROGATORY, deprecatory, denigratory, belittling, critical, scathing, negative, unfavourable, uncomplimentary, uncharitable, contemptuous, scornful, snide, disdainful, *informal* bitchy, catty, *archaic* contumelious

—OPPOSITES complimentary

disparate ▶ **adjective** CONTRASTING, different, differing, dissimilar, unlike, poles apart, varying, various, diverse, diversified, heterogeneous, distinct, separate, divergent, *poetic/literary* divers

—OPPOSITES homogen(e)ous

disparity ▶ **noun** DISCREPANCY, inconsistency, imbalance, variance, variation, divergence, gap, gulf, difference, dissimilarity, contrast, *formal* dissimilitude

—OPPOSITES similarity

dispassionate ▶ **adjective** ① *a calm, dispassionate manner* UNEMOTIONAL, emotionless, impassive, cool, calm, (cool, calm, and collected), unruffled, unperturbed, composed, self-possessed, self-controlled, unexcitable, *informal* laid-back ② *a dispassionate analysis* OBJECTIVE, detached, neutral, disinterested, impartial, non-partisan, unbiased, unprejudiced, scientific, analytical

—OPPOSITES emotional, biased

dispatch ▶ **verb** ① *all the messages were dispatched* SEND (OFF), post, mail, forward, transmit ② *the business was dispatched in the morning* DEAL WITH, finish, conclude, settle, discharge, perform, expedite, push through; *informal* make short work of ③ *the good guy dispatched a host of villains* KILL, put to death, take/end the life of, slaughter, butcher, massacre, wipe out, exterminate, eliminate; murder, assassinate, execute; *informal* bump off, do in, do away with, top, take out, blow away; *N Amer informal* ice, rub out, waste; *poetic/literary* slay

▶ **noun** ① *goods ready for dispatch*: SENDING, posting, mailing. ② *efficiency and dispatch*: PROMPTNESS, speed, speediness, swiftness, rapidity, briskness, haste, hastiness; *poetic/literary* fleet-

ness, celerity, *formal* expedition. ③ *the latest dispatch from the front* COMMUNICATION, communiqué, bulletin, report, statement, letter, message, news, intelligence, *informal* memo, info, low-down; *poetic/literary* tidings ④ *the capture and dispatch of the wolf* KILLING, slaughter, massacre, extermination, elimination, murder, assassination, execution, *poetic/literary* slaying

dispel ▶ **verb** BANISH, eliminate, drive away/off, get rid of, relieve, allay, ease, quell

dispensable ▶ **adjective** EXPENDABLE, disposable, replaceable, inessential, non-essential, unnecessary, redundant, superfluous, surplus to requirements

dispensation ▶ **noun** ① *the dispensation of supplies* DISTRIBUTION, supply, supplying, issue, issuing, handing out, doling out, dishing out, sharing out, dividing out, division, allocation, allotment, apportionment ② *the dispensation of justice* ADMINISTRATION, administering, delivery, discharge, dealing out, meting out ③ *dispensation from National Insurance contributions* EXEMPTION, immunity, exception, exoneration, reprieve, remission, *informal* a let-off ④ *the new constitutional dispensation* SYSTEM, order, arrangement, organization

dispense ▶ **verb** ① *servants dispensed the drinks* DISTRIBUTE, pass round, hand out, dole out, dish out, share out, allocate, supply, allot, apportion ② *the soldiers dispensed summary justice* ADMINISTER, deliver, issue, discharge, deal out, mete out ③ *dispensing medicines* PREPARE, make up, supply, provide, sell ④ *the pope dispensed him from his impediment* EXEMPT, excuse, except, release, let off, reprieve, absolve

■ **dispense with** ① *let's dispense with the formalities* WAIVE, omit, drop, leave out, forgo; do away with, *informal* give something a miss ② *he dispensed with his crutches* GET RID OF, throw away/out, dispose of, discard, manage without, cope without, *informal* ditch, scrap, dump, chuck out/away, get shut of, *Brit informal* get shot of

disperse ▶ **verb** ① *the crowd began to disperse* | *police dispersed the demonstrators* BREAK UP, split up, disband, scatter, leave, go their separate ways, drive away/off, chase away ② *the fog finally dispersed* DISSIPATE, dissolve, melt away, fade away, clear, lift ③ *seeds dispersed by birds* SCATTER, disseminate, distribute, spread, broadcast

—OPPOSITES assemble, gather

dispirited ▶ **adjective** DISHEARTENED, discouraged, demoralized, downcast, low, low-spirited, dejected, downhearted, depressed, disconsolate, *informal* fed up, *Brit informal* cheesed off

—OPPOSITES heartened

dispiriting ▶ **adjective** DISHEARTENING, depressing, discouraging, daunting, demoralizing

displace ▶ **verb** ① *roof tiles displaced by gales* DISLodge, dislocate, move, shift, reposition; move out of place, knock out of place/position ② *the minister was displaced* DEPOSE, dislodge, unseat, remove (from office), dismiss, eject, oust, expel, force out, drive out; overthrow, topple, bring down; *informal* boot out, give someone the boot, show someone the door; *Brit informal* turf out; dated out ③ *English displaced the local language* REPLACE, take the place of, supplant, supersede

—OPPOSITES replace, reinstate.



display ► **noun** ① a display of dolls and puppets | a motorcycle display EXHIBITION, exposition, array, arrangement, presentation, demonstration, spectacle, show, parade, pageant ② they vied to outdo each other in display OSTENTATION, ostentatiousness, showiness, extravagance, flamboyance, lavishness, splendour, informal swank, flashiness, glitziness ③ his display of concern MANIFESTATION, expression, show

► **verb** ① the Crown Jewels are displayed in London EXHIBIT, show, put on show/view, arrange, array, present, lay out, set out ② the play displays his many theatrical talents SHOW OFF, parade, flaunt, reveal, publicize, make known, call/draw attention to, informal hype ③ she displayed a vein of sharp humour MANIFEST, show evidence of, reveal, demonstrate, show, formal evince

—OPPOSITES conceal

displease ► **verb** ANNOY, irritate, anger, irk, vex, pique, gall, nettle, put out, upset, informal aggravate, peeve, needle, bug, rile, miff, hack off, N Amer informal tee off, tick off

displeasure ► **noun** ANNOYANCE, irritation, crossness, anger, vexation, pique, rancour, dissatisfaction, discontent, discontentedness, disgruntlement, disapproval, informal aggravation

—OPPOSITES satisfaction

disposable ► **adjective** ① disposable plates THROWAWAY, expendable, one-use ② disposable income AVAILABLE, usable, spendable

disposal ► **noun** ① rubbish ready for disposal THROWING AWAY, discarding, jettisoning, scrapping, informal dumping, ditching, chucking (out/away) ② we have twenty copies for disposal DISTRIBUTION, handing out, giving out/away, allotment, allocation ③ the disposal of the troops in two lines ARRANGEMENT, arranging, positioning, placement, lining up, disposition, grouping, Military dressing

■ at someone's disposal FOR USE BY, in reserve for, in the hands of, in the possession of

dispose ► **verb** ① he disposed his attendants in a circle ARRANGE, place, put, position, array, set up, form, marshal, gather, group, Military dress ② the experience disposed him to be kind INCLINE, encourage, persuade, predispose, make willing, prompt, lead, motivate, sway, influence

■ dispose of ① the waste was disposed of THROW AWAY/OUT, get rid of, discard, jettison, scrap, informal dump, ditch, chuck (out/away), get shut of, Brt informal get shot of, N Amer informal trash ② he had disposed of all his assets PART WITH, give away, hand over, deliver up, transfer, sell, auction, informal get shut of, Brt informal get shot of ③ (informal) she disposed of a fourth cake See CONSUME sense 1 ④ (informal) he robbed her and then disposed of her See KILL verb sense 1

disposed ► **adjective** ① they are philanthropically disposed. INCLINED, predisposed, minded ② we are not disposed to argue WILLING, inclined, prepared, ready, minded, in the mood ③ he was disposed to be cruel. LIABLE, apt, inclined, likely, predisposed, prone, tending, capable of

disposition ► **noun** ① a nervous disposition TEMPERAMENT, nature, character, constitution, make-up, mentality. ② his disposition to clemency INCLINATION, tendency, proneness, propensity, proclivity. ③ the disposition of the armed forces ARRANGEMENT, positioning, placement, configuration, set-up, line-up, layout, array, marshal-

ling, mustering, grouping, Military dressing ④ (Law) the disposition of the company's property DISTRIBUTION, disposal, allocation, transfer, sale, auction

■ at someone's disposition AT THE DISPOSAL OF, for use by, in reserve for, in the hands of, in the possession of

dispossess ► **verb** DIVEST, strip, rob, cheat out of, deprive, informal do out of, archaic reave

disproportionate ► **adjective** OUT OF PROPORTION TO, not appropriate to, not commensurate with, relatively too large/small for, inordinate, unreasonable, excessive, undue

disprove ► **verb** REFUTE, prove false, rebut, falsify, debunk, negate, invalidate, contradict, confound, controvert, negative, discredit, informal shoot full of holes, blow out of the water, formal confute, gainsay

disputable ► **adjective** DEBATABLE, open to debate/question, arguable, contestable, moot, questionable, doubtful, controvertible, informal iffy

disputation ► **noun** DEBATE, discussion, dispute, argument, arguing, altercation, dissension, disagreement, controversy, polemics

dispute ► **noun** ① a subject of dispute DEBATE, discussion, disputation, argument, controversy, disagreement, quarrelling, dissension, conflict, friction, strife, discord ② they have settled their dispute QUARREL, argument, altercation, squabble, falling-out, disagreement, difference of opinion, clash, wrangle, informal tiff, spat, scrap, Brt informal row, barney, ding-dong, N Amer informal rhubarb, archaic broil

—OPPOSITES agreement

► **verb** ① George disputed with him DEBATE, discuss, exchange views, quarrel, argue, disagree, clash, fall out, wrangle, bicker, squabble, informal have words, have a tiff/spat, archaic altercation ② they disputed his proposals CHALLENGE, contest, question, call into question, impugn, quibble over, contradict, controvert, argue about, disagree with, take issue with, formal gainsay

—OPPOSITES accept

disqualified ► **adjective** BANNED, barred, debarred, ineligible

—OPPOSITES allowed

disquiet ► **noun** grave public disquiet UNEASE, uneasiness, worry, anxiety, anxiousness, concern, disquietude, perturbation, consternation, upset, malaise, angst, agitation, restlessness, fretfulness, informal jitteriness

—OPPOSITES calm

► **verb** I was disquieted by the news PERTURB, agitate, upset, disturb, unnerve, unsettle, discompose, disconcert, make uneasy, worry, make anxious, trouble, concern, make fretful, make restless

disquisition ► **noun** ESSAY, dissertation, treatise, paper, tract, article, discussion, lecture, address, presentation, speech, talk

disregard ► **verb** Annie disregarded the remark IGNORE, take no notice of, pay no attention/heed to; overlook, turn a blind eye to, turn a deaf ear to, shut one's eyes to, gloss over, brush off/aside, shrug off

—OPPOSITES heed.

► **noun** blithe disregard for the rules INDIFFERENCE, non-observance, inattention, heedlessness, neglect

—OPPOSITES attention

disrepair ► **noun** DILAPIDATION, decrepitude, shabbiness, ricketiness, collapse, ruin, abandonment, neglect, disuse

disreputable ► **adjective** ① *he fell into disreputable company* OF BAD REPUTATION, infamous, notorious, louché, dishonourable, dishonest, untrustworthy, unwholesome, villainous, corrupt, immoral, unsavoury, slippery, seedy, sleazy, informal crooked, shady, shifty, *Brit informal* dodgy ② *filthy and disreputable SCRUFFY*, shabby, down at heel, seedy, untidy, unkempt, dishevelled
—OPPOSITES respectable, smart

disrepute ► **noun** DISGRACE, shame, dishonour, infamy, notoriety, ignominy, bad reputation, humiliation, discredit, ill repute, low esteem, opprobrium, obloquy
—OPPOSITES honour

disrespect ► **noun** ① *disrespect for authority* CONTEMPT, lack of respect, scorn, disregard, disdain ② *he meant no disrespect to anybody* DISCOURTESY, rudeness, impoliteness, incivility, ill/bad manners, insolence, impudence, impertinence
—OPPOSITES esteem

disrespectful ► **adjective** DISCOURTEOUS, rude, impolite, uncivil, ill-mannered, bad-mannered, insolent, impudent, impertinent, cheeky, flippant, insubordinate
—OPPOSITES polite

disrobe ► **verb** UNDESS, strip, take off one's clothes, remove one's clothes, *Brit informal* peel off

disrupt ► **verb** ① *the strike disrupted public transport* THROW INTO CONFUSION/DISORDER/DISARRAY, cause confusion/turmoil in, play havoc with, disturb, interfere with, upset, unsettle, obstruct, impede, hold up, delay, interrupt, suspend, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works of, *N Amer* throw a monkey wrench in the works of ② *the explosion disrupted the walls of the crater* DISTORT, damage, buckle, warp, shatter, *poetic/literary* sunder

disruptive ► **adjective** TROUBLESOME, unruly, badly behaved, rowdy, disorderly, undisciplined, wild, unmanageable, uncontrollable, uncooperative, out of control/hand, obstreperous, truculent, *formal* refractory
—OPPOSITES well behaved

dissatisfaction ► **noun** DISCONTENT, discontentment, disaffection, disquiet, unhappiness, malaise, disgruntlement, vexation, annoyance, irritation, anger, disapproval, disapprobation, disfavour, displeasure

dissatisfied ► **adjective** DISCONTENTED, malcontent, unsatisfied, disappointed, disaffected, unhappy, displeased, disgruntled, aggrieved, vexed, annoyed, irritated, angry, exasperated; *informal* cheesed off, fed up, *Brit informal* brassed off
—OPPOSITES contented.

dissect ► **verb** ① *the body was dissected* ANATOMIZE, cut up/open, dismember, vivisection ② *the text of the gospels was dissected* ANALYSE, examine, study, scrutinize, pore over, investigate, go over with a fine-tooth comb

disssection ► **noun** ① *the dissection of corpses* CUTTING UP/OPEN, dismemberment, autopsy, post-mortem, necropsy, anatomy, vivisection.

② *a thorough dissection of their policies* ANALYSIS, examination, study, scrutiny, scrutinization, investigation, evaluation, assessment

dissemble ► **verb** DISSIMULATE, pretend, feign, act, masquerade, sham, fake, bluff, posture, hide one's feelings, put on a false front

dissembler ► **noun** LIAR, dissimulator, humbug, bluffer, fraud, impostor, actor, hoaxer, charlatan

disseminate ► **verb** SPREAD, circulate, distribute, disperse, promulgate, propagate, publicize, communicate, pass on, put about, make known

dissension ► **noun** DISAGREEMENT, difference of opinion, dispute, dissent, conflict, friction, strife, discord, antagonism, argument, debate, controversy, disputation, contention

dissent ► **verb** two members dissented DIFFER, disagree, demur, fail to agree, be at variance/odds, take issue, decline/refuse to support, protest, object, dispute, challenge, quibble
—OPPOSITES agree, accept

► **noun** murmurs of dissent DISAGREEMENT, difference of opinion, argument, dispute, disapproval, objection, protest, opposition, defiance, conflict, friction, strife
—OPPOSITES agreement

dissenter ► **noun** DISSIDENT, dissentient, objector, protester, disputant, rebel, renegade, maverick, independent, apostate, heretic

dissentient ► **adjective** dissentient voices DISSENTING, dissident, disagreeing, differing, discordant, contradicting, contrary, anti-, opposing, objecting, protesting, complaining, rebellious, revolutionary, nonconformist, recusant, unorthodox, heterodox, heretical
► **noun** a dissentient spoke up See DISSENTER

dissertation ► **noun** ESSAY, thesis, treatise, paper, study, discourse, disquisition, tract, monograph

disservice ► **noun** UNKINDNESS, bad/ill turn, disfavour, injury, harm, hurt, damage, wrong, injustice
—OPPOSITES favour

dissidence ► **noun** DISAGREEMENT, dissent, discord, discontent, opposition, resistance, protest, sedition

dissident ► **noun** a jailed dissident DISSENTER, objector, protester, rebel, revolutionary, recusant, subversive, agitator, insurgent, insurrectionist, refusenik
—OPPOSITES conformist

► **adjective** dissident intellectuals DISSIDENT, dissenting, disagreeing, opposing, objecting, protesting, rebellious, rebelling, revolutionary, recusant, nonconformist
—OPPOSITES conforming

dissimilar ► **adjective** DIFFERENT, differing, unlike, variant, diverse, divergent, heterogeneous, disparate, unrelated, distinct, contrasting; *poetic/literary* divers

dissimilarity ► **noun** DIFFERENCE(S), variance, diversity, heterogeneity, disparateness, disparity, distinctness, contrast, non-uniformity, divergence; *formal* dissimilitude.

dissimilitude ► **noun** (formal). See DISSIMILARITY

dissimulate ► **verb** PRETEND, deceive, feign, act, dissemble, masquerade, pose, posture,



sham, fake, bluff, hide one's feelings, be dishonest, put on a false front, lie

dissimulation ▶ noun PRETENCE, dissembling, deceit, dishonesty, duplicity, lying, guile, subterfuge, feigning, shamming, faking, bluff, bluffing, posturing, hypocrisy

dissipate ▶ verb ① his anger dissipated DISAPPEAR, vanish, evaporate, dissolve, melt away, melt into thin air, be dispelled, disperse, scatter, poetic/literary evanesce ② he dissipated his fortune SQUANDER, fritter (away), misspend, waste, be prodigal with, spend recklessly/freely, spend like water, expend, use up, consume, run through, go through, informal blow, splurge

dissipated ▶ adjective DISSOLUTE, debauched, decadent, intemperate, profligate, self-indulgent, wild, depraved, licentious, promiscuous, drunken
-OPPOSITES ascetic

dissipation ▶ noun ① drunken dissipation DEBAUCHERY, decadence, dissoluteness, dissolution, intemperance, excess, profligacy, self-indulgence, wildness, depravity, degeneracy, licentiousness, promiscuity, drunkenness ② the dissipation of our mineral wealth SQUANDERING, frittering (away), waste, misspending, expenditure, draining, depletion
-OPPOSITES asceticism

dissociate ▶ verb the word 'spiritual' has become dissociated from religion SEPARATE, detach, disconnect, sever, cut off, divorce, isolate, alienate
-OPPOSITES relate

■ **dissociate oneself from** ① he dissociated himself from the Church of England BREAK AWAY FROM, end relations with, sever connections with, withdraw from, quit, leave, disaffiliate from, resign from, pull out of, drop out of, defect from ② he dissociated himself from the statement DISOWN, reject, disagree with, distance oneself from

dissociation ▶ noun SEPARATION, disconnection, detachment, severance, divorce, split, segregation, division, poetic/literary sundering
-OPPOSITES union

dissolute ▶ adjective DISSIPATED, debauched, decadent, intemperate, profligate, self-indulgent, wild, depraved, licentious, promiscuous, drunken
-OPPOSITES ascetic

dissolution ▶ noun ① the dissolution of parliament CESSATION, conclusion, end, ending, termination, winding up/down, discontinuation, suspension, disbanding, prorogation, recess ② (technical) the dissolution of a polymer in a solvent DISSOLVING, liquefaction, melting, deliquescence, breaking up, decomposition, disintegration ③ the dissolution of the empire DISINTEGRATION, breaking up, decay, collapse, demise, extinction ④ a life of dissolution See DISSIPATION sense 1

dissolve ▶ verb ① sugar dissolves in water: GO INTO SOLUTION, break down, liquefy, deliquesce, disintegrate. ② his hopes dissolved, DISAPPEAR, vanish, melt away, evaporate, disperse, dissipate, disintegrate, dwindle, fade (away), wither, poetic/literary evanesce ③ the crowd dissolved DISPERSE, disband, break up, scatter, go in different directions ④ the assembly was dissolved: DISBAND, disestablish, bring to an end, end, terminate

minate, discontinue, close down, wind up/down, suspend, prorogue, adjourn ⑤ their marriage was dissolved ANNUL, nullify, void, invalidate, overturn, revoke.

■ **dissolve into/in** BURST INTO, break (down) into, be overcome with

dissonant ▶ adjective ① dissonant sounds INHARMONIOUS, discordant, unmelodious, atonal, off-key, cacophonous ② harmonious and dissonant colours INCONGRUOUS, anomalous, clashing, disparate, different, dissimilar
-OPPOSITES harmonious

dissuade ▶ verb DISCOURAGE, deter, prevent, divert, stop, talk out of, persuade against, advise against, argue out of
-OPPOSITES encourage

distance ▶ noun ① they measured the distance INTERVAL, space, span, gap, extent, length, width, breadth, depth, range, reach ② our perception of distance REMOTENESS, closeness ③ a mix of warmth and distance ALOOFNESS, remoteness, detachment, unfriendliness, reserve, reticence, restraint, formality, informal stand-offishness

▶ verb he distanced himself from her WITHDRAW, detach, separate, dissociate, isolate, put at a distance

■ **in the distance** FAR AWAY/OFF, afar, just in view, on the horizon, archaic yonder

distant ▶ adjective ① distant parts of the world FARAWAY, far-off, fai-flung, remote, out of the way, outlying ② the distant past LONG AGO, bygone, olden, ancient, prehistoric, poetic/literary of yore ③ half a mile distant AWAY, off, apart ④ a distant memory VAGUE, faint, dim, indistinct, unclear, indefinite, sketchy, hazy ⑤ a distant family connection REMOTE, indirect, slight ⑥ father was always distant ALOOF, reserved, remote, detached, unapproachable, withdrawn, reticent, taciturn, uncommunicative, undemonstrative, unforthcoming, unresponsive, unfriendly, informal stand-offish ⑦ a distant look in his eyes DISTRACTED, absent-minded, faraway, detached, distraught, vague
-OPPOSITES near, close, recent

distaste ▶ noun DISLIKE, aversion, disinclination, disapproval, disapprobation, disdain, repugnance, hatred, loathing, archaic disrelish
-OPPOSITES liking

distasteful ▶ adjective ① distasteful behaviour UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, displeasing, undesirable, objectionable, offensive, unsavoury, unpalatable, obnoxious, disgusting, repellent, repulsive, revolting, repugnant, abhorrent, loathsome, vile ② their eggs are distasteful to predators UNPALATABLE, unsavoury, unappetizing, inedible, disgusting
-OPPOSITES agreeable, tasty

distended ▶ adjective SWOLLEN, bloated, dilated, engorged, enlarged, inflated, expanded, extended, bulging, protuberant

distil ▶ verb ① the water was distilled: PURIFY, refine, filter, treat, process; evaporate and condense ② oil distilled from marjoram. EXTRACT, press out, squeeze out, express. ③ whisky is distilled from barley: BREW, ferment. ④ the solvent is distilled to leave the oil BOIL DOWN, reduce, concentrate, condense; purify, refine.

distinct ▶ adjective ① two distinct categories: DISCRETE, separate, different, unconnected, pre-

cise, specific, distinctive, contrasting. ② *the tail has distinct black tips* CLEAR, well defined, unmistakable, easily distinguishable, recognizable, visible, obvious, pronounced, prominent, striking

—OPPOSITES overlapping, indefinite

distinction ▶ noun ① *class distinctions* DIFFERENCE, contrast, dissimilarity, variance, variation, division, differentiation, dividing line, gulf, gap, formal dissimilitude ② *a painter of distinction* IMPORTANCE, significance, note, consequence, renown, fame, celebrity, prominence, eminence, pre-eminence, repute, reputation, merit, worth, greatness, excellence, quality ③ *he had served with distinction* HONOUR, credit, excellence, merit

—OPPOSITES similarity, mediocrity

distinctive ▶ adjective DISTINGUISHING, characteristic, typical, individual, particular, peculiar, unique, exclusive, special

—OPPOSITES common

distinctly ▶ adverb ① *there's something distinctly odd about him* DECIDEDLY, markedly, definitely, clearly, noticeably, obviously, plainly, evidently, unmistakably, manifestly, patently, *Brit informal* dead ② *Laura spoke quite distinctly* CLEARLY, plainly, intelligibly, audibly, unambiguously

distinguish ▶ verb ① *distinguishing reality from fantasy* DIFFERENTIATE, tell apart, discriminate between, tell the difference between ② *he could distinguish shapes in the dark* DISCERN, see, perceive, make out, detect, recognize, identify, poetic/literary descry, espy ③ *this is what distinguishes history from other disciplines* SEPARATE, set apart, make distinctive, make different, single out, mark off, characterize

■ **distinguish oneself** ATTAIN DISTINCTION, be successful, bring fame/honour to oneself, become famous

distinguishable ▶ adjective DISCERNIBLE, recognizable, identifiable, detectable

distinguished ▶ adjective EMINENT, famous, renowned, prominent, well known, esteemed, respected, illustrious, acclaimed, celebrated, great, notable, important, influential

—OPPOSITES unknown, obscure

distinguishing ▶ adjective DISTINCTIVE, differentiating, characteristic, typical, peculiar, singular, unique

distorted ▶ adjective ① *a distorted face* TWISTED, warped, contorted, buckled, deformed, malformed, misshapen, disfigured, crooked, awry, out of shape ② *a distorted version* MISREPRESENTED, perverted, twisted, falsified, misrepresented, misstated, garbled, inaccurate, biased, prejudiced, slanted, coloured, loaded, weighted, altered, changed

distract ▶ verb DIVERT, sidetrack, draw away, disturb, put off

distracted ▶ adjective PREOCCUPIED, inattentive, vague, abstracted, distrait, absent-minded, faraway, in a world of one's own, bemused, confused, bewildered, troubled, harassed, worried, *informal* miles away, not with it

—OPPOSITES attentive

distracting ▶ adjective DISTURBING, unsettling, intrusive, disconcerting, bothersome, off-putting.

distraction ▶ noun ① *a distraction from the real issues* DIVERSION, interruption, disturbance, interference, hindrance ② *frivolous distractions* AMUSEMENT, entertainment, diversion, recreation, leisure pursuit, divertissement ③ *he was driven to distraction* FRENZY, hysteria, mental distress, madness, insanity, mania, agitation, perturbation

distrait, distraite ▶ adjective DISTRACTED, preoccupied, absorbed, abstracted, distant, faraway, absent-minded, vague, inattentive, in a brown study, wool-gathering, with one's head in the clouds, in a world of one's own, *informal* miles away, not with it

—OPPOSITES alert

distraught ▶ adjective WORRIED, upset, distressed, fraught, overcome, overwrought, beside oneself, out of one's mind, desperate, hysterical, worked up, at one's wits' end, *informal* in a state

distress ▶ noun ① *she concealed her distress* ANGUISH, suffering, pain, agony, torment, heartache, heartbreak, misery, wretchedness, sorrow, grief, woe, sadness, unhappiness, desolation, despair ② *a ship in distress* DANGER, peril, difficulty, trouble, jeopardy, risk ③ *the poor in distress* HARDSHIP, adversity, poverty, deprivation, privation, destitution, indigence, impoverishment, penury, need dire straits

—OPPOSITES happiness, safety, prosperity

▶ verb *he was distressed by the trial* CAUSE ANGUISH; SUFFERING TO, pain, upset, make miserable, trouble, worry, bother, perturb, disturb, disquiet, agitate, harrow, torment, *informal* cut up

—OPPOSITES calm, please

distressing ▶ adjective UPSETTING, worrying, disturbing, disquieting, painful, traumatic, agonizing, harrowing, sad, saddening, heart-breaking, heart-rending

—OPPOSITES comforting

distribute ▶ verb ① *the were proceeds distributed among his creditors* GIVE OUT, deal out, dole out, dish out, hand out/round, allocate, allot, apportion, share out, divide out/up, parcel out ② *the newsletter is distributed free* CIRCULATE, issue, hand out, deliver ③ *a hundred and thirty different species are distributed worldwide* DISPERSE, scatter, spread

—OPPOSITES collect

distribution ▶ noun ① *the distribution of charity* GIVING OUT, dealing out, doling out, handing out/round, issue, issuing, dispensation, allocation, allotment, apportioning, sharing out, dividing up/out, parcelling out ② *the geographical distribution of plants* DISPERSAL, dissemination, spread, placement, position, location, disposition ③ *centres of food distribution* SUPPLY, supplying, delivery, transport, transportation ④ *the statistical distribution of the problem* FREQUENCY, prevalence, incidence, commonness

district ▶ noun NEIGHBOURHOOD, area, region, locality, locale, community, quarter, sector, zone, territory, administrative division, ward, parish, *informal* neck of the woods

distrust ▶ noun *the general distrust of authority* MISTRUST, suspicion, wariness, chariness, leanness, lack of trust, lack of confidence, scepticism, doubt, doubtfulness, cynicism, misgivings, qualms, disbelief, formal dubiety

▶ verb *Louise distrusted him* MISTRUST, be suspi-



cious of, be wary/chary of, be leery of, regard with suspicion, suspect, be sceptical of, have doubts about, doubt, be unsure of/about, have misgivings about, wonder about, disbelieve (in)

disturb ▶ **verb** ① *somewhere where we won't be disturbed* INTERRUPT, intrude on, butt in on, barge in on, distract, disrupt, bother, trouble, pester, harass, *informal* hassle ② *don't disturb his papers* DISARRANGE, muddle, rearrange, disorganize, disorder, mix up, interfere with, throw into disorder/confusion, turn upside down ③ *waters disturbed by winds* AGITATE, churn up, stir up, *poetic/literary* roil ④ *he wasn't disturbed by the allegations* PERTURB, trouble, concern, worry, upset, agitate, fluster, discomfit, disconcert, dismay, distress, discompose, unsettle, ruffle

disturbance ▶ **noun** ① *a disturbance to local residents* DISRUPTION, distraction, interference, bother, trouble, inconvenience, upset, annoyance, irritation, intrusion, harassment, *informal* hassle ② *disturbances among the peasantry* RIOT, fracas, upheaval, brawl, street fight, melee, free-for-all, ruckus, rumpus, *Law, dated* affray, *informal* ruction ③ *emotional disturbance* TROUBLE, perturbation, distress, worry, upset, agitation, discomposure, discomfiture, neurosis, illness, sickness, disorder, complaint

disturbed ▶ **adjective** ① *disturbed sleep* DISRUPTED, interrupted, fitful, intermittent, broken ② *disturbed children* TROUBLED, distressed, upset, distraught, unbalanced, unstable, disordered, dysfunctional, maladjusted, neurotic, unhinged, *informal* screwed up, mixed up

disturbing ▶ **adjective** WORRYING, perturbing, troubling, upsetting, distressing, discomfiting, disconcerting, disquieting, unsettling, dismaying, alarming, frightening

disunion ▶ **noun** BREAKING UP, separation, dissolution, partition
-OPPOSITES federation

disunite ▶ **verb** BREAK UP, separate, divide, split up, partition, dismantle, *poetic/literary* sunders
-OPPOSITES unify

disunity ▶ **noun** DISAGREEMENT, dissent, dissension, argument, arguing, quarrelling, feuding, conflict, strife, friction, discord

disuse ▶ **noun** NON-USE, non-employment, lack of use, neglect, abandonment, desertion, obsolescence, *formal* desuetude

disused ▶ **adjective** UNUSED, no longer in use, unemployed, idle, abandoned, deserted, vacated, unoccupied, uninhabited

ditch ▶ **noun** *she rescued an animal from a ditch* TRENCH, trough, channel, dyke, drain, gutter, gully, watercourse, conduit, *Archaeology* fosse

▶ **verb** ① *they started ditching the coastal areas* DIG A DITCH IN, trench, excavate, drain ② *(informal) she ditched her old curtains* See THROW SOMETHING AWAY sense 1 ③ *(informal) she ditched her husband* See THROW SOMEONE OVER

dither ▶ **verb** HESITATE, falter, waver, vacillate, change one's mind, be in two minds, be indecisive, be undecided; *Brit* haver; *informal* shilly-shally, dilly-dally

diurnal ▶ **adjective** DAILY, everyday, quotidian, occurring every/each day.

divan ▶ **noun** SETTEE, sofa, couch, sofa bed; *Brit* put-you-up, *N Amer* studio couch.

dive ▶ **verb** ① *they dived into the clear water* | *the plane was diving towards the ground* PLUNGE, nosedive, jump head first, bellyflop, plummet, fall, drop, pitch ② *the islanders dive for oysters* SWIM UNDER WATER, snorkel, scuba dive ③ *they dived for cover* LEAP, jump, lunge, launch oneself, throw oneself, go headlong, duck

▶ **noun** ① *a dive into the pool* PLUNGE, nosedive, jump, bellyflop, plummet, fall, drop, swoop, pitch See list at SWIMMING ② *a sideways dive* LUNGE, spring, jump, leap ③ *(informal) John got into a fight in some dive* SLEAZY BAR, NIGHTCLUB, seedy bar/nightclub, drinking den, *informal* drinking joint

diverge ▶ **verb** ① *the two roads diverged* SEPARATE, part, fork, divide, split, bifurcate, go in different directions ② *areas where our views diverge* DIFFER, be different, be dissimilar, disagree, be at variance/odds, conflict, clash ③ *he diverged from his text* DEVIATE, digress, depart, veer, stray, stray from the point, get off the subject
-OPPOSITES converge, agree

divergence ▶ **noun** ① *the divergence of the human and ape lineages* SEPARATION, dividing, parting, forking, bifurcation ② *a marked political divergence* DIFFERENCE, dissimilarity, variance, disparity, disagreement, incompatibility, mismatch, *formal* dissimilitude ③ *divergence from standard behaviour* DEVIATION, digression, departure, shift, straying, variation, change, alteration

divergent ▶ **adjective** DIFFERING, varying, different, dissimilar, unlike, disparate, contrasting, contrastive, conflicting, incompatible, contradictory, at odds, at variance
-OPPOSITES similar

divers ▶ **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) SEVERAL, many, numerous, multiple, manifold, multifarious, multitudinous, sundry, miscellaneous, assorted, various, *poetic/literary* myriad

diverse ▶ **adjective** VARIOUS, sundry, manifold, multiple, varied, varying, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, diversified, divergent, heterogeneous, a mixed bag of, different, differing, distinct, unlike, dissimilar, *poetic/literary* divers, myriad

diversify ▶ **verb** ① *farmers looking for ways to diversify* BRANCH OUT, expand, extend operations ② *a plan aimed at diversifying the economy* VARY, bring variety to, modify, alter, change, transform, expand, enlarge

diversion ▶ **noun** ① *the diversion of 19 rivers* RE-ROUTING, redirection, deflection, deviation, divergence ② *traffic diversions* DETOUR, deviation, alternative route ③ *the noise created a diversion* DISTRACTION, disturbance, smokescreen ④ *a city full of diversions* ENTERTAINMENT, amusement, pastime, delight, divertissement, fun, recreation, rest and relaxation, pleasure, *informal* R and R, *dated* sport

diversity ▶ **noun** VARIETY, miscellany, assortment, mixture, mix, melange, range, array, multiplicity; variation, variance, diverseness, diversification, heterogeneity, difference, contrast; *formal* dissimilitude
-OPPOSITES uniformity

divert ▶ **verb** ① *a plan to divert Siberia's rivers* RE-ROUTE, redirect, change the course of, deflect, channel. ② *he diverted her from her studies* DISTRACT, sidetrack, disturb, draw away, be a

distraction, put off ① *the story diverted them* AMUSE, entertain, distract, delight, enchant, interest, fascinate, absorb, engross, rivet, grip, hold the attention of

diverting ▶ **adjective** ENTERTAINING, amusing, enjoyable, pleasing, agreeable, delightful, appealing, interesting, fascinating, intriguing, absorbing, riveting, compelling, humorous, funny, witty, comical
—OPPOSITES boring

divest ▶ **verb** DEPRIVE, strip, dispossess, rob, cheat/trick out of, *archaic* reave

divide ▶ **verb** ① *he divided his kingdom into four* SPLIT (UP), cut up, carve up, dissect, bisect, halve, quarter, *poetic/literary* sunder ② *a curtain divided her cabin from the galley* SEPARATE, segregate, partition, screen off, section off, split off ③ *the stairs divide at the mezzanine* DIVERGE, separate, part, branch (off), fork, split (in two), bifurcate ④ *Jack divided up the cash* SHARE OUT, allocate, allot, apportion, portion out, ration out, parcel out, deal out, dole out, dish out, distribute, dispense, *informal* divvy up ⑤ *he aimed to divide his opponents* DISUNITE, drive apart, break up, split up, set at variance/odds, separate, isolate, estrange, alienate, *poetic/literary* tear asunder ⑥ *living things are divided into three categories* CLASSIFY, sort (out), categorize, order, group, grade, rank
—RELATED TERMS schizo-

—OPPOSITES unify, join, converge

▶ **noun** the sectarian divide BREACH, gulf, gap, split, borderline, boundary, dividing line

dividend ▶ **noun** ① *an annual dividend* SHARE, portion, premium, return, gain, profit, *informal* cut, rake-off, *Brit informal* divvy ② *the research will produce dividends in the future* BENEFIT, advantage, gain, bonus, extra, plus

divination ▶ **noun** FORTUNE TELLING, divining, prophecy, prediction, soothsaying, augury, clairvoyance, second sight

divine¹ ▶ **adjective** ① *a divine being* GODLY, angelic, seraphic, saintly, beatific, heavenly, celestial, holy ② *divine worship* RELIGIOUS, holy, sacred, sanctified, consecrated, blessed, devotional ③ *(informal) divine food* See LOVELY sense 3
—OPPOSITES mortal

▶ **noun** (dated) puritan divines THEOLOGIAN, clergyman, clergywoman, member of the clergy, churchman, churchwoman, cleric, minister, man/woman of the cloth, preacher, priest, *informal* reverend

divine² ▶ **verb** ① *Fergus divined how afraid she was* GUESS, surmise, conjecture, deduce, infer, discern, intuit, perceive, recognize, see, realize, appreciate, understand, grasp, comprehend, *informal* figure (out), savvy, *Brit informal* twig, suss ② *they divined that this was an auspicious day* FORETELL, predict, prophesy forecast, foresee, prognosticate, *rare* vaticinate ③ *he divined water supplies* DOWSE, find by dowsing

diviner ▶ **noun** FORTUNE TELLER, clairvoyant, crystal-gazer, psychic, seer, soothsayer, prognosticator, prophet, oracle, sibyl, *rare* vaticinator.

divinity ▶ **noun** ① *they denied Christ's divinity* DIVINE NATURE, divineness, godliness, deity, godhead, holiness ② *the study of divinity*: THEOLOGY, religious studies, religion, scripture. ③ *a female*

divinity DEITY, god, goddess, divine/supreme being

division ▶ **noun** ① *the division of the island* | cell division DIVIDING (UP), breaking up, break-up, carving up, splitting, dissection, bisection, partitioning, separation, segregation ② *the division of his estates* SHARING OUT, dividing up, parceling out, dishing out, allocation, allotment, apportionment, splitting up, carving up, *informal* divvy up ③ *the division between nomadic and urban cultures* DIVIDING LINE, divide, boundary, borderline, border, demarcation line ④ *each class is divided into nine divisions* SECTION, subsection, subdivision, category, class, group, grouping, set, family ⑤ *an independent division of the executive* DEPARTMENT, branch, arm, wing, sector, section, subsection, subdivision, subsidiary ⑥ *the causes of social division* DISUNITY, disunion, conflict, discord, disagreement, dissension, disaffection, estrangement, alienation, isolation

divisive ▶ **adjective** ALIENATING, estranging, isolating, schismatic
—OPPOSITES unifying

divorce ▶ **noun** ① *she wants a divorce* DISSOLUTION, annulment, (official/judicial) separation ② *a growing divorce between the church and people* SEPARATION, division, split, disunity, estrangement, alienation, schism, gulf, chasm
—OPPOSITES marriage, unity

▶ **verb** ① *her parents have divorced* DISSOLVE ONE'S MARRIAGE, annul one's marriage, end one's marriage, get a divorce ② *religion cannot be divorced from morality* SEPARATE, disconnect, divide, dissociate, detach, isolate, alienate, set apart, cut off

divulge ▶ **verb** DISCLOSE, reveal, tell, communicate, pass on, publish, broadcast, proclaim, expose, uncover, make public, give away, let slip, *informal* spill the beans about, let on about
—OPPOSITES conceal

dizzy ▶ **adjective** ① *she felt dizzy* GIDDY, light-headed, faint, unsteady, shaky, muzzy, wobbly, *informal* woozy ② *dizzy heights* CAUSING DIZZINESS, causing giddiness, vertiginous ③ *(informal) a dizzy blond* See EMPTY-HEADED

do ▶ **verb** ① *she does most of the manual work* CARRY OUT, undertake, discharge, execute, perform, accomplish, achieve; bring about, engineer, *informal* pull off, *formal* effectuate ② *they can do as they please* ACT, behave, conduct oneself, acquit oneself, *formal* comport oneself ③ *regular coffee will do* SUFFICE, be adequate, be satisfactory, fill/fit the bill, serve one's purpose, meet one's needs ④ *the boys will do the dinner* PREPARE, make, get ready, see to, arrange, organize, be responsible for, be in charge of, *informal* fix ⑤ *the company are doing a new range* | *a portrait I am doing* MAKE, create, produce, turn out, design, manufacture, paint, draw, sketch, *informal* knock up/off ⑥ *each room was done in a different colour* DECORATE, furnish, ornament, deck out, trick out, *informal* do up ⑦ *her maid did her hair* STYLE, arrange, adjust, brush, comb, wash, dry, cut, *informal* fix ⑧ *I am doing a show to raise money* PUT ON, present, produce, perform in, act in, take part in, participate in ⑨ *you've done me a favour* GRANT, pay, render, give ⑩ *show me how to do these equations* WORK OUT, figure out, calculate, solve, resolve ⑪ *she's doing archaeology* STUDY, read, learn, take a course in ⑫ *what does he do?* HAVE AS A JOB, have as a



profession, be employed at, earn a living at
13 he is doing well at college GET ON/ALONG, progress, fare, manage, cope, succeed, prosper
14 he was doing 80mph DRIVE AT, travel at, move at
15 the cyclists do 30 miles per day TRAVEL (OVER), journey, cover, traverse, achieve, notch up, log, informal chalk up
16 (informal) we're doing Scotland this summer VISIT, tour, sightsee in

► **noun** (Brit informal) he invited us to a grand do PARTY, reception, gathering, celebration, function, social event/occasion, social, soirée, informal bash, shindig, Brit informal knees-up, bean-feast, bunfight, Austral/NZ informal rage, jollo

■ **do away with** ① they want to do away with the old customs ABOLISH, get rid of, discard, remove, eliminate, discontinue, stop, end, terminate, put an end/stop to, dispense with, drop, abandon, give up, informal scrap, ditch, dump ② (informal) she tried to do away with her husband See KILL verb sense 1

■ **do someone/something down** (informal) BE LITTLE, disparage, denigrate, run down, deprecate, cast aspersions on, discredit, vilify, defame, criticize, malign, N Amer slur, informal have a go at, hit out at, knock, slam, pan, bad-mouth, Brit informal rubbish, slag off

■ **do someone/something in** (informal) ① the poor devil's been done in See KILL verb sense 1 ② the long walk home did me in WEAR OUT, tire out, exhaust, fatigue, weary, overtire, drain, informal shatter, take it out of, Brit informal knacker ③ I did my back in INJURE, hurt, damage

■ **do something out** (Brit informal) DECORATE, furnish, ornament, deck out, trick out, informal do up

■ **do someone out of something** (informal) SWINDLE OUT OF, cheat out of, trick out of, deprive of, informal con out of, diddle out of

■ **do something up** ① she did her bootlace up FASTEN, tie (up), lace, knot, make fast, secure ② (informal) he's had his house done up RENOVATE, refurbish, refit, redecorate, decorate, revamp, make over, modernize, improve, spruce up, smarten up, informal give something a facelift, N Amer informal rehab

■ **do without** FORGO, dispense with, abstain from, refrain from, eschew, give up, cut out, renounce, manage without, formal forswear

docile ► **adjective** COMPLIANT, obedient, pliant, dutiful, submissive, deferential, unassertive, cooperative, amenable, accommodating, biddable, malleable

—OPPOSITES disobedient, wilful

dock¹ ► **noun** his boat was moored at the dock HARBOUR, marina, port, anchorage, wharf, quay, pier, jetty, landing stage

► **verb** the ship docked. MOOR, berth, put in, tie up, anchor

dock² ► **verb** ① they docked the money from his salary DEDUCT, subtract, remove, debit, take off/away; informal knock off ② workers had their pay docked REDUCE, cut, decrease ③ the dog's tail was docked CUT OFF, cut short, shorten, crop, lop; remove, amputate, detach, sever, chop off, take off.

docket (Brit) ► **noun** a docket for every transaction DOCUMENT, chit, coupon, voucher, certificate, counterfoil, bill, receipt, Brit informal chitty.

► **verb** neatly docketed bundles. DOCUMENT, record, register; label, tag, tab, mark.

doctor ► **noun** Tim went to see a doctor MEDICAL PRACTITIONER, informal doc, medic, medico, Brit informal quack See list

► **verb** ① (informal) he doctored their wounds TREAT, medicate, cure, heal, tend, attend to, minister to, care for, nurse ② he doctored Stephen's drinks ADULTERATE, contaminate, tamper with, lace, informal spike, dope ③ the reports have been doctored FALSIFY, tamper with, interfere with, alter, change, forge, fake, informal cook; Brit informal fiddle (with)

Types of Doctor and Dentist

allergist	nephrologist
anaesthesiologist	neurologist
anaesthetist	neuropathologist
audiologist	neurosurgeon
aurist	nosologist
brain surgeon	obstetrician
cardiologist	oculist
chiropractor	oncologist
chiropodist	ophthalmologist
clinician	orthodontist
consultant	orthopaedist
dental surgeon	orthotist
dentist	osteologist
dermatologist	otolaryngologist
diagnostician	otologist
embryologist	otorhinolaryngologist
endocrinologist	paediatrician
endodontist	paedodontist
ENT (ear, nose, & throat) doctor	parasitologist
epidemiologist	pathologist
exodontist	perinatologist
extern	periodontist
flying doctor	physician
forensic pathologist	plastic surgeon
gastroenterologist	podiatrist
general practitioner (GP)	proctologist
geriatrician	prosthodontist
gerontologist	radiologist
gynaecologist	radiotherapist
haematologist	registrar
heart surgeon	rheumatologist
houseman	senior registrar
house officer	serologist
immunologist	specialist
intern	surgeon
laryngologist	teratologist
medical officer	trichologist
	urologist
	venereologist

doctrinaire ► **adjective** DOGMATIC, rigid, inflexible, uncompromising, authoritarian, intolerant, fanatical, zealous, extreme

doctrine ► **noun** CREED, credo, dogma, belief, teaching, ideology, tenet, maxum, canon, principle, precept

document ► **noun** their solicitor drew up a document: (OFFICIAL/LEGAL) PAPER, certificate, deed, contract, legal agreement, Law instrument, indenture.

► **verb** many aspects of school life have been documented: RECORD, register, report, log, chronicle, archive, put on record, write down, detail, note, describe

documentary ► **adjective** ① documentary evidence: RECORDED, documented, registered, written, chronicled, archived, on record/paper, in

Breeds of Dog

Aberdeen terrier
affenpinscher
Afghan hound
Airedale terrier
Akita
Alsatian
Australian terrier
basenji
basset hound
beagle
bearded collie
Bedlington terrier
Belgian sheepdog
Bernese mountain dog
bichon frise
black and tan
Blenheim spaniel
bloodhound
Border collie
Border terrier
borzoi
Boston terrier
bouvier
boxer
Briard
Brussels griffon
bulldog
bull mastiff
bull terrier
calm terrier
Cape hunting dog
carriage dog
Cavalier King Charles
spaniel
chihuahua
chow
Clumber spaniel
Clydesdale
coach dog

cocker spaniel
collie
coonhound
corgi
dachshund
Dalmatian
Dandie Dinmont
deerhound
Doberman pinscher
dray hound
elk hound
English setter
English springer
field spaniel
Finnish spitz
foxhound
fox terrier
French bulldog
German Shepherd
golden retriever
Gordon setter
Great Dane
greyhound
griffon
Groenendael
harrier
husky
Ibizan hound
Irish setter
Irish terrier
Irish wolfhound
Ivicerne
Istrian pointer
Jack Russell terrier
keeshond
kelpie
Kerry blue
King Charles spaniel
Komondor

Kuvasz
Labrador retriever
laika
Lakeland terrier
Leonberg
Lhasa apso
malamute/malemute
Maltese dog/terrier
Manchester terrier
mastiff
Mexican hairless
Munsterlander
Newfoundland
Norfolk terrier
Norwich terrier
Old English sheepdog
otter dog/hound
papillon
peke
Pekinese/Pekingese
Pharaoh hound
pit bull terrier
pointer
Pomeranian
poodle
pug dog
puli
Pyrenean mountain dog
Pyrenean sheepdog
Pyrenean wolfhound
Queensland blue heeler
redbone
red setter
retriever
Rhodesian ridgeback
Rottweiler
rough collie
St Bernard dog
saluki

Samoyed
schipperke
schnauzer
Scottie dog
Scottish terrier
Sealyham terrier
setter
shar pei
sheepdog
sheltie
Shetland sheepdog
shih-tzu
Skye terrier
sleuth hound
spaniel
Spinone
spitz
springer spaniel
Staffordshire bull terrier
staghound
terrier
Tibetan mastiff
Tibetan spaniel
Tibetan terrier
tosa
vizsla
Weimaraner
Welsh corgi
Welsh hound
Welsh springer
Welsh terrier
West Highland terrier
wolfhound
wheaten terrier
whippet
Yorkshire terrier



writing ② a documentary film **FACTUAL**, non-fictional.

► **noun** a documentary about rural England **FACTUAL PROGRAMME/FILM**, programme, film, broadcast

dodder ► **verb** TOTTER, teeter, toddle, hobble, shuffle, shamble, falter

dodderly ► **adjective** TOTTERING, tottery, staggering, shuffling, shambling, faltering, shaky, unsteady, wobbly, feeble, frail, weak

dodge ► **verb** ① she dodged into a telephone booth DART, bolt, dive, lunge, leap, spring ② he could easily dodge the two coppers ELUDE, evade, avoid, escape, run away from, lose, shake (off); informal give someone the slip ③ the minister tried to dodge the debate AVOID, evade, get out of, back out of, sidestep, N Amer end-run, informal duck, wriggle out of; Austral/NZ informal duck-shove

► **noun** ① a dodge to the right DART, bolt, dive, lunge, leap, spring. ② a clever dodge ! a tax dodge. RUSE, ploy, scheme, tactic, stratagem, subterfuge, trick, hoax, wile, cheat, deception, blind; swindle, fraud; informal scam, con (trick), Brit informal wheeze, N Amer informal bunco, grift; Austral informal lurk, rort.

dodgy ► **adjective** (Brit informal) ① a dodgy second-hand car salesman. See DISHONEST. ② the champagne was dodgy SECOND-RATE, third-rate, substandard, low-quality; awful, terrible, dreadful,

dire, N Amer cheapjack, informal not up to much, woeful, Brit informal ropy, grotty

doer ► **noun** ① the doer of unspeakable deeds PERFORMER, perpetrator, executor, accomplisher, agent ② Daniel is a thinker more than a doer WORKER, organizer, man/woman of action, informal mover and shaker, busy bee

doff ► **verb** (dated) TAKE OFF, remove, strip off, pull off, raise, lift, tip, dated divest oneself of -OPPOSITES don

dog ► **noun** ① she went for a walk with her dog HOUND, canine, mongrel, pup, puppy, informal doggy, pooch, Austral informal bitzer See lists here and at FOX, WOLF ② (informal) you black-hearted dog! See SCOUNDREL ③ (informal, dated) you're a lucky dog! See FELLOW sense 1

► **verb** ① they dogged him the length of the country PURSUE, follow, track, trail, shadow, hound; informal tail ② the scheme was dogged by bad weather. PLAGUE, beset, bedevil, beleaguer, blight, trouble

dogged ► **adjective** TENACIOUS, determined, resolute, resolved, purposeful, persistent, persevering, single-minded, tireless, strong-willed, steadfast, staunch, formal pertinacious. -OPPOSITES half-hearted

dogma ► noun TEACHING, belief, tenet, principle, precept, maxim, article of faith, canon, creed, credo, set of beliefs, doctrine, ideology

dogmatic ► adjective OPINIONATED, peremptory, assertive, insistent, emphatic, adamant, doctrinaire, authoritarian, imperious, dictatorial, uncompromising, unyielding, inflexible, rigid

dogsbody ► noun (*Brit informal*) DRUDGE, menial (worker), factotum, servant, slave, lackey, minion, man/girl Friday, *informal* gofer, *Brit informal* skivvy, *N Amer informal* peon, *archaic* scullion

doing ► noun ① the doing of the act constitutes the offence PERFORMANCE, performing, carrying out, execution, implementation, implementing, achievement, accomplishment, realization, completion, formal effectuation ② an account of his doings in Paris EXPLOIT, activity, act, action, deed, feat, achievement, accomplishment, *informal* caper ③ that would take some doing EFFORT, exertion, (hard) work, application, labour, toil, struggle ④ (*Brit informal*) the drawer where he kept the doings THING, so-and so, *informal* whasit, whatnot, doodah, thingummy, thingamajig, thingamabob, what's-its-name, what-d'you-call-it, oojamaflop, oojah, *Brit informal* gubbins, *N Amer informal* doohickey, doojigger, dingus

doldrums ► plural noun winter doldrums DEPRESSION, melancholy, gloom, gloominess, downheartedness, dejection, despondency, low spirits, despair, inertia, apathy, listlessness, *N Amer* blahs, *informal* blues

■ in the doldrums INACTIVE, quiet, slow, slack, sluggish, stagnant

dole ► noun ① (*dated*) the customary dole was a tumblerful of rice HANDOUT, charity, gift, donation, *historical* alms ② (*Brit informal*) he was on the dole (UNEMPLOYMENT/STATE) BENEFIT, benefit payments, social security, welfare

■ dole something out DEAL OUT, share out, divide up, allocate, allot, distribute, dispense, hand out, give out, dish out/up, *informal* divvy up

doleful ► adjective MOURNFUL, woeful, sorrowful, sad, unhappy, depressed, gloomy, morose, melancholy, miserable, forlorn, wretched, woe-begone, despondent, dejected, disconsolate, downcast, crestfallen, downhearted, *informal* blue, down in the mouth/dumps, *poetic/literary* dolorous, heartsick
-OPPOSITES cheerful

doll ► noun ① the child was hugging a doll FIGURE, figurine, model, toy, plaything, *informal* dolly ② (*informal*) she was quite a doll See BEAUTY sense 2

■ doll oneself up (*informal*) DRESS UP, *informal* get/do oneself up, dress up to the nines, put on one's glad rags, *Brit informal* tart oneself up

dollop ► noun (*informal*) BLOB, gobbet, lump, ball, *informal* glob, *Brit informal* gob, wodge

dolorous ► adjective (*poetic/literary*) See DOLEFUL

dolour ► noun (*poetic/literary*) See MISERY sense 1

dolphin ► noun. See list at CETACEAN

dolt ► noun. See IDIOT

doltish ► adjective. See STUPID sense 1

domain ► noun ① they extended their domain. REALM, kingdom, empire, dominion, province, territory, land. ② the domain of art FIELD, area, sphere, discipline, province, world.

dome ► noun CUPOLA, vault, arched roof.

domestic ► adjective ① domestic commitments FAMILY, home, household ② she was not at all domestic HOUSEWIFELY, domesticated, homely ③ small domestic animals DOMESTICATED, tame, pet, household ④ the domestic car industry NATIONAL, state, home, internal ⑤ domestic plants NATIVE, indigenous

► noun they worked as domestics SERVANT, domestic worker/help, home help, maid, housemaid, cleaner, housekeeper, *Brit dated* charwoman, charlady, char, *Brit informal* daily (help)

domesticated ► adjective ① domesticated animals TAME, tamed, pet, domestic, trained ② domesticated crops CULTIVATED, naturalized ③ I'm quite domesticated really HOUSEWIFELY, home-loving, homely
-OPPOSITES wild

domicile (*formal*) ► noun changes of domicile RESIDENCE, home, house, address, residency, lodging, accommodation, *informal* digs, formal dwelling (place), abode, habitation

► verb he is now domiciled in Australia SETTLE, live, make one's home, take up residence, move to, emigrate to

dominance ► noun SUPREMACY, superiority, ascendancy, pre-eminence, predominance, domination, dominion, mastery, power, authority, rule, command, control, sway, *poetic/literary* puissance

dominant ► adjective ① the dominant classes PRESIDING, ruling, governing, controlling, commanding, ascendant, supreme, authoritative ② he has a dominant personality ASSERTIVE, authoritative, forceful, domineering, commanding, controlling, pushy, *dated* pushful ③ the dominant issues in psychology MAIN, principal, prime, premier, chief, foremost, primary, predominant, paramount, prominent, central, key, crucial, core, *informal* number-one
-OPPOSITES subservient

dominate ► verb ① the Russians dominated Iran in the nineteenth century CONTROL, influence, exercise control over, command, be in command of, be in charge of, rule, govern, direct, have ascendancy over, have mastery over, *informal* head up, be in the driver's seat, be at the helm, rule the roost, *Brit informal* wear the trousers, *N Amer informal* have someone in one's hip pocket, *poetic/literary* sway ② the Puritan work ethic still dominates PREDOMINATE, prevail, reign, be prevalent, be paramount, be pre-eminent ③ the village is dominated by the viaduct OVERLOOK, command, tower above/over, loom over

domination ► noun RULE, government, sovereignty, control, command, authority, power, dominion, dominance, mastery, supremacy, superiority, ascendancy, sway

domineer ► verb BROWBEAT, bully, intimidate, push around/about, order about/around, lord it over, dictate to, be overbearing, have under one's thumb, rule with a rod of iron, *informal* boss about/around, walk all over

domineering ► adjective OVERBEARING, authoritarian, imperious, high-handed, autocratic, masterful, dictatorial, despotic, oppressive, iron-fisted, strict, harsh, *informal* bossy

dominion ► noun ① France had dominion over Laos SUPREMACY, ascendancy, dominance, domination, superiority, predominance, pre-eminence, hegemony, authority, mastery, con-

trol, command, power, sway, rule, government, jurisdiction, sovereignty, suzerainty **2** a British dominion DEPENDENCY, colony, protectorate, territory, province, possession, *historical* tributary

don¹ ▶ noun an Oxford don UNIVERSITY TEACHER, (university) lecturer, fellow, professor, reader, academic, scholar

don² ▶ verb he donned an overcoat PUT ON, get dressed in, dress (oneself) in, get into, slip into/on

donate ▶ verb GIVE, give/make a donation of, contribute, make a contribution of, gift, subscribe, grant, bestow, *informal* chip in, pitch in, *Brit informal* stump up, *N Amer informal* kick in

donation ▶ noun GIFT, contribution, subscription, present, handout, grant, offering, charity, *formal* benefaction, *historical* alms

done ▶ adjective **1** the job is done FINISHED, ended, concluded, complete, completed, accomplished, achieved, fulfilled, discharged, executed, *informal* wrapped up, sewn up, polished off **2** is the meat done? COOKED (THROUGH), ready **3** those days are done OVER (AND DONE WITH), at an end, finished, ended, concluded, terminated, no more, dead, gone, in the past **4** (informal) that's just not done PROPER, seemly, decent, respectable, right, correct, in order, fitting, appropriate, acceptable, the done thing —OPPOSITES incomplete, underdone, ongoing

▶ exclamation Done! AGREED, all right, very well, *informal* you're on, OK, okey-dokey, *Brit informal* righto, righty-ho

■ be/have done with BE HAVE FINISHED WITH, be through with, want no more to do with

■ done for (informal) RUINED, finished, destroyed, undone, doomed, lost, *informal* washed-up

■ done in (informal) See EXHAUSTED sense 1

Don Juan ▶ noun WOMANIZER, philanderer, Casanova, Lothario, flirt, ladies' man, playboy, seducer, rake, roué, libertine, *informal* skirt-chaser, ladykiller, wolf

donkey ▶ noun **1** the cart was drawn by a donkey ASS, jackass, jenny, mule, hinny, *Brit informal* moke **2** (informal) you silly donkey! See FOOL noun sense 1

—RELATED TERMS ASININE

donnish ▶ adjective SCHOLARLY, studious, academic, bookish, intellectual, learned, high-brow, *informal* egghead, *dated* lettered

donor ▶ noun GIVER, contributor, benefactor, benefactress, subscriber, supporter, backer, patron, sponsor, *informal* angel

doom ▶ noun **1** his impending doom DESTRUCTION, downfall, ruin, ruination, extinction, annihilation, death **2** (archaic) the day of doom JUDGEMENT DAY, the Last Judgement, doomsday, Armageddon

▶ verb we were doomed to fail DESTINE, fate, predestine, preordain, foredoom, mean, condemn, sentence

doomed ▶ adjective ILL-FATED, ill starred, cursed, jinxed, foredoomed, damned; *poetic/literary* star-crossed

door ▶ noun DOORWAY, portal, opening, entrance, entry, exit

■ out of doors OUTSIDE, outdoors, in/into the open air, alfresco

doorkeeper ▶ noun DOORMAN, commissionaire, concierge

dope ▶ noun (informal) **1** he was caught smuggling dope (ILLEGAL) DRUGS, narcotics, cannabis, heroin **2** what a dope! See FOOL noun sense 1 **3** they had plenty of dope on Mr Dixon See INTELLIGENCE sense 2

▶ verb **1** the horse was doped DRUG, administer drugs/narcotics to, tamper with, interfere with, sedate, *Brit informal* nobble **2** they doped his drink ADD DRUGS TO, tamper with, adulterate, contaminate, lace, *informal* spike, doctor

dopey ▶ adjective (informal) STUPEFIED, confused, muddled, befuddled, disorientated, groggy, muzzy, *informal* woozy, not with it —OPPOSITES alert

dormant ▶ adjective ASLEEP, sleeping, resting, INACTIVE, passive, inert, latent, quiescent —OPPOSITES awake, active

dose ▶ noun MEASURE, portion, dosage, drench, *informal* hit

dossier ▶ noun FILE, report, case history, account, notes, document(s), documentation, data, information, evidence

dot ▶ noun a pattern of tiny dots SPOT, speck, fleck, speckle, full stop, decimal point

▶ verb **1** spots of rain dotted his shirt SPOT, fleck, mark, stipple, freckle, sprinkle, *poetic/literary* bestrew, besprinkle **2** restaurants are dotted around the site SCATTER, pepper, sprinkle, strew, spread, disperse, distribute

■ on the dot (informal) PRECISELY, exactly, sharp, prompt, dead on, on the stroke of —; *informal* bang on, *N Amer informal* on the button, on the nose

dotage ▶ noun DECLINING YEARS, winter/autumn of one's life, advanced years, old age, *poetic/literary* eld

dote

■ dote on ADORE, love dearly, be devoted to, idolize, treasure, cherish, worship, hold dear, indulge, spoil, pamper

doting ▶ adjective ADORING, loving, besotted, in fatuated, affectionate, fond, devoted, caring

dotty ▶ adjective (informal) See MAD sense 1

double ▶ adjective **1** a double garage | double yellow lines DUAL, duplex, twin, binary, duplicate, in pairs, coupled, twofold **2** a double helping DOUBLED, twofold **3** a double meaning AMBIGUOUS, equivocal, dual, two-edged, double-edged, ambivalent, cryptic, enigmatic **4** a double life DECEITFUL, double-dealing, two-faced, dual, hypocritical, false, duplicitous, insincere, deceiving, dissembling, dishonest

—RELATED TERMS di-, diplo-
—OPPOSITES single, unambiguous

▶ adverb we had to pay double TWICE (OVER), twice the amount, doubly

▶ noun **1** if it's not her, it's her double LOOKALIKE, twin, clone, duplicate, exact likeness, replica, copy, facsimile, Doppelganger; *informal* spitting image, dead ringer, dead spit **2** she used a double for the stunts STAND-IN, substitute

▶ verb **1** they doubled his salary MULTIPLY BY TWO, increase twofold **2** the bottom sheet had been doubled up FOLD (BACK/UP/DOWN/OVER/UNDER), turn back/up/down/over/under, tuck back/up/down/under **3** the kitchen doubles as a dining room FUNCTION, do, (also) serve

■ at/on the double VERY QUICKLY, as fast as one's legs can carry one, at a run, at a gallop, fast, swiftly, rapidly, speedily, at (full) speed, at



full tilt, as fast as possible, *informal* double quick, like (greased) lightning, like the wind, like a scalded cat, like a bat out of hell; *Brit informal* like the clappers, at a rate of knots, *N Amer informal* lickety-split

double-cross ► **verb** BETRAY, cheat, defraud, trick, hoodwink, mislead, deceive, swindle, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, play false, *informal* do the dirty on, sell down the river

double-dealing ► **noun** DUPLICITY, treachery, betrayal, double-crossing, unfaithfulness, untrustworthiness, infidelity, bad faith, disloyalty, breach of trust, fraud, underhandedness, cheating, dishonesty, deceit, deceitfulness, deception, falseness, *informal* crookedness
—OPPOSITES honesty

double entendre ► **noun** AMBIGUITY, double meaning, innuendo, play on words

doubly ► **adverb** TWICE AS, in double measure, even more, especially, extra

doubt ► **noun** ① *there was some doubt as to the caller's identity* UNCERTAINTY, unsureness, indecision, hesitation, dubiousness, suspicion, confusion, queries, questions, *formal* dubiety ② *a weak leader racked by doubt* INDECISION, hesitation, uncertainty, insecurity, unease, uneasiness, apprehension, hesitancy, vacillation, irresolution ③ *there is doubt about their motives* SCEPTICISM, distrust, mistrust, doubtfulness, suspicion, cynicism, uneasiness, apprehension, wariness, channess, leanness, reservations, misgivings, suspicions, *formal* dubiety
—OPPOSITES certainty, conviction

► **verb** ① *they doubted my story* DISBELIEVE, distrust, mistrust, suspect, have doubts about, be suspicious of, have misgivings about, feel uneasy about, feel apprehensive about, query, question, challenge ② *I doubt whether he will come* THINK SOMETHING UNLIKELY, have (one's) doubts about, question, query, be dubious ③ *stop doubting and believe!* BE UNDECIDED, have doubts, be irresolute, be ambivalent, be doubtful, be unsure, be uncertain, be in two minds, hesitate, shilly-shally, waver, vacillate
—OPPOSITES trust

■ **in doubt** ① *the issue was in doubt* DOUBTFUL, uncertain, open to question, unconfirmed, unknown, undecided, unresolved, in the balance, up in the air, *informal* iffy ② *if you are in doubt, ask for advice* IRRESOLUTE, hesitant, vacillating, dithering, wavering, ambivalent, doubtful, unsure, uncertain, in two minds, shilly-shallying, undecided, in a quandary/dilemma, *informal* sitting on the fence

■ **no doubt** DOUBTLESS, undoubtedly, indubitably, doubtlessly, without (a) doubt, unquestionably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, irrefutably, unequivocally, clearly, plainly, obviously, patently

doubter ► **noun** SCEPTIC, doubting Thomas, non-believer, unbeliever, disbeliever, cynic, scoffer, questioner, challenger, dissenter
—OPPOSITES believer

doubtful ► **adjective** ① *I was doubtful about going* IRRESOLUTE, hesitant, vacillating, dithering, wavering, in doubt, unsure, uncertain, in two minds, shilly-shallying, undecided, in a quandary/dilemma, blowing hot and cold ② *it is doubtful whether he will come* IN DOUBT, uncertain, open to question, unsure, unconfirmed, not definite, unknown, undecided, unresolved,

debatable, in the balance, up in the air, *informal* iffy ③ *the whole trip is looking rather doubtful* UNLIKELY, improbable, dubious, impossible ④ *they are doubtful of the methods used* DISTRUSTFUL, mistrustful, suspicious, wary, chary, leery, apprehensive, sceptical, unsure, ambivalent, dubious, cynical ⑤ *this decision is of doubtful validity* QUESTIONABLE, arguable, debatable, controversial, contentious, *informal* iffy, *Brit informal* dodgy
—OPPOSITES confident, certain, probable, trusting

doubtless ► **adverb** UNDOUBTEDLY, indubitably, doubtlessly, no doubt, unquestionably, indisputably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, irrefutably, certainly, surely, of course, indeed

doughty ► **adjective** FEARLESS, dauntless, determined, resolute, indomitable, intrepid, plucky, spirited, bold, valiant, brave, stout-hearted, courageous, *informal* gutsy, spunky, feisty

dour ► **adjective** STERN, unsmiling, unfriendly, severe, forbidding, gruff, surly, grim, sullen, solemn, austere, stony
—OPPOSITES cheerful, friendly

douse ► **verb** ① *a mob doused the thieves with petrol* DRENCH, soak, saturate, wet, splash, slosh ② *a guard doused the flames* EXTINGUISH, put out, quench, smother, dampen down

dovetail ► **verb** ① *the ends of the logs were dovetailed* JOINT, join, fit together, splice, mortise, tenon ② *this will dovetail well with the division's existing activities* FIT IN, go together, be consistent, match, conform, harmonize, be in tune, correspond, *informal* square, *N Amer informal* jibe

dowdy ► **adjective** UNFASHIONABLE, frumpy, old-fashioned, inelegant, shabby, scruffy, frowzy, *Brit informal* mumsy, *Austral/NZ informal* daggy
—OPPOSITES fashionable

down¹ ► **adverb** ① *they went down in the lift* TOWARDS A LOWER POSITION, downwards, downstairs ② *she fell down* TO THE GROUND/FLOOR, over
—OPPOSITES up

► **preposition** ① *the lift plunged down the shaft* TO A LOWER POSITION IN, to the bottom of ② *I walked down the street* ALONG, to the other end of, from one end of — to the other ③ *down the years* THROUGHOUT, through, during

► **adjective** ① *I'm feeling a bit down* DEPRESSED, sad, unhappy, melancholy, miserable, wretched, sorrowful, gloomy, dejected, downhearted, despondent, dispirited, low; *informal* blue, down in the dumps/mouth, fed up ② *the computer is down* NOT WORKING, inoperative, malfunctioning, out of order, broken, not in service, out of action, out of commission, *informal* conked out, bust, (gone) kaput, *N Amer informal* on the fritz
—OPPOSITES elated, working

► **verb (informal)** ① *he struck Slater, downing him* KNOCK DOWN/OVER, knock to the ground, bring down, topple, *informal* deck, floor, flatten ② *he downed his beer* DRINK (UP/DOWN), gulp (down), guzzle, quaff, drain, toss off, slug, finish off; *informal* sink, knock back, put away, *N Amer informal* scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up).

► **noun** ① *the ups and downs of running a business*: SETBACKS, upsets, reverses, reversals, mishaps, vicissitudes; *informal* glitches. ② *(informal) he's having a bit of a down*. FIT OF DEPRESSION; *informal* the blues, the dumps, a low; *N Amer informal* the blahs

■ **have a down on** (*informal*) DISAPPROVE OF, be against, feel antagonism to, be hostile to, feel ill will towards, *informal* have it in for, be down on

down² ► *noun* *goose down* SOFT FEATHERS, fine hair, fluff, fuzz, floss, lint

down and out ► *adjective* DESTITUTE, poverty-stricken, impoverished, penniless, insolvent, impecunious, needy, in straitened circumstances, distressed, badly off, homeless, on the streets, vagrant, sleeping rough, *informal* hard up, (flat) broke, strapped (for cash), without a brass farthing, without two pennies to rub together, *Brit informal* stony broke, skint, *N Amer informal* without a red cent, on skid row
-OPPOSITES wealthy

► *noun* (**down-and-out**) POOR PERSON, pauper, indigent, beggar, homeless person, vagrant, tramp, drifter, derelict, vagabond, *N Amer* hobo, *Austral* bagman, *informal* have-not, bag lady, *Brit informal* dosser, *N Amer informal* bum

down at heel ► *adjective* ① *the resort looks down at heel* RUN DOWN, dilapidated, neglected, uncared-for, seedy, insalubrious, squalid, slummy, wretched, *informal* scruffy, scuzzy, *Brit informal* grotty, *N Amer informal* shacky ② *a down-at-heel labourer* SCRUFFY, shabby, ragged, tattered, mangy, sorry, unkempt, bedraggled, dishevelled, unroomed, seedy, untidy, slovenly, *informal* tatty, scuzzy, grungy, *Brit informal* grotty, *N Amer informal* raggedy
-OPPOSITES smart

downbeat ► *adjective* ① *the mood is decidedly downbeat* PESSIMISTIC, gloomy, negative, defeatist, cynical, bleak, fatalistic, dark, black, despairing, despondent, depressed, dejected, demoralized, hopeless, melancholy, glum ② *his downbeat joviality* RELAXED, easy-going, easy, casual, *informal*, nonchalant, insouciant, low-key, subtle, unostentatious, cool, *informal* laid-back

downcast ► *adjective* DESPONDENT, disheartened, discouraged, dispirited, downhearted, crestfallen, down, low, disconsolate, despairing, sad, melancholy, gloomy, glum, morose, doleful, dismal, woebegone, miserable, depressed, dejected, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps
-OPPOSITES elated

downfall ► *noun* UNDOING, ruin, ruination, defeat, conquest, deposition, overthrow, nemesis, destruction, annihilation, elimination, end, collapse, fall, crash, failure, debasement, degradation, disgrace, Waterloo
-OPPOSITES rise

downgrade ► *verb* ① *plans to downgrade three workers* DEMOTE, lower, reduce/lower in rank, relegate ② *I won't downgrade their achievement* DISPARAGE, denigrate, detract from, run down, belittle, *informal* bad-mouth
-OPPOSITES promote, praise.

downhearted ► *adjective* DESPONDENT, disheartened, discouraged, dispirited, downcast, crestfallen, down, low, disconsolate, wretched; melancholy, gloomy, glum, morose, doleful, dismal, woebegone, miserable, depressed, dejected, sorrowful, sad, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps.
-OPPOSITES elated

downmarket ► *adjective* (*Brit*) CHEAP, cheap and nasty, inferior; low-class, lowbrow, un-

sophisticated, rough, insalubrious, *informal* tacky, rubbishy, dumbed down.

downpour ► *noun* RAINSTORM, cloudburst, deluge, thunderstorm, torrential/pouring rain

downright ► *adjective* ① *downright lies* COMPLETE, total, absolute, utter, thorough, out-and-out, outright, sheer, arrant, pure, real, veritable, categorical, unmitigated, unadulterated, unalloyed, unequivocal, *Brit informal* proper ② *her downright attitude* FRANK, straightforward, direct, blunt, plain-spoken, forthright, uninhibited, unreserved, no-nonsense, matter-of-fact, bluff, undiplomatic, explicit, clear, plain, unequivocal, unambiguous, honest, candid, open, sincere, *informal* upfront

► *adverb* *that's downright dangerous* THOROUGHLY, utterly, positively, profoundly, really, completely, totally, entirely, unquestionably, undeniably, in every respect, through and through, *informal* plain

downside ► *noun* DRAWBACK, disadvantage, snag, stumbling block, catch, pitfall, fly in the ointment, handicap, limitation, trouble, difficulty, problem, complication, nuisance, hindrance, weak spot/point, *informal* minus, flip side
-OPPOSITES advantage

down-to-earth ► *adjective* PRACTICAL, sensible, realistic, matter-of-fact, responsible, reasonable, rational, logical, balanced, sober, pragmatic, level-headed, commonsensical, sane
-OPPOSITES idealistic

downtrodden ► *adjective* OPPRESSED, subjugated, persecuted, repressed, tyrannized, crushed, enslaved, exploited, victimized, bullied, disadvantaged, underprivileged, powerless, helpless, abused, maltreated

downward ► *adjective* DESCENDING, downhill, falling, sinking, dipping, earthbound, earthward

downy ► *adjective* SOFT, velvety, smooth, fleecy, fluffy, fuzzy, feathery, furry, woolly, silky

dowry ► *noun* MARRIAGE SETTLEMENT, (marriage) portion, *archaic* dot

doze ► *verb* CATNAP, nap, drowse, sleep lightly, rest, *informal* snooze, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye, *Brit informal* kip, *N Amer informal* catch some Zs, *poetic/literary* slumber

► *noun* CATNAP, nap, siesta, light sleep, drowse, rest, *informal* snooze, forty winks, *Brit informal* kip, zizz, *poetic/literary* slumber

■ **doze off** FALL ASLEEP, go to sleep, drop off, *informal* nod off, drift off, *N Amer informal* sack out, zone out

dozy ► *adjective* DROWSY, sleepy, half asleep, heavy-eyed, somnolent, lethargic, listless, enervated, inactive, languid, weary, tired, fatigued, *N Amer* logy, *informal* dopey, yawny

drab ► *adjective* ① *a drab interior* COLOURLESS, grey, dull, washed out, muted, lacklustre, dingy, dreary, dismal, cheerless, gloomy, sombre. ② *a drab existence* UNINTERESTING, dull, boring, tedious, monotonous, dry, dreary, unexciting, unimaginative, uninspiring, insipid, lacklustre, flat, stale, wishy-washy, colourless, lame, tired, sterile, anaemic, barren, tame, middle-of-the-road, run-of-the-mill, mediocre, nondescript, characterless, mundane, unremarkable, humdrum

-OPPOSITES bright, cheerful, interesting.



Dramatists

Aeschylus (Greek)
 Albee, Edward (American)
 Anouilh, Jean (French)
 Arden, John (English)
 Aristophanes (Greek)
 Ayckbourn, Alan (English)
 Barrie, J. M. (Scottish)
 Beaumarchais, Pierre-Augustin
 Caron de (French)
 Beaumont, Francis (English)
 Beckett, Samuel (Irish)
 Behan, Brendan (Irish)
 Bennett, Alan (English)
 Berkoff, Steven (English)
 Betti, Ugo (Italian)
 Bolt, Robert (English)
 Bond, Edward (English)
 Brecht, Bertolt (German)
 Büchner, Georg (German)
 Bulgakov, Mikhail (Soviet)
 Calderón de la Barca, Pedro
 (Spanish)
 Čapek, Karel (Czech)
 Chekhov, Anton (Russian)
 Churchill, Caryl (English)
 Claudel, Paul (French)
 Cocteau, Jean (French)
 Congreve, William (English)
 Corneille, Pierre (French)
 Coward, Noel (English)
 Cyrano de Bergerac, Savinien
 (French)
 Dekker, Thomas (English)
 Dürrenmatt, Friedrich (Swiss)
 Euripides (Greek)
 Farquar, George (Irish)
 Feydeau, Georges (French)
 Fletcher, John (English)
 Fo, Dario (Italian)
 Ford, John (English)
 Frayn, Michael (English)
 Fry, Christopher (English)
 Fugard, Athol (South African)

Genet, Jean (French)
 Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von
 (German)
 Goldoni, Carlo (Italian)
 Goldsmith, Oliver (Irish)
 Gorky, Maxim (Russian)
 Gray, Simon (English)
 Greene, Robert (English)
 Hampton, Christopher (British, b.
 in the Azores)
 Hauptmann, Gerhart (German)
 Hare, David (English)
 Havel, Václav (Czech)
 Hellman, Lillian (American)
 Ibsen, Henrik (Norwegian)
 Ionesco, Eugène (French, b. in
 Romania)
 Jarry, Alfred (French)
 Jonson, Ben (English)
 Kaiser, Georg (German)
 Kaufman, George S. (American)
 Kotzebue, August von (German)
 Kyd, Thomas (English)
 Lessing, Gotthold (German)
 Lorca, Federico García (Spanish)
 Maeterlinck, Comte Maurice
 (Belgian)
 Mamet, David (American)
 Marivaux, Pierre de (French)
 Marlowe, Christopher (English)
 Massinger, Philip (English)
 Menander (Greek)
 Middleton, Thomas (English)
 Miller, Arthur (American)
 Molière (Jean-Baptiste Poquelin;
 French)
 Montherlant, Henry de (French)
 Musset, Alfred de (French)
 Nichols, Peter (English)
 O'Casey, Sean (Irish)
 Odets, Clifford (American)
 O'Neill, Eugene (American)
 Orton, Joe (English)

Osborne, John (English)
 Ostrovsky, Aleksandr (Russian)
 Otway, Thomas (English)
 Pinter, Arthur Wing (English)
 Pinter, Harold (English)
 Pirandello, Luigi (Italian)
 Plautus (Roman)
 Poliakoff, Stephen (English)
 Potter, Dennis (English)
 Pushkin, Aleksandr (Russian)
 Racine, Jean (French)
 Rattigan, Terence (English)
 Rostand, Edmond (French)
 Rowe, Nicholas (English)
 Rowley, William (English)
 Saroyan, William (American)
 Schiller, Friedrich (German)
 Seneca, Lucius Annaeus (Roman)
 Shakespeare, William (English)
 Shaw, (George) Bernard (Irish)
 Shepard, Sam (American)
 Sheridan, Richard Brinsley (Irish)
 Simon, Neil (American)
 Sophocles (Greek)
 Soyinka, Wole (Nigerian)
 Stoppard, Tom (British, b. in
 Czechoslovakia)
 Storey, David (English)
 Strindberg, August (Swedish)
 Sutherland, Efua (Ghanaian)
 Synge, J. M. (Irish)
 Terence (Roman)
 Tourneur, Cyril (English)
 Vanbrugh, John (English)
 Vega, Lope de (Spanish)
 Vicente, Gil (Portuguese)
 Webster, John (English)
 Wedekind, Frank (German)
 Wesker, Arnold (English)
 Wilde, Oscar (Irish)
 Wilder, Thornton (American)
 Williams, Tennessee (American)
 Wycherley, William (English)

draconian ► adjective HARSH, severe, strict, extreme, drastic, stringent, tough, cruel, oppressive, ruthless, relentless, punitive, authoritarian, despotic, tyrannical, repressive, *Brit* swingeing
 —OPPOSITES lenient

draft ► noun ① the draft of his speech PRELIMINARY VERSION, rough outline, plan, skeleton, abstract, main points, bare bones ② a draft of the building PLAN, blueprint, design, diagram, drawing, sketch, map, layout, representation ③ a banker's draft CHEQUE, order, money order, bill of exchange, postal order

drag ► verb ① she dragged the chair backwards HAUL, pull, tug, heave, lug, draw, trail, trawl, tow; *informal* yank ② the day dragged BECOME TEDIOUS, pass slowly, creep along, hang heavy, wear on, go on too long, go on and on

► noun ① the drag of the air brakes PULL, resistance, tug ② (informal) work can be a drag BORE, nuisance, bother, trouble, pest, annoyance, trial, vexation; *informal* pain (in the neck), bind, headache, hassle

■ drag on PERSIST, continue, go on, carry on, extend, run on, be protracted, endure, prevail

■ drag something out PROLONG, protract, draw out, spin out, string out, extend, lengthen, carry on, keep going, continue

dragoon ► noun (*historical*) the dragoons charged CAVALRYMAN, mounted soldier, *historical* knight, chevalier, hussar, *archaic* cavalier

► verb he dragooned his friends into participating COERCE, pressure, pressurize, press, push, force, compel, impel, hound, harass, nag, harry, badger, goad, pester, browbeat, bludgeon, bully, twist someone's arm, strong-arm, *informal* railroad

drain ► verb ① a valve for draining the tank EMPTY (OUT), void, clear (out), evacuate, unload

② drain off any surplus liquid DRAW OFF, extract, withdraw, remove, siphon off, pour out, pour off, milk, bleed, tap, void, filter, discharge

③ the water drained away to the sea FLOW, pour, trickle, stream, run, rush, gush, flood, surge, leak, ooze, seep, dribble, issue, filter, bleed, leach ④ more people would just drain our resources USE UP, exhaust, deplete, consume, expend, get through, sap, strain, tax, milk, bleed ⑤ he drained his drink DRINK (UP/DOWN), gulp (down), guzzle, quaff, down, imbibe, sup, swal-

low, finish off, toss off, slug, *informal* sink, swig, swill (down), polish off, knock back, put away
—OPPOSITES fill

► **noun** ① *the drain filled with water* SEWER, channel, conduit, ditch, culvert, duct, pipe, gutter, trough, sluice, spillway, race, flume, chute ② *a drain on the budget* STRAIN, pressure, burden, load, tax, demand

dram ► **noun** DRINK, nip, tot, sip, drop, finger, splash, little, spot, taste

drama ► **noun** ① *a television drama* PLAY, show, piece, theatrical work, dramatization See lists at PLAY, THEATRE ② *he is studying drama* ACTING, the theatre, the stage, the performing arts, dramatic art, stagecraft ③ *she liked to create a drama* INCIDENT, scene, spectacle, crisis, excitement, thrill, sensation, disturbance, row, commotion, turmoil, dramatics, theatrics

dramatic ► **adjective** ① *dramatic art* THEATRICAL, theatric, thespian, stage dramaturgical, formal histrionic ② *a dramatic increase* CONSIDERABLE, substantial, sizeable, goodly, fair, marked, noticeable, measurable, perceptible, obvious, appreciable, significant, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, extraordinary, exceptional, phenomenal, *informal* tidy ③ *there were dramatic scenes in the city* EXCITING, stirring, action-packed, sensational, spectacular, startling, unexpected, tense, gripping, riveting, fascinating, thrilling, hair-raising, rousing, lively, electrifying, impassioned, moving ④ *dramatic headlines* STRIKING, impressive, imposing, spectacular, breathtaking, dazzling, sensational, awesome, awe-inspiring, remarkable, outstanding, incredible, phenomenal ⑤ *a dramatic gesture* EXAGGERATED, theatrical, ostentatious, acty, stagy, showy, melodramatic, overdone, histrionic, affected, mannered, artificial, *informal* hammy, ham, campy
—OPPOSITES insignificant, boring

dramatist ► **noun** PLAYWRIGHT, writer, scriptwriter, screenwriter, scenarist, dramaturge See list

dramatize ► **verb** ① *the novel was dramatized for television* TURN INTO A PLAY, FILM, adapt for the stage/screen ② *the tabloids dramatized the event* EXAGGERATE, overdo, overstate, hyperbolize, magnify, amplify, inflate, sensationalize, embroider, colour, aggrandize, embellish, elaborate, *informal* blow up (out of all proportion)

drape ► **verb** ① *she draped a shawl round her* WRAP, wind, swathe, sling, hang ② *the chair was draped with blankets* COVER, envelop, swathe, shroud, deck, festoon, overlay, cloak, wind, enfold, sheathe ③ *he draped one leg over the arm of his chair* DANGLE, hang, suspend, droop, drop

drastic ► **adjective** EXTREME, serious, desperate, radical, far-reaching, momentous, substantial, heavy, severe, harsh, rigorous, oppressive, draconian
—OPPOSITES moderate

draught ► **noun** ① *the draught made Rohyn shiver* CURRENT OF AIR, rush of air, waft, wind, breeze, gust, puff, blast, *informal* blow ② *a deep draught of beer* GULP, drink, swallow, mouthful, slug, *informal* swig, swill.

draw ► **verb** ① *he drew the house* SKETCH, make a drawing (of), delineate, outline, draft, rough out, illustrate, render, represent, trace; portray,

depict ② *she drew her chair in to the table* PULL, haul, drag, tug, heave, lug, trail, tow, *informal* yank ③ *the train drew into the station* MOVE, go, come, proceed, progress, travel, advance, pass, drive, inch, roll, glide, cruise, forge, sweep, back ④ *she drew the curtains* CLOSE, shut, pull to, lower, open, part, pull back, pull open, fling open, raise ⑤ *he drew some fluid off the knee joint* DRAIN, extract, withdraw, remove, suck, pump, siphon, milk, bleed, tap ⑥ *he drew his gun* PULL OUT, take out, produce, fish out, extract, withdraw, unsheathe ⑦ *I drew £50 out of the bank* WITHDRAW, take out ⑧ *while I draw breath* BREATHE IN, inhale, inspire, respire ⑨ *she was drawing huge audiences* ATTRACT, interest, win, capture, catch, engage, lure, entice, absorb, occupy, rivet, engross, fascinate, mesmerize, spellbind, captivate, enthrall, grip ⑩ *what conclusion can we draw?* DEDUCE, infer, conclude, derive, gather, glean

► **noun** ① *she won the Christmas draw* RAFFLE, lottery, sweepstake, sweep, tombola, ballot, *N Amer* lotto ② *the match ended in a draw* TIE, dead heat, stalemate ③ *the draw of central London* ATTRACTION, lure, allure, pull, appeal, glamour, enticement, temptation, charm, seduction, fascination, magnetism

■ **draw on** CALL ON, have recourse to, avail oneself of, turn to, look to, fall back on, rely on, exploit, use, employ, utilize, bring into play

■ **draw something out** ① *he drew out a gun* See DRAW verb sense 6 ② *they always drew their parting out* PROLONG, protract, drag out, spin out, string out, extend, lengthen

■ **draw someone out** ENCOURAGE TO TALK, put at ease

■ **draw up** STOP, pull up, halt, come to a standstill, brake, park, arrive

■ **draw something up** ① *we drew up a list* COMPOSE, formulate, frame, write down, draft, prepare, think up, devise, work out, create, invent, design ② *he drew up his forces in battle array* ARRANGE, marshal, muster, assemble, group, order, range, rank, line up, dispose, position, array

drawback ► **noun** DISADVANTAGE, snag, downside, stumbling block, catch, hitch, pitfall, fly in the ointment, weak spot/point, weakness, imperfection, handicap, limitation, trouble, difficulty, problem, complication, hindrance, obstacle, impediment, obstruction, inconvenience, discouragement, deterrent, *Bnt* spanner in the works, *informal* minus, hiccup
—OPPOSITES benefit

drawing ► **noun** SKETCH, picture, illustration, representation, portrayal, delineation, depiction, composition, study, diagram, outline, design, plan

—RELATED TERMS graphic

drawl ► **verb** SAY SLOWLY, speak slowly, drone

drawn ► **adjective** *she looked pale and drawn* PINCHED, haggard, drained, wan, hollow-cheeked, fatigued, tired, exhausted, tense, stressed, strained, worried, anxious, harassed, fraught, *informal* hassled

dread ► **verb** *I used to dread going to school* FEAR, be afraid of, worry about, be anxious about, have forebodings about, be terrified by, tremble/shudder at, shrink from, quail from, flinch from, *informal* get cold feet about



► **noun** *she was filled with dread* FEAR, apprehension, trepidation, anxiety, worry, concern, foreboding, disquiet, unease, angst, fright, panic, alarm; terror, horror, *informal* the jitters, the heebie-jeebies

—OPPOSITES confidence

► **adjective** *a dread secret* AWFUL, frightful, terrible, horrible, dreadful, feared, frightening, alarming, terrifying, dire, dreaded

dreadful ► **adjective** ① *a dreadful accident* TERRIBLE, frightful, horrible, grim, awful, dire, horrifying, alarming, shocking, distressing, appalling, harrowing, ghastly, fearful, horrendous, tragic, calamitous, *formal* grievous ② *a dreadful meal* UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, nasty, frightful, shocking, awful, abysmal, atrocious, disgraceful, deplorable, very bad, repugnant, poor, inadequate, inferior, unsatisfactory, distasteful, *informal* pathetic, woeful, crummy, rotten, sorry, third-rate, lousy, ropy, God-awful, *Brit informal* duff, chronic, rubbish ③ *you're a dreadful flirt* OUTRAGEOUS, shocking, inordinate, immoderate, unrestrained

—OPPOSITES pleasant, agreeable

dreadfully ► **adverb** ① *I'm dreadfully hungry* EXTREMELY, very, really, exceedingly, tremendously, exceptionally, extraordinarily, decidedly, most, particularly, *N English* right, *informal* terrifically, terribly, desperately, awfully, devilishly, mega, seriously, majorly, *Brit informal* jolly, ever so, dead, well, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful, *informal*, dated frightfully ② *she missed James dreadfully* VERY MUCH, much, lots, a lot, a great deal, intensely, desperately ③ *the company performed dreadfully* TERRIBLY, awfully, very badly, atrociously, appallingly, abominably, poorly, *informal* abysmally, pitifully, diabolically

dream ► **noun** ① *I awoke from my dreams* REM sleep, nightmare, vision, fantasy, hallucination ② *she went around in a dream* DAYDREAM, reverie, trance, daze, stupor, haze, *Scottish* dwam ③ *he realized his childhood dream* AMBITION, aspiration, hope, goal, aim, objective, goal, intention, intent, target, desire, wish, yearning, daydream, fantasy, pipe dream ④ *he's an absolute dream* DELIGHT, joy, marvel, wonder, gem, treasure, beauty, vision

► **verb** ① *she dreamed of her own funeral* HAVE A DREAM, have a nightmare ② *I dreamt of making the Olympic team* FANTASIZE ABOUT, daydream about, WISH FOR, hope for, long for, yearn for, hanker after, set one's heart on, aspire to, aim for, set one's sights on. ③ *she's always dreaming* DAYDREAM, be in a trance, be lost in thought, be preoccupied, be abstracted, stare into space, be in cloud cuckoo land, muse ④ *I wouldn't dream of being late*. THINK, consider, contemplate, conceive

► **adjective** *his dream home* IDEAL, perfect, fantasy

■ **dream something up** THINK UP, invent, concoct, devise, hatch, contrive, create, work out, come up with, *informal* cook up

dreamer ► **noun** FANTASIST, daydreamer; romantic, sentimentalist, idealist, wishful thinker, Don Quixote; Utopian, visionary.

—OPPOSITES realist

dreamland ► **noun** ① *I drift off to dreamland*: SLEEP; humorous the land of Nod ② *they must be living in dreamland*. THE LAND OF MAKE-BELIEVE, fairyland, cloud cuckoo land; paradise, Utopia, heaven, Shangri-La.

dreamlike ► **adjective** UNREAL, illusory, imaginary, unsubstantial, chimerical, ethereal, phantasmagorical, trance-like, surreal, nightmarish, Kafkaesque, hazy, shadowy, faint, indistinct, unclear, poetic/literary illusive

dreamy ► **adjective** ① *a dreamy expression* DAY DREAMING, dreaming, pensive, thoughtful, reflective, meditative, ruminative, lost in thought, preoccupied, distracted, rapt, inattentive, wool-gathering, vague, absorbed, absent-minded, with one's head in the clouds, in a world of one's own, *informal* miles away ② *he was dreamy as a child* IDEALISTIC, romantic, starry-eyed, impractical, unrealistic, Utopian, quixotic, *Brit informal* airy-fairy ③ *a dreamy recollection* DREAMLIKE, vague, dim, hazy, shadowy, faint, indistinct, unclear ④ *(informal) the prince was really dreamy* ATTRACTIVE, handsome, good-looking; appealing, lovely, delightful, *informal* heavenly, divine, gorgeous, hot, cute

—OPPOSITES alert, practical, clear, ugly

dreary ► **adjective** ① *a dreary day at school* DULL, drab, uninteresting, flat, tedious, wearisome, boring, unexciting, unstimulating, uninspiring, soul-destroying, humdrum, monotonous, uneventful, unremarkable, featureless ② *she thought of dreary things* SAD, miserable, depressing, gloomy, sombre, grave, mournful, melancholic, joyless, cheerless ③ *a dreary day* GLOOMY, dismal, dull, dark, dingy, murky, overcast, depressing, sombre

—OPPOSITES exciting, cheerful, bright

dregs ► **plural noun** ① *the dregs from a bottle of wine* SEDIMENT, deposit, residue, accumulation, sludge, lees, grounds, settlings, remains, technical residuum, archaic grouts ② *the dregs of humanity* SCUM, refuse, riff-raff, outcasts, deadbeats, the underclass, the untouchables, the lowest of the low, the great unwashed, the hoi polloi, *informal* trash, *Brit informal* dossers

drench ► **verb** SOAK, saturate, wet through, permeate, douse, souse, drown, swamp, inundate, flood, steep, bathe

dress ► **verb** ① *he dressed quickly* PUT ON CLOTHES, clothe oneself, get dressed ② *she was dressed in a suit* CLOTHE, attire, garb, deck out, trick out/up, costume, array, robe; *informal* get up, doll up, archaic apparel ③ *they dress for dinner every day* WEAR FORMAL CLOTHES, wear evening dress, dress up. ④ *she enjoyed dressing the tree* DECORATE, trim, deck, adorn, ornament, embellish, beautify, prettify, festoon, garland, garnish ⑤ *they dressed his wounds* BANDAGE, cover, bind, wrap, swathe ⑥ *she had to dress the chickens*. PREPARE, get ready; clean. ⑦ *the field was dressed with manure* FERTILIZE, enrich, manure, mulch, compost, top-dress. ⑧ *he dressed Michelle's hair* STYLE, groom, arrange, do, comb, brush, preen, primp; *informal* fix. ⑨ *(Military) the battalion dressed its ranks*. LINE UP, align, straighten, arrange, order, dispose; fall in.

► **noun** ① *a long blue dress*. FROCK, gown, robe, shift. See list ② *full evening dress*: CLOTHES, clothing, garments, attire; costume, outfit, ensemble, garb, turnout; *informal* gear, get-up, togs, duds, glad rags; *Brit. informal* clobber; *N. Amer informal* threads; *formal* apparel; archaic raiment

—RELATED TERMS sartorial.

■ **dress down** DRESS INFORMALLY, dress casually; *informal* slob around.

■ **dress someone down** (informal). See REPRI-MAND verb

■ **dress up** ① *Angela loved dressing up* DRESS SMARTLY, dress formally, wear evening dress, informal doll oneself up, put on one's glad rags ② *Hugh dressed up as Santa Claus* DISGUISE ONE SELF, dress, put on fancy dress, put on a costume

■ **dress something up** PRESENT, represent, portray, depict, characterize, embellish, enhance, touch up, embroider

Dresses

baby-doll dress	pinafare dress
backless dress	polonaise
ballgown	pouf dress
button-through dress	sack dress
chemise	sarong
cheongsam	sari
coat dress	shamma
cocktail dress	sheath dress
chemise	shift dress
dinner gown	shirt dress
diirdl	shirtwaister
Empire line dress	short waist
evening gown	skimmer
gymslip	slip dress
kaftan	smock
kimono	strapless dress
maternity dress	sundress
maxidress	tea gown
minidress	tent dress
Mother Hubbard	tube dress
muumuu	wedding dress
overdress	yukata

dressing ▶ noun ① *salad dressing* SAUCE, relish, condiment, dip ② *they put fresh dressings on her burns* BANDAGE, covering, plaster, gauze, lint, compress ③ *a soil dressing* FERTILIZER, mulch, manure, compost, dung, bonemeal, fishmeal, guano, top-dressing

dressmaker ▶ noun TAILOR, seamstress, needlewoman, outfitter, costumer, clothier, couturier, designer, *dated* modiste
—RELATED TERMS sartorial

dressy ▶ adjective SMART, formal, elaborate, ornate, stylish, elegant, chic, fashionable, informal snappy, snazzy, natty, trendy
—OPPOSITES casual

dribble ▶ verb ① *the baby started to dribble* DROOL, slaver, slobber, salivate, drivel, water at the mouth, *Scottish & Irish* slabber ② *rainwater dribbled down her face* TRICKLE, drip, fall, drizzle, ooze, seep

▶ noun ① *there was dribble on his chin* SALIVA, spittle, spit, slaver, slobber, drool ② *a dribble of sweat* TRICKLE, drip, dribble, stream, drizzle, drop, splash

dried ▶ adjective DEHYDRATED, desiccated, dry, dried up, moistureless.

drift ▶ verb ① *his raft drifted down the river*: BE CARRIED, be borne; float, bob, waft, meander ② *the guests drifted away*: WANDER, meander, stray, potter, dawdle, *Brit informal* mooch ③ *don't allow your attention to drift*. STRAY, digress, deviate, diverge, veer, get sidetracked. ④ *snow drifted over the path*: PILE UP, bank up, heap up, accumulate, gather, amass.

▶ noun ① *a drift from the country to urban areas*. MOVEMENT, shift, flow, transfer, relocation, gravitation ② *the pilot had not noticed any drift* DEVIATION, digression ③ *he caught the drift of her thoughts* GIST, essence, meaning, sense, substance, significance, thrust, import, tenor; implication, intention, direction, course ④ *a drift of deep snow* PILE, heap, bank, mound, mass, accumulation

drifter ▶ noun WANDERER, traveller, transient, roamer, tramp, vagabond, vagrant, *N Amer* hobo

drill ▶ noun ① *a hydraulic drill* DRILLING TOOL, boring tool, auger, (brace and) bit, gimlet, awl, bradawl ② *they learned military discipline and drill* TRAINING, instruction, coaching, teaching, (physical) exercises, workout, informal square-bashing ③ *Estelle knew the drill* PROCEDURE, routine, practice, regimen, programme, schedule, method, system

▶ verb ① *drill the piece of wood* BORE A HOLE IN, make a hole in, bore, pierce, puncture, perforate ② *a sergeant drilling new recruits* TRAIN, instruct, coach, teach, discipline, exercise, put someone through their paces ③ *his mother had drilled politeness into him* INSTIL, hammer, drive, drum, din, implant, ingrain, teach, indoctrinate, brainwash

drink ▶ verb ① *she drank her coffee* SWALLOW, gulp down, quaff, guzzle, sup, imbibe, sip, consume, drain, toss off, slug, informal swig, down, knock back, put away, neck, sink, swill ② *he never drank* DRINK ALCOHOL, tipple, indulge, carouse, informal hit the bottle, booze, knock a few back, have one over the eight, get tanked up, go on a bender, *Brit informal* bevvy, *N Amer informal* bend one's elbow ③ *let's drink to success* TOAST, salute

▶ noun ① *he took a sip of his drink* BEVERAGE, liquid refreshment, dram, bracer, nightcap, nip, tot, pint, *Brit informal* bevvy, humorous libation; archaic potation See list ② *she turned to drink* ALCOHOL, (intoxicating) liquor, alcoholic drink, informal booze, hooch, the hard stuff, firewater, rotgut, moonshine, the bottle, the sauce, grog, Dutch courage See lists at ALCOHOL, BEER, COCKTAIL, SHERRY, WHISKY, WINE ③ *she took a drink of her wine* SWALLOW, gulp, sip, draught, slug, informal swig, swill ④ *a drink of orange juice* GLASS, cup, mug ⑤ (informal) *he fell into the drink* THE SEA, the ocean, the water, informal the briny, Davy Jones's locker, poetic/literary the deep

■ **drink something in** ABSORB, assimilate, digest, ingest, take in, be rapt in, be lost in, be fascinated by, pay close attention to

drinkable ▶ adjective FIT TO DRINK, palatable, pure, clean, safe, unpolluted, untainted, uncontaminated; formal potable

drinker ▶ noun DRUNKARD, drunk, inebriate, imbibor, tippler, sot, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, alcohol-abuser, informal boozier, soak, lush, wino, alky, sponge, barfly, *Austral/NZ informal* hophead, archaic toper.

—OPPOSITES teetotaler

drip ▶ verb ① *there was a tap dripping* DRIBBLE, drop, leak ② *sweat dripped from his chin*. DROP, dribble, trickle, drizzle, run, splash, plop; leak, emanate, issue

▶ noun ① *a bucket to catch the drips*. DROP, dribble, spot, trickle, splash ② (informal) *that drip who fancies you*: WEAKLING, nunny, milksop, namby-

d

Soft Drinks

See also COFFEE, TEA.

WATER OR WATER-BASED

barley water
bitter lemon
carbonated water
cherryade
citron pressé
club soda (trademark)
cola
coffee
cordial
cream soda
crush
dandelion and burdock
fruit juice
fruit tea
ginger ale
ginger beer
herbal tea/infusion
horchata
iced tea
isotonic drink
lemonade
lemon tea
limeade
maté
mineral water

orangeade
orgeat
prairie oyster
root beer
St Clements
sarsaparilla
seltzer water
soda water
sports drink
spring water
sherbet
squash
tea
tisane
tonic water
Vichy water

MILK OR MILK-BASED

buttermilk
cocoa
drinking chocolate
hot chocolate
ice milk
lassi
malted milk
milkshake
soya milk

pamby, crybaby, softie, doormat, *informal* wimp, weed, sissy, *Bnt informal* wet, big girl's blouse, *N Amer informal* pantywaist, pussy, wuss

drive ▶ **verb** ① I can't drive a car OPERATE, handle, manage, pilot, steer ② he drove to the police station TRAVEL BY CAR, motor ③ I'll drive you to the airport CHAUFFEUR, run, give someone a lift, take, ferry, transport, convey, carry ④ the engine drives the front wheels POWER, propel, move, push ⑤ he drove a nail into the boot HAMMER, screw, ram, sink, plunge, thrust, propel, knock ⑥ she drove her cattle to market IMPEL, urge, herd, round-up, shepherd ⑦ a desperate mother driven to crime FORCE, compel, prompt, precipitate, oblige, coerce, pressure, goad, spur, prod ⑧ he drove his staff extremely hard WORK, push, tax, exert

▶ **noun** ① an afternoon drive EXCURSION, outing, trip, jaunt, tour, ride, run, journey; *informal* spin ② the house has a long drive DRIVEWAY, approach, access road ③ sexual drive URGE, appetite, desire, need, impulse, instinct ④ she lacked the drive to succeed MOTIVATION, ambition, single-mindedness, will power, dedication, doggedness, tenacity, enthusiasm, zeal, commitment, aggression, spirit, energy, vigour, verve, vitality, pep, *informal* get-up-and-go ⑤ an anti-corruption drive CAMPAIGN, crusade, movement, effort, push, appeal ⑥ (*Bnt*) a whist drive TOUR NAMENT, competition, contest, event, match

■ **drive at** SUGGEST, imply, hint at, allude to, intimate, insinuate, indicate, refer to, mean, intend, *informal* get at

drivel ▶ **noun** he was talking complete drivel NON SENSE, twaddle, claptrap, balderdash, gibberish, rubbish, mumbo-jumbo, *N Amer* garbage; *informal* rot, poppycock, phooey, piffle, tripe, bosh, bull, hogwash, baloney, *Bnt informal* cobblers, codswallop, waffle, tosh, double Dutch, *N Amer*

informal flapdoodle, bushwa, *informal*, dated tommymot, bunkum

▶ **verb** you always drivel on TALK NONSENSE, talk rubbish, babble, ramble, gibber, blather, blether, prattle, gabble, *Bnt informal* waffle, witter

driver ▶ **noun** MOTORIST, chauffeur, pilot, operator

drizzle ▶ **noun** ① they shivered in the drizzle FINE RAIN, light shower, spray, *N English* mizzle ② a drizzle of sour cream TRICKLE, dribble, drip, stream, rivulet, sprinkle, sprinkling

▶ **verb** ① it's beginning to drizzle RAIN LIGHTLY, shower, spot, *Bnt* spit, *N English* mizzle, *N Amer* sprinkle ② drizzle the cream over the jelly TRICKLE, drip, dribble, pour, splash, sprinkle

droll ▶ **adjective** FUNNY, humorous, amusing, comic, comical, mirthful, hilarious, clownish, farcical, zany, quirky, jocular, light-hearted, facetious, witty, whimsical, wry, tongue-in-cheek, *informal* waggish, wacky, side-splitting, rib-tickling
-OPPOSITES serious

drone ▶ **verb** ① a plane droned overhead HUM, buzz, whirr, vibrate, murmur, rumble, purr ② he droned on about right and wrong SPEAK BORINGLY, go on and on, talk at length, intone, pontificate, *informal* spout, sound off, jaw, spiel, speechify

▶ **noun** ① the drone of aircraft taking off HUM, buzz, whirr, vibration, murmur, purr ② drones supported by taxpayers' money HANGER-ON, parasite, leech, passenger, idler, loafer, layabout, good-for-nothing, do-nothing, *informal* lazybones, scrounger, sponger, cadger, freeloader, blood-sucker, waster, slacker

drool ▶ **verb** his mouth was drooling SALIVATE, dribble, slaver, slobber, *Scottish & Irish* slabber

▶ **noun** a fine trickle of drool SALIVA, spit, spittle, dribble, slaver, slobber

droop ▶ **verb** ① the dog's tail is drooping HANG (DOWN), dangle, sag, flop, wilt, sink, slump, drop, drape ② his eyelids were drooping CLOSE, shut, fall ③ the news made her droop BE DEPONDENT, lose heart, give up hope, become dispirited, become dejected, flag, languish, wilt

droopy ▶ **adjective** HANGING (DOWN), dangling, falling, dropping, draped, bent, bowed, stooping, sagging, flopping, wilting

drop ▶ **verb** ① Eric dropped the box LET FALL, let go of, lose one's grip on, release, unhand, relinquish ② water drops from the cave roof DRIP, fall, dribble, trickle, run, plop, leak ③ a plane dropped out of the sky FALL, descend, plunge, plummet, dive, nosedive, tumble, pitch ④ she dropped to her knees FALL, sink, collapse, slump, tumble ⑤ (*informal*) I was dropping with exhaustion COLLAPSE, faint, pass out, black out, swoon, keel over, *informal* flake out, conk out ⑥ the track dropped from the ridge SLOPE DOWN, WARD, slant downwards, descend, go down, fall away, sink, dip ⑦ the exchange rate dropped DECREASE, lessen, reduce, diminish, depreciate; fall, decline, dwindle, sink, slump, plunge, plummet ⑧ pupils can drop history if they wish GIVE UP, finish with, withdraw from, discontinue, end, stop, cease, halt, abandon, forgo, relinquish, dispense with, have done with, *informal* pack in, quit ⑨ he was dropped from the team EXCLUDE, discard, expel, oust, throw out, leave

out, dismiss, discharge, let go, *informal* boot out, kick out, turf out **10** he dropped his unsuitable friends **ABANDON**, desert, throw over, renounce, disown, turn one's back on, wash one's hands of, reject, give up, cast off, neglect, shun, *poetic/literary* forsake **11** he dropped all reference to compensation **OMIT**, leave out, eliminate, take out, miss out, delete, cut, ease **12** the taxi dropped her off **DELIVER**, bring, take, convey, carry, transport, leave, unload **13** drop the gun on the ground **PUT**, place, deposit, set, lay, leave, *informal* pop, plonk **14** she dropped names **MENTION**, refer to, hint at, bring up, raise, broach, introduce, show off **15** the team has yet to drop a point **LOSE**, concede, give away

—OPPOSITES lift, rise, increase, keep, win

► **noun** **1** a drop of water **DROPLET**, blob, globule, bead, bubble, tear, dot, *informal* glob **2** it needs a drop of oil **SMALL AMOUNT**, little, bit, dash, spot, dribble, dribble, sprinkle, trickle, splash, dab, speck, smattering, sprinkling, modicum, *informal* smidgen, tad **3** an acid drop **SWEET**, lozenge, pastille, bonbon, *N Amer* candy **4** a small drop in profits **DECREASE**, reduction, decline, fall-off, downturn, slump, cut, cutback, curtailment, depreciation **5** I walked to the edge of the drop **CLIFF**, abyss, chasm, gorge, gully, precipice, slope, descent, incline **6** the hangman measured her for the drop **HANGING**, gibbeting, execution, *informal* stringing up

—OPPOSITES increase

■ **drop back/behind** **FALL BACK/BEHIND**, get left behind, lag behind, straggle, linger, dawdle, dally, hang back, loiter, bring/take up the rear, *informal* dilly-dally

■ **drop off** **1** trade dropped off sharply *See* **DROP** verb sense 7 **2** she kept dropping off **FALL ASLEEP**, doze (off) nap, catnap, drowse, *informal* nod off, drift off, snooze, take forty winks

■ **drop out of** he dropped out of his studies *See* **DROP** verb sense 8

dropout ► **noun** **NONCONFORMIST**, hippy, beatnik, bohemian, free spirit, rebel, idler, layabout, loafer, *informal* oddball, deadbeat, waster

droppings ► **plural noun** **EXCREMENT**, excreta, faeces, stools, dung, ordure, manure, *informal* poo

dross ► **noun** **RUBBISH**, junk, debris, chaff, detritus, flotsam and jetsam, *N Amer* garbage, trash, *informal* dreck

drought ► **noun** **DRY SPELL**, lack of rain, shortage of water

drove ► **noun** **1** a drove of cattle **HERD**, flock, pack **2** they came in droves **CROWD**, swarm, horde, multitude, mob, throng, host, mass, army, herd

drown ► **verb** **1** he nearly drowned **SUFFOCATE** *IN WATER*, inhale water, go to a watery grave **2** the valleys were drowned **FLOOD**, submerge, immerse, inundate, deluge, swamp, engulf **3** his voice was drowned out by the footsteps **MAKE INAUDIBLE**, overpower, overwhelm, override, muffle, deaden, stifle, extinguish

drowse ► **verb** they like to drowse in the sun **DOZE**, nap, catnap, rest, *informal* snooze, get forty winks, get some shut-eye, *Brit informal* kip, *N Amer informal* catch some Zs.

► **noun** she had been woken from her drowse **DOZE**, light sleep, nap, catnap, rest, *informal* snooze, forty winks, shut-eye; *Brit informal* kip

drowsy ► **adjective** **1** the tablet made her drowsy **SLEEPY**, dozy, heavy-eyed, groggy, somnolent, tired, weary, fatigued, exhausted, yawning, nodding, lethargic, sluggish, torpid, listless, languid, *informal* 'noozy, dopey, yawny, dead beat, all in, dog-tired, *Brit informal* knackered **2** a drowsy afternoon **SOPORIFIC**, sleep-inducing, sleepy, somniferous, narcotic, sedative, tranquilizing, lulling, soothing

—OPPOSITES alert, invigorating

drubbing ► **noun** **1** I gave him a good drubbing **BEATING**, thrashing, walloping, thumping, battering, pounding, pummeling, slapping, punching, pelting, *informal* hammering, licking, clobbering, belting, bashing, pasting, tanning, hiding, kicking **2** (informal) Scotland's 3-0 drubbing by France *See* **DEFEAT** noun sense 1

drudge ► **noun** a household drudge **MENIAL WORK**, slave, lackey, servant, labourer, worker, maid/man of all work, *informal* gofer, runner, *Brit informal* dogsbody, skivvy, *Brit dated* charwoman, charlady, char

► **verb** (archaic) he drudged in the fields *See* **TOIL** verb sense 1

drudgery ► **noun** **HARD WORK**, menial work, donkey work, toil, labour, chores, *informal* skivvy, *Brit informal* graft, *Austral/NZ informal* (hard) yakka

drug ► **noun** **1** drugs prescribed by doctors **MEDICINE**, medication, medicament, remedy, cure, antidote **2** she was under the influence of drugs **NARCOTIC**, stimulant, hallucinogen, *informal* dope, gear, downer, upper

► **verb** **1** he was drugged **ANAESTHETIZE**, narcotize, poison, knock out, stupefy, *informal* dope **2** she drugged his coffee **ADD DRUGS TO**, tamper with, adulterate, contaminate, lace, poison, *informal* dope, spike, doctor

drugged ► **adjective** **STUPEFIED**, insensible, befuddled, delirious, hallucinating, narcotized, anaesthetized, knocked out, *informal* stoned, high (as a kite), doped, tripping, spaced out, wasted, wrecked, off one's head

—OPPOSITES sober

drum ► **noun** **1** the beat of a drum *percussion instrument*, bongo, tom-tom, snare drum, kettle-drum, *historical* tambour *See list at PERCUSSION* **2** the steady drum of raindrops **BEAT**, rhythm, patter, tap, pounding, thump, thud, rattle, pitter-patter, pit-a-pat, rat-a-tat, thrum **3** a drum of radioactive waste **CANISTER**, barrel, cylinder, tank, bin, can, container

► **verb** **1** she drummed her fingers on the desk **TAP**, beat, rap, thud, thump, tattoo, thrum **2** the rules were drummed into us at school **INSTIL**, drive, din, hammer, drill, drub, implant, ingrain, inculcate

■ **drum someone out** **EXPEL**, dismiss, throw out, oust, drive out, get rid of, exclude, banish, *informal* give someone the boot, boot out, kick out, give someone their marching orders, give someone the push, show someone the door, send packing, *Military* cashier.

■ **drum something up** **ROUND UP**, gather, collect, summon, attract, canvass, solicit, petition

drunk ► **adjective** **INTOXICATED**, inebriated, drunken, incapable, tipsy, the worse for drink, under the influence, *informal* tight, merry, in one's cups, three sheets to the wind, pie-eyed, plastered, smashed, wrecked, wasted, sloshed, soused, sozzled, blotto, stewed, pickled, tanked



(up), off one's face, out of one's head, ratted, *Brnt informal* legless, bevvied, paralytic, Brahms and Liszt, half cut, out of it, bladdered, trolleyed, squiffy, tiddly, *N Amer informal* loaded, trashed, juiced, sauced, out of one's gourd, in the bag, zoned, *euphemistic* tired and emotional, *informal*, *dated* lit up

—OPPOSITES sober

► **noun** DRUNKARD, inebriate, drinker, tippler, imbibor, sot, heavy drinker, problem drinker, alcoholic, dipsomaniac, *informal* boozier, soak, lush, wino, alky, sponge, barfly, tosspot, *Austral/NZ informal* hophead, metho, *archaic* toper

—OPPOSITES teetotaler

drunken ► **adjective** ① a drunken driver See DRUNK **adjective** ② a drunken all-night party DE BAUCHED, dissipated, carousing, roistering, intemperate, unrestrained, uninhibited, abandoned, bacchanalian, bacchic, *informal* boozy

drunkenness ► **noun** INTOXICATION, inebriation, insobriety, tipsiness, intemperance, overindulgence, debauchery, heavy drinking, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, dipsomania

dry ► **adjective** ① the dry desert ARID, parched, droughty, scorched, baked, waterless, moistureless, rainless, dehydrated, desiccated, thirsty, bone dry. ② dry leaves PARCHED, dried, withered, shrivelled, wilted, wizened, crisp, crispy, brittle, dehydrated, desiccated ③ the hamburgers were dry HARD, stale, old, past its best, off ④ a dry well WATERLESS, empty ⑤ I'm really dry. THIRSTY, dehydrated, *informal* parched, gasping ⑥ it was dry work. THIRSTY, thirst-making, hot, strenuous, arduous ⑦ dry toast UNBUTTERED, butterless, plain ⑧ the dry facts BARE, simple, basic, fundamental, stark, bald, hard, straightforward ⑨ a dry debate DULL, uninteresting, boring, unexciting, tedious, tiresome, wearisome, dreary, monotonous, unimaginative, sterile, flat, bland, lacklustre, stodgy, prosaic, humdrum, mundane; *informal* deadly ⑩ a dry sense of humour WRY, subtle, laconic, sharp, ironic, sardonic, sarcastic, cynical, satirical, mocking, droll, *informal* waggish, *Brnt informal* sarky ⑪ a dry response to his cordial advance UNEMOTIONAL, indifferent, impassive, cool, cold, emotionless, reserved, restrained, impersonal, formal, stuff, wooden ⑫ this is a dry state TEETOTAL, prohibitionist, alcohol-free, non-drinking, abstinent, sober, *informal* on the wagon. ⑬ dry white wine CRISP, sharp, piquant, tart, bitter.

—OPPOSITES wet, moist, fresh, lively, emotional, sweet

► **verb** ① the sun dried the ground PARCH, scorch, bake, dehydrate, desiccate, dehumidify ② dry the leaves completely DEHYDRATE, desiccate, wither, shrivel ③ he dried the dishes TOWEL, rub, mop up, blot up, soak up, absorb ④ she dried her eyes WIPE, rub, dab ⑤ methods of drying meat: DESICcate, dehydrate, preserve, cure, smoke

—OPPOSITES moisten

■ **dry out** GIVE UP DRINKING, give up alcohol, become teetotal, take the pledge; *informal* go on the wagon

■ **dry up** ① (informal) he dried up and didn't say another thing: STOP SPEAKING, stop talking, fall silent, shut up; forget one's words ② investment may dry up. DWINDLE, subside, peter out, wane, taper off, ebb, come to a halt/end, run out, give out, disappear, vanish.

dual ► **adjective** DOUBLE, twofold, binary, duplicate, twin, matching, paired, coupled

—OPPOSITES single

dub ► **verb** ① he was dubbed 'the world's sexiest man' NICKNAME, call, name, label, christen, term, tag, entitle, style; designate, characterize, nominate, *formal* denominate ② she dubbed a new knight KNIGHT, invest

dublety ► **noun** (formal) DOUBTFULNESS, uncertainty, unsureness, incertitude, ambiguity, ambivalence, confusion, hesitancy, doubt

dubious ► **adjective** ① I was rather dubious about the idea DOUBTFUL, uncertain, unsure, hesitant, undecided, indefinite, unresolved, up in the air, vacillating, irresolute, sceptical, suspicious, *informal* iffy ② a dubious businessman SUSPICIOUS, suspect, untrustworthy, unreliable, questionable, *informal* shady, fishy, *Brnt informal* dodgy

—OPPOSITES certain, trustworthy

duck¹ ► **noun** drake, duckling See lists at BIRD, FOWL

duck² ► **verb** ① he ducked behind the wall BOB DOWN, bend (down), stoop (down), crouch (down), squat (down), hunch down, hunker down, cower, cringe ② she was ducked in the river DIP, dunk, plunge, immerse, submerge, lower, sink ③ (informal) they cannot duck the issue forever SHIRK, dodge, evade, avoid, elude, escape, back out of, shun, eschew, sidestep, by-pass, circumvent, *informal* cop out of, get out of, wriggle out of, funk, *Austral/NZ informal* duck-shove

duct ► **noun** TUBE, channel, canal, vessel, conduit, culvert, pipe, pipeline, outlet, inlet, flue, shaft, vent, *Anatomy* ductus, ductule

ductile ► **adjective** ① ductile metals PLIABLE, pliant, flexible, supple, plastic, tensile, soft, malleable, workable, bendable, *informal* bendy ② a way to make people ductile DOCILE, obedient, submissive, meek, mild, lamblike, willing, accommodating, amenable, cooperative, compliant, malleable, tractable, biddable, persuadable

—OPPOSITES brittle, intransigent

dud (informal) ► **noun** their new product is a dud FAILURE, flop, let-down, disappointment, *Brnt* damp squib, *informal* washout, lemon, no-hoper, non-starter, dead loss, lead balloon, *N Amer informal* clinker

—OPPOSITES success

► **adjective** ① a dud typewriter DEFECTIVE, faulty, unsound, inoperative, broken, malfunctioning, *informal* bust, busted, kaput, conked out, *Brnt informal* duff, knackered ② a dud £50 note. COUNTERFEIT, fraudulent, forged, fake, faked, false, bogus, invalid, worthless; *informal* phoney

—OPPOSITES sound, genuine

dudgeon

■ in high dudgeon INDIGNANTLY, resentfully, angrily, furiously, in a temper, in anger, with displeasure; *informal* in a huff, in a paddy, as cross as two sticks, seeing red, *Brnt informal*, *dated* in a bate, in a wax.

due ► **adjective** ① their fees were due: OWING, owed, payable, outstanding, overdue, unpaid, unsettled, undischarged; *N Amer* delinquent. ② the chancellor's statement is due today: EXPECTED, anticipated, scheduled for, awaited, required. ③ the respect due to a great artist: DESERVED BY, merited by, warranted by; appropriate to, fit for, fitting for, right for, proper to.

① he drove without due care. **PROPER**, correct, rightful, suitable, appropriate, apt, adequate, sufficient, enough, satisfactory, requisite

► **noun** ① he attracts more criticism than is his due **RIGHTFUL TREATMENT**, fair treatment, just punishment, right, entitlement, just deserts, *informal* comeuppance ② members have paid their dues **FEE**, subscription, charge, payment, contribution

► **adverb** he hiked due north **DIRECTLY**, straight, exactly, precisely, dead

■ **due to** ① her death was due to an infection **AT TRIBUTABLE TO**, caused by, ascribed to, because of, put down to ② the train was cancelled due to staff shortages **BECAUSE OF**, owing to, on account of, as a consequence of, as a result of, thanks to, in view of, *formal* by reason of

duel ► **noun** ① he was killed in a duel **MANO-A-MANO**, single combat, fight, confrontation, head-to-head, *informal* face-off, shoot-out, *archaic* rencounter ② a snooker duel **CONTEST**, match, game, meet, encounter

► **verb** they duelled with swords **FIGHT A DUEL**, fight, battle, combat, contend

duff ► **adjective** (*Brit informal*) See **BAD** sense 1

duffer ► **noun** (*informal*) See **DUNCE**

dulcet ► **adjective** **SWEET**, soothing, mellow, honeyed, mellifluous, euphonious, pleasant, agreeable, melodious, melodic, lilting, lyrical, silvery, golden

—**OPPOSITES** harsh

dull ► **adjective** ① a dull novel **UNINTERESTING**, boring, tedious, monotonous, unrelieved, unvaried, unimaginative, uneventful, characterless, featureless, colourless, lifeless, insipid, unexciting, uninspiring, unstimulating, jejune, flat, bland, dry, stale, tired, banal, lacklustre, stodgy, dreary, humdrum, mundane, mind-numbing, soul-destroying, wearisome, tiring, tiresome, irksome, *informal* deadly, not up to much, *Brit informal* samey, *N Amer informal* dullsville ② a dull morning **OVERCAST**, cloudy, gloomy, dark, dismal, dreary, sombre, grey, murky, sunless ③ dull colours **DRAB**, dreary, sombre, dark, subdued, muted, lacklustre, faded, washed out, muddy ④ a dull sound **MUF FLED**, muted, quiet, soft, faint, indistinct, stifled, suppressed ⑤ the chisel became dull **BLUNT**, unsharpened, edgeless, worn down ⑥ a rather dull child **UNINTELLIGENT**, stupid, slow, witless, vacuous, empty-headed, brainless, mindless, foolish, idiotic, *informal* dense, dim, moronic, cretinous, half-witted, thick, dumb, dozey, bovine, slow on the uptake, wooden-headed, fat-headed ⑦ her cold made her feel dull **SLUGGISH**, lethargic, enervated, listless, languid, torpid, slow, sleepy, drowsy, weary, tired, fatigued; apathetic; *informal* dozey, dozey, yawny —**OPPOSITES** interesting, bright, loud, resonant, sharp, clever

► **verb** ① the pain was dulled by drugs **LESSEN**, decrease, diminish, reduce, dampen, blunt, deaden, allay, ease, soothe, assuage, alleviate ② sleep dulled her mind: **NUMB**, benumb, deaden, desensitize, stupefy, daze ③ the leaves are dulled by mildew **FADE**, bleach, decolorize, decolour, etiolate, ④ rain dulled the sky: **DARKEN**, blacken, dim, veil, obscure, shadow, fog ⑤ the sombre atmosphere dulled her spirit. **DAMPEN**, lower, depress, crush, sap, extinguish, smother, stifle.

—**OPPOSITES** intensify, enliven, enhance, brighten

dullard ► **noun** **IDIOT**, fool, stupid person, simpleton, ignoramus, oaf, dunce, dolt, *informal* duffer, moron, cretin, imbecile, nuncompoop, dope, chump, nitwit, dimwit, birdbrain, pea-brain, numbskull, fathead, dumb, dum-dum, donkey, *Brit informal* wally, berk, divvy, *N Amer informal* doofus, goof, bozo, dummy, *Austral /NZ informal* galah

duly ► **adverb** ① the document was duly signed **PROPERLY**, correctly, appropriately, suitably, fittingly ② he duly arrived to collect Alice **AT THE RIGHT TIME**, on time, punctually

dumb ► **adjective** ① she stood dumb while he shouted **MUTE**, speechless, tongue-tied, silent, at a loss for words, taciturn, uncommunicative, untalkative, tight-lipped, close-mouthed, *informal* mum ② (*informal*) he is not as dumb as you'd think **STUPID**, unintelligent, ignorant, dense, brainless, mindless, foolish, slow, dull, simple, empty-headed, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, half-baked, imbecilic, bovine, *informal* thick, dum, moronic, cretinous, dozey, dozy, thickheaded, wooden-headed, fat-headed, birdbrained, pea-brained, *Brit informal* datt

—**OPPOSITES** clever

dumbfound ► **verb** **ASTONISH**, astound, amaze, stagger, surprise, startle, stun, confound, stupefy, daze, nonplus, take aback, stop someone in their tracks, strike dumb, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast, *informal* flabbergast, floor, knock sideways, bowl over, *Brit informal* knock for six

dumbfounded ► **adjective** **ASTONISHED**, astounded, amazed, staggered, surprised, startled, stunned, confounded, nonplussed, stupefied, dazed, dumbstruck, open-mouthed, speechless, thunderstruck, taken aback, disconcerted, *informal* flabbergasted, flummoxed, *Brit informal* gobsmacked

dummy ► **noun** ① a shop-window dummy **MANNEQUIN**, model, figure ② the book is just a dummy **MOCK-UP**, imitation, likeness, lookalike, representation, substitute, sample, replica, reproduction, counterfeit, sham, fake, forgery, *informal* dupe ③ (*informal*) you're a dummy See **IDIOT**

► **adjective** a dummy attack on the airfield **SIMULATED**, feigned, pretended, practice, trial, mock, make-believe, *informal* pretend, phoney —**OPPOSITES** real

dump ► **noun** ① take the rubbish to the dump **TIP**, rubbish dump, rubbish heap, dumping ground, dustheap, slag heap ② (*informal*) the house is a dump **HOVEL**, shack, slum, mess, *informal* hole, pigsty

► **verb** ① he dumped his bag on the table **PUT DOWN**, set down, deposit, place, shove, unload, drop, throw down, *informal* stick, park, plonk, *Brit informal* bung, *N Amer informal* plunk ② they will dump asbestos at the site **DISPOSE OF**, get rid of, throw away/out, discard, bin, jettison, *informal* ditch, junk ③ (*informal*) he dumped her: **ABANDON**, desert, leave, jilt, break up with, finish with, throw over, *informal* walk out on, rat on, drop, ditch, chuck, give someone the elbow, *Brit informal* give someone the big E

dumps

■ **down in the dumps** (*informal*) **UNHAPPY**, sad, depressed, gloomy, glum, melancholy, miser-



able, dejected, despondent, dispirited, downhearted, downcast, down, low, heavy-hearted, dismal, desolate, tearful, upset, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, fed up

dummy ▶ *adjective* SHORT, squat, stubby, PLUMP, stout, chubby, chunky, portly, fat, bulky, *informal* tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, porky, *Brit informal* podgy

—OPPOSITES tall, slender

dun¹ ▶ *adjective* a *dun* cow GREYISH-BROWN, brownish, mousy, muddy, khaki, umber

dun² ▶ *verb* you can't *dun* me for her debts IMPOR TUNE, press, plague, pester, nag, harass, hound, badger, *informal* hassle, bug, *N English informal* mither

dunce ▶ *noun* FOOL, idiot, stupid person, simpleton, ignoramus, dullard, *informal* dummy, dumb, clot, thickhead, nitwit, dimwit, halfwit, moron, cretin, imbecile, dope, duffer, booby, chump, numbskull, nincompoop, fathead, airhead, birdbrain, pea-brain, ninny, ass, *Brit informal* wally, berk, divvy, *N Amer informal* doofus, goof, schmuck, bozo, lummo, *Austral / NZ informal* galah

—OPPOSITES genius

dune ▶ *noun* BANK, mound, hillock, hummock, knoll, ridge, heap, drift

dung ▶ *noun* MANURE, muck, excrement, faeces, droppings, ordure, cowpats

dungeon ▶ *noun* UNDERGROUND PRISON, oubliette, cell, jail, lock-up

dupe ▶ *verb* they were *duped* by a con man DE CEIVE, trick, hoodwink, hoax, swindle, defraud, cheat, double-cross, gull, mislead, take in, fool, inveigle, *informal* con, do, rip off, diddle, shaft, bilk, rook, pull the wool over someone's eyes, pull a fast one on, sell a pup to, *N Amer informal* sucker, snooker, *Austral informal* pull a swift on

▶ *noun* an innocent *dupe* in her game VICTIM, gull, pawn, puppet, instrument, fool, innocent, *informal* sucker, stooge, sitting duck, muggins, fall guy, *Brit informal* mug, *N Amer informal* pigeon, patsy, sap

duplicate ▶ *noun* a *duplicate* of the invoice COPY, carbon copy, photocopy, facsimile, mimeograph, reprint, replica, reproduction, clone, *informal* dupe, trademark Xerox, photostat

▶ *adjective* *duplicate* keys MATCHING, identical, twin, corresponding, equivalent

▶ *verb* ① she will *duplicate* the newsletter COPY, photocopy, photostat, xerox, mimeograph, reproduce, replicate, reprint, run off ② a feat difficult to *duplicate* REPEAT, do again, redo, replicate

duplicit ▶ *noun* DECEITFULNESS, deceit, deception, double-dealing, underhandedness, dishonesty, fraud, fraudulence, sharp practice, chicanery, trickery, subterfuge, skulduggery, treachery, *informal* crookedness, shadiness, dirty tricks, shenanigans, monkey business, *poetic/literary* perfidy.

—OPPOSITES honesty

durability ▶ *noun* IMPERISHABILITY, durableness, longevity, resilience, strength, sturdiness, toughness, robustness.

—OPPOSITES fragility.

durable ▶ *adjective* ① *durable* carpets HARD-WEARING, long-lasting, heavy-duty, tough, resistant, imperishable, indestructible, strong,

sturdy ② a *durable* peace LASTING, long-lasting, long-term, enduring, persistent, abiding, stable, secure, firm, deep-rooted, permanent, undying, everlasting

—OPPOSITES delicate, short-lived

duration ▶ *noun* FULL LENGTH, time, time span, time scale, period, term, span, fullness, length, extent, continuation

duress ▶ *noun* COERCION, compulsion, force, pressure, intimidation, constraint, threats, *informal* arm-twisting

during ▶ *conjunction* THROUGHOUT, through, in, in the course of, for the time of

dusk ▶ *noun* TWILIGHT, nightfall, sunset, sundown, evening, close of day, semi-darkness, gloom, murkiness, *poetic/literary* gloaming, eventide

—OPPOSITES dawn

dusky ▶ *adjective* ① the *dusky* countryside SHAD OY, dark, dim, gloomy, murky, shady, unlit, unilluminated, sunless, moonless ② (dated) a *dusky* maiden DARK-SKINNED, dark, olive-skinned, swarthy, ebony, black, tanned, bronzed, brown

—OPPOSITES bright, fair

dust ▶ *noun* ① the *desk* was covered in *dust* DIRT, grime, filth, smut, soot, fine powder ② they fought in the *dust* EARTH, soil, dirt, ground

▶ *verb* ① she *dusted* her mantelpiece WIPE, clean, brush, sweep, mop ② *dust* the cake with icing sugar SPRINKLE, scatter, powder, dredge, sift, cover, strew

dust-up ▶ *noun* (informal) See SCRAP² *noun*

dusty ▶ *adjective* ① the floor was *dusty* DIRTY, grimy, grubby, unclean, soiled, mucky, sooty, undusted, *informal* grungy, cruddy, *Brit informal* grotty ② *dusty* sandstone POWDERY, crumbly, chalky, friable, granular, gritty, sandy ③ a *dusty* pink MUTED, dull, faded, pale, pastel, subtle, greyish, darkish, dirty ④ (Brit) a *dusty* answer CURT, abrupt, terse, brusque, blunt, short, sharp, tart, gruff, offhand, *informal* snippy, snappy

—OPPOSITES clean, bright

dutiful ▶ *adjective* CONSCIENTIOUS, responsible, dedicated, devoted, attentive, obedient, compliant, submissive, biddable, deferential, reverent, reverential, respectful, good

—OPPOSITES remiss

duty ▶ *noun* ① she was free of any *duty* RESPONSIBILITY, obligation, commitment, allegiance, loyalty, faithfulness, fidelity, homage ② it was his *duty* to attend the king. JOB, task, assignment, mission, function, charge, place, role, responsibility, obligation, *dated* office ③ the *duty* was raised on alcohol TAX, levy, tariff, excise, toll, fee, payment, rate, dues

■ *off duty* NOT WORKING, at leisure, on holiday, on leave, off (work), free.

■ *on duty* WORKING, at work, busy, occupied, engaged, *informal* on the job, tied up

dwarf ▶ *noun* ① PERSON OF RESTRICTED GROWTH, small person, short person; midget, pygmy, manikin, homunculus. ② the wizard captured the dwarf GNOME, goblin, hobgoblin, troll, imp, elf, brownie, leprechaun

▶ *adjective* *dwarf* conifers MINIATURE, small, little, tiny, toy, pocket, diminutive, baby, pygmy, stunted, undersized, undersize; *Scottish* wee; *informal* mini, teeny, teeny-weeny, itsy-bitsy, tid-

dly, pint-sized, *Brit informal* titchy, *N Amer informal* little-bitty

—OPPOSITES *giant*

- **verb** ① *the buildings dwarf the trees* DOMINATE, tower over, loom over, overshadow, overtop
② *her progress was dwarfed by her sister's success* OVERSHADOW, outshine, surpass, exceed, outclass, outstrip, outdo, top, trump, transcend, diminish, minimize

dwell ► **verb** (*formal*) *gypsies dwell in these caves* RESIDE, live, be settled, be housed, lodge, stay, *informal* put up, *formal* abide, be domiciled

■ **dwell on** LINGER OVER, mull over, muse on, brood about/over, think about, be preoccupied by, be obsessed by, eat one's heart out over, harp on about, discuss at length

dwelling ► **noun** (*formal*) RESIDENCE, home, house, accommodation, lodging place, lodgings, quarters, rooms, *informal* place, pad, digs, *formal* abode, domicile, habitation See list at HOME

dwindle ► **verb** ① *the population dwindled* DIMINISH, decrease, reduce, lessen, shrink, fall off, tail off, drop, fall, slump, plummet, disappear, vanish, die out, *informal* nosedive ② *her career dwindled* DECLINE, deteriorate, fail, slip, slide, fade, go downhill, go to rack and ruin, *informal* go to pot, go to the dogs, hit the skids, go down the toilet, *Austral/NZ informal* go to the pack

—OPPOSITES *increase, flourish*

dye ► **noun** *a blue dye* COLOURANT, colouring, colour, dyestuff, pigment, tint, stain, wash See list

► **verb** *the gloves were dyed* COLOUR, tint, pigment, stain, wash

Dyes

See also COLOUR.

alizarin	gentian	purpurin
alkanet	violet	redde
aniline dye	henna	rhodamine
annatto	indigo	rosaniline
azo dye	induline	saffron
basic dye	kermes	sappanwood
cochineal	litmus	Saxon blue
copper	madder	tartrazine
sulphate	magenta	Turkey red
diazo	orchil	turmeric
compound	orpiment	Tyrian purple
eosin	Perkin's	weld
flavin	mauve	woad
fluorescein	phthalocyanine	xanthene dye
fuchsin	dye	zedoary
fustic	picric acid	
garancin	Prussian blue	

dyed-in-the-wool ► **adjective** INVETERATE, confirmed, entrenched, established, long-standing, deep-rooted, diehard, complete, absolute, thorough, thoroughgoing, out-and-out, true blue, firm, unshakeable, staunch, steadfast, committed, devoted, dedicated, loyal, un-

swerving, *N Amer* full-bore, *informal* deep-dyed, card-carrying

dying ► **adjective** ① *his dying aunt* TERMINALLY ILL, at death's door, on one's deathbed, near death, fading fast, expiring, moribund, not long for this world, in extremis, *informal* on one's last legs, having one foot in the grave ② *a dying art form* DECLINING, vanishing, fading, ebbing, waning, *informal* on the way out ③ *her dying words* FINAL, last, deathbed

—OPPOSITES *thriving, first*

► **noun** *he took her dying very hard* DEATH, demise, passing, loss of life, quietus, *formal* decease, *archaic* expiry

dynamic ► **adjective** ENERGETIC, spirited, active, lively, zestful, vital, vigorous, forceful, powerful, positive, high-powered, aggressive, bold, enterprising, magnetic, passionate, fiery, high-octane, *informal* go-getting, peppy, full of get-up-and-go, full of vim and vigour, gutsy, spunky, feisty, go-ahead

—OPPOSITES *half-hearted*

dynamism ► **noun** ENERGY, spirit, liveliness, zestfulness, vitality, vigour, forcefulness, power, potency, positivity, aggression, drive, ambition, enterprise, magnetism, passion, fire, *informal* pep, get-up-and-go, vim and vigour, guts, feistiness

dynasty ► **noun** BLOODLINE, line, ancestral line, lineage, house, family, ancestry, descent, succession, genealogy, family tree, regime, rule, reign, empire, sovereignty See list

Dynasties

Abbasid	Jagiellon	Safavid
Achaemenid	Kajar	Sassanian
Almohad	Kushan	Saudi
Attalid	Lancaster,	Seleucid
Bourbon	House of	Seljuk
Braganza	Liao	Shang
Capetian	Manchu	Stuart
Carolingian	Mauryan	Sui
Eastern Jin	Merovingian	Sung
Eastern Zhou	Ming	Tang
Egyptian	Mogul	Tudor
(1st–31st)	Orange,	Umayyad
Fatimid	House of	Valois
Flavian	Ottoman	Western Jin
Ghaznavid	Plantagenet	Western Zhou
Gupta	Qin	Windsor
Habsburg	Qing	York, House of
Han	Romanov	Yuan
Ilk	Rurik	Zhou

dyspeptic ► **adjective** BAD-TEMPERED, short-tempered, irritable, snappish, testy, tetchy, touchy, crabby, crotchety, grouchy, cantankerous, peevish, cross, disagreeable, waspish, prickly, *informal* snappy, on a short fuse, *Brit informal* stroppy, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery

Ee

each ► **pronoun** there are 5000 books and each must be cleaned EVERY ONE, each one, each and every one, all, the whole lot

► **determiner** he visited each month EVERY, each and every, every single

► **adverb** they gave a tenner each A PIECE, per person, per capita, from each, individually, respectively, severally

eager ► **adjective** ① small eager faces KEEN, enthusiastic, avid, fervent, ardent, motivated, wholehearted, dedicated, committed, earnest, informal mad keen, (as) keen as mustard ② we were eager for news ANXIOUS, impatient, longing, yearning, wishing, hoping, hopeful, desirous of, hankering after, on the edge of one's seat, on tenterhooks, on pins and needles, informal itching, gagging, dying
-OPPOSITES apathetic

eagerness ► **noun** KEENNESS, enthusiasm, avidity, fervour, zeal, wholeheartedness, earnestness, commitment, dedication, impatience, desire, longing, yearning, hunger, appetite, ambition, informal yen

ear ► **noun** ① an infection of the ear See list ② he had the ear of the president ATTENTION, notice, heed, regard, consideration ③ he has an ear for a good song APPRECIATION, discrimination, perception

-RELATED TERMS aural, auricular

■ **play it by ear** See PLAY

Parts of the Human Ear

auditory canal
auditory nerve
auricle or pinna
basilar membrane
cochlea
eardrum or tympanic membrane
endolymph
Eustachian tube
hair cell
incus or anvil
inner ear

malleus or hammer
middle ear
organ of Corti
outer ear
perilymph
sacculle
semicircular canal
stapes or stirrup
tektorial membrane
utricle
vestibule

early ► **adjective** ① early copies of the book. ADVANCE, forward; initial, preliminary, first, pilot, trial ② an early death UNTIMELY, premature, unseasonable, before time ③ early man PRIMITIVE, ancient, prehistoric, primeval, poetic/literary of yore ④ an early official statement PROMPT, timely, quick, speedy, rapid, fast.

-OPPOSITES late, modern, overdue

► **adverb** ① Rachel has to get up early IN THE EARLY MORNING; at dawn, at daybreak, at cockcrow, with the lark. ② they hoped to leave school early BEFORE THE USUAL TIME, prematurely, too soon, ahead of time, ahead of schedule
-OPPOSITES late.

earmark ► **verb** the cash had been earmarked for the firm. SET ASIDE, keep (back), reserve, designate, assign, mark, allocate, allot, devote, pledge, give over

► **noun** he has all the earmarks of a leader CHARACTISTICS, attribute, feature, hallmark, quality

earn ► **verb** ① they earned £20,000 BE PAID, take home, gross, receive, get, make, obtain, collect, bring in, informal pocket, bank, rake in, net, bag ② he has earned their trust DESERVE, merit, warrant, justify, be worthy of, gain, win, secure, establish, obtain, procure, get, acquire, informal clinch

-OPPOSITES lose

earnest ► **adjective** ① he is dreadfully earnest SERIOUS, solemn, grave, sober, humourless, staid, intense, committed, dedicated, keen, diligent, zealous, thoughtful, cerebral, deep, profound ② earnest prayer DEVOUT, heartfelt, wholehearted, sincere, impassioned, fervent, ardent, intense, urgent

-OPPOSITES frivolous, half-hearted

■ **in earnest** ① we are in earnest about stopping burglaries SERIOUS, sincere, wholehearted, genuine, committed, firm, resolute, determined ② he started writing in earnest. ZEALOUSLY, purposefully, determinedly, resolutely, passionately, wholeheartedly

earnest ► **noun** an earnest of a good harvest SIGN, token, promise, guarantee, pledge, assurance, security, surety, deposit

earnestly ► **adverb** SERIOUSLY, solemnly, gravely, intently, sincerely, resolutely, firmly, ardently, fervently, eagerly

earnings ► **plural noun** INCOME, wages, salary, stipend, pay, payment, fees, revenue, yield, profit, takings, proceeds, dividends, return, remuneration

earth ► **noun** ① the moon orbits the earth WORLD, globe, planet See list at CRUST ② a trembling of the earth LAND, ground, terra firma, floor. ③ he ploughed the earth SOIL, clay, loam, dirt, sod, turf, ground ④ the fox's earth DEN, lair, sett, burrow, warren, hole, retreat, shelter, hideout, hideaway, informal hidey-hole

-RELATED TERMS terrestrial, telluric

earthenware ► **noun** POTTERY, crockery, stoneware; china, porcelain, pots See list at POTTERY

earthly ► **adjective** ① the earthly environment. TERRESTRIAL, telluric ② the promise of earthly delights WORLDLY, temporal, mortal, human, material, carnal, fleshly, bodily, physical, corporeal, sensual ③ (informal) there is no earthly explanation for this FEASIBLE, possible, likely, conceivable, imaginable

-OPPOSITES extraterrestrial, heavenly

earthquake ► **noun** (EARTH) TREMOR, shock, foreshock, aftershock, convulsion, informal quake, shake, trembler.

-RELATED TERMS seismic.

earthy ► **adjective** ① an earthy smell: SOIL-LIKE, dirt-like. ② the earthy Calvinistic tradition: DOWN-TO-EARTH, unsophisticated, unrefined, simple, plain, unpretentious, natural. ③ Emma's earthy language. BAWDY, ribald, off colour, racy, rude, vulgar, lewd, crude, foul, coarse, uncouth, un-

seemly, indelicate, indecent, obscene, *informal* blue, locker-room, X-rated, *Brit informal* fruity, near the knuckle

ease ▶ **noun** ① *he defeated them all with ease* *EF* FORTLESSNESS, no trouble, simplicity; deftness, adroitness, proficiency, mastery ② *his ease of manner*, NATURALNESS, casualness, informality, amiability, affability, unconcern, composure, nonchalance, insouciance ③ *he couldn't find any ease* PEACE, calm, tranquillity, serenity, repose, restfulness, quiet, security, comfort ④ *a life of ease* AFFLUENCE, wealth, prosperity, luxury, plenty, comfort, contentment, enjoyment, well-being

—OPPOSITES difficulty, formality, trouble, hardship

▶ **verb** ① *the alcohol eased his pain*: RELIEVE, alleviate, mitigate, soothe, palliate, moderate, dull, deaden, numb, reduce, lighten, diminish ② *the rain eased off*: ABATE, subside, die down, let up, slacken off, diminish, lessen, peter out, relent, come to an end ③ *work helped to ease her mind*: CALM, quieten, pacify, soothe, comfort, console, hearten, gladden, uplift, encourage ④ *we want to ease their adjustment*: FACILITATE, expedite, assist, help, aid, advance, further, forward, simplify ⑤ *he eased out the cork*: GUIDE, manoeuvre, inch, edge, slide, slip, squeeze

—OPPOSITES aggravate, worsen, hinder

■ *at ease/at one's ease*: RELAXED, calm, serene, tranquil, unworried, contented, content, happy, comfortable

easily ▶ **adverb** ① *I overcame this problem easily*: EFFORTLESSLY, comfortably, simply, with ease, without difficulty, without a hitch, smoothly, skilfully, deftly, smartly, *informal* no sweat ② *he's easily the best*: UNDOUBTEDLY, without doubt, without question, indisputably, undeniably, definitely, certainly, clearly, obviously, patently, by far, far and away, by a mile

east ▶ **adjective** EASTERN, easterly, oriental

easy ▶ **adjective** ① *the task was very easy*: UNCOMPLICATED, undemanding, unchallenging, effortless, painless, trouble-free, facile, simple, straightforward, elementary, plain sailing, *informal* easy as pie, a piece of cake, child's play, kids' stuff, a cinch, no sweat, a doddle, a breeze, *Brit informal* easy-peasy, *N Amer informal* duck soup, a snap, *dated* a snip. ② *easy babies*: DOCCILE, manageable, amenable, tractable, compliant, pliant, acquiescent, obliging, cooperative, easy-going ③ *an easy target*: VULNERABLE, susceptible, defenceless, naive, gullible, trusting ④ *Vic's easy manner*, NATURAL, casual, informal, unceremonious, unreserved, uninhibited, unaffected, easy-going, amiable, affable, genial, good-humoured, carefree, nonchalant, unconcerned, *informal* laid-back ⑤ *an easy life*: CALM, tranquil, serene, quiet, peaceful, untroubled, contented, relaxed, comfortable, secure, safe, *informal* cushy. ⑥ *an easy pace*: LEISURELY, unhurried, comfortable, undemanding, easy-going, gentle, sedate, moderate, steady ⑦ *(informal) people think she's easy*: PROMISCUOUS, free with one's favours, unchaste, loose, wanton, abandoned, licentious, debauched, *informal* sluttish, whorish, tarty; *N Amer informal* roundheeled. —OPPOSITES difficult, demanding, formal, chaste.

easy-going ▶ **adjective** RELAXED, even-tempered, placid, mellow, mild, happy-go-lucky,

carefree, free and easy, nonchalant, insouciant, imperturbable, amiable, considerate, undemanding, patient, tolerant, lenient, broad-minded, understanding, good-natured, pleasant, agreeable, *informal* laid-back, unflappable

—OPPOSITES intolerant

eat ▶ **verb** ① *we ate a hearty breakfast*, CONSUME, devour, ingest, partake of, gobble (up/down), bolt (down), wolf (down), swallow, chew, munch, chomp, *informal* guzzle, nosh, put away, tuck into, demolish, dispose of, polish off, get stuck into, pig out on, get outside of, *Brit informal* scoff, gollop, *N Amer informal* scarf, snarf ② *we ate at a local restaurant*: HAVE A MEAL, consume food, feed, snack; breakfast, lunch, dine, feast, banquet, *informal* graze, nosh ③ *acidic water can eat away at pipes*: ERODE, corrode, wear away/down/through, burn through, consume, dissolve, disintegrate, crumble, decay, damage, destroy

eatable ▶ **adjective** EDIBLE, palatable, digestible, fit to eat, fit for consumption

eats ▶ **plural noun** (*informal*) FOOD, sustenance, nourishment, fare, eatables, snacks, tithits, *informal* nosh, grub, chow, *Brit informal* scoff, tuck, *N Amer informal* chuck

eavesdrop ▶ **verb** LISTEN IN, spy, monitor, tap, wiretap, record, overhear, *informal* snoop, bug

ebb ▶ **verb** ① *the tide ebbed*: RECEDE, go out, retreat, flow back, fall back/away, subside ② *his courage began to ebb*: DIMINISH, dwindle, wane, fade away, peter out, decline, flag, let up, decrease, weaken, disappear

—OPPOSITES increase

▶ **noun** ① *the ebb of the tide*: RECEDING, retreat, subsiding ② *the ebb of the fighting*: ABATEMENT, subsiding, easing, dying down, de-escalation, decrease, decline, diminution

ebony ▶ **adjective** BLACK, jet-black, pitch-black, coal-black, sable, inky, sooty, raven, dark

ebullience ▶ **noun** EXUBERANCE, buoyancy, cheerfulness, cheeriness, merriment, jollity, sunniness, jauntiness, light-heartedness, high spirits, elation, euphoria, jubilation, animation, sparkle, vivacity, enthusiasm, perkiness, *informal* bubbiness, chirpiness, bounciness, pep.

ebullient ▶ **adjective** EXUBERANT, buoyant, cheerful, joyful, cheery, merry, jolly, sunny, jaunty, light-hearted, elated, animated, sparkling, vivacious, irrepressible, *informal* bubbly, bouncy, peppy, upbeat, chirpy, smiley, full of beans, *dated* gay

—OPPOSITES depressed

eccentric ▶ **adjective** *eccentric behaviour*: UNCONVENTIONAL, uncommon, abnormal, irregular, aberrant, anomalous, odd, queer, strange, peculiar, weird, bizarre, outlandish, freakish, extraordinary; idiosyncratic, quirky, nonconformist, outré, *informal* way out, offbeat, freaky, oddball, wacky, cranky, *Brit informal* rum, *N Amer informal* kooky, wacko

—OPPOSITES conventional

▶ **noun** *he was something of an eccentric*: ODDITY, odd fellow, character, individualist, individual, free spirit; misfit, *informal* oddball, queer fish, weirdo, freak, nut, head case, crank, *Brit informal* one-off, odd bod, nutter; *N Amer informal* wacko, screwball

eccentricity ▶ **noun** UNCONVENTIONALITY, singularity, oddness, strangeness, weirdness,

Economists

Arrow, Kenneth (American)
 Bagehot, Walter (English)
 Baruch, Bernard (American)
 Beccaria, Cesare, Marchese di
 (Italian)
 Beveridge, William (British, b. in
 India)
 Clark, John (American)
 Coase, Ronald (English)
 Dow, Charles (American)
 Edgeworth, Francis (Irish)
 Erhard, Ludwig (German)
 Friedman, Milton (American)
 Frisch, Ragnar (Norwegian)
 Galbraith, John Kenneth
 (American)
 George, Henry (American)
 Hayek, Friedrich August von
 (Austrian)

Heckscher, Eli (Swiss)
 Hicks, John Richard (English)
 Hume, David (Scottish)
 Jones, Edward (American)
 Keynes, John Maynard (English)
 Kondratiev, Nikolai (Russian)
 Krugman, Paul (American)
 Kuznets, Simon (American)
 Laffer, Arthur (American)
 Leacock, Stephen Butler
 (Canadian)
 Lindale, Erik (Swiss)
 Malthus, Thomas (English)
 Marx, Karl (German)
 Meade, James (English)
 Mill, John Stuart (English)
 Monnet, Jean (French)
 Myrdal, Gunnar (Swedish)
 Pareto, Vilfredo (Italian)

Passy, Frédéric (French)
 Phillips, A. W. H. (New Zealand)
 Quesnay, François (French)
 Ricardo, David (English)
 Say, Jean Baptiste (French)
 Schumacher, E. F. (German)
 Schumpeter, Joseph (Austrian)
 Sen, Amartya (Indian)
 Smith, Adam (Scottish)
 Sraffa, Piero (Italian)
 Tinbergen, Jan (Dutch)
 Toynbee, Arnold (English)
 Veblen, Thorstein (American)
 Walras, M. E. Léon (French)
 Webb, Beatrice (English)
 Webb, Sidney (English)
 Weber, Max (German)

quirkiness, freakishness, peculiarity, foible,
 idiosyncrasy, caprice, whimsy, quirk, *informal*
 nuttiness, screwiness, freakiness, *N Amer informal*
 kookiness

ecclesiastical ▶ **adjective** PRIESTLY, ministerial, clerical, ecclesiastic, canonical, sacerdotal, church, churchly, religious, spiritual, holy, divine, *informal* churchy

echelon ▶ **noun** LEVEL, rank, grade, step, rung, tier, position, order

echo ▶ **noun** ① *a faint echo of my shout* REVERBERATION, reflection, ringing, repetition, repeat ② *the scene she described was an echo of the photograph* DUPLICATE, copy, replica, imitation, mirror image, double, match, parallel, *informal* look-alike, spitting image, dead ringer ③ *an echo of their love* TRACE, vestige, remnant, ghost, memory, recollection, remembrance, reminder, sign, mark, token, indication, suggestion, hint, evidence

▶ **verb** ① *his laughter echoed round the room* REVERBERATE, resonate, resound, reflect, ring, vibrate ② *Bill echoed Rex's words* REPEAT, restate, reiterate, copy, imitate, parrot, mimic, reproduce, recite, quote, regurgitate, *informal* recap

éclat ▶ **noun** STYLE, flamboyance, confidence, élan, dash, flair, vigour, gusto, verve, zest, sparkle, brio, panache, dynamism, spirit, *informal* pizzazz, pep, oomph

eclectic ▶ **adjective** WIDE-RANGING, broad-based, extensive, comprehensive, encyclopedic, varied, diverse, catholic, all-embracing, multifaceted, multifarious, heterogeneous, miscellaneous, assorted

eclipse ▶ **noun** ① *the eclipse of the sun* BLOTTING OUT, blocking, covering, obscuring, concealing, darkening, *Astronomy* occultation ② *the eclipse of the empire* DECLINE, fall, failure, decay, deterioration, degeneration, weakening, collapse

▶ **verb** ① *the sun was eclipsed by the moon* BLOT OUT, block, cover, obscure, hide, conceal, obliterate, darken, shade, *Astronomy* occult ② *the system was eclipsed by new methods* OUTSHINE, overshadow, surpass, exceed, outclass, outstrip, outdo, top, trump, transcend, upstage

economic ▶ **adjective** ① *economic reform* FINANCIAL, monetary, budgetary, fiscal, commercial.

② *the firm cannot remain economic* PROFITABLE, moneymaking, lucrative, remunerative, fruitful, productive, solvent, viable, cost-effective

③ *an economic alternative to carpeting* CHEAP, inexpensive, low-cost, budget, economy, economical, cut-price, discount, bargain

—OPPOSITES unprofitable, expensive

economical ▶ **adjective** ① *an economical car* CHEAP, inexpensive, low-cost, budget, economy, economic, cut-price, discount, bargain ② *a very economical shopper* THRIFTY, provident, prudent, sensible, frugal, sparing, abstemious, mean, parsimonious, penny-pinching, miserly, *N Amer* forehanded, *informal* stingy

—OPPOSITES expensive, spendthrift

economist ▶ **noun** See list

economize ▶ **verb** SAVE (MONEY), cut costs, cut back, make cutbacks, retrench, budget, make economies, be thrifty, be frugal, scrimp, cut corners, tighten one's belt, draw in one's horns, watch the/your pennies

economy ▶ **noun** ① *the nation's economy* WEALTH, (financial) resources, financial system, financial management ② *one can combine good living with economy* THRIFT, thriftiness, providence, prudence, careful budgeting, economizing, saving, scrimping, restraint, frugality, abstemiousness, *N Amer* forehandedness

—OPPOSITES extravagance

ecstasy ▶ **noun** RAPTURE, bliss, elation, euphoria, transports, rhapsodies; joy, jubilation, exultation

—OPPOSITES misery

ecstatic ▶ **adjective** ENRAPTURED, elated, in raptures, euphoric, rapturous, joyful, overjoyed, blissful, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, beside oneself with joy, jumping for joy, delighted, thrilled, exultant, *informal* over the moon, on top of the world, blessed out

ecumenical ▶ **adjective** NON-DENOMINATIONAL, universal, catholic, all-embracing, all-inclusive.

—OPPOSITES denominational.

eddy ▶ **noun** small eddies at the river's edge. SWIRL, whirlpool, vortex, maelstrom

▶ **verb** *cold air eddied around her* SWIRL, whirl, spiral, wind, circulate, twist, flow, ripple, stream, surge, billow

edge ▶ **noun** ① *the edge of the lake* **BORDER**, boundary, extremity, fringe, margin, side, lip, rim, brim, brink, verge, perimeter, circumference, periphery, limits, bounds ② *she had an edge in her voice* **SHARPNESS**, severity, bite, sting, asperity, acerbity, acidity, trenchancy, sarcasm, acrimony, malice, spite, venom ③ *they have an edge over their rivals* **ADVANTAGE**, lead, head start, the whip hand, the upper hand, superiority, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy, primacy

—**OPPOSITES** middle, disadvantage

▶ **verb** ① *poplars edged the orchard* **BORDER**, fringe, verge, skirt, surround, enclose, encircle, circle, encompass, bound ② *a frock edged with lace* **TRIM**, pipe, band, decorate, finish, border, fringe, bind, hem ③ *he edged closer to the fire* **CREEP**, inch, work one's way, pick one's way, ease oneself, sidle, steal, slink

■ **on edge** **TENSE**, nervous, edgy, anxious, apprehensive, uneasy, unsettled, twitchy, nervy, keyed up, restive, skittish, neurotic, insecure, *informal* uptight, jumpy, wired, *Brit informal* strung up

edgy ▶ **adjective** **TENSE**, nervous, on edge, anxious, apprehensive, uneasy, unsettled, twitchy, nervy, keyed up, restive, skittish, neurotic, insecure, irritable, touchy, tetchy, testy, crotchety, prickly, *informal* uptight, jumpy, wired, snappy, *Brit informal* strung up

—**OPPOSITES** calm

edible ▶ **adjective** **SAFE TO EAT**, fit for human consumption, wholesome, good to eat, consumable, digestible, palatable, *formal* comestible

edict ▶ **noun** **DECREE**, order, command, commandment, mandate, proclamation, pronouncement, dictate, fiat, promulgation, law, statute, act, bill, ruling, injunction, *formal* ordinance

edification ▶ **noun** (*formal*) **EDUCATION**, instruction, tuition, teaching, training, tutelage, guidance, enlightenment, cultivation, information, improvement, development

edifice ▶ **noun** (*formal*) **BUILDING**, structure, construction, erection, pile, complex, property, development, premises

edify ▶ **verb** (*formal*) **EDUCATE**, instruct, teach, school, tutor, train, guide, enlighten, inform, cultivate, develop, improve, better

edit ▶ **verb** ① *she edited the text* **CORRECT**, check, copy-edit, improve, emend, polish, modify, adapt, revise, rewrite, reword, rework, redraft, shorten, condense, cut, abridge, *informal* clean up ② *this volume was edited by a consultant* **SELECT**, choose, assemble, organize, put together ③ *he edited The Times* **BE THE EDITOR OF**, direct, run, manage, head, lead, supervise, oversee, preside over, *informal* be the boss of

edition ▶ **noun** **ISSUE**, number, volume, impression, publication, version, revision

educate ▶ **verb** **TEACH**, school, tutor, instruct, coach, train, drill; guide, inform, enlighten, inculcate, indoctrinate, *formal* edify

educated ▶ **adjective** **INFORMED**, literate, schooled, tutored, well read, learned, knowledgeable, enlightened; intellectual, academic, erudite, scholarly, cultivated, cultured, *dated* lettered

education ▶ **noun** ① *the education of young children* **TEACHING**, schooling, tuition, tutoring, in-

struction, coaching, training, tutelage, guidance, indoctrination, inculcation, enlightenment, *formal* edification ② *a woman of some education* **LEARNING**, knowledge, literacy, scholarship, enlightenment

—**RELATED TERMS** pedagogic

educational ▶ **adjective** ① *an educational establishment* **ACADEMIC**, scholastic, school, learning, teaching, pedagogic, tutorial, instructional ② *an educational experience* **INSTRUCTIVE**, instructional, educative, informative, illuminating, pedagogic, enlightening, didactic, heuristic, *formal* edifying

educative ▶ **adjective**. See **EDUCATIONAL** sense 2

educator ▶ **noun** **TEACHER**, tutor, instructor, schoolteacher, schoolmaster, schoolmistress, educationalist, educationist, lecturer, professor, guide, mentor, guru, *N Amer informal* schoolmarm, *Brit informal* beak, *formal* pedagogue, *archaic* schoolman

erie ▶ **adjective** **UNCANNY**, sinister, ghostly, unnatural, unearthly, supernatural, other-worldly, strange, abnormal, odd, weird, freakish, frightening, spine-chilling, hair-raising, blood-curdling, terrifying, *informal* creepy, scary, spooky, freaky

efface ▶ **verb** ① *the words were effaced by the rain* **ERASE**, eradicate, expunge, blot out, rub out, wipe out, remove, eliminate, delete, cancel, obliterate, blank out ② *he attempted to efface himself* **MAKE ONESELF INCONSPICUOUS**, keep out of sight, keep out of the limelight, lie low, keep a low profile, withdraw

effect ▶ **noun** ① *the effect of these changes* **RESULT**, consequence, upshot, outcome, out-turn, repercussions, ramifications, end result, conclusion, culmination, corollary, concomitant, aftermath, fruit(s), product, by-product, *informal* pay-off, *Medicine* sequela ② *the effect of the drug* **IMPACT**, action, effectiveness, influence, power, potency, strength, success, *formal* efficacy ③ *with effect from tomorrow* **FORCE**, operation, enforcement, implementation, effectiveness, validity, lawfulness, legality, legitimacy ④ *some words to that effect* **SENSE**, meaning, theme, drift, import, intent, intention, tenor, significance, message, gist, essence, spirit ⑤ *the dead man's effects* **BELONGINGS**, possessions, (worldly) goods, chattels, property, paraphernalia, *informal* gear, tackle, things, stuff, bits and pieces, *Brit informal* clobber

—**OPPOSITES** cause

▶ **verb** *they effected many changes* **ACHIEVE**, accomplish, carry out, realize, manage, bring off, execute, conduct, engineer, perform, do, perpetrate, discharge, complete, consummate, cause, bring about, create, produce, make, provoke, occasion, generate, engender, actuate, initiate, *formal* effectuate

■ **in effect** **REALLY**, in reality, in truth, in (actual) fact, effectively, essentially, in essence, practically, to all intents and purposes, all but, as good as, more or less, almost, nearly, just about, well-nigh, nigh on, *informal* pretty much

■ **take effect** ① *these measures will take effect in May*. **COME INTO FORCE**, come into operation, begin, become valid, become law, apply, be applied ② *the drug started to take effect*. **WORK**, act, be effective, produce results

effective ▶ **adjective** ① *an effective treatment* SUCCESSFUL, effectual, potent, powerful, helpful, beneficial, advantageous, valuable, useful, *formal* efficacious ② *a more effective argument* CONVINCING, compelling, strong, forceful, potent, weighty, sound, valid, impressive, persuasive, plausible, credible, authoritative, logical, reasonable, lucid, coherent, cogent, eloquent, *formal* efficacious ③ *the new law will be effective next week* OPERATIVE, in force, in effect, valid, official, lawful, legal, binding, *Law* effectual ④ *Korea was under effective Japanese control* VIR TUAL, practical, essential, actual, implicit, tacit –OPPOSITES weak, invalid, theoretical

effectiveness ▶ **noun** SUCCESS, productive-ness, potency, power, benefit, advantage, value, virtue, usefulness, *formal* efficacy

effectual ▶ **adjective** ① *effectual political action* EFFECTIVE, successful, productive, constructive, worthwhile, helpful, beneficial, advantageous, valuable, useful, *formal* efficacious ② *(Law) an effectual document* VALID, authentic, bona fide, genuine, official, lawful, legal, legitimate, (legally) binding, contractual

effeminate ▶ **adjective** WOMANISH, effete, fop-pish, mincing, *informal* camp, campy, limp-wristed –OPPOSITES manly

effervesce ▶ **verb** ① *heat the mixture until it ef-fervesces* FIZZ, sparkle, bubble, froth, foam ② *managers must effervesce with praise* SPARKLE, be vivacious, be animated, be ebullient, be exuberant, be bubbly, be effervescent

effervescence ▶ **noun** ① *wines of uniform ef-fervescence* FIZZ, fizziness, sparkle, gassiness, carbonation, aeration, bubbiness ② *his cheeky effervescence* VIVACITY, liveliness, animation, high spirits, ebullience, exuberance, buoyancy, sparkle, gaiety, jollity, cheerfulness, perkiness, breeziness, enthusiasm, irrepressibility, vitality, zest, energy, dynamism, *informal* pep, bounce

effervescent ▶ **adjective** ① *an effervescent drink* FIZZY, sparkling, carbonated, aerated, gassy, bubbly, mousseux, pétillant, spumante ② *effervescent young people* VIVACIOUS, lively, animated, high-spirited, bubbly, ebullient, buoyant, sparkling, scintillating, light-hearted, jaunty, happy, jolly, cheery, cheerful, perky, sunny, enthusiastic, irrepressible, vital, zestful, energetic, dynamic, *informal* bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, peppy, bouncy, upbeat, chirpy, full of beans –OPPOSITES still, depressed

effete ▶ **adjective** ① *effete trendies* AFFECTED, pretentious, precious, mannered, over-refined, ineffectual, *informal* la-di-da, pseud; *Brit informal* poncey ② *an effete young man* EFFEMINATE, un-manly, girlish, feminine; soft, timid, cowardly, lily-livered, spineless, pusillanimous, *informal* sissy, wimpish, wimpy ③ *the fabric of society is effete* WEAK, enfeebled, enervated, worn out, exhausted, finished, drained, spent, powerless, ineffectual.

–OPPOSITES manly, powerful

efficacious ▶ **adjective** (*formal*) EFFECTIVE, effec-tual, successful, productive, constructive, po-tent, helpful, beneficial, advantageous, valu-able, useful

efficacy ▶ **noun** (*formal*) EFFECTIVENESS, success, productiveness, potency, power, benefit, advan-tage, value, virtue, usefulness

efficiency ▶ **noun** ① *we need reforms to bring ef-ficiency* ORGANIZATION, order, orderliness, regu-lation, coherence, productivity, effectiveness ② *I compliment you on your efficiency* COMPE TENCE, capability, ability, proficiency, adept-ness, expertise, professionalism, skill, effective-ness

efficient ▶ **adjective** ① *efficient techniques* OR GANIZED, methodical, systematic, logical, order-ly, businesslike, streamlined, productive, effec-tive, cost-effective ② *an efficient secretary* COMPE TENT, capable, able, proficient, adept, skilful, skilled, effective, productive, organized, busi-nesslike –OPPOSITES disorganized, incompetent

effigy ▶ **noun** STATUE, statuette, sculpture, model, dummy, figurine, guy, likeness, image, bust

effluent ▶ **noun** (LIQUID) WASTE, sewage, efflu-vium, outflow, discharge, emission

effort ▶ **noun** ① *they made an effort to work to-gether* ATTEMPT, try, endeavour, *informal* crack, shot, stab, bash, *formal* essay ② *his score was a fine effort* ACHIEVEMENT, accomplishment, at-tainment, result, feat, undertaking, enterprise, work, triumph, success, coup ③ *the job requires little effort* EXERTION, energy, work, endeavour, application, labour, power, muscle, toil, strain, *informal* sweat, elbow grease, *Brit informal* graft, *Austral / NZ informal* (hard) yakka

effortless ▶ **adjective** EASY, undemanding, un-challenging, painless, simple, uncomplicated, straightforward, elementary, fluent, natural, *in-formal* as easy as pie, child's play, kids' stuff, a cinch, no sweat, a doddle, a breeze, *Brit informal* easy-peasy, *N Amer informal* duck soup, a snap –OPPOSITES difficult

effrontery ▶ **noun** IMPUDENCE, impertinence, cheek, insolence, cockiness, audacity, temerity, presumption, nerve, gall, shamelessness, im-politeness, disrespect, bad manners, *informal* brass (neck), face, chutzpah, *Brit informal* sauce, *N Amer informal* sass

effusion ▶ **noun** ① *an effusion of poisonous gas* OUTFLOW, outpouring, rush, current, flood, del-uge, emission, discharge, emanation, spurt, surge, jet, stream, torrent, gush, flow ② *re-porters' flamboyant effusions* OUTBURST, outpour-ing, gushing, wordiness, verbiage

effusive ▶ **adjective** GUSHING, gushy, unre-strained, extravagant, fulsome, demonstrative, lavish, enthusiastic, lyrical, expansive, wordy, verbose, *informal* over the top, OTT –OPPOSITES restrained

egg ▶ **noun** OVUM, gamete, germ cell, (eggs) roe, spawn, seed

–RELATED TERMS ovoid

■ **egg someone on** URGE, goad, incite, pro-voke, push, drive, prod, prompt, induce, impel, spur on, encourage, exhort, motivate, galvan-ize.

egghead ▶ **noun** (*informal*) INTELLECTUAL, think-er, academic, scholar, sage; bookworm, high-brow; expert, genius, Einstein, mastermind; *in-formal* brain, whizz, *Brit informal* brainbox, boffin, *N Amer informal* brainiac, rocket scientist. –OPPOSITES dunce.

ego ► **noun** SELF-ESTEEM, self-importance, self-worth, self-respect, self-image, self-confidence

egocentric ► **adjective** SELF-CENTRED, egomaniacal, self-interested, selfish, self-seeking, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, narcissistic, vain, self-important
-OPPOSITES altruistic

egotism, egoism ► **noun** SELF-CENTREDNESS, egomania, egocentricity, self-interest, selfishness, self-seeking, self-serving, self-regard, self-obsession, self-love, narcissism, self-admiration, vanity, conceit, self-importance, boastfulness

egotist, egoist ► **noun** SELF-SEEKER, egocentric, egomaniac, narcissist, boaster, brag, braggart, *informal* swank, show-off, big-head, *N Amer informal* showboat

egotistic, egoistic ► **adjective** SELF-CENTRED, selfish, egocentric, egomaniacal, self-interested, self-seeking, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, narcissistic, vain, conceited, self-important, boastful

egregious ► **adjective** SHOCKING, appalling, terrible, awful, horrendous, frightful, atrocious, abominable, abhorrent, outrageous, monstrous, heinous, dire, unspeakable, shameful, unforgivable, intolerable, dreadful, *formal* grievous
-OPPOSITES marvellous

egress ► **noun** ① the egress from the gallery was blocked EXIT, way out, escape route ② a means of egress DEPARTURE, exit, withdrawal, retreat, exodus, escape, vacation
-OPPOSITES entrance

eight ► **cardinal number** OCTET, eightsome, octuplets, *technical* octad
-RELATED TERMS octo-

ejaculate ► **verb** ① EMIT SEMEN, climax, orgasm, *informal* come ② the sperm is ejaculated EMIT, eject, discharge, release, expel, disgorge, shoot out, squirt out, spurt out ③ (*dated*) 'What?' he ejaculated EXCLAIM, cry out, call out, yell, blurt out, come out with

ejaculation ► **noun** ① the ejaculation of fluid EMISSION, ejection, discharge, release, expulsion ② premature ejaculation EMISSION OF SEMEN, climax, orgasm ③ (*dated*) the conversation consisted of ejaculations EXCLAMATION, interjection, call, shout, yell

eject ► **verb** ① the volcano ejected ash EMIT, spew out, discharge, give off, send out, belch, vent, expel, release, disgorge, spout, vomit, throw up ② the pilot had time to eject BAIL OUT, escape, get out ③ they were ejected from the hall EXPEL, throw out, turn out, cast out, remove, oust, evict, banish, *informal* chuck out, kick out, turf out, boot out, *N Amer informal* give someone the bum's rush ④ he was ejected from the job DISMISS, remove, discharge, oust, expel, axe, throw out, force out, drive out, *informal* sack, fire, send packing, boot out, chuck out, kick out, give someone their marching orders, give someone the push, show someone the door, *Brit informal* give someone their cards, turf out, *Military* cashier.
-OPPOSITES admit, appoint.

ejection ► **noun** ① the ejection of electrons. EMISSION, discharge, expulsion, release, elimination ② their ejection from the ground. EXPULSION, removal; eviction, banishment, exile. ③ his ejection from office DISMISSAL, removal, discharge, expulsion; *informal* the sack, the boot, the push,

the (old) heave-ho, the bullet, *Brit informal* the chop

eke ► **verb** I had to eke out my remaining funds HUSBAND, use sparingly, be thrifty with, be frugal with, be sparing with, use economically, *informal* go easy on
-OPPOSITES squander

■ **eke out a living** SUBSIST, survive, get by, scrape by, make ends meet, keep body and soul together, keep the wolf from the door, keep one's head above water

elaborate ► **adjective** ① an elaborate plan COMPLICATED, complex, intricate, involved, detailed, painstaking, careful, tortuous, convoluted, serpentine, Byzantine ② an elaborate plasterwork ceiling ORNATE, decorated, embellished, adorned, ornamented, fancy, fussy, busy, ostentatious, extravagant, showy, baroque, rococo, florid, wedding-cake
-OPPOSITES simple, plain

► **verb** both sides refused to elaborate on their reasons EXPAND ON, enlarge on, add to, flesh out, put flesh on the bones of, add detail to, expatiate on, develop, fill out, embellish, embroider, enhance, amplify

elan ► **noun** FLAIR, style, panache, confidence, dash, éclat, energy, vigour, vitality, liveliness, brio, esprit, animation, vivacity, zest, verve, spirit, pep, sparkle, enthusiasm, gusto, eagerness, feeling, fire, *informal* pizzazz, zing, zip, vim, oomph

elapse ► **verb** PASS, go by/past, wear on, slip by/away/past, roll by/past, slide by/past, steal by/past, tick by/past

elastic ► **adjective** ① elastic material STRETCHY, elasticated, stretchable, springy, flexible, pliant, pliable, supple, yielding, plastic, resilient ② an elastic concept of nationality ADAPTABLE, flexible, adjustable, accommodating, variable, fluid, versatile
-OPPOSITES rigid

elasticity ► **noun** ① the skin's natural elasticity STRETCHINESS, flexibility, pliancy, suppleness, plasticity, resilience, springiness, *informal* give ② the elasticity of the term ADAPTABILITY, flexibility, adjustability, fluidity, versatility

elated ► **adjective** THRILLED, delighted, overjoyed, ecstatic, euphoric, very happy, joyous, gleeful, jubilant, beside oneself, exultant, rapturous, in raptures, walking on air, on cloud nine/seven, in seventh heaven, jumping for joy, in transports of delight, *informal* on top of the world, over the moon, on a high, tickled pink, *Austral informal* wrapped
-OPPOSITES miserable

elation ► **noun** EUPHORIA, ecstasy, happiness, delight, transports of delight, joy, joyousness, glee, jubilation, exultation, bliss, rapture

elbow ► **verb** PUSH, shove, force, shoulder, jostle, barge, muscle, bulldoze

elbow room ► **noun** ROOM TO MANOEUVRE, room, space, Lebensraum, breathing space, scope, freedom, play, free rein, licence, latitude, leeway

elder ► **adjective** his elder brother OLDER, senior, big.

► **noun** the church elders' LEADER, senior figure, patriarch, father



elderly ▶ **adjective** *her elderly mother* AGED, old, advanced in years, ageing, long in the tooth, past one's prime, grey-haired, grey-bearded, grizzled, hoary, in one's dotage, decrepit, doddering, dodder, senescent, *informal* getting on, past it, over the hill, no spring chicken
-OPPOSITES youthful

▶ **noun (the elderly)** OLD PEOPLE, senior citizens, (old-age) pensioners, OAPs, retired people, geriatrics, *N Amer* seniors, retirees, golden agers, *informal* (golden) oldies, wrinkles, *N Amer informal* oldsters, woopies

elect ▶ **verb** ① *a new president was elected* VOTE FOR, VOTE IN, return, cast one's vote for, choose, pick, select ② *she elected to stay behind* CHOOSE, decide, opt, vote

▶ **adjective** *the president elect* FUTURE, -to-be, designate, chosen, elected, coming, next, appointed, presumptive

▶ **noun (the elect)** THE CHOSEN, the elite, the favoured, the crème de la crème

election ▶ **noun** BALLOT, vote, popular vote, poll, *Bnt* by-election, *US* primary
-RELATED TERMS psephology

electioneer ▶ **verb** CAMPAIGN, canvass, go on the hustings, doorstep, *Bnt informal* go out on the knocker

elector ▶ **noun** VOTER, member of the electorate, constituent, selector

electric ▶ **adjective** ① *an electric kettle* ELECTRIC-POWERED, electrically operated, mains-operated, battery-operated ② *the atmosphere was electric* EXCITING, charged, electrifying, thrilling, heady, dramatic, intoxicating, dynamic, stimulating, galvanizing, rousing, stirring, moving, tense, knife-edge, explosive, volatile

electricity ▶ **noun** POWER, electric power, energy, current, static, *Bnt* mains, *Canadian* hydro, *Bnt informal* leccy, *historical* galvanism

electrify ▶ **verb** EXCITE, thrill, stimulate, arouse, rouse, inspire, stir (up), exhilarate, intoxicate, galvanize, move, fire (with enthusiasm), fire someone's imagination, invigorate, animate, startle, jolt, shock, *N Amer* light a fire under; *informal* give someone a buzz, give someone a kick, *N Amer informal* give someone a charge

elegance ▶ **noun** ① *he was attracted by her elegance* STYLE, stylishness, grace, gracefulness, taste, tastefulness, sophistication, refinement, dignity, beauty, poise, charm, culture, suaveness, urbanity, panache ② *the elegance of the idea* NEATNESS, simplicity, ingenuity, cleverness, inventiveness

elegant ▶ **adjective** ① *an elegant black outfit* STYLISH, graceful, tasteful, sophisticated, classic, chic, smart, fashionable, modish, refined, dignified, poised, beautiful, lovely, charming, artistic, aesthetic; cultivated, polished, cultured, dashing, debonair, suave, urbane ② *an elegant solution* NEAT, simple, effective, ingenious, clever, deft, intelligent, inventive
-OPPOSITES gauche

elegiac ▶ **adjective** MOURNFUL, melancholic, melancholy, plaintive, sorrowful, sad, lamenting, doleful; funereal, dirgelike; nostalgic, val-
edictory, poignant; *poetic/literary* dolorous
-OPPOSITES cheerful

elegy ▶ **noun** LAMENT, requiem, funeral poem/song, threnody, dirge, plaint, *Insh* keen, *Insh & Scottish* coronach

element ▶ **noun** ① *an essential element of the local community* COMPONENT, constituent, part, section, portion, piece, segment, bit; aspect, factor, feature, facet, ingredient, strand, detail, point, member, unit, module, item ② *there is an element of truth in this stereotype* TRACE, touch, hint, smattering, soupçon ③ *the chemical elements* See list ④ **(elements)** the elements of political science BASICS, essentials, principles, first principles, foundations, fundamentals, rudiments, *informal* nuts and bolts, ABC ⑤ *I braved the elements* THE WEATHER, the climate, meteorological conditions, atmospheric conditions, the wind, the rain

elemental ▶ **adjective** ① *the elemental principles of accountancy* BASIC, primary, fundamental, essential, root, underlying, rudimentary ② *elemental forces* NATURAL, atmospheric, meteorological, environmental

elementary ▶ **adjective** ① *an elementary astronomy course* BASIC, rudimentary, fundamental, preparatory, introductory, initiatory ② *a lot of the work is elementary* EASY, simple, straightforward, uncomplicated, undemanding, painless, child's play, plain sailing, *informal* as easy as falling off a log, as easy as pie, as easy as ABC, a piece of cake, no sweat, kids' stuff, *Bnt informal* easy-peasy
-OPPOSITES advanced, difficult

elephantine ▶ **adjective** ENORMOUS, huge, gigantic, very big, massive, giant, immense, tremendous, colossal, mammoth, gargantuan, vast, prodigious, monumental, titanic, hulking, bulky, heavy, weighty, ponderous, lumbering, *informal* jumbo, whopping, humongous, monster, *Bnt informal* whacking, ginormous
-OPPOSITES tiny

elevate ▶ **verb** ① *we need a breeze to elevate the kite* RAISE, lift (up), raise up/aloft, upraise, hoist, hike up, haul up ② *he was elevated to Secretary of State* PROMOTE, upgrade, advance, move up, raise, prefer, ennoble, exalt, aggrandize, *informal* kick upstairs, move up the ladder
-OPPOSITES lower, demote

elevated ▶ **adjective** ① *an elevated motorway* RAISED, upraised, high up, aloft, overhead ② *elevated language* LOFTY, grand, exalted, fine, sublime, inflated, pompous, bombastic, orotund ③ *the gentry's elevated status* HIGH, higher, high-ranking, of high standing, lofty, superior, exalted, eminent, grand, noble
-OPPOSITES lowly

elevation ▶ **noun** ① *his elevation to the peerage* PROMOTION, upgrading, advancement, advance, preferment, aggrandizement; ennoblement, *informal* step up the ladder, kick upstairs ② *1500 to 3,000 metres in elevation* ALTITUDE, height. ③ *elevations in excess of 3000 metres* HEIGHT, hill, mountain, mount, *formal* eminence. ④ *elevation of thought* GRANDEUR, greatness, nobility, loftiness, majesty, sublimity

elf ▶ **noun** PIXIE, fairy, sprite, imp, brownie, dwarf, gnome, goblin, hobgoblin, leprechaun, puck, troll.

elfin ▶ **adjective** ELFLIKE, elfish, elvish, pixie-like; puckish, impish, playful, mischievous; dainty,

Chemical Elements and Their Symbols

actinium*	Ac	mendelevium*	Md
aluminium	Al	mercury	Hg
americium*	Am	molybdenum	Mo
antimony	Sb	neodymium	Nd
argon	Ar	neon	Ne
arsenic	As	neptunium*	Np
astatine*	At	nickel	Ni
barium	Ba	niobium	Nb
berkelium*	Bk	nitrogen	N
beryllium	Be	nobelium*	Nb
bismuth	Bi	osmium	Os
bohrium*	Bh	oxygen	O
boron	B	palladium	Pd
bromine	Br	phosphorus	P
cadmium	Cd	platinum	Pt
caesium	Cs	plutonium*	Pu
calcium	Ca	polonium*	Po
californium*	Cf	potassium	K
carbon	C	praseodymium	Pr
cerium	Ce	promethium*	Pm
chlorine	Cl	protactinium*	Pa
chromium	Cr	radium*	Ra
cobalt	Co	radon*	Rn
copper	Cu	rhenium	Re
curium*	Cm	rhodium	Rh
dubnium*	Db	rubidium	Rb
dysprosium	Dy	ruthenium	Ru
einsteinium*	Es	rutherfordium	Rf
erbium	Er	samarium	Sm
europium	Eu	scandium	Sc
fermium*	Fm	seaborgium	Sg
fluorine	F	selenium	Se
francium*	Fr	silicon	Si
gadolinium	Gd	silver	Ag
gallium	Ga	sodium	Na
germanium	Ge	strontium	Sr
gold	Au	sulphur	S
hafnium	Hf	tantalum	Ta
hassium*	Hs	technetium*	Tc
helium	He	tellurium	Te
holmium	Ho	terbium	Tb
hydrogen	H	thallium	Tl
indium	In	thorium*	Th
iodine	I	thulium	Tm
iridium	Ir	tin	Sn
iron	Fe	titanium	Ti
krypton	Kr	tungsten	W
lanthanum	La	uranium*	U
lawrencium*	Lr	vanadium	V
lead	Pb	xenon	Xe
lithium	Li	ytterbium	Yb
lutetium	Lu	yttrium	Y
magnesium	Mg	zinc	Zn
manganese	Mn	zirconium	Zr
meitnerium*	Mt		

* radioactive

delicate, small, petite, slight, little, tiny, diminutive.

elicit ▶ **verb** OBTAIN, draw out, extract, bring out, evoke, call forth, bring forth, induce, prompt, generate, engender, trigger, provoke, formal educe.

eligible ▶ **adjective** ① those people eligible to vote ENTITLED, permitted, allowed, qualified, able ② an eligible bachelor: DESIRABLE, suitable; available, single, unmarried, unattached, unwed

eliminate ▶ **verb** ① a policy that would eliminate inflation REMOVE, get rid of, put an end to, do away with, end, stop, terminate, eradicate, destroy, annihilate, stamp out, wipe out, extinguish, informal knock something on the head ② he was eliminated from the title race KNOCK OUT, beat, exclude, rule out, disqualify

elite ▶ **noun** BEST, pick, cream, crème de la crème, flower, nonpareil, elect, high society, jet set, beautiful people, beau monde, haut monde, aristocracy, nobility, upper class, *N Amer* four hundred
-OPPOSITES dregs

elixir ▶ **noun** POTION, concoction, brew, philtre, decoction, mixture, medicine, tincture, extract, essence, concentrate, distillate, distillation, poetic/literary draught, archaic potation

elliptical ▶ **adjective** ① an elliptical shape OVAL, egg-shaped, elliptic, ovate, ovoid, oviform, ellipsoidal, *Botany* obovate ② elliptical phraseology CRYPTIC, abstruse, ambiguous, obscure, oblique, Delphic, terse, concise, succinct, compact, economic, laconic, sparing

elocution ▶ **noun** PRONUNCIATION, enunciation, articulation, diction, speech, intonation, vocalization, modulation, phrasing, delivery, public speaking

elongate ▶ **verb** ① an exercise that elongates the muscles LENGTHEN, extend, stretch (out) ② the high notes were elongated PROLONG, protract, draw out, sustain
-OPPOSITES shorten

eloquence ▶ **noun** FLUENCY, articulacy, articulateness, expressiveness, silver tongue, persuasiveness, forcefulness, power, potency, effectiveness, oratory, rhetoric, grandiloquence, magniloquence, informal gift of the gab, way with words, blarney

eloquent ▶ **adjective** ① an eloquent speaker FLUENT, articulate, expressive, silver-tongued, persuasive, strong, forceful, powerful, potent, well expressed, effective, lucid, vivid, graphic, smooth-tongued, glib ② her glance was more eloquent than words EXPRESSIVE, meaningful, suggestive, revealing, telling, significant, indicative
-OPPOSITES inarticulate

elsewhere ▶ **adverb** SOMEWHERE ELSE, in/at/to another place, in/at/to a different place, hence, not here, not present, absent, away, abroad, out
-OPPOSITES here

elucidate ▶ **verb** EXPLAIN, make clear, illuminate, throw/shed light on, clarify, clear up, sort out, unravel, spell out, interpret, explicate, gloss
-OPPOSITES confuse

elucidation ▶ **noun** EXPLANATION, clarification, illumination, interpretation, explication, gloss

elude ▶ **verb** EVADE, avoid, get away from, dodge, escape from, run (away) from, lose, shake off, give the slip to, slip away from, throw off the scent, informal slip through someone's fingers, slip through the net, archaic bulk

elusive ▶ **adjective** ① her elusive husband: DIFFICULT TO FIND, evasive, slippery, informal always on the move ② an elusive quality: INDEFINABLE,



intangible, impalpable, unanalysable; fugitive, ambiguous

Elysian ▶ adjective HEAVENLY, paradisaical, paradisaic, celestial, superlunary, divine, poetic/literary empyrean

Elysium ▶ noun (Greek Mythology) HEAVEN, paradise, the Elysian fields, eternity, the afterlife, the next world, the hereafter; *Scandinavian Mythology* Valhalla, *Classical Mythology* the Islands of the Blessed, *Arthurian Legend* Avalon

emaciated ▶ adjective THIN, skeletal, bony, gaunt, wasted, thin as a rake, scrawny, skinny, scraggy, skin and bone, raw-boned, stick-like, starved, underfed, undernourished, underweight, half-starved, cadaverous, shrivelled, shrunken, withered, informal anorexic, like a bag of bones

—OPPOSITES fat

emanate ▶ verb ① warmth emanated from the fireplace ISSUE, spread, radiate, be sent forth/out ② the proposals emanated from a committee ORIGINATE, stem, derive, proceed, spring, issue, emerge, flow, come ③ he emanated an air of power EXUDE, emit, radiate, give off/out, send out/forth

emanation ▶ noun ① an emanation of his tortured personality PRODUCT, consequence, result, fruit ② radon gas emanation DISCHARGE, emission, radiation, effusion, outflow, outpouring, flow, leak, technical efflux

emancipate ▶ verb FREE, liberate, set free, release, deliver, discharge, unchain, unfetter, unshackle, untie, unyoke, historical manumit, rare disenfranchise

—OPPOSITES enslave

emancipated ▶ adjective LIBERATED, independent, unconstrained, uninhibited, free

emasculate ▶ verb ① an act which emasculated the House of Lords WEAKEN, enfeeble, debilitate, erode, undermine, cripple, remove the sting from, pull the teeth of, informal water down ② (archaic) young cocks should be emasculated at three months See CASTRATE

embalm ▶ verb ① his body had been embalmed PRESERVE, mummify, lay out ② the poem ought to embalm his memory PRESERVE, conserve, enshrine, immortalize

embankment ▶ noun BANK, mound, ridge, earthwork, causeway, barrier, levee, dam, dyke

embargo ▶ noun an embargo on oil sales BAN, bar, prohibition, stoppage, interdict, proscription, veto, moratorium, restriction, restraint, block, barrier, impediment, obstruction, boycott

▶ verb arms sales were embargoed BAN, bar, prohibit, stop, interdict, debar, proscribe, outlaw; restrict, restrain, block, obstruct, boycott

—OPPOSITES allow

embark ▶ verb ① he embarked at Dover: BOARD SHIP, go on board, go aboard, take ship, emplane, informal hop on, jump on; dated ship ② he embarked on a new career: BEGIN, start, commence, undertake, set about, take up, turn one's hand to, get down to; enter into, venture into, launch into, plunge into, engage in, settle down to; informal get cracking on, get going on, have a go/crack/shot at

embarrass ▶ verb MORTIFY, shame, put someone to shame, humiliate, abash, chagrin, make

uncomfortable, make self-conscious, discomfit, disconcert, discompose, upset, discountenance, distress, informal show up

embarrassed ▶ adjective MORTIFIED, red-faced, blushing, abashed, shamed, ashamed, shamefaced, humiliated, chagrined, awkward, self-conscious, uncomfortable, not knowing where to look, sheepish; discomfited, disconcerted, upset, discomposed, flustered, agitated, discountenanced, distressed, shy, bashful, tongue-tied, informal with egg on one's face, wishing the earth would swallow one up

embarrassing ▶ adjective HUMILIATING, shameful, mortifying, ignominious, awkward, uncomfortable, compromising, disconcerting, discomfiting, upsetting, distressing, informal blush-making, cringeworthy, cringe-making, toe-curling

embarrassment ▶ noun ① he was scarlet with embarrassment MORTIFICATION, humiliation, shame, shamefacedness, chagrin, awkwardness, self-consciousness, sheepishness, discomfort, discomfiture, discomposure, agitation, distress, ignominy, shyness, bashfulness ② his current financial embarrassment DIFFICULTY, predicament, plight, problem, mess, informal bind, jam, pickle, fix, scrape ③ an embarrassment of riches SURPLUS, excess, overabundance, superabundance, glut, surfeit, superfluity, abundance, profusion, plethora

embassy ▶ noun ① the Italian embassy CONSULATE, legation, ministry ② (historical) Charles sent an embassy to the Lombards ENVOY, representative, delegate, emissary, delegation, deputation, legation, (diplomatic) mission, archaic embassy, legate

embed, imbed ▶ verb IMPLANT, plant, set, fix, lodge, root, insert, place, sink, drive in, hammer in, ram in

embellish ▶ verb ① weapons embellished with precious metal DECORATE, adorn, ornament, beautify, enhance, grace, trim, garnish, gild, deck, bedeck, festoon, emblazon, poetic/literary bejewel, bedizen ② the legend was embellished by an American academic ELABORATE, embroider, expand on, exaggerate

embellishment ▶ noun ① architectural embellishments DECORATION, ornamentation, adornment, beautification, enhancement, trimming, trim, garnishing, gilding ② we wanted the truth, not romantic embellishments ELABORATION, addition, exaggeration

ember ▶ noun GLOWING COAL, live coal, cinder, (embers) ashes, residue

embezzle ▶ verb MISAPPROPRIATE, steal, thief, pilfer, purloin, appropriate, abstract, defraud someone of, siphon off, pocket, help oneself to; put one's hand in the till; informal rob, rip off, skim, line one's pockets, Brit informal pinch, nuck, half-inch, formal peculate

embezzlement ▶ noun MISAPPROPRIATION, theft, stealing, robbery, thieving, pilfering, purloining, pilferage, appropriation, swindling; fraud, larceny, formal peculation

embittered ▶ adjective BITTER, resentful, grudge-bearing, rancorous, jaundiced, aggrieved, sour, frustrated, dissatisfied, alienated, disaffected

emblazon ▶ verb ① shirts emblazoned with the company name: ADORN, decorate, ornament, em-

bellish; inscribe ② *a flag with a hammer and sickle emblazoned on it* **DISPLAY**, depict, show

emblem ▶ **noun** **SYMBOL**, representation, token, image, figure, mark, sign, crest, badge, device, insignia, stamp, seal, heraldic device, coat of arms, shield; logo, trademark

emblematic, emblematical ▶ **adjective** ① *a situation emblematic of the industrialized twentieth century* **SYMBOLIC**, representative, demonstrative, suggestive, indicative ② *emblematic works of art* **ALLEGORICAL**, symbolic, metaphoric, parabolic, figurative

embodiment ▶ **noun** **PERSONIFICATION**, incarnation, realization, manifestation, expression, representation, actualization, symbol, symbolization, paradigm, epitome, paragon, soul, model, type, essence, quintessence, exemplification, example, exemplar, ideal, formal reification

embody ▶ **verb** ① *Gradgrind embodies the spirit of industrial capitalism* **PERSONIFY**, realize, manifest, symbolize, represent, express, concretize, incarnate epitomize, stand for, typify, exemplify, formal reify ② *the changes in law embodied in the Children Act* **INCORPORATE**, include, contain, encompass, assimilate, consolidate, integrate, organize, systematize, combine

embolden ▶ **verb** **FORTIFY**, make brave/braver, encourage, hearten, strengthen, brace, stiffen the resolve of, lift the morale of, rouse, stir, stimulate, cheer, rally, fire, animate, inspire, invigorate, informal buck up
-**OPPOSITES** dishearten

embrace ▶ **verb** ① *he embraced her warmly* **HUG**, take/hold in one's arms, hold, cuddle, clasp to one's bosom, clasp, squeeze, clutch, caress, enfold, enclasp, encircle, envelop, entwine oneself around, informal canoodle, smooch, poetic/literary embosom ② *most western European countries have embraced the concept* **WELCOME**, welcome with open arms, accept, take up, take to one's heart, adopt, espouse, support, back, champion ③ *the faculty embraces a wide range of departments* **INCLUDE**, take in, comprise, contain, incorporate, encompass, cover, involve, embody, subsume, comprehend

▶ **noun** *a fond embrace* **HUG**, cuddle, squeeze, clinch, caress, bear hug

embrocation ▶ **noun** **OINTMENT**, lotion, cream, rub, salve, emollient, liniment, balm, unguent

embroider ▶ **verb** ① *a cushion embroidered with a pattern of golden keys*: **SEW**, stitch, decorate, adorn, ornament, embellish ② *she embroidered her stories with colourful detail* **ELABORATE**, embellish, enlarge on, exaggerate, touch up, dress up, gild, colour; informal jazz up

embroidery ▶ **noun** ① *the girls were taught embroidery* **NEEDLEWORK**, needlepoint, needlecraft, sewing, tatting, crewel work, tapestry *See list at SEWING* ② *fanciful embroidery of the facts*: **ELABORATION**, embellishment, adornment, ornamentation, colouring, enhancement, exaggeration, overstatement, hyperbole.

embroll ▶ **verb** **INVOLVE**, entangle, ensnare, entmesh, catch up, mix up, bog down, mire.

embryo ▶ **noun** ① *a human embryo*: **FETUS**, fertilized egg, unborn child/baby. ② *the embryo of a capitalist economy*: **GERM**, nucleus, seed; rudimen-

tary version, rudiments, basics, beginning, start

embryonic ▶ **adjective** ① *an embryonic chick* **FETAL**, unborn, unhatched ② *an embryonic pro-democracy movement* **RUDIMENTARY**, undeveloped, unformed, immature, incomplete, incipient, inchoate, fledgling, budding, nascent, emerging, developing, early, germinal
-**OPPOSITES** mature

emend ▶ **verb** **CORRECT**, rectify, repair, fix, improve, enhance, polish, refine, amend, edit, rewrite, revise, copy-edit, subedit, redraft, recast, rephrase, reword, rework, alter, change, modify, rare redact

emerge ▶ **verb** ① *a policeman emerged from the alley* **COME OUT**, appear, come into view, become visible, surface, materialize, manifest oneself, issue, come forth ② *several unexpected facts emerged* **BECOME KNOWN**, become apparent, be revealed, come to light, come out, turn up, transpire, unfold, turn out, prove to be the case

emergence ▶ **noun** **APPEARANCE**, arrival, coming, materialization, advent, inception, dawn, birth, origination, start, development, rise

emergency ▶ **noun** *a military emergency* **CRISIS**, urgent situation, extremity, exigency, accident, disaster, catastrophe, calamity, difficulty, plight, predicament, danger; informal panic stations.

▶ **adjective** ① *an emergency meeting* **URGENT**, crisis, impromptu, extraordinary ② *emergency supplies* **RESERVE**, standby, back-up, fallback, in reserve

emergent ▶ **adjective** **EMERGING**, developing, rising, dawning, budding, embryonic, infant, fledgling, nascent, incipient

emigrate ▶ **verb** **MOVE ABROAD**, move overseas, leave one's country, migrate, relocate, resettle, defect
-**OPPOSITES** immigrate.

emigration ▶ **noun** **MOVING ABROAD**, moving overseas, expatriation, migration, exodus, diaspora, relocation, resettling, defection

eminence ▶ **noun** ① *his eminence as a scientist* **FAME**, celebrity, illustriousness, distinction, renown, pre-eminence, notability, greatness, prestige, importance, reputation, repute, note, prominence, superiority, stature, standing ② *various legal eminences* **IMPORTANT PERSON**, dignitary, luminary, worthy, grandee, notable, notability, personage, leading light, VIP; informal somebody, someone, big shot, big noise, big gun, heavyweight. ③ (formal) *the hotel's eminence above the sea* **ELEVATION**, height, rise

eminent ▶ **adjective** ① *an eminent man of letters* **ILLUSTRIOUS**, distinguished, renowned, esteemed, pre-eminent, notable, noteworthy, great, prestigious, important, influential, outstanding, noted, of note, famous, celebrated, prominent, well known, lionized, acclaimed, exalted, revered, august, venerable ② *the eminent reasonableness of their claims* **OBVIOUS**, clear, conspicuous, marked, singular, signal; total, complete, utter, absolute, thorough, perfect, downright, sheer
-**OPPOSITES** unknown

eminently ▶ **adverb** **VERY**, greatly, highly, exceedingly, extremely, particularly, exceptionally, supremely, uniquely; obviously, clearly, conspicuously, markedly, singularly, signally, out-



standingly, strikingly, notably, surpassingly, totally, completely, utterly, absolutely, thoroughly, perfectly, downright

emissary ▶ noun ENVOY, ambassador, delegate, attaché, consul, plenipotentiary, agent, representative, deputy, messenger, courier, nuncio, archaic legate

emission ▶ noun DISCHARGE, release, outpouring, outflow, outrush, leak, excretion, secretion, ejection, emanation, radiation, effusion, ejaculation, disgorgement, issuance

emit ▶ verb ① the hydrocarbons emitted from vehicle exhausts DISCHARGE, release, give out/off, pour out, send forth, throw out, void, vent, issue, leak, ooze, excrete, disgorge, secrete, eject, ejaculate, spout, belch, spew out, emanate, radiate, exude ② he emitted a loud cry UTTER, voice, let out, produce, give vent to, come out with, vocalize
-OPPOSITES absorb

emollient ▶ adjective ① a rich emollient shampoo MOISTURIZING, soothing, softening ② an emollient response CONCILIATORY, conciliating, appeasing, soothing, calming, pacifying, assuaging, placating, mollifying, propitiatory

▶ noun she applied an emollient MOISTURIZER, cream, lotion, oil, rub, salve, unguent, balm, technical humectant

emolument ▶ noun (formal) SALARY, pay, payment, wage(s), earnings, allowance, stipend, honorarium, reward, premium, fee, charge, consideration, income, profit, gain, return

emotion ▶ noun ① she was good at hiding her emotions FEELING, sentiment, reaction, response ② overcome by emotion, she turned away PASSION, strength of feeling, warmth of feeling ③ responses based purely on emotion INSTINCT, intuition, gut feeling, sentiment, the heart

emotional ▶ adjective ① an emotional young man PASSIONATE, hot-blooded, ardent, fervent, excitable, temperamental, melodramatic, tempestuous, demonstrative, responsive, tender, loving, feeling, sentimental, sensitive ② he paid an emotional tribute to his wife POIGNANT, moving, touching, affecting, powerful, stirring, emotive, heart-rending, heart-warming, impassioned, dramatic, haunting, pathetic, sentimental, informal tear-jerking
-OPPOSITES unfeeling

emotionless ▶ adjective UNEMOTIONAL, unfeeling, dispassionate, passionless, unexpressive, cool, cold, cold-blooded, impassive, indifferent, detached, remote, aloof; toneless, flat, dead, expressionless, blank, wooden, stony, deadpan, vacant

emotive ▶ adjective CONTROVERSIAL, contentious, inflammatory, sensitive, delicate, difficult, problematic, touchy, awkward, prickly, ticklish

empathize ▶ verb IDENTIFY, sympathize, be in sympathy, understand, share someone's feelings, be in tune, be on the same wavelength as, talk the same language as, relate to, feel for, have insight into, informal put oneself in someone else's shoes

emperor ▶ noun RULER, sovereign, king, monarch, potentate, historical tsar, kaiser, mikado
-RELATED TERMS imperial

emphasis ▶ noun ① the curriculum gave more emphasis to reading and writing PROMINENCE, importance, significance, value, stress, weight, accent, attention, priority, pre-eminence, urgency, force ② the emphasis is on the word 'little' STRESS, accent, accentuation, weight, prominence, beat, Prosody ictus

emphasize ▶ verb STRESS, underline, highlight, focus attention on, point up, lay stress on, draw attention to, spotlight, foreground, play up, make a point of, bring to the fore, insist on, belabour, accent, accentuate, underscore, informal press home, rub it in
-OPPOSITES understate

emphatic ▶ adjective ① an emphatic denial VEHEMENT, firm, wholehearted, forceful, forcible, energetic, vigorous, direct, assertive, insistent, certain, definite, out-and-out, one hundred per cent, decided, determined, categorical, unqualified, unconditional, unequivocal, unambiguous, absolute, explicit, downright, outright, clear ② an emphatic victory CONCLUSIVE, decisive, decided, unmistakable, resounding, telling, informal thumping, thundering
-OPPOSITES hesitant, narrow

empire ▶ noun ① the Ottoman Empire KINGDOM, realm, domain, territory, commonwealth, power, world power, superpower See list ② a worldwide shipping empire ORGANIZATION, corporation, multinational, conglomerate, consortium, company, business, firm, operation ③ his dream of empire POWER, rule, ascendancy, supremacy, command, control, authority, sway, dominance, domination, dominion
-RELATED TERMS imperial

Empires

Almoravid	Latin
Asokan	Macedonian
Assyrian	Mali
Athenian	Maurayan
Austrian	Mayan
Austro-Hungarian	Median
Aztec	Mogul
Babylonian	Mongol
British	Ottoman
Byzantine	Parthian
Carthaginian	Persian
Central African	Phoenician
Eastern (Roman)	Portuguese
Empire	Roman
Frankish	Russian
French	Sassanian
Fulani	Seleucid
German	Spanish
Greek	Spanish American
Hittite	Tartar
Holy Roman	Turkish
Inca	Venetian
Islamic	Western (Roman)
Khmer	Empire

empirical ▶ adjective EXPERIENTIAL, practical, heuristic, first-hand, hands-on; observed, seen.
-OPPOSITES theoretical

employ ▶ verb ① she employed a chauffeur HIRE, engage, recruit, take on, secure the services of, sign up, sign, put on the payroll, enrol, appoint; retain, indenture, apprentice. ② Sam was employed in carving a stone figure. OCCUPY, en-

gage, involve, keep busy, tie up, absorb, engross, immerse ③ *the team employed subtle psychological tactics* **USE**, utilize, make use of, avail oneself of, apply, exercise, practise, put into practice, exert, bring into play, bring to bear, draw on, resort to, turn to, have recourse to
-OPPOSITES dismiss

employed ▶ **adjective** WORKING, in work, in employment, holding down a job, earning, waged, breadwinning

employee ▶ **noun** WORKER, member of staff, blue-collar worker, white-collar worker, workman, labourer, (hired) hand, wage-earner, breadwinner, (**employees**) personnel, staff, workforce, informal livewale

employer ▶ **noun** ① *his employer gave him a glowing reference* MANAGER, manageress, proprietor, director, head man, head woman, informal boss, boss man, skipper, *Brit* informal gaffer, governor, guv'nor, *N Amer* informal padrone, sachem ② *the largest private sector employer in Sheffield* FIRM, company, business, organization, manufacturer

employment ▶ **noun** ① *she found employment as a clerk* WORK, labour, service, job, post, position, situation, occupation, profession, trade, métier, business, line, line of work, calling, vocation, craft, pursuit, *archaic* employ ② *the employment of children* HIRING, hire, engagement, taking on, apprenticing ③ *the employment of nuclear weapons* **USE**, utilization, application, exercise

emporium ▶ **noun** SHOP, store, outlet, retail outlet, department store, chain store, supermarket, hypermarket, superstore, megastore, establishment

empower ▶ **verb** ① *the act empowered Henry to punish heretics* AUTHORIZE, entitle, permit, allow, license, sanction, warrant, commission, delegate, qualify, enable, equip ② *movements to empower the poor* EMANCIPATE, unshackle, set free, liberate
-OPPOSITES forbid

empress ▶ **noun** RULER, sovereign, queen, monarch, potentate, *historical* tsarina

emptiness ▶ **noun** VOID, vacuum, empty space, vacuity, gap, vacancy, hole

empty ▶ **adjective** ① *an empty house* VACANT, unoccupied, uninhabited, untenanted, bare, desolate, deserted, abandoned, clear, free ② *an empty threat* MEANINGLESS, hollow, idle, vain, futile, worthless, useless, insubstantial, ineffective, ineffectual ③ *without her my life is empty* FUTILE, pointless, purposeless, worthless, meaningless, valueless, of no value, useless, of no use, aimless, senseless, hollow, barren, insignificant, inconsequential, trivial ④ *his eyes were empty* BLANK, expressionless, vacant, deadpan, wooden, stony, impassive, absent, glazed, fixed, lifeless, emotionless, unresponsive
-OPPOSITES full, serious, worthwhile

▶ **verb** ① *I emptied the dishwasher* UNLOAD, unpack, void; clear, evacuate, *archaic* unlade ② *he emptied out the contents of the case* REMOVE, take out, extract, tip out, pour out
-OPPOSITES fill

empty-headed ▶ **adjective** STUPID, foolish, silly, unintelligent, idiotic, brainless, witless, vacuous, vapid, feather-brained, birdbrained, scatterbrained, scatty, thoughtless, *informal* half-

witted, dumb, dim, airheaded, brain-dead, dippy, dizzy, dopey, dozy, soft in the head, slow on the uptake; *Brit* informal daft, *N Amer* informal ditzzy, pantywaist
-OPPOSITES intelligent

emulate ▶ **verb** IMITATE, copy, mirror, echo, follow, model oneself on, take a leaf out of someone's book, match, equal, parallel, be on a par with, be in the same league as, come close to, compete with, contend with, rival, surpass

enable ▶ **verb** ALLOW, permit, let, give the means to, equip, empower, make able, fit, authorize, entitle, qualify, *formal* capacitate
-OPPOSITES prevent

enact ▶ **verb** ① *the Bill was enacted in 1963* PASS, make law, legislate, approve, ratify, sanction, authorize, impose, lay down ② *members of the church enacted a nativity play* ACT OUT, act, perform, appear in, stage, mount, put on, present
-OPPOSITES repeal

enactment ▶ **noun** ① *the enactment of a Bill of Rights* PASSING, ratification, sanction, approval, authorization, imposition ② *parliamentary enactments* ACT, law, by-law, ruling, rule, regulation, statute, measure, *N Amer* formal ordinance, (**enactments**) legislation ③ *the enactment of the play* ACTING, performing, performance, staging, presentation

enamoured ▶ **adjective** IN LOVE, infatuated, besotted, smitten, captivated, enchanted, fascinated, bewitched, beguiled; keen on, taken with, *informal* mad about, crazy about, wild about, bowled over by, struck on, sweet on, carrying a torch for, *poetic/literary* ensorcelled by

encampment ▶ **noun** CAMP, military camp, bivouac, cantonment; campsite, camping ground, tents

encapsulate ▶ **verb** ① *their conclusions are encapsulated in one sentence* SUMMARIZE, sum up, give the gist of, put in a nutshell, capture, express ② *seeds encapsulated in resin* ENCLOSE, encase, contain, envelop, enfold, sheath, cocoon, surround

enchant ▶ **verb** CAPTIVATE, charm, delight, enrapture, entrance, enthrall, beguile, bewitch, spellbind, fascinate, hypnotize, mesmerize, rivet, grip, transfix, *informal* bowl someone over
-OPPOSITES bore

enchanter ▶ **noun** WIZARD, witch, sorcerer, warlock, magician, necromancer, magus, witch doctor, medicine man, shaman, *archaic* mage, *rare* thaumaturge

enchanting ▶ **adjective** CAPTIVATING, charming, delightful, bewitching, beguiling, adorable, lovely, attractive, appealing, engaging, winning, fetching, winsome, alluring, disarming, irresistible, fascinating; *dated* taking

enchantment ▶ **noun** ① *a race of giants skilled in enchantment* MAGIC, witchcraft, sorcery, wizardry, necromancy, charms, spells, incantations; *N Amer* mojo, *rare* thaumaturgy ② *the enchantment of the garden by moonlight* ALLURE, delight, charm, beauty, attractiveness, appeal, fascination, irresistibility, magnetism, pull, draw, lure ③ *being with him was sheer enchantment* BLISS, ecstasy, heaven, rapture, joy.

enchantress ▶ **noun** WITCH, sorceress, magician, fairy; Circe, siren

encircle ► **verb** SURROUND, enclose, circle, girdle, ring, encompass, close in, shut in, fence in, wall in, hem in, confine, *poetic/literary* gird, engirdle

enclose ► **verb** ① *tall trees enclosed the garden* SURROUND, circle, ring, girdle, encompass, encircle, confine, close in, shut in, fence in, wall in, hedge in, hem in, *poetic/literary* gird, engirdle ② *please enclose a stamped addressed envelope* INCLUDE, insert, put in, send

enclosure ► **noun** PADDOCK, fold, pen, compound, stockade, ring, yard, sty, coop, *N Amer* corral

ecomium ► **noun** (formal) EULOGY, panegyric, paean, accolade, tribute, testimonial, praise, acclaim, acclamation, homage, formal laudation

encompass ► **verb** ① *the monument is encompassed by Hunsbury Park* CONTAIN, have within, surround, enclose, encircle ② *debates encompassing a vast range of subjects* COVER, embrace, include, incorporate, take in, contain, comprise, involve, deal with, formal comprehend

encounter ► **verb** ① *I encountered a girl I used to know* MEET, meet by chance, run into, come across/upon, stumble across/on, chance on, happen on, *informal* bump into, *archaic* run against, rencounter ② *we encountered a slight problem* EXPERIENCE, run into, come up against, face, be faced with, confront

► **noun** ① *an unexpected encounter* MEETING, chance meeting, *archaic* rencounter ② *a violent encounter between police and demonstrators* BATTLE, fight, clash, confrontation, struggle, skirmish, engagement, *informal* run-in, set-to, dust-up, scrap

encourage ► **verb** ① *the players were encouraged by the crowd's response* HEARTEN, cheer, buoy up, uplift, inspire, motivate, spur on, stir, stir up, fire up, stimulate, invigorate, vitalize, revitalize, embolden, fortify, rally, *informal* buck up, pep up, give a shot in the arm to ② *she had encouraged him to go* PERSUADE, coax, urge, press, push, pressure, pressurize, prod, goad, egg on, prompt, influence, sway ③ *the Government was keen to encourage local businesses* SUPPORT, back, champion, promote, further, foster, nurture, cultivate, strengthen, stimulate, help, assist, aid, boost, fuel

—OPPOSITES discourage, dissuade, hinder

encouragement ► **noun** ① *she needed a bit of encouragement* HEARTENING, cheering up, inspiration, motivation, stimulation, fortification, morale-boosting, *informal* a shot in the arm ② *they required no encouragement to get back to work* PERSUASION, coaxing, urging, pressure, pressurization, prodding, prompting; spur, goad, inducement, incentive, carrot, bait, motive ③ *the encouragement of foreign investment* SUPPORT, backing, championship, championing, sponsoring, promotion, furtherance, furthering, fostering, nurture, cultivation; help, assistance, *N Amer* boosterism

encouraging ► **adjective** ① *an encouraging start*: PROMISING, hopeful, auspicious, propitious, favourable, bright, rosy; heartening, reassuring, cheering, comforting, welcome, pleasing, gratifying ② *my parents were very encouraging* SUPPORTIVE, understanding, helpful, positive, responsive, enthusiastic

encroach ► **verb** INTRUDE, trespass, impinge, obtrude, impose oneself, invade, infiltrate,

interrupt, infringe, violate, interfere with, disturb, tread/step on someone's toes; *informal* horn in on, muscle in on, *archaic* entrench on

encroachment ► **noun** INTRUSION, trespass, invasion, infiltration, incursion, obtrusion, infringement, impingement

encumber ► **verb** ① *her movements were encumbered by her heavy skirts* HAMPER, hinder, obstruct, impede, cramp, inhibit, restrict, limit, constrain, restrain, bog down, retard, slow (down), inconvenience, disadvantage, handicap ② *they are encumbered with debt* BURDEN, load, weigh down, saddle, overwhelm, tax, stress, strain, overload, overburden, *Brit informal* lumber

encumbrance ► **noun** ① *he soon found the old equipment a great encumbrance* HINDERANCE, obstruction, obstacle, impediment, constraint, handicap, inconvenience, nuisance, disadvantage, drawback, *poetic/literary* trammel, *archaic* cumber ② *she knew she was an encumbrance to him* BURDEN, responsibility, obligation, liability, weight, load, stress, strain, pressure, trouble, worry, millstone, albatross, cross to bear

encyclopedia ► **adjective** COMPREHENSIVE, complete, thorough, thoroughgoing, full, exhaustive, in-depth, wide-ranging, all-inclusive, all-embracing, all-encompassing, universal, vast, formal compendious

end ► **noun** ① *the end of the road* EXTREMITY, furthestmost part, limit, margin, edge, border, boundary, periphery, point, tip, tail end, *N Amer* tag end ② *the end of the novel* CONCLUSION, termination, ending, finish, close, resolution, climax, finale, culmination, denouement; epilogue, coda, peroration ③ *a cigarette end* BUTT, stub, stump, remnant, *informal* tag end, dog end ④ *wealth is a means and not an end in itself* AIM, goal, purpose, objective, object, holy grail, target, intention, intent, design, motive, aspiration, wish, desire, ambition ⑤ *the commercial end of the business* ASPECT, side, section, area, field, part, share, portion, segment, province ⑥ *his end might come at any time* DEATH, dying, demise, passing, expiry, quietus, doom, extinction, annihilation, extermination, destruction, downfall, ruin, ruination, Waterloo, *informal* curtains, formal decease

—OPPOSITES beginning

► **verb** ① *the show ended with a wedding scene* FINISH, conclude, terminate, come to an end, draw to a close, close, stop, cease, culminate, climax build up to, lead up to, come to a head ② *she ended their relationship* BREAK OFF, call off, bring to an end, put an end to, stop, finish, terminate, discontinue; dissolve, cancel, annul

—OPPOSITES begin

endanger ► **verb** IMPERIL, jeopardize, risk, put at risk, put in danger, threaten, pose a threat to, be a danger to, be detrimental to, damage, injure, harm; *archaic* peril

endearing ► **adjective** LOVABLE, adorable, cute, sweet, dear, delightful, lovely, charming, appealing, attractive, engaging, winning, captivating, enchanting, beguiling, winsome, *dated* taking

endearment ► **noun** ① *his murmured endearments*: TERM OF AFFECTION, term of endearment, pet name; (endearments) sweet nothings, sweet talk ② *he spoke to her without endearment*:

AFFECTION, fondness, tenderness, feeling, sentiment, warmth, love, liking, care

endeavour ► **verb** *the company endeavoured to expand its activities* TRY, attempt, seek, undertake, aspire, aim, set out, strive, struggle, labour, toil, work, exert oneself, apply oneself, do one's best, do one's utmost, give one's all, be at pains, *informal* have a go/shot/stab, give something one's best shot, do one's damndest, go all out, bend over backwards, *formal* essay

► **noun** ① *an endeavour to build a more buoyant economy* ATTEMPT, try, bid, effort, venture, *informal* go, crack, shot, stab, bash, *formal* essay ② *several days of endeavour* EFFORT, exertion, striving, struggling, labouring, struggle, labour, hard work, application, industry, pains, *informal* sweat, {blood, sweat, and tears}, elbow grease, *Bnt informal* graft, *Austral/NZ informal* (hard) yakka, *poetic/literary* travail ③ *an extremely unwise endeavour* UNDERTAKING, enterprise, venture, exercise, activity, exploit, deed, act, action, move, scheme, plan, project, *informal* caper

ending ► **noun** END, finish, close, closing, conclusion, resolution, summing-up, denouement, finale, cessation, stopping, termination, discontinuation

—OPPOSITES beginning

endless ► **adjective** ① *a woman with endless energy* UNLIMITED, limitless, infinite, inexhaustible, boundless, unbounded, untold, immeasurable, measureless, incalculable, abundant, abounding, great, ceaseless, unceasing, unending, without end, everlasting, constant, continuous, continual, interminable, unfading, unfailing, perpetual, eternal, enduring, lasting ② *as children we played endless games* COUNTLESS, innumerable, untold, legion, numberless, unnumbered, numerous, very many, manifold, multitudinous, multifarious, a great number of, infinite numbers of, a multitude of, *informal* umpteen, no end of, loads of, stacks of, heaps of, masses of, oodles of, scads of, zillions of, *N Amer informal* gazillions of, *poetic/literary* myriad, divers

—OPPOSITES limited, few

endorse ► **verb** SUPPORT, back, agree with, approve (of), favour, subscribe to, recommend, champion, stick up for, uphold, affirm, sanction, *informal* throw one's weight behind

—OPPOSITES oppose

endorsement ► **noun** SUPPORT, backing, approval, seal of approval, agreement, recommendation, championship, patronage, affirmation, sanction

endow ► **verb** ① *Henry II endowed a hospital for poor pilgrims* FINANCE, fund, pay for, subsidize, support financially, settle money on, establish, found, set up, institute ② *nature endowed the human race with intelligence* PROVIDE, supply, furnish, equip, invest, favour, bless, grace, gift, give, bestow, *poetic/literary* endue

endowment ► **noun** ① *the endowment of a Chair of Botany* FUNDING, financing, subsidizing, establishment, foundation, institution. ② *a generous endowment* BEQUEST, legacy, inheritance, gift, present, grant, award, donation, contribution, subsidy, settlement, *formal* benefaction ③ *his natural endowments* QUALITY, characteristic, feature, attribute, facility, faculty, ability,

talent, gift, strength, aptitude, capability, capacity

endurable ► **adjective** BEARABLE, tolerable, supportable, manageable, sustainable

—OPPOSITES unbearable

endurance ► **noun** ① *she pushed him beyond the limit of his endurance* TOLERATION, tolerance, sufferance, forbearance, patience, acceptance, resignation, stoicism ② *the race is a test of endurance* STAMINA, staying power, fortitude, perseverance, persistence, tenacity, doggedness, grit, indefatigability, resolution, determination, *informal* stickability, *formal* pertinacity

endure ► **verb** ① *he endured years of pain* UNDERGO, go through, live through, experience, meet, encounter, cope with, deal with, face, suffer, tolerate, put up with, brave, bear, withstand, sustain, weather, *Scottish* thole ② *I cannot endure such behaviour* TOLERATE, bear, put up with, suffer, take, *informal* hack, stand for, stomach, swallow, abide, hold with, *Bnt informal* stick, wear, be doing with, *formal* brook ③ *God's love will endure for ever* LAST, live, live on, go on, survive, abide, continue, persist, remain, stay

—OPPOSITES fade

enduring ► **adjective** LASTING, long-lasting, abiding, durable, continuing, persisting, eternal, perennial, permanent, unending, everlasting, constant, stable, steady, steadfast, fixed, firm, unwavering, unfaltering, unchanging

—OPPOSITES short-lived

enemy ► **noun** OPPONENT, adversary, rival, antagonist, combatant, challenger, competitor, opposer, opposition, competition, other side, *poetic/literary* foe

—OPPOSITES ally

energetic ► **adjective** ① *an energetic woman* ACTIVE, lively, dynamic, zestful, spirited, animated, vital, vibrant, bouncy, bubbly, exuberant, perky, frisky, sprightly, tireless, indefatigable, enthusiastic, *informal* peppy, sparky, feisty, full of beans, full of the joys of spring, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed ② *energetic exercises* VIGOROUS, strenuous, brisk, hard, arduous, demanding, taxing, tough, rigorous ③ *an energetic advertising campaign* FORCEFUL, vigorous, high-powered, all-out, determined, bold, powerful, potent, intensive, hard-hitting, pulling no punches, aggressive, high-octane, *informal* punchy, in-your-face

—OPPOSITES lethargic, gentle, half-hearted

energize ► **verb** ① *people are energized by his ideas* ENLIVEN, liven up, animate, vitalize, invigorate, perk up, excite, electrify, stimulate, stir up, fire up, rouse, motivate, move, drive, spur on, encourage, galvanize, *informal* pep up, buck up, give a shot in the arm to ② *floor sensors energized by standing passengers* ACTIVATE, trigger, trip, operate, actuate, switch on, turn on, start, start up, power

energy ► **noun** ① *she has so much energy* VITALITY, vigour, life, liveliness, animation, vivacity, spirit, spiritedness, verve, enthusiasm, zest, vibrancy, spark, sparkle, effervescence, exuberance, buoyancy, sprightliness, strength, stamina, forcefulness, power, dynamism, drive, fire, passion, ardour, zeal, *informal* zip, zing, pep, pizzazz, punch, bounce, oomph, go, get-up-and-go, vim and vigour; *N Amer informal* feistiness ② *sources of energy* See list

Energy and Fuel

acetylene
anthracite
atomic power
benzol
biofuel
biogas
biomass energy
butane
Calor gas (trademark)
chemical energy
coal
coal gas
coke
derv
diesel
electrical power
electromagnetic energy
firewood
fission energy
fossil fuel
fusion energy
gas
gasohol
gas oil
gasoline
geothermal energy
heat
hydroelectric power
hydrogen
kerosene

kinetic energy
light
lignite
liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)
methane
natural gas
nitromethane
nuclear power
oil
paraffin
peat
petrol
petroleum
photosynthesis
potential energy
producer gas
propane
renewable energy
solar energy
steam power
synfuel
tidal power
town gas
water gas
water power
wave power
whale oil
wind power

enervate ▶ verb EXHAUST, tire, fatigue, weary, wear out, devitalize, drain, sap, weaken, enfeeble, debilitate, incapacitate, prostrate, informal knock out, do in, shatter, fag out, *Brit informal knacker*

—OPPOSITES invigorate

enervation ▶ noun FATIGUE, exhaustion, tiredness, weariness, lassitude, weakness, feebleness, debilitation, indisposition, prostration

enfeeble ▶ verb WEAKEN, debilitate, incapacitate, indispose, lay low; drain, sap, exhaust, tire, fatigue, devitalize

—OPPOSITES strengthen

enfold ▶ verb ① the summit was enfolded in white cloud ENVELOP, engulf, sheathe, swathe, swaddle, cocoon, shroud, veil, cloak, drape, cover, surround, enclose, encase, encircle, poetic/literary enshroud, mantle ② he enfolded her in his arms CLASP, hold, fold, wrap, squeeze, clutch, gather, embrace, hug, cuddle, poetic/literary embosom

enforce ▶ verb ① the sheriff enforced the law IMPOSE, apply, administer, implement, bring to bear, discharge, execute, prosecute ② they cannot enforce cooperation between the parties FORCE, compel, coerce, exact, extort, archaic constrain

enforced ▶ adjective COMPULSORY, obligatory, mandatory, involuntary, forced, imposed, required, requisite, stipulated, prescribed, contractual, binding, necessary, unavoidable, inescapable

—OPPOSITES voluntary

enfranchise ▶ verb ① women over thirty were enfranchised in 1918: GIVE THE VOTE TO, give/grant suffrage to ② (historical) he enfranchised his slaves: EMANCIPATE, liberate, free, set free, release; unchain, unyoke, unfetter, unshackle; historical manumit

engage ▶ verb ① tasks which engage children's interest CAPTURE, catch, arrest, grab, draw, attract, gain, win, hold, grip, captivate, engross, absorb, occupy ② he engaged a nursemaid EMPLOY, hire, recruit, take on, secure the services of, put on the payroll, enrol, appoint ③ (dated) she engaged a room in the boarding house BOOK, reserve; rent, hire, formal bespeak ④ he engaged to pay them £10,000 CONTRACT, promise, agree, pledge, vow, covenant, commit oneself, bind oneself, undertake, enter into an agreement ⑤ the chance to engage in many social activities PARTICIPATE IN, take part in, join in, become involved in, go in for, partake in/of, share in, play a part/role in, have a hand in, be a party to, enter into ⑥ infantry units engaged the enemy FIGHT, do battle with, wage war on/against, attack, take on, set upon, clash with, skirmish with, encounter, meet

—OPPOSITES lose, dismiss

engaged ▶ adjective ① he's otherwise engaged BUSY, occupied, unavailable, informal tied up ② she's engaged to an American guy promised/pledged in marriage, attached, informal spoken for, dated betrothed, poetic/literary affianced, archaic plighted, espoused

—OPPOSITES free, unattached

engagement ▶ noun ① they broke off their engagement MARRIAGE CONTRACT, dated betrothal, archaic espousal. ② a business engagement APPOINTMENT, meeting, arrangement, commitment, date, assignation, rendezvous, poetic/literary tryst ③ Britain's continued engagement in open trading PARTICIPATION, involvement, association ④ his engagement as a curate EMPLOYMENT, appointment, work, job, post, situation ⑤ the first engagement of the war BATTLE, fight, clash, confrontation, encounter, conflict, skirmish, warfare, action, combat, hostilities, informal dogfight

engaging ▶ adjective CHARMING, appealing, attractive, pretty, delightful, lovely, pleasing, pleasant, agreeable, likeable, lovable, sweet, winning, winsome, fetching, captivating, enchanting, bewitching, Scottish & N English bonny, dated taking, archaic comely, fair

Engines

beam engine
Diesel engine
donkey engine
double-acting engine
dynamo
electric motor
external-combustion engine
flat-four engine
flathead engine
four-stroke (engine)
gas turbine
heat engine
internal-combustion engine
ion engine
jet engine
linear motor
Otto engine
petrol engine
piston engine
pulse jet engine

radial engine
ramjet engine
rebore
reciprocating engine
rocket engine
rotary engine
stationary engine
steam engine
sterndrive
Stirling engine
straight-eight
turbine
turbofan
turbojet
turboprop
turbo shaft
two-stroke (engine)
rocket
engine

Engineers

Anthemius (Greek)
 Armstrong, Edwin (American)
 Armstrong, William (English)
 Austin, Herbert (English)
 Baird, John Logie (Scottish)
 Baker, Benjamin (English)
 Bardeen, John (American)
 Bazalgette, Joseph (English)
 Beeching, Richard (English)
 Benz, Karl (German)
 Bessemer, Henry (English)
 Blériot, Louis (French)
 Boulton, Matthew (English)
 Bramah, Joseph (English)
 Brassey, Thomas (English)
 Braun, Werner von (American, b. in Germany)
 Brindley, James (English)
 Brunel, Isambard Kingdom (English)
 Brunel, Marc Isambard (British, b. in France)
 Carnot, Nicolas Léonard Sadi (French)
 Cartwright, Edmund (English)
 Cayley, George (English)
 Churchward, George Jackson (English)
 Cockerell, Christopher (English)
 Coulomb, Charles-Augustin de (French)
 Curtiss, Glenn (American)
 Daimler, Gottlieb (German)
 Dalén, Nils (Swedish)
 De Forest, Lee (American)
 Diesel, Rudolf (German, b. in France)
 Donkin, Brian (English)
 Eckert, John Presper (American)
 Eiffel, Alexandre (French)
 Ericsson, John (Swedish)
 Evans, Oliver (American)

Ferranti, Sebastian (English)
 Fleming, John (English)
 Fokker, Anthony (American, b. in the Netherlands)
 Fresnel, Augustin Jean (French)
 Froude, William (English)
 Fulton, Robert (American)
 Gabor, Dennis (British, b. in Hungary)
 Goddard, Robert (American)
 Goldmark, Peter Carl (American, b. in Hungary)
 Gresley, (Herbert) Nigel (Scottish)
 Guericke, Otto von (German)
 Heaviside, Oliver (English)
 Heinkel, Ernst (German)
 Hero of Alexandria (Greek)
 Hollerith, Herman (American)
 Ilyushin, Sergei (Soviet)
 Jansky, Karl (American)
 Junkers, Hugo (German)
 Kennelly, Arthur (American)
 Kettering, Charles Franklin (American)
 Kilby, Jack (American)
 Leonardo da Vinci (Italian)
 Lillenthal, Otto (German)
 Locke, Joseph (English)
 Marconi, Guglielmo (Italian)
 Mauchly, John (American)
 Maudslay, Henry (English)
 Messerschmidt, Willy (German)
 Mitchell, R. J. (English)
 Nasmyth, James (Scottish)
 Nervi, Pier (Italian)
 Newcomen, Thomas (English)
 Nobel, Alfred (Swedish)
 Nobile, Umberto (Italian)
 Olsen, Kenneth (American)
 Otto, Nikolaus (German)
 Parsons, Charles (English)
 Piccard, Jean (American, b. in

Switzerland)
 Pickering, William Hayward (American, born in NZ)
 Porsche, Ferdinand (Austrian)
 Renault, Louis (French)
 Rennie, John (Scottish)
 Roe, (Edwin) Allott Verdon (English)
 Roebbing, John (American, b. in Germany)
 Savery, Thomas (English)
 Shannon, Claude Elwood (American)
 Siemens, Ernst Werner von (German)
 Siemens, Charles William (British, b. in Germany)
 Sikorsky, Igor (American, b. in Russia)
 Sinclair, Clive (English)
 Stanier, William (English)
 Steinmetz, Charles (American, b. in Germany)
 Stephenson, George (English)
 Stephenson, Robert (English)
 Stirling, Robert (Scottish)
 Taylor, Frederick (American)
 Telford, Thomas (Scottish)
 Tesla, Nikola (American, b. in Croatia)
 Trevithick, Richard (English)
 Tsiolkovsky, Konstantin (Russian)
 Vauban, Sébastien Le Prestre de (French)
 Vitruvius (Roman)
 Wallis, Barnes (English)
 Watt, James (Scottish)
 Westinghouse, George (American)
 Whittle, Frank (English)

—OPPOSITES unappealing

engender ▶ verb ① his works engendered considerable controversy CAUSE, be the cause of, give rise to, bring about, occasion, lead to, result in, produce, create, generate, arouse, rouse, inspire, provoke, kindle, trigger, spark, stir up, whip up, induce, incite, instigate, foment, poetic/literary beget, enkindle ② (archaic) he engendered six children FATHER, sire, bring into the world, spawn, breed, poetic/literary beget

engine ▶ noun ① a car engine MOTOR, machine, mechanism. See list ② the main engine of change CAUSE, agent, instrument, originator, initiator, generator. ③ (historical) engines of war DEVICE, contraption, apparatus, machine, appliance, mechanism, implement, instrument, tool.

engineer ▶ noun ① a structural engineer designer, planner, builder. See list. ② the ship's engineer OPERATOR, driver, controller. ③ the prime engineer of the approach: ORIGINATOR, deviser, designer, architect, inventor, developer, creator; mastermind.

▶ verb he engineered a takeover deal: BRING ABOUT, arrange, pull off, bring off, contrive, manoeuvre, manipulate, negotiate, organize, or-

chestrate, choreograph, mount, stage, mastermind, originate, manage, stage-manage, coordinate, control, superintend, direct, conduct, informal wangle

engineering ▶ noun. See list

Branches of Engineering

aerodynamics
 aeronautical
 engineering
 aerospace engineering
 agricultural
 engineering
 astronautics
 automotive
 engineering
 chemical engineering
 civil engineering
 cosmonautics
 electrical engineering
 electronics engineering

environmental
 engineering
 ergonomics
 fluid dynamics
 geotechnics
 hydraulics
 mechanical engineering
 mining engineering
 naval engineering
 nuclear engineering
 process engineering
 production engineering
 structural engineering

England ▶ noun Brit informal Blighty; Austral/NZ informal Old Dart; poetic/literary Albion See list.

Counties of England

COUNTY	COUNTY TOWN
Bedfordshire	Bedford
Berkshire	Reading
Buckinghamshire	Aylesbury
Cambridgeshire	Cambridge
Cheshire	Chester
Cornwall	Truro
Cumbria	Carlisle
Derbyshire	Matlock
Devon	Exeter
Dorset	Dorchester
Durham	Durham
East Sussex	Lewes
Essex	Chelmsford
Gloucestershire	Gloucester
Hampshire	Winchester
Herefordshire	Hereford
Hertfordshire	Hertford
Isle of Wight	Newport
Kent	Maidstone
Lancashire	Preston
Leicestershire	Leicester
Lincolnshire	Lincoln
Norfolk	Norfolk
Northamptonshire	Northampton
Northumberland	Morpeth
North Yorkshire	Northallerton
Nottinghamshire	Nottingham
Oxfordshire	Oxford
Rutland	Oakham
Shropshire	Shrewsbury
Somerset	Taunton
Staffordshire	Stafford
Suffolk	Ipswich
Surrey	Kingston-upon-Thames
Warwickshire	Warwick
West Sussex	Chichester
Wiltshire	Trowbridge
Worcestershire	Worcester

METROPOLITAN COUNTIES

Greater London
Greater Manchester
Merseyside
South Yorkshire
Tyne and Wear
West Midlands
West Yorkshire

TRADITIONAL COUNTIES

Cumberland
Ely, Isle of
Huntingdonshire
Middlesex
Sussex
Westmorland
Yorkshire

FORMER COUNTIES (1874-96)

Avon
Cleveland
Humberside

engrained ▶ adjective. See INGRAINED.

engrave ▶ verb ① my name was engraved on the ring: CARVE, inscribe, cut (in), incise, chisel, chase, score, notch, etch, imprint, impress

② the image was engraved in his memory FIX, set, imprint, stamp, brand, impress, embed, etch

engraving ▶ noun ETCHING, print, impression, lithograph; plate, dry point, woodcut, linocut

engross ▶ verb ABSORB, engage, rivet, grip, hold, interest, involve, occupy, preoccupy; fascinate, captivate, enthrall, intrigue

engrossed ▶ adjective ABSORBED, involved, interested, occupied, preoccupied, immersed, caught up, riveted, gripped, rapt, fascinated, intent, captivated, enthralled, intrigued

engrossing ▶ adjective ABSORBING, interesting, riveting, gripping, captivating, compelling, compulsive, fascinating, intriguing, enthralling, informal unputdownable

engulf ▶ verb INUNDATE, flood, deluge, immerse, swamp, swallow up, submerge, bury, envelop, overwhelm

enhance ▶ verb INCREASE, add to, intensify, heighten, magnify, amplify, inflate, strengthen, build up, supplement, augment, boost, raise, lift, elevate, exalt, improve, enrich, complement

—OPPOSITES diminish

enigma ▶ noun MYSTERY, puzzle, riddle, conundrum, paradox, problem, a closed book, informal poser

enigmatic ▶ adjective MYSTERIOUS, inscrutable, puzzling, mystifying, baffling, perplexing, impenetrable, unfathomable, sphinx-like, Delphic, oracular, cryptic, elliptical, ambiguous, equivocal, paradoxical, obscure, oblique, secret

enjoin ▶ verb URGE, encourage, admonish, press, instruct, direct, require, order, command, tell, call on, demand, charge, formal adjure, poetic/literary bid

enjoy ▶ verb ① he enjoys playing the piano LIKE, love, be fond of, be entertained by, take pleasure in, be keen on, delight in, appreciate, relish, revel in, adore, lap up, savour, luxuriate in, bask in, informal get a kick out of, get a thrill out of, get a buzz out of, go a bundle on ② she had always enjoyed good health BENEFIT FROM, have the benefit of, be blessed with, be favoured with, be endowed with, be possessed of, possess, own, boast
—OPPOSITES dislike, lack

■ **enjoy oneself** HAVE FUN, have a good time, have the time of one's life, make merry, celebrate, revel, informal party, have a ball, have a whale of a time, whoop it up, let one's hair down

enjoyable ▶ adjective ENTERTAINING, amusing, diverting, delightful, to one's liking, pleasant, congenial, convivial, lovely, fine, good, great, agreeable, pleasurable, delicious, delectable, satisfying, gratifying, marvellous, wonderful, magnificent, splendid; informal super, fantastic, fabulous, fab, terrific, grand, magic; Brit informal brilliant, brill, smashing.

enjoyment ▶ noun PLEASURE, fun, entertainment, amusement, diversion, recreation, relaxation, delight, happiness, merriment, joy, gaiety, jollity, satisfaction, gratification, liking, relish, gusto, humorous delectation; dated sport.

enlarge ▶ verb ① they enlarged the scope of their research: EXTEND, expand, grow, add to, amplify, augment, magnify, build up, supplement, widen, broaden, stretch, lengthen; elongate,

deepen, thicken ② *the lymph glands had enlarged* SWELL, distend, bloat, bulge, dilate, tumefy, blow up, puff up, balloon ③ *he enlarged on this subject* ELABORATE ON, expand on, add to, build on, flesh out, put flesh on the bones of, add detail to, expatiate on, develop, fill out, embellish, embroider

—OPPOSITES reduce, shrink

enlargement ▶ noun EXPANSION, extension, growth, amplification, augmentation, addition, magnification, widening, broadening, lengthening, elongation, deepening, thickening, swelling, distension, dilation, tumefaction

enlighten ▶ verb INFORM, tell, make aware, open someone's eyes, notify, illuminate, apprise, brief, update, bring up to date, disabuse, set straight, *informal* put in the picture, clue in, fill in, put wise, bring up to speed

enlightened ▶ adjective INFORMED, well informed, aware, sophisticated, advanced, developed, liberal, open-minded, broad-minded, educated, knowledgeable, wise, civilized, refined, cultured, cultivated
—OPPOSITES benighted

enlightenment ▶ noun INSIGHT, understanding, awareness, wisdom, education, learning, knowledge, illumination, awakening, instruction, teaching, sophistication, advancement, development, open-mindedness, broad-mindedness, culture, refinement, cultivation, civilization

enlist ▶ verb ① *he enlisted in the Royal Engineers* JOIN UP, join, enrol in, sign up for, volunteer for, *Brit* archaic take the King's shilling ② *he was enlisted in the army* RECRUIT, call up, enrol, sign up, conscript, US draft, induct, *archaic* levy ③ *he enlisted the help of a friend* OBTAIN, engage, secure, win, get, procure

enliven ▶ verb ① *a meeting enlivened by her wit and vivacity* LIVEN UP, spice up, add spice to, ginger up, perk up, vitalize, leaven, *informal* pep up ② *the visit had enlivened my mother* CHEER UP, brighten up, liven up, raise someone's spirits, uplift, gladden, buoy up, animate, vivify, vitalize, invigorate, restore, revive, refresh, stimulate, rouse, boost, exhilarate, *N Amer* light a fire under, *informal* perk up, buck up, pep up

en masse ▶ adverb (ALL) TOGETHER, as a group, as one, en bloc, as a whole, in a body, wholesale

enmesh ▶ verb EMBROIL, entangle, ensnare, snare, trap, entrap, ensnarl, involve, catch up, mix up, bog down, mire

enmity ▶ noun HOSTILITY, animosity, antagonism, friction, antipathy, animus, acrimony, bitterness, rancour, resentment, aversion, ill feeling, bad feeling, ill will, bad blood, hatred, hate, loathing, odium, malice, spite, spitefulness, venom, malevolence, *Brit* *informal* needle
—OPPOSITES friendship

ennoble ▶ verb DIGNIFY, honour, exalt, elevate, raise, enhance, add dignity to, distinguish; magnify, glorify, aggrandize
—OPPOSITES demean

ennui ▶ noun BOREDOM, tedium, listlessness, lethargy, lassitude, languor, weariness, enervation; malaise, dissatisfaction, melancholy, world-weariness, depression, Weltschmerz.

enormity ▶ noun ① *the enormity of the task* IM-MENSITY, hugeness, size, extent, magnitude, greatness ② *the enormity of his crimes* WICKEDNESS, evil, vileness, baseness, depravity, outrageousness, monstrousness, hideousness, heinousness, horror, atrocity, villainy, cruelty, inhumanity, mercilessness, brutality, savagery, viciousness ③ *the enormities of the regime* OUT-RAGE, horror, evil, atrocity, barbarity, abomination, monstrosity, obscenity, iniquity, crime, sin, violation, wrong, offence, disgrace, injustice, abuse

enormous ▶ adjective HUGE, vast, immense, gigantic, very big, great, giant, massive, colossal, mammoth, tremendous, mighty, monumental, epic, prodigious, mountainous, king-size(d), titanic, towering, elephantine, gargantuan, *informal* mega, monster, whopping (great), humongous, jumbo, astronomical, *Brit* *informal* whacking (great), ginormous
—OPPOSITES tiny

enormously ▶ adverb ① *an enormously important factor* VERY, extremely, really, exceedingly, exceptionally, tremendously, immensely, hugely, singularly, particularly, eminently, *informal* terrifically, awfully, terribly, seriously, desperately, ultra, damn, damned, *Brit* *informal* ever so, well, dead, jolly, *N Amer* *informal* real, mighty, darned, *informal, dated* frightfully ② *prices vary enormously* CONSIDERABLY, greatly, very much, a great deal, a lot
—OPPOSITES slightly

enough ▶ determiner *they had enough food* SUFFICIENT, adequate, ample, the necessary, *informal* plenty of
—OPPOSITES insufficient

▶ pronoun *there's enough for everyone* SUFFICIENT, plenty, a sufficient amount, an adequate amount, as much as necessary, a sufficiency, an ample supply, one's fill

en passant ▶ adverb IN PASSING, incidentally, by the way, parenthetically, while on the subject, apropos

enquire, inquire ▶ verb ① *I enquired about part-time training courses* ASK, make enquiries, question someone, request information ② *the commission is to enquire into alleged illegal payments* INVESTIGATE, conduct an enquiry, probe, look into, research, examine, explore, delve into, *informal* check out

enquiring, inquiring ▶ adjective INQUISITIVE, curious, interested, questioning, probing, searching, investigative

enquiry, inquiry ▶ noun ① *telephone enquiries* QUESTION, query ② *an enquiry into alleged security leaks* INVESTIGATION, probe, examination, exploration, inquest, hearing

enrage ▶ verb ANGER, infuriate, incense, madden, inflame, antagonize, provoke, exasperate, *informal* drive mad/crazy, drive up the wall, make someone see red, make someone's blood boil, make someone's hackles rise, get someone's back up, get someone's dander up, *N Amer* *informal* burn up.
—OPPOSITES placate

enraged ▶ adjective FURIOUS, infuriated, very angry, irate, incensed, raging, incandescent, fuming, ranting, raving, seething, beside oneself, *informal* mad, hopping mad, wild, livid, boiling, apoplectic, hot under the collar, on the

warpath, foaming at the mouth, steamed up, in a paddy, fit to be tied, *poetic/literary* wrathful
-OPPOSITES calm

enrapture ▶ **verb** DELIGHT, enchant, captivate, charm, enthrall, entrance, bewitch, beguile, transport, thrill, excite, exhilarate, intoxicate, take someone's breath away, *informal* bowl someone over, blow someone's mind, *poetic/literary* ravish

enrich ▶ **verb** ENHANCE, improve, better, add to, augment, supplement, complement, boost, elevate, raise, lift, refine
-OPPOSITES spoil

enrol ▶ **verb** ① they both enrolled for the course REGISTER, sign on/up, put one's name down, apply, volunteer, matriculate, enter, join ② 280 new members were enrolled ACCEPT, admit, take on, register, sign on/up, recruit, engage, matriculate, impanel

en route ▶ **adverb** ON THE WAY, in transit, during the journey, along/on the road, on the move, coming, going, proceeding, travelling

ensconce ▶ **verb** SETTLE, install, plant, position, seat, sit, sit down, establish, *informal* park, plonk

ensemble ▶ **noun** ① a Bulgarian folk ensemble GROUP, band, company, troupe, cast, chorus, corps, *informal* combo ② the buildings present a charming provincial ensemble WHOLE, entity, unit, body, set, combination, composite, package, sum, total, totality, entirety, aggregate ③ a pink and black ensemble OUTFIT, costume, suit, separates, coordinates, *informal* get-up

enshrine ▶ **verb** SET DOWN, set out, spell out, express, lay down, set in stone, embody, realize, manifest, incorporate, represent, contain, include, preserve, treasure, immortalize, cherish

enshroud ▶ **verb** (*poetic/literary*) ENVELOP, veil, shroud, swathe, cloak, cloud, enfold, surround, bury, cover, conceal, obscure, blot out, hide, mask, *poetic/literary* mantle

ensign ▶ **noun** FLAG, standard, colour(s), banner, pennant, pennon, streamer, banderole

enslavement ▶ **noun** SLAVERY, servitude, bondage, forced labour, exploitation, oppression, bonds, chains, fetters, shackles, yoke, *historical* thralldom
-OPPOSITES liberation

ensnare ▶ **verb** CAPTURE, catch, trap, entrap, snare, net, entangle, embroil, enmesh

ensue ▶ **verb** RESULT, follow, be consequent on, develop, proceed, succeed, emerge, stem, arise, derive, issue, occur, happen, take place, come next/after, transpire, supervene, *formal* eventuate; *poetic/literary* come to pass, befall

ensure ▶ **verb** ① ensure that the surface is completely clean MAKE SURE, make certain, see to it, check, confirm, establish, verify ② legislation to ensure equal opportunities for all: SECURE, guarantee, assure, certify, set the seal on, clinch.

entail ▶ **verb** INVOLVE, necessitate, require, need, demand, call for, mean, imply; cause, produce, result in, lead to, give rise to, occasion

entangle ▶ **verb** ① their parachutes became entangled twist, intertwine, entwine, tangle, ravel, snarl, knot, coil, mat ② the fish are easily entangled in fine nets: CATCH, capture, trap,

snare, ensnare, entrap, enmesh ③ he was entangled in a lawsuit INVOLVE, implicate, embroil, mix up, catch up, bog down, mire

entanglement ▶ **noun** ① their entanglement in the war INVOLVEMENT, embroilment ② romantic entanglements AFFAIR, relationship, love affair, romance, amour, fling, dalliance, liaison, involvement, intrigue, complication

entente ▶ **noun** UNDERSTANDING, agreement, arrangement, entente cordiale, settlement, deal, alliance, treaty, pact, accord, convention, concordat

enter ▶ **verb** ① police entered the house GO IN/ INTO, come in/into, get in/into, set foot in, cross the threshold of, gain access to ② a bullet entered his chest PENETRATE, pierce, puncture, perforate, *poetic/literary* transpierce ③ he entered politics in 1979 GET INVOLVED IN, join, throw oneself into, engage in, embark on, take up, participate in, take part in, play a part/role in, contribute to ④ the planning entered a new phase REACH, move into, get to, begin, start, commence ⑤ they entered the Army at eighteen JOIN, become a member of, enrol in/for, enlist in, volunteer for, sign up for, take up ⑥ she entered a cookery competition GO IN FOR, put one's name down for, register for, enrol for, sign on/up for, compete in, take part in, participate in ⑦ the cashier entered the details in a ledger RECORD, write, set down, put down, take down, note, jot down, put on record, minute, register, log ⑧ please enter your password KEY (IN), type (in), tap in ⑨ (Law) he entered a plea of guilty SUBMIT, register, lodge, record, file, put forward, present

-OPPOSITES leave

enterprise ▶ **noun** ① a joint enterprise UNDER TAKING, endeavour, venture, exercise, activity, operation, task, business, proceeding, project, scheme, plan, programme, campaign ② a woman with enterprise INITIATIVE, resourcefulness, entrepreneurialism, imagination, ingenuity, inventiveness, originality, creativity, quick-wittedness, native wit, cleverness, enthusiasm, dynamism, drive, ambition, energy, boldness, daring, courage, *informal* gumption, get-up-and-go, oomph ③ a profit-making enterprise BUSINESS, company, firm, venture, organization, operation, concern, corporation, establishment, partnership, *informal* outfit, set-up.

enterprising ▶ **adjective** RESOURCEFUL, entrepreneurial, imaginative, ingenious, inventive, creative, quick-witted, clever, bright, sharp, sharp-witted, enthusiastic, dynamic, ambitious, energetic, bold, daring, courageous, adventurous, *informal* go-ahead
-OPPOSITES unimaginative.

entertain ▶ **verb** ① he wrote stories to entertain them: AMUSE, divert, delight, please, charm, cheer, interest, engage, occupy, absorb, engross ② he entertains foreign visitors. RECEIVE, play host/hostess to, invite (round/over), throw a party for; wine and dine, feast, cater for, feed, treat, welcome, fête. ③ we don't entertain much: RECEIVE GUESTS, have people round/over, have company, hold/throw a party. ④ I would never entertain such an idea: CONSIDER, give consideration to, contemplate, think about, give thought to; countenance, tolerate, support, *formal* brook.

-OPPOSITES bore, reject.

entertainer ► noun PERFORMER, artist, artiste
See list For individual people, see lists at BALLET, CONDUCTOR, INSTRUMENTALIST, JAZZ, OPERA

Entertainers

See also PLAYER, SINGER.

acrobat	merry andrew
actor	mime artist
actress	mimic
busker	mind reader
chorus girl	minstrel
clown	mummer
comedian	musician
comedienne	one-man band
comic	organ grinder
conjuror	player
contortionist	puppeteer
dancer	raconteur
disc jockey (DJ)	raconteuse
drag artist	redcoat
escape artist	ringmaster
escapologist	singer
exotic dancer	singsong girl
female impersonator	snake charmer
fire-eater	song-and-dance act
gleeman	stand-up comedian
go-go dancer	stripper
guiser	striptease artist
harlequin	strongman
hypnotist	sword-swallower
illusionist	Thespian
impersonator	tightrope walker
impressionist	tragedian
instrumentalist	tragedienne
jester	trapeze artist
jongleur	trouper
juggler	tumbler
lap dancer	unicyclist
lion tamer	vaudevillian
magician	ventriloquist

entertaining ► adjective DELIGHTFUL, enjoyable, diverting, amusing, pleasing, agreeable, appealing, engaging, interesting, fascinating, absorbing, compelling, humorous, funny, comical, *informal* fun

entertainment ► noun ① he read for entertainment AMUSEMENT, pleasure, leisure, recreation, relaxation, fun, enjoyment, interest, diversion, *N Amer informal* rec ② an entertainment for the emperor SHOW, performance, presentation, production, extravaganza, spectacle

enthrall ► verb CAPTIVATE, charm, enchant, bewitch, fascinate, beguile, enthrance, delight, win, ensnare, absorb, engross, rivet, grip, transfix, hypnotize, mesmerize, spellbind
—OPPOSITES bore

enthralling ► adjective FASCINATING, entrancing, enchanting, bewitching, captivating, charming, beguiling, delightful; absorbing, engrossing, compelling, riveting, gripping, exciting, spellbinding; *informal* unputdownable.

enthuse ► verb ① I enthused about the idea. RAVE, be enthusiastic, gush, wax lyrical, be effusive, get all worked up, rhapsodize; praise to the skies; *informal* go wild/mad/crazy; *N Amer informal* ballyhoo. ② he enthuses people. MOTIVATE, inspire, stimulate, encourage, spur (on), galvanize, rouse, excite, stir (up), fire, inspire

enthusiasm ► noun ① she worked with enthusiasm EAGERNESS, keenness, ardour, fervour, passion, zeal, zest, gusto, energy, verve, vigour, vehemence, fire, spirit, avidity, wholeheartedness, commitment, willingness, devotion, earnestness, *informal* get-up-and-go ② they put their enthusiasms to good use INTEREST, passion, obsession, mania; inclination, preference, penchant, predilection, fancy, pastime, hobby, recreation, pursuit

—OPPOSITES apathy

enthusiast ► noun FAN, devotee, aficionado, lover, admirer, follower, expert, connoisseur, authority, pundit, *informal* buff, freak, fanatic, nut, fiend, addict, maniac

enthusiastic ► adjective EAGER, keen, avid, ardent, fervent, passionate, zealous, vehement, excited, wholehearted, committed, devoted, fanatical, earnest

entice ► verb TEMPT, lure, attract, appeal to, invite, persuade, convince, beguile, coax, woo, seduce, lead on, *informal* sweet-talk

enticement ► noun LURE, temptation, allure, attraction, appeal, draw, pull, bait, charm, seduction, fascination, *informal* come-on

enticing ► adjective TEMPTING, alluring, attractive, appealing, inviting, seductive, beguiling, charming, magnetic, irresistible

entire ► adjective ① I devoted my entire life to him WHOLE, complete, total, full, undivided ② only one of the gates is entire INTACT, unbroken, undamaged, unimpaired, unscathed, unspoiled, perfect, in one piece ③ they are in entire agreement ABSOLUTE, total, utter, out-and-out, thorough, wholehearted, unqualified, unreserved, outright

—OPPOSITES partial, broken

entirely ► adverb ① that's entirely out of the question ABSOLUTELY, completely, totally, wholly, utterly, quite, altogether, in every respect, thoroughly, downright, one hundred per cent ② a gift entirely for charitable purposes SOLELY, only, exclusively, purely, merely, just, alone

entirety ► noun WHOLE, total, aggregate, totality, sum total

—OPPOSITES part

■ in its entirety COMPLETELY, entirely, totally, fully, wholly, in every respect, in every way, one hundred per cent, all the way, every inch, to the hilt, to the core

entitle ► verb ① this pass entitles you to visit the museum QUALIFY, make eligible, authorize, allow, permit, enable, empower ② a chapter entitled 'Comedy and Tragedy' TITLE, name, call, label, designate, dub, *formal* denominate

entitlement ► noun ① their entitlement to benefits RIGHT, prerogative, claim, permission, dispensation, privilege ② your holiday entitlement ALLOWANCE, allocation, quota, ration, limit

entity ► noun ① a single entity BEING, creature, individual, organism, life form, person; body, object, article, thing. ② the distinction between entity and nonentity: EXISTENCE, being, life, living, animation, substance, essence, reality, actuality

entomb ► verb INTER, lay to rest, bury; *informal* plant; *poetic/literary* inhumate, sepulchre

entourage ► noun RETINUE, escort, cortège, train, suite, court, staff, bodyguard, attendants, companions, retainers

entrails ► plural noun INTESTINES, bowels, guts, viscera, internal organs, vital organs, offal, *informal* insides, innards

entrance¹ ► noun ① the main entrance ENTRY, way in, access, ingress, approach, door, portal, gate, opening, mouth, entrance hall, foyer, lobby, porch, *N Amer* entryway ② the entrance of Mrs Knight APPEARANCE, arrival, entry, ingress, coming ③ he was refused entrance ADMISSION, admittance, (right of) entry, access, ingress
-OPPOSITES exit, departure

entrance² ► verb ① I was entranced by her beauty ENCHANT, bewitch, beguile, captivate, mesmerize, hypnotize, spellbind, enthrall, engross, absorb, fascinate, stun, overpower, electrify, charm, delight, *informal* bowl over, knock out ② Orpheus entranced the wild beasts CAST A SPELL ON, bewitch, hex, spellbind, hypnotize, mesmerize

entrant ► noun ① university entrants NEW MEMBER, new arrival, beginner, newcomer, fresher, freshman, recruit, novice, neophyte, *N Amer* tenderfoot, *informal* rookie, *N Amer informal* greenhorn ② a prize will be awarded to the best entrant COMPETITOR, contestant, contender, participant, candidate, applicant

entrap ► verb ① fishing lines can entrap wildlife TRAP, snare, ensnare, entangle, enmesh, catch, capture ② he was entrapped by an undercover policeman ENTICE, lure, inveigle, bait, decoy, trap lead on, trick, deceive, dupe, hoodwink, *informal* set up, frame, *Brit informal* fit up

entreat ► verb IMPLORE, beg, plead with, pray, ask, request, bid, enjoin, appeal to, call on, petition, solicit, *poetic/literary* beseech

entreaty ► noun PLEA, appeal, request, petition, suit, application, claim, solicitation, supplication, prayer

entrée ► noun ① there are a dozen entrees on the menu MAIN COURSE, main dish ② an excellent entrée into the profession (MEANS OF) ENTRY, entrance, ingress, route, path, avenue, way, key, passport

entrench, intrench ► verb ESTABLISH, settle, lodge, set, root, install, plant, embed, seat, *informal* dig in

entrenched, intrenched ► adjective INGRAINED, established, confirmed, fixed, firm, deep-seated, deep-rooted, unshakeable, indelible, ineradicable, inexorable

entre nous ► adverb BETWEEN OURSELVES, between us, between you and me, in confidence, confidentially, privately, off the record, *informal* between you and me and the gatepost

entrepreneur ► noun BUSINESSMAN/WOMAN, enterpriser, speculator, tycoon, magnate, mogul, dealer, trader, promoter, impresario, *informal* wheeler-dealer, whizz-kid, mover and shaker, go-getter, high-flyer

entrust ► verb ① he was entrusted with the task. CHARGE, invest, endow, burden, encumber, saddle ② the powers entrusted to the Home Secretary. ASSIGN, confer on, bestow on, vest in, consign, delegate, depute, devolve; give, grant, vouchsafe ③ she entrusted them to the hospital: HAND

OVER, give custody of, turn over, commit, consign, deliver, *formal* commend

entry ► noun ① my moment of entry APPEARANCE, arrival, entrance, ingress, coming ② the entry to the flats ENTRANCE, way in, access, ingress, approach, door, portal, gate, entrance hall, foyer, lobby, *N Amer* entryway ③ he was refused entry ADMISSION, admittance, entrance, access, ingress ④ entries in the cash book ITEM, record, note, listing, memo, memorandum, account ⑤ data entry RECORDING, archiving, logging, documentation, capture ⑥ we must pick a winner from the entries CONTESTANT, competitor, contender, entrant, participant, candidate, applicant, submission, entry form, application
-OPPOSITES departure, exit

entwine ► verb WIND ROUND, twist round, coil round, weave, intertwine, interlace, interweave, entangle, tangle, twine, braid, plait, knit

enumerate ► verb ① he enumerated four objectives LIST, itemize, set out, give, cite, name, specify, identify, spell out, detail, particularize ② (formal) they enumerated hospital readmission rates CALCULATE, compute, count, add up, tally, total, number, quantify, reckon, work out, *Brit* tot up

enunciate ► verb ① she enunciated each word slowly PRONOUNCE, articulate, say, speak, utter, voice, vocalize, sound, mouth ② a document enunciating the policy EXPRESS, state, put into words, declare, profess, set forth, assert, affirm, put forward, air, proclaim

envelop ► verb SURROUND, cover, enfold, engulf, encircle, encompass, cocoon, sheathe, swathe, enclose, cloak, screen, shield, veil, shroud

envelope ► noun WRAPPER, wrapping, sleeve, cover, covering, casing

envenom ► verb ① (archaic) the arrows are envenomed POISON ② incidents which envenom international relations EMBITTER, sour, poison, jaundice, taint, antagonize

enviable ► adjective DESIRABLE, desired, favoured, sought-after, admirable, covetable, attractive, fortunate, lucky, *informal* to die for

envious ► adjective JEALOUS, covetous, desirous, grudging, begrudging, resentful, bitter, green-eyed

environ ► verb (formal) SURROUND, encircle, enclose, ring, envelop

environment ► noun ① birds from many environments HABITAT, territory, domain, surroundings, conditions ② the hospital environment SITUATION, SETTING, milieu, background, backdrop, scene, location, context, framework, sphere, world, realm, ambience, atmosphere. ③ the impact of pesticides on the environment THE NATURAL WORLD, nature, the earth, the ecosystem, the biosphere, Mother Nature; wildlife, flora and fauna, the countryside

environmentalist ► noun CONSERVATIONIST, preservationist, ecologist, nature-lover; *informal* ecofreak, tree hugger

environs ► plural noun SURROUNDINGS, surrounding area, vicinity; locality, neighbourhood, district, region; precincts; *N Amer* vicinage

Eponyms

EPONYM

America
Baedeker
Bailey bridge
biro (*trademark*)
bloomers
bobby
bowdlerization
boycott
boysenberry
Braille
Bunsen burner
Caesarean section
cardigan
Casanova
chauvinism
clerihew
Colt (*trademark*)
Cyrillic script
daguerreotype
Derby (horse race)
derringer
diesel
dolomite
Dow Jones index
dunce
epicure
Everest, Mount
filbert
Fosbury flop
galvanization
garibaldi biscuit
Gatling gun
Geiger counter
gerrymandering
Granny Smith (apple)
greengage
guillotine
guppy
guy
guyot
hansom cab
Hobson's choice
Hoover (*trademark*)
jacuzzi (*trademark*)
Kalashnikov
leotard
loganberry
lynch
macadam
macadamia
Mach number
mackintosh
magnolia
martinet
masochism
Mason-Dixon Line
Mauser (*trademark*)
mausoleum
maverick
Melba sauce and Melba toast
mesmerism
Molotov cocktail
Morse code
nicotine
Nissen hut
orrery

PERSON

Amerigo Vespucci (Italian explorer)
Karl Baedeker (German publisher)
Donald Bailey (English engineer)
László Bíró (Hungarian inventor)
Amelia Bloomer (American reformer)
Robert Peel (British statesman)
Dr Thomas Bowdler (English editor of Shakespeare)
Capt. Charles Boycott (Irish land agent)
Robert Boysen (American horticulturist)
Louis Braille (French educationalist)
Robert Bunsen (German chemist)
Julius Caesar (Roman general and statesman)
James Brudenell, 7th Earl of Cardigan (English soldier)
Giovanni Casanova (Italian adventurer)
Nicolas Chauvin (French soldier)
Edmund Clerihew Bentley (English writer)
Samuel Colt (American inventor)
St Cyril (Greek missionary)
Louis Daguerre (French physicist and painter)
Edward Stanley, 12th Earl of Derby (its founder)
Henry Deringer (American gunsmith)
Rudolf Diesel (French-born German engineer)
Dieudonné Dolomieu (French geologist)
Charles Dow and Edward Jones (American economists)
John Duns Scotus (Scottish theologian)
Epicurus (Greek philosopher)
George Everest (British surveyor general of India)
St Philibert (French saint)
Richard Fosbury (American high jumper)
Luigi Galvani (Italian anatomist)
Giuseppe Garibaldi (Italian leader)
Richard Gatling (American inventor)
Hans Geiger (German nuclear physicist)
Elbridge Gerry (Governor of Massachusetts)
Maria Smith (Australian grower)
William Gage (English botanist)
Joseph-Ignace Guillotin (French physician)
R. J. Lechmere Guppy (Trinidadian clergyman)
Guy Fawkes (English conspirator)
Arnold H. Guyot (Swiss geographer)
Joseph A. Hansom (English architect)
Thomas Hobson (English carrier)
William Hoover (American industrialist)
Candido Jacuzzi (Italian-born American inventor)
Mikhail Kalashnikov (Russian weapon designer)
Jules Léotard (French trapeze artist)
John H. Logan (American horticulturist)
William Lynch (American planter)
John L. McAdam (British surveyor)
John Macadam (Australian chemist)
Ernst Mach (Austrian physicist)
Charles Macintosh (Scottish inventor)
Pierre Magnol (French botanist)
Jean Martinet (French drill master)
Leopold von Sacher-Masoch (Austrian novelist)
Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon (English astronomers)
Paul von Mauser (German inventor)
Mausolus (King of Caria)
Samuel Maverick (Texan rancher)
Nellie Melba (Australian opera singer)
Franz Mesmer (Austrian physician)
Vyacheslav Molotov (Soviet statesman)
Samuel Morse (American inventor)
Jean Nicot (French diplomat)
Peter N. Nissen (British engineer)
Charles Boyle, 4th Earl of Orrery (patron of its inventor)

Eponyms (cont.)

EPONYM

pasteurization
pavlova
peach Melba
pinchbeck
platonic
Plimsoll line
pompadour
praline
Pullman
pyrrhic victory
Queensberry rules
quisling
Rachmanism
Rastafarianism
Rubik's cube
sadism
sandwich
saxhorn and saxophone
shrapnel
sideburns
silhouette
sousaphone
spoonerism
Stakhanovite
stetson
stroganoff
tarmac (tarmacadam)
teddy bear
thespian
tommy gun
wellington boot
Winchester rifle
Yale lock
Zeppelin

PERSON

Louis Pasteur (French bacteriologist)
Anna Pavlova (Russian ballerina)
Nellie Melba (Australian opera singer)
Christopher Pinchbeck (English watchmaker)
Plato (Greek philosopher)
Samuel Plimsoll (English politician)
Madame de Pompadour (French noblewoman)
Marshal de Plessis-Praslin (French soldier)
George Pullman (its American designer)
Pyrrhus (King of Epirus)
John Douglas, 8th Marquess of Queensberry (their sponsor)
Vidkun Quisling (Norwegian puppet ruler)
Peter Rachman (London landlord)
Emperor Haile Selassie (born Tafari Makonnen)
Erno Rubik (Hungarian inventor)
Marquis de Sade (French writer and soldier)
John Montague, 4th Earl of Sandwich (its supposed inventor)
Charles and Antoine-Joseph Sax (Belgian instrument-makers)
Henry Shrapnel (British general)
Ambrose Burnside (American general)
Étienne de Silhouette (French author and politician)
John Philip Sousa (American composer)
Rev. W. A. Spooner (English scholar)
Alexei Stakhanov (Russian coal miner)
John B. Stetson (American hat manufacturer)
Count Pavel Stroganov (Russian diplomat)
John L. McAdam (British surveyor)
Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt (American president and bear-hunter)
Thespi (Greek dramatic poet)
John Thompson (American general)
Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington (British soldier)
Oliver Winchester (American weapons manufacturer)
Unus Yale, Jr (American locksmith)
Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin (German army officer)

envisage ▶ verb ① it was envisaged that the hospital would open soon FORESEE, predict, forecast, anticipate, expect, think likely ② I cannot envisage what the future holds IMAGINE, contemplate, visualize, envision, picture, conceive of, think of

envision ▶ verb VISUALIZE, imagine, envisage, picture, conceive of, think of, see, intend, mean

envoy ▶ noun AMBASSADOR, emissary, diplomat, consul, attaché, chargé d'affaires, plenipotentiary, nuncio, representative, delegate, proxy, surrogate, liaison, spokesperson, agent, intermediary, mediator, informal go-between, historical legate

envy ▶ noun ① a pang of envy: JEALOUSY, covetousness, resentment, bitterness, discontent, the green-eyed monster ② the firm is the envy of Europe: FINEST, best, pride, top, cream, pick, jewel, flower, glory, leading light, the crème de la crème

▶ verb ① I admired and envied her BE ENVOUS OF, be jealous of; begrudge, be resentful of ② we envied her lifestyle COVET, desire, aspire to, wish for, want, long for, yearn for, hanker after, crave

ephemeral ▶ adjective TRANSITORY, transient, fleeting, passing, short-lived, momentary, brief, short; temporary, impermanent, short-term; fly-by-night.

—OPPOSITES permanent

epic ▶ noun ① the epics of Homer: HEROIC POEM, story, saga, legend, romance, chronicle, myth, fable, tale ② a big Hollywood epic long film, informal blockbuster

▶ adjective ① a traditional epic poem: HEROIC, long, grand, monumental, Homeric, Miltonian ② their epic journey: AMBITIOUS, heroic, grand, great, Herculean, very long, monumental

epicene ▶ adjective ① a sort of epicene beauty: SEXLESS, asexual, neuter, androgynous ② he gave an epicene titter: EFFEMINATE, unmanly, unmasculine, girly, girlish, informal camp, campy —OPPOSITES macho

epicure ▶ noun GOURMET, gastronome, gourmand, connoisseur; informal foodie.

epicurean ▶ noun HEDONIST, sensualist, pleasure-seeker, sybarite, voluptuary, bon vivant, epicure, gourmet, gastronome, connoisseur, gourmand.

▶ adjective HEDONISTIC, sensualist, pleasure-seeking, self-indulgent, sybaritic, voluptuary, lotus-eating, decadent, unrestrained, extravagant, intemperate, immoderate; gluttonous, gourmandizing.

epidemic ▶ noun ① an epidemic of typhoid: OUTBREAK, plague, pandemic, epizootic. ② a joyriding epidemic: SPATE, rash, wave, eruption, outbreak, craze; flood, torrent; upsurge, upturn, increase, growth, rise.

▶ adjective the craze is now epidemic: RIFE, rampant, widespread, wide-ranging, extensive, pervasive;

global, universal, ubiquitous, endemic, pandemic, epizootic

epigram ► noun WITTICISM, quip, jest, pun, bon mot, saying, maxim, adage, aphorism, apophthegm, epigraph, *informal* one-liner, wisecrack, (old) chestnut

epigrammatic ► adjective CONCISE, succinct, pithy, aphoristic, incisive, short and sweet, witty, clever, quick-witted, piquant, sharp, *informal* snappy

—OPPOSITES expansive

epilogue ► noun AFTERWORD, postscript, PS, coda, codicil, appendix, tailpiece, supplement, addendum, postlude, rider, back matter, conclusion

—OPPOSITES prologue

episode ► noun ① the best episode of his career INCIDENT, event, occurrence, happening, occasion, interlude, chapter, experience, adventure, exploit, matter, affair, thing ② the final episode of the series INSTALMENT, chapter, passage, part, portion, section, component, programme, show ③ an episode of illness PERIOD, spell, bout, attack, phase, *informal* dose

episodic ► adjective ① episodic wheezing INTERMITTENT, sporadic, periodic, fitful, irregular, spasmodic, occasional ② an episodic account of the war IN EPISODES, in instalments, in sections, in parts

—OPPOSITES continuous

epistle ► noun (formal) LETTER, missive, communication, dispatch, note, line, correspondence, news

epitaph ► noun ELEGY, commemoration, obituary, inscription, legend

epithet ► noun SOBRIQUET, nickname, byname, title, name, label, tag, description, designation, *informal* moniker, handle, *formal* appellation, denomination

epitome ► noun ① he was the epitome of respectability PERSONIFICATION, embodiment, incarnation, paragon, essence, quintessence, archetype, paradigm, typification, exemplar, model, soul, example, height ② an epitome of a larger work SUMMARY, abstract, synopsis, précis, résumé, outline, digest, summation, abridgement, abbreviation, condensation

epitomize ► verb ① the town epitomizes the pioneer spirit EMBODY, encapsulate, typify, exemplify, represent, manifest, symbolize, illustrate, sum up, personify, *formal* reify ② (archaic) we will epitomize the pamphlet See SUMMARIZE

epoch ► noun ERA, age, period, time, span, stage, aeon See list at AGE

eponym ► noun. See list

equable ► adjective ① an equable man EVEN-TEMPERED, calm, composed, collected, self-possessed, relaxed, easy-going; nonchalant, insouciant, mellow, mild, tranquil, placid, stable, level-headed; imperturbable, unexcitable, untroubled, well balanced; *informal* unflappable, together, laid-back ② an equable climate STABLE, constant, uniform, unvarying, consistent, unchanging, changeless; moderate, temperate

—OPPOSITES temperamental, extreme

equal ► adjective ① lines of equal length: IDENTICAL, uniform, alike, like, the same, equivalent, matching, comparable, similar, corresponding ② fares equal to a fortnight's wages: EQUIVALENT,

identical, amounting, proportionate to, commensurate with, on a par with. ③ equal treatment before the law UNBIASED, impartial, non-partisan, fair, just, equitable, unprejudiced, non-discriminatory, egalitarian, neutral, objective, disinterested ④ an equal contest: EVENLY MATCHED, even, balanced, level, on a par, on an equal footing, *informal* fifty-fifty, level pegging, neck and neck

—OPPOSITES different, discriminatory

► noun they did not treat him as their equal EQUIVALENT, peer, fellow, coequal, like, counterpart, match, parallel

► verb ① two plus two equals four BE EQUAL TO, be equivalent to, be the same as, come to, amount to, make, total, add up to ② he equalled the world record MATCH, reach, parallel, be level with, measure up to ③ the fable equals that of any other poet BE AS GOOD AS, be a match for, measure up to, equate with, be in the same league as, rival, compete with

■ equal to CAPABLE OF, fit for, up to, good/strong enough for, suitable for, suited to, appropriate for, *informal* having what it takes

equality ► noun ① we promote equality for women FAIRNESS, equal rights, equal opportunities, equitability, egalitarianism, impartiality, even-handedness, justice ② equality between supply and demand PARITY, similarity, comparability, correspondence, likeness, resemblance, uniformity, evenness, balance, equilibrium, consistency, agreement, congruence, symmetry

equalize ► verb ① attempts to equalize their earnings MAKE EQUAL, make even, even out/up, level, regularize, standardize, balance, square, match, bring into line ② Villa equalized in the second half LEVEL THE SCORE, draw

equanimity ► noun COMPOSURE, calm, level-headedness, self-possession, cool-headedness, presence of mind, serenity, tranquillity, phlegm, imperturbability, equilibrium, poise, assurance, self-confidence, aplomb, sangfroid, nerve, *informal* cool

—OPPOSITES anxiety

equate ► verb ① he equates criticism with treachery IDENTIFY, compare, bracket, class, associate, connect, link, relate, ally ② the rent equates to £24 per square foot CORRESPOND, be equivalent, amount, equal ③ moves to equate supply and demand EQUALIZE, balance, even out/up, level, square, tally, match, make equal, make even, make equivalent

equation ► noun ① a quadratic equation MATH EMATICAL PROBLEM, sum, calculation, question ② the equation of success with riches IDENTIFICATION, association, connection, matching, equivalence, correspondence, agreement, comparison ③ other factors came into the equation SITUATION, problem, case, question, quandary, predicament

equatorial ► adjective TROPICAL, hot, humid, sultry.

—OPPOSITES polar

equestrian ► adjective an equestrian statue. ON HORSEBACK, mounted, riding. See list.

► noun tracks for equestrians. (HORSE) RIDER, horseman, horsewoman, jockey

equilibrium ► noun ① the equilibrium of the economy: BALANCE, symmetry, equipoise, parity,



Equestrian Sports

Arab racing	one-day eventing
competitive trail riding	point-to-point
cross-country	polo
dressage	pulsance
endurance riding	rodeo
eventing	showing
gymkhana	showjumping
harness racing	skijoring
horse racing	steeplechasing
hunting	three-day eventing
marathon driving	trotting

equality, stability ② his equilibrium was never shaken COMPOSURE, calm, equanimity, sangfroid, level-headedness, cool-headedness, imperturbability, poise, presence of mind, self-possession, self-command, impassivity, placidity, tranquillity, serenity, *informal* cool
-OPPOSITES imbalance, agitation

equip ▶ **verb** ① the boat was equipped with a flare gun PROVIDE, furnish, supply, issue, kit out, stock, provision, arm, endow ② the course will equip them for the workplace PREPARE, qualify, suit

equipment ▶ **noun** APPARATUS, paraphernalia, articles, appliances, impedimenta, tools, utensils, implements, instruments, hardware, gadgets, gadgetry, stuff, things, kit, tackle, resources, supplies, trappings, appurtenances, accoutrements, *informal* gear, *Military* materiel, baggage

equipoise ▶ **noun** ① an equipoise of power EQUILIBRIUM, balance, evenness, symmetry, parity, equality, equity, stability ② an equipoise to imbalances in savings COUNTERWEIGHT, counterbalance, counterpoise, balance, stabilizer
-OPPOSITES imbalance

equitable ▶ **adjective** FAIR, just, impartial, even-handed, unbiased, unprejudiced, egalitarian, disinterested, objective, neutral, non-partisan, open-minded, *informal* fair and square
-OPPOSITES unfair

equity ▶ **noun** ① the equity of Finnish society FAIRNESS, justness, impartiality, egalitarianism, objectivity, balance, open-mindedness ② he owns 25% of the equity in the property VALUE, worth, ownership, rights, proprietorship

equivalence ▶ **noun** EQUALITY, sameness, interchangeability, comparability, correspondence, uniformity, similarity, likeness, nearness

equivalent ▶ **adjective** a degree or equivalent qualification. EQUAL, identical, similar, parallel, analogous, comparable, corresponding, commensurate, approximate, near

▶ **noun** Denmark's equivalent of the Daily Mirror COUNTERPART, parallel, alternative, match, analogue, twin, opposite number; equal, peer.

equivocal ▶ **adjective** AMBIGUOUS, indefinite, non-committal, vague, imprecise, inexact, inexplicit, hazy, unclear, cryptic, enigmatic, ambivalent, uncertain, unsure, indecisive
-OPPOSITES definite.

equivocate ▶ **verb** PREVARICATE, be evasive, be non-committal, be vague, be ambiguous, dodge the issue, beat about the bush, hedge one's bets, pussyfoot around; vacillate, shilly-shally, waver; temporize, hesitate, stall; *Brit*

hum and haw, *informal* sit on the fence, duck the issue, *rare* tergiversate

era ▶ **noun** EPOCH, age, period, time, span, aeon, generation See list at AGE

eradicate ▶ **verb** ELIMINATE, get rid of, remove, obliterate, exterminate, destroy, annihilate, kill, wipe out, abolish, stamp out, extinguish, quash, erase, efface, excise, expunge

erase ▶ **verb** ① they erased his name from all lists DELETE, rub out, wipe off, blot out, blank out, cancel, efface, expunge, excise, remove, obliterate, eliminate ② the old differences in style were erased DESTROY, wipe out, obliterate, eradicate, abolish, stamp out, quash

erect ▶ **adjective** ① she held her body erect UP RIGHT, straight, vertical, perpendicular, standing ② an erect penis ENGORGED, enlarged, swollen, tumescent, hard, stiff ③ the dog's fur was erect BRISTLING, standing on end, upright
-OPPOSITES bent, flaccid, flat

▶ **verb** ① the bridge was erected in 1973 BUILD, construct, put up, assemble, put together, fabricate ② the party that erected the welfare state ESTABLISH, form, set up, found, institute, initiate, create, organize
-OPPOSITES demolish, dismantle, lower

erection ▶ **noun** ① the erection of a house CONSTRUCTION, building, assembly, fabrication, elevation ② a bleak concrete erection BUILDING, structure, construction, pile, *formal* edifice ③ ERECT PENIS, phallus, tumescence, tumidity

hermit ▶ **noun** (*archaic*) HERMIT, recluse, solitary, ascetic, *historical* anchorite, anchoress

ergo ▶ **adverb** THEREFORE, consequently, so, as a result, hence, thus, accordingly, for that reason, that being the case, on that account, *formal* whence, *archaic* wherefore

erode ▶ **verb** WEAR AWAY/DOWN, abrade, grind down, crumble, weather, eat away at, dissolve, corrode, rot, decay, undermine, weaken, deteriorate, destroy

erosion ▶ **noun** WEARING AWAY, abrasion, attrition, weathering, dissolution, corrosion, decay, deterioration, disintegration, destruction, *rare* detrition

erotic ▶ **adjective** SEXUALLY AROUSING, sexually stimulating, titillating, suggestive, pornographic, sexually explicit, lewd, smutty, hard-core, soft-core, dirty, racy, risqué, ribald, naughty, sexual, sexy, sensual, amatory, seductive, alluring, tantalizing, *informal* blue, X-rated, steamy, raunchy, *euphemistic* adult

err ▶ **verb** ① the judge had erred MAKE A MISTAKE, be wrong, be in error, be mistaken, blunder, be incorrect, miscalculate, get it wrong; *informal* slip up, screw up, foul up, goof, make a boo-boo, bark up the wrong tree, get the wrong end of the stick; *Brit informal* boob ② she struck them when they erred MISBEHAVE, be bad, be naughty, get up to mischief, cause trouble; sin, transgress, lapse, clown about/around, fool about/around, act the goat; *informal* mess about/around, act up, *Brit informal* play up

errand ▶ **noun** TASK, job, chore, assignment, collection, delivery; mission, undertaking.

errant ▶ **adjective** ① he fined the errant councillors OFFENDING, guilty, culpable, misbehaving, delinquent, lawbreaking; troublesome, unruly, disobedient. ② (*archaic*) a knight errant: TRAVELLING,

wandering, itinerant, roaming, roving, voyaging.

—OPPOSITES innocent

erratic ▶ **adjective** UNPREDICTABLE, inconsistent, changeable, variable, inconstant, irregular, fitful, unstable, turbulent, unsettled, changing, varying, fluctuating, mutable, unreliable, undependable, volatile, mercurial, capricious, fickle, temperamental, moody

—OPPOSITES consistent

erring ▶ **adjective** OFFENDING, guilty, culpable, misbehaving, errant, delinquent, lawbreaking, aberrant, deviant

erroneous ▶ **adjective** WRONG, incorrect, mistaken, in error, inaccurate, untrue, false, fallacious, unsound, specious, faulty, flawed, *informal* off beam, way out, full of holes

—OPPOSITES correct

error ▶ **noun** MISTAKE, inaccuracy, miscalculation, blunder, oversight, fallacy, misconception, delusion, misprint, erratum, *informal* slip-up, bloomer, boo-boo, *Brit informal* boob

■ **In error** WRONGLY, by mistake, mistakenly, incorrectly, accidentally, by accident, inadvertently, unintentionally, by chance

ersatz ▶ **adjective** ARTIFICIAL, substitute, imitation, synthetic, fake, false, mock, simulated, pseudo, sham, bogus, spurious, counterfeit, manufactured, man-made, *informal* phoney

—OPPOSITES genuine

erstwhile ▶ **adjective** FORMER, old, past, one-time, sometime, ex-, late, then, previous, *formal* quondam

—OPPOSITES present

erudite ▶ **adjective** LEARNED, scholarly, educated, knowledgeable, well read, well informed, intellectual, intelligent, clever, academic, literary, bookish, highbrow, cerebral, *informal* brainy, *dated* lettered

—OPPOSITES ignorant

erupt ▶ **verb** ① *the volcano erupted* EMIT LAVA, become active, flare up, explode ② *lava was erupted* EMIT, discharge, eject, expel, spew out, pour out, disgorge ③ *fighting erupted* BREAK OUT, flare up, start suddenly, ensue, arise, happen ④ *a boil erupted on her temple* APPEAR, break out, flare up, come to a head, emerge

eruption ▶ **noun** ① *a volcanic eruption* DISCHARGE, ejection, emission, explosion ② *an eruption of violence* OUTBREAK, flare-up, upsurge, outburst, breakout, explosion, wave, spate ③ *a skin eruption* RASH, outbreak, inflammation

escalate ▶ **verb** ① *prices have escalated* INCREASE RAPIDLY, soar, rocket, shoot up, mount, spiral, climb, go up, *informal* go through the roof, skyrocket ② *the dispute escalated* GROW, develop, mushroom, increase, heighten, intensify, accelerate

—OPPOSITES plunge, shrink

escalation ▶ **noun** ① *an escalation in oil prices* INCREASE, rise, hike, growth, leap, upsurge, upturn, climb. ② *an escalation of the conflict*: IN TENSIFICATION, aggravation, exacerbation, magnification, amplification, augmentation, expansion, build-up; deterioration.

escapade ▶ **noun** EXPLOIT, stunt, caper, antic(s), spree, adventure, venture, mission; deed, feat, trial, experience; incident, occurrence, event

escape ▶ **verb** ① *he escaped from prison* RUN AWAY/OFF, get out, break out, break free, make a break for it, bolt, flee, take flight, make off, take off, abscond, take to one's heels, make one's getaway, make a run for it, disappear, vanish, slip away, sneak away, *informal* cut and run, skeddaddle, scarper, vamoose, do a vanishing act, fly the coop, take French leave, leg it, *Brit informal* do a bunk, do a runner, *N Amer informal* go on the lam ② *he escaped his pursuers* GET AWAY FROM, escape from, elude, avoid, dodge, shake off, *informal* give someone the slip ③ *they escaped injury* AVOID, evade, dodge, elude, miss, cheat, sidestep, circumvent, steer clear of, shirk, *informal* duck ④ *lethal gas escaped* LEAK (OUT), seep (OUT), discharge, emanate, issue, flow (OUT), pour (OUT), gush (OUT), spurt (OUT), spew (OUT)

▶ **noun** ① *his escape from prison* GETAWAY, break-out, bolt, flight, disappearance, vanishing act, *Brit informal* flit, *informal, dated* spring ② *a narrow escape from death* AVOIDANCE OF, evasion of, circumvention of ③ *a gas escape* LEAK, leakage, spill, seepage, discharge, emanation, outflow, outpouring, gush, stream, spurt ④ *an escape from boredom* DISTRACTION, diversion

escapee ▶ **noun** RUNAWAY, escaper, absconder, jailbreaker, fugitive, truant, deserter, defector

escapism ▶ **noun** FANTASY, fantasizing, daydreaming, daydreams, reverie, imagination, flight(s) of fancy, pipe dreams, wishful thinking, wool-gathering, *informal* pie in the sky

—OPPOSITES realism

eschew ▶ **verb** ABSTAIN FROM, refrain from, give up, forgo, shun, renounce, steer clear of, have nothing to do with, fight shy of, relinquish, reject, disavow, abandon, spurn, wash one's hands of, drop, *informal* kick, pack in, *Brit informal* jack in, *formal* forswear, abjure

escort ▶ **noun** ① *a police escort* GUARD, bodyguard, protector, minder, custodian, attendant, chaperone, entourage, retinue, cortège, protection, defence, convoy ② *her escort for the evening* COMPANION, partner, *informal* date. ③ *an agency dealing with escorts* PAID COMPANION, hostess, geisha, gigolo

▶ **verb** ① *he was escorted home by the police* CONDUCT, accompany, guide, usher, shepherd, take ② *he escorted her in to dinner* ACCOMPANY, partner, take, bring

esoteric ▶ **adjective** ABSTRUSE, obscure, arcane, recherché, rarefied, recondite, abstract, enigmatic, inscrutable, cryptic, Delphic, complex, complicated, incomprehensible, opaque, impenetrable, mysterious

especial ▶ **adjective** ① *special care is required* PARTICULAR, (extra) special, superior, exceptional, extraordinary, unusual, out of the ordinary, uncommon, remarkable, singular ② *her especial brand of charm*: DISTINCTIVE, individual, special, particular, distinct, peculiar, personal, own, unique, specific

especially ▶ **adverb** ① *work poured in, especially from Kent*: MAINLY, mostly, chiefly, principally, largely, substantially, particularly, primarily, generally, usually, typically. ② *a committee especially for the purpose*: EXPRESSLY, specially, specifically, exclusively, just, particularly, explicitly ③ *he is especially talented*: EXCEPTIONALLY, particularly, specially, very, extremely, singularly, distinctly, unusually, extraordinarily, uncom-

monly, uniquely, remarkably, outstandingly, really, *informal* seriously, majorly, *Brit informal* jolly, dead, well

espionage ► **noun** SPYING, infiltration, eavesdropping, surveillance, reconnaissance, intelligence

espousal ► **noun** ADOPTION, embracing, acceptance, support, championship, encouragement, defence, sponsorship, promotion, endorsement, advocacy, approval

espouse ► **verb** ADOPT, embrace, take up, accept, welcome; support, back, champion, favour, prefer, encourage, promote, endorse, advocate

—OPPOSITES reject

espy ► **verb** (*poetic/literary*) CATCH SIGHT OF, glimpse, see, spot, spy, notice, observe, discern, pick out, detect, *poetic/literary* behold, descry

essay ► **noun** ① *he wrote an essay* ARTICLE, composition, study, paper, dissertation, thesis, discourse, treatise, disquisition, monograph, commentary, critique, *N Amer* theme ② (*formal*) *his first essay in telecommunications* ATTEMPT, effort, endeavour, try, venture, trial, experiment, undertaking

► **verb** (*formal*) *many essayed to travel that way* ATTEMPT, try, strive, venture, endeavour, seek, undertake

essence ► **noun** ① *the very essence of economics* QUINTESSENCE, soul, spirit, nature, core, heart, crux, nucleus, substance, principle, fundamental quality, sum and substance, reality, actuality; *informal* nitty-gritty ② *essence of ginger* EXTRACT, concentrate, distillate, elixir, decoction, juice, tincture, scent, perfume, oil

■ **In essence** ESSENTIALLY, basically, fundamentally, primarily, principally, chiefly, predominantly, substantially, above all, first and foremost, effectively, virtually, to all intents and purposes, intrinsically, inherently

■ **of the essence.** See ESSENTIAL adjective sense 1

essential ► **adjective** ① *it is essential to remove the paint* CRUCIAL, necessary, key, vital, indispensable, important, all-important, of the essence, critical, imperative, mandatory, compulsory, obligatory, urgent, pressing, paramount, pre-eminent, high-priority ② *the essential simplicity of his style* BASIC, inherent, fundamental, quintessential, intrinsic, underlying, characteristic, innate, primary, elementary, elemental, central, pivotal, vital ③ *the essential English gentleman* IDEAL, absolute, complete, perfect, quintessential

—OPPOSITES unimportant, optional, secondary

► **noun** ① *an essential for broadcasters*: NECESSITY, prerequisite, requisite, requirement, need, condition, precondition, stipulation; *sine qua non*, *informal* must. ② *the essentials of the job*. FUNDAMENTALS, basics, rudiments, first principles, foundations, bedrock, essence, basis, core, kernel, crux, *sine qua non*, *informal* nitty-gritty, brass tacks, nuts and bolts.

establish ► **verb** ① *they established an office in Moscow*. SET UP, start, initiate, institute, form, found, create, inaugurate; build, construct, install. ② *evidence to establish his guilt*: PROVE, demonstrate, show, indicate, signal, exhibit, manifest, attest to, evidence, determine, confirm, verify, certify, substantiate.

established ► **adjective** ① *established practice* ACCEPTED, traditional, orthodox, habitual, set, fixed, official, usual, customary, common, normal, general, prevailing, accustomed, familiar, expected, routine, typical, conventional, standard. ② *an established composer* WELL KNOWN, recognized, esteemed, respected, famous, prominent, noted, renowned

establishment ► **noun** ① *the establishment of a democracy* FOUNDATION, institution, formation, inception, creation, installation, inauguration, start, initiation ② *a dressmaking establishment* BUSINESS, firm, company, concern, enterprise, venture organization, operation, factory, plant, shop, office, practice, *informal* outfit, set-up ③ *educational establishments* INSTITUTION, place, premises, foundation, institute ④ *they dare to poke fun at the Establishment* THE AUTHORITIES, the powers that be, the system, the ruling class, *informal* Big Brother

estate ► **noun** ① *the Balmoral estate* PROPERTY, grounds, garden(s), park, parkland, land(s), landholding, manor, territory ② *a housing estate* AREA, site, development, complex ③ *a coffee estate* PLANTATION, farm, holding, forest, vineyard, *N Amer* ranch ④ *he left an estate worth £610,000* ASSETS, capital, wealth, riches, holdings, fortune, property, effects, possessions, belongings, *Law* goods and chattels ⑤ (*dated*) *the estate of matrimony* STATE, condition, situation, position, circumstance

estate agent ► **noun** PROPERTY AGENT, *Brit* house agent, *N Amer* realtor

esteem ► **noun** *she was held in high esteem* RESPECT, admiration, acclaim, approbation, appreciation, favour, recognition, honour, reverence, estimation, regard, opinion

► **verb** ① *such ceramics are highly esteemed* RESPECT, ADMIRE, value, regard, acclaim, appreciate, like, prize, treasure, favour, revere ② (*formal*) *I would esteem it a favour if you could speak to him* See DEEM

estimate ► **verb** ① *estimate the cost* CALCULATE ROUGHLY, approximate, guess, evaluate, judge, gauge, reckon, rate, determine, *informal* guesstimate ② *we estimate it to be worth £50,000* CONSIDER, believe, reckon, deem, judge, rate, gauge, *formal* opine.

► **noun** ① *an estimate of the cost*: ROUGH CALCULATION, approximation, estimation, rough guess, costing, quotation, valuation, evaluation, *informal* guesstimate ② *his estimate of Paul's integrity* EVALUATION, estimation, judgement, rating, appraisal, opinion, view

estimation ► **noun** ① *an estimation of economic growth* ESTIMATE, approximation, rough calculation, rough guess, evaluation, *informal* guesstimate. ② *he rated highly in Carl's estimation* ASSESSMENT, evaluation, judgement, esteem, opinion, view.

estrangle ► **verb** ALIENATE, antagonize, turn away, drive away, distance; sever, set at odds with, drive a wedge between.

estrangement ► **noun** ALIENATION, antagonism, antipathy, disaffection, hostility, unfriendliness, variance, difference; parting, separation, divorce, break-up, split, breach, schism.

estuary ► **noun** (RIVER) MOUTH, firth, delta.

et cetera ► **adverb** AND SO ON, and so forth, and the rest, and/or the like, and suchlike.

among others, et al, etc, *informal* and what have you, and whatnot

etch ▶ **verb** ① *the metal is etched with acid* CORRODE, burn into, mark ② *a stone etched with tiny designs* ENGRAVE, carve, inscribe, incise, chase, score, print, mark

etching ▶ **noun** ENGRAVING, print, impression, block, plate, woodcut, linocut

eternal ▶ **adjective** ① *eternal happiness* EVERLASTING, never-ending, endless, perpetual, undying, immortal, abiding, permanent, enduring, infinite, boundless, timeless ② *eternal vigilance* CONSTANT, continual, continuous, perpetual, persistent, sustained, unrelenting, relentless, unrelieved, uninterrupted, unbroken, never-ending, non-stop, round-the-clock, endless, ceaseless

—OPPOSITES transient, intermittent

eternally ▶ **adverb** ① *I shall be eternally grateful forever*, permanently, perpetually, (for) evermore, for ever and ever, for eternity, in perpetuity, enduringly, *N Amer* forevermore, *informal* until doomsday, until the cows come home, *archaic* for aye ② *the tenants complain eternally* CONSTANTLY, continually, continuously, always, all the time, persistently, repeatedly, regularly, day and night, non-stop, endlessly, incessantly, perpetually, interminably, relentlessly, *informal* 24-7

eternity ▶ **noun** ① *the memory will remain for eternity* EVER, all time, perpetuity ② *(Theology)* souls destined for eternity THE AFTERLIFE, everlasting life, life after death, the hereafter, the afterworld, the next world, heaven, paradise, immortality ③ *(informal)* I waited an eternity for you A LONG TIME, an age, ages, a lifetime, hours, years, aeons, forever, *informal* donkey's years, a month of Sundays, *Brit informal* yonks

ethereal ▶ **adjective** ① *her ethereal beauty* DELICATE, exquisite, dainty, elegant, graceful, fragile, airy, fine, subtle ② *theologians discuss ethereal ideas* CELESTIAL, heavenly, spiritual, otherworldly, paradisaical, Elysian

—OPPOSITES substantial, earthly

ethical ▶ **adjective** ① *an ethical dilemma* MORAL, social, behavioural ② *an ethical investment policy* MORALLY CORRECT, right-minded, principled, irreproachable, righteous, high-minded, virtuous, good, moral; clean, lawful, just, honourable, reputable, respectable, noble, worthy, praiseworthy, commendable, admirable, laudable, whiter than white, saintly, impeccable, *informal* squeaky clean

ethics ▶ **plural noun** MORAL CODE, morals, morality, values, rights and wrongs, principles, ideals, standards (of behaviour), virtues

ethnic ▶ **adjective** RACIAL, race-related, ethnological, cultural, national, tribal, ancestral, traditional.

ethos ▶ **noun** SPIRIT, character, atmosphere, climate, mood, feeling, tenor, essence; disposition, rationale, morality, moral code, principles, standards, ethics.

etiquette ▶ **noun** PROTOCOL, manners, accepted behaviour, rules of conduct, decorum, good form; courtesy, propriety, formalities, niceties, punctilios; custom, convention; *informal* the done thing; *formal* politesse.

etymology ▶ **noun** DERIVATION, word history, development, origin, source

eulogize ▶ **verb** EXTOL, acclaim, sing the praises of, praise to the skies, wax lyrical about, rhapsodize about, rave about, enthuse about, *N Amer informal* ballyhoo

—OPPOSITES criticize

eulogy ▶ **noun** ACCOLADE, panegyric, paean, tribute, compliment, commendation, praise, acclaim, plaudits, bouquets, *formal* encomium

—OPPOSITES attack

euphemism ▶ **noun** POLITE TERM, indirect term, substitute, alternative, understatement, genteelism

euphemistic ▶ **adjective** POLITE, substitute, mild, understated, indirect, neutral, evasive, diplomatic, inoffensive, genteel

euphonious ▶ **adjective** PLEASANT-SOUNDING, sweet-sounding, mellow, mellifluous, dulcet, sweet, honeyed, lyrical, silvery, golden, lilting, soothing, harmonious, melodious, *informal* easy on the ear

—OPPOSITES cacophonous

euphoria ▶ **noun** ELATION, happiness, joy, delight, glee, excitement, exhilaration, jubilation, exultation, ecstasy, bliss, rapture

—OPPOSITES misery

euphoric ▶ **adjective** ELATED, happy, joyful, delighted, gleeful, excited, exhilarated, jubilant, exultant, ecstatic, blissful, rapturous, transported, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, *informal* on the top of the world, over the moon, on a high

euthanasia ▶ **noun** MERCY KILLING, assisted suicide

evacuate ▶ **verb** ① *local residents were evacuated* REMOVE, clear, move out, take away ② *they evacuated the bombed town* LEAVE, vacate, abandon, desert, move out of, quit, withdraw from, retreat from, decamp from, flee, depart from, escape from ③ *police evacuated the area* CLEAR, empty, depopulate ④ *patients couldn't evacuate their bowels* EMPTY (OUT), void, open, move, purge, defecate ⑤ *he evacuated the contents of his stomach* EXPEL, eject, discharge, excrete, void, empty (out)

evacuation ▶ **noun** ① *the evacuation of civilians* REMOVAL, clearance, shifting, eviction, deportation ② *the evacuation of military bases* CLEARANCE, depopulation, abandonment, vacation, desertion ③ *involuntary evacuation of the bowels* EMPTYING (OUT), voidance, opening, purging; defecation. ④ *dysenteric evacuations* BOWEL MOVEMENT/MOTION, stools, excrement, excreta, faeces, waste

evade ▶ **verb** ① *they evaded the guards* ELUDE, avoid, dodge, escape (from), steer clear of, keep at arm's length, sidestep; lose, leave behind, shake off, *N Amer* end-run, *informal* give someone the slip ② *he evaded the question*. AVOID, dodge, sidestep, bypass, hedge, fence, skirt round, fudge, be evasive about, *informal* duck, cop out of.

—OPPOSITES confront

evaluate ▶ **verb** ASSESS, judge, gauge, rate, estimate, appraise, analyse, weigh up, get the measure of; *informal* size up, check out.



evaluation ► **noun** ASSESSMENT, appraisal, judgement, gauging, rating, estimation, consideration, analysis

evanescent ► **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) VANISHING, fading, evaporating, melting away, disappearing, ephemeral, fleeting, short-lived, short-term, transitory, transient, fugitive, temporary
—OPPOSITES permanent

evangelical ► **adjective** ① *evangelical Christianity* SCRIPTURAL, biblical, fundamentalist, orthodox ② *an evangelical preacher* EVANGELISTIC, evangelizing, missionary, crusading, propagandist, propagandizing, proselytizing

evangelist ► **noun** PREACHER, missionary, gospel, proselytizer, crusader, propagandist

evangelistic ► **adjective**. See EVANGELICAL sense 2

evangelize ► **verb** CONVERT, proselytize, redeem, save, preach to, recruit, act as a missionary, crusade, campaign

evaporate ► **verb** ① *the water evaporated* VAPOURIZE, become vapour, volatilize, dry up ② *the rock salt is washed and evaporated* DRY OUT, dehydrate, desiccate, dehumidify ③ *the feeling has evaporated* END, pass (away), fizzle out, peter out, wear off, vanish, fade, disappear, melt away
—OPPOSITES condense, wet, materialize

evasion ► **noun** ① *the evasion of immigration control* AVOIDANCE, elusion, circumvention, dodging, sidestepping ② *she grew tired of all the evasion* PREVARICATION, evasiveness, beating about the bush, hedging, pussyfooting, equivocation, vagueness, temporization, *Bnt* humming and hawing, *rare* tergiversation

evasive ► **adjective** EQUIVOCAL, prevaricating, elusive, ambiguous, non-committal, vague, inexplicit, unclear, roundabout, indirect, *informal* cagey

eve ► **noun** ① *the eve of the election* DAY BEFORE, evening before, night before, the run-up to ② (*poetic/literary*) *a winter's eve* EVENING, night, *poetic/literary* eventide
—OPPOSITES morning

even ► **adjective** ① *an even surface* FLAT, smooth, uniform, featureless, unbroken, undamaged, level, plane ② *an even temperature* UNIFORM, constant, steady, stable, consistent, unvarying, unchanging, regular. ③ *they all have an even chance* EQUAL, the same, identical, like, alike, similar, comparable, parallel ④ *the score was even*: LEVEL, drawn, tied, all square, balanced, neck and neck, *Bnt* level pegging, *informal* even-stein(s) ⑤ *an even disposition*. EVEN-TEMPERED, balanced, stable, equable, placid, calm, composed, poised, cool, relaxed, easy, imperturbable, unexcitable, unruffled, untroubled, *informal* together, laid-back, unflappable.

—OPPOSITES bumpy, irregular, unequal, moody

► **verb** ① *the canal bottom was evened out* FLATTEN, level (off/out), smooth (off/out), plane, make uniform, make regular ② *the union wants to even up our wages*: EQUALIZE, make equal, level up, balance, square, standardize, regularize.

► **adverb** ① *it got even colder*: STILL, yet, more, all the more. ② *even the best hitters missed the ball* SURPRISINGLY, unexpectedly, paradoxically ③ *she is afraid, even ashamed, to ask for help*: INDEED, you could say, veritably, in truth, actual-

ly, or rather, nay ④ *she couldn't even afford food* SO MUCH AS

■ **even as** WHILE, whilst, as, just as, at the very time that, during the time that

■ **even so** NEVERTHELESS, nonetheless, all the same, just the same, anyway, anyhow, still, yet, however, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, be that as it may, in any event, at any rate

■ **get even** HAVE ONE'S REVENGE, avenge oneself, take vengeance, even the score, settle the score, hit back, give as good as one gets, pay someone back, repay someone, reciprocate, retaliate, take reprisals, exact retribution, give someone their just deserts, *informal* get one's own back, give someone a taste of their own medicine, settle someone's hash, *poetic/literary* be revenged

even-handed ► **adjective** FAIR, just, equitable, impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, disinterested, detached, objective, neutral
—OPPOSITES biased

evening ► **noun** NIGHT, late afternoon, end of day, close of day, twilight, dusk, nightfall, sunset, sundown, *poetic/literary* eve, eventide

event ► **noun** ① *an annual event* OCCURRENCE, happening, proceeding, incident, affair, circumstance, occasion, phenomenon, function, gathering, *informal* bash, do ② *the team lost the event* COMPETITION, contest, tournament, round, heat, match, fixture, race, game, bout

■ **in any event/at all events** REGARDLESS, whatever happens, come what may, no matter what, at any rate, in any case, anyhow, anyway, even so, still, nevertheless, nonetheless, *N Amer informal* anyways

■ **in the event** AS IT TURNED OUT, as it happened, in the end, as a result, as a consequence

even-tempered ► **adjective** SERENE, calm, composed, tranquil, relaxed, easy-going, mellow, unworried, untroubled, unruffled, imperturbable, placid, equable, stable, level-headed, *informal* unflappable, together, laid-back
—OPPOSITES excitable

eventful ► **adjective** BUSY, action-packed, full, lively, active, hectic, strenuous, momentous, significant, important, historic, consequential, fateful

—OPPOSITES dull

eventual ► **adjective** FINAL, ultimate, concluding, closing, end, resulting, ensuing, consequent, subsequent

eventuality ► **noun** EVENT, incident, occurrence, happening, development, phenomenon, situation, circumstance, case, contingency, chance, likelihood, possibility, probability; outcome, result.

eventually ► **adverb** IN THE END, in due course, by and by, in time, after some time, after a bit, finally, at last, ultimately, in the long run, at the end of the day, one day, some day, sometime, sooner or later

eventuate ► **verb** (*formal*) ① *you never know what might eventuate* See HAPPEN sense 1 ② *the fight eventuated in his death*: RESULT IN, end in, lead to, give rise to, bring about, cause

ever ► **adverb** ① *the best I've ever done*: AT ANY TIME, at any point, on any occasion, under any

circumstances, on any account, up till now, until now ② *he was ever the optimist* ALWAYS, forever, eternally, until hell freezes over, *informal* until the twelfth of never, until the cows come home, until doomsday. ③ *an ever increasing rate of crime* CONTINUALLY, constantly, always, endlessly, perpetually, incessantly, unremittingly ④ *will she ever learn?* AT ALL, in any way

■ **ever so** (*Brit informal*) VERY, extremely, exceedingly, especially, immensely, particularly, really, truly, *N English* right, *informal* awfully, terribly, desperately, mega, ultra, *Brit informal* well, dead, jolly, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful

everlasting ▶ **adjective** ① *everlasting love* ETERNAL, endless, never-ending, perpetual, undying, abiding, enduring, infinite, boundless, timeless ② *his everlasting complaints* CONSTANT, continual, continuous, persistent, relentless, unrelieved, uninterrupted, unabating, endless, interminable, never-ending, non-stop, incessant
-OPPOSITES transient, occasional

evermore ▶ **adverb** ALWAYS, forever, ever, for always, for all time, until hell freezes over, eternally, in perpetuity, ever after, henceforth, *Brit* for evermore, forever more, *N Amer* for-evermore, *informal* until the cows come home, until the twelfth of never

every ▶ **determiner** ① *he exercised every day* EACH, each and every, every single ② *we make every effort to satisfy our clients* ALL POSSIBLE, the utmost

everybody ▶ **pronoun** EVERYONE, every person, each person, all, one and all, all and sundry, the whole world, the public, *informal* (every Tom, Dick, and Harry), every man jack, every mother's son

everyday ▶ **adjective** ① *the everyday demands of a baby* DAILY, day-to-day, quotidian ② *everyday drugs like aspirin* COMMONPLACE, ordinary, common, usual, regular, familiar, conventional, run-of-the-mill, standard, stock, household, domestic, *Brit* common or garden, *informal* bog-standard
-OPPOSITES unusual

everyone ▶ **pronoun** EVERYBODY, every person, each person, all, one and all, all and sundry, the whole world, the public, *informal* (every Tom, Dick, and Harry), every man jack, every mother's son

everything ▶ **pronoun** EACH ITEM, each thing, every single thing, the (whole) lot, all, *informal* the whole caboodle, the whole shebang, *N Amer informal* the whole ball of wax
-OPPOSITES nothing

everywhere ▶ **adverb** ALL OVER, all around, in every nook and cranny, far and wide, near and far, high and low, (here, there, and everywhere), throughout the land, the world over, worldwide; *informal* all over the place; *Brit informal* all over the shop, *N Amer informal* all over the map.
-OPPOSITES nowhere

evict ▶ **verb** EXPEL, eject, oust, remove, dislodge, turn out, throw out, drive out, dispossess, expropriate; *informal* chuck out, kick out, boot out, bounce, give someone the (old) heave-ho, throw someone out on their ear; *Brit informal* turf out; *N Amer informal* give someone the bum's rush, *dated* out

eviction ▶ **noun** EXPULSION, ejection, ousting, removal, dislodgement, displacement, banishment, dispossession, expropriation, *Law* ouster.

evidence ▶ **noun** ① *they found evidence of his plotting* PROOF, confirmation, verification, substantiation, corroboration, affirmation, attestation ② *the court accepted her evidence*. TESTIMONY, statement, attestation, declaration, avowal, submission, claim, contention, allegation, *Law* deposition, representation, affidavit ③ *evidence of a struggle* SIGNS, indications, pointers, marks, traces, suggestions, hints, manifestation

▶ **verb** *the rise of racism is evidenced here* INDICATE, show, reveal, display, exhibit, manifest, testify to, confirm, prove, substantiate, endorse, bear out, *formal* evince
-OPPOSITES disprove

■ **in evidence** NOTICEABLE, conspicuous, obvious, perceptible, visible, on view, plain to see, palpable, tangible, unmistakable, undisguised, prominent, striking, glaring, *informal* as plain as the nose on your face, sticking out like a sore thumb, sticking out a mile, staring someone in the face

evident ▶ **adjective** OBVIOUS, apparent, noticeable, conspicuous, perceptible, visible, discernible, clear, plain, manifest, patent, palpable, tangible, distinct, pronounced, marked, striking, glaring, blatant, unmistakable, indisputable, *informal* as plain as the nose on your face, sticking out like a sore thumb, sticking out a mile, as clear as day

evidently ▶ **adverb** ① *he was evidently dismayed* OBVIOUSLY, clearly, plainly, visibly, manifestly, patently, distinctly, markedly, unmistakably, undeniably, undoubtedly, as sure as eggs is eggs ② *evidently, she believed herself superior* SEEMINGLY, apparently, as far as one can tell, from all appearances, on the face of it, it seems (that), it appears (that)

evil ▶ **adjective** ① *an evil deed* WICKED, bad, wrong, immoral, sinful, foul, vile, dishonourable, corrupt, iniquitous, depraved, villainous, nefarious, vicious, malicious, malevolent, sinister, demonic, devilish, diabolical, fiendish, dark, monstrous, shocking, despicable, atrocious, heinous, odious, contemptible, horrible, execrable, *informal* low-down, dirty ② *an evil spirit* HARMFUL, hurtful, injurious, detrimental, deleterious, inimical, bad, mischievous, pernicious, malignant, malign, baleful, destructive, ruinous ③ *evil weather* UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, nasty, horrible, foul, filthy, vile, inclement
-OPPOSITES good, beneficial, pleasant

▶ **noun** ① *the evil in our midst* WICKEDNESS, bad, badness, wrongdoing, sin, immorality, vice, iniquity, degeneracy, corruption, depravity, villainy, nefariousness, malevolence; *formal* turpitude ② *nothing but evil would ensue* HARM, pain, misery, sorrow, suffering, trouble, disaster, misfortune, catastrophe, affliction, woe, hardship ③ *the evils of war* ABOMINATION, atrocity, obscenity, outrage, enormity, crime, monstrosity, barbarity

evince ▶ **verb** (*formal*) REVEAL, show, make plain, manifest, indicate, display, exhibit, demonstrate, evidence, attest to; convey, communicate, proclaim, bespeak.
-OPPOSITES conceal

eviscerate ► *verb* (formal) DISEMBOWEL, gut, draw, dress.

evocative ► *adjective* REMINISCENT, suggestive, redolent, expressive, vivid, graphic, powerful, haunting, moving, poignant

evoke ► *verb* BRING TO MIND, put one in mind of, conjure up, summon (up), invoke, elicit, induce, kindle, stimulate, stir up, awaken, arouse, recall, echo, capture

evolution ► *noun* ① the evolution of Bolshevism DEVELOPMENT, advancement, growth, rise, progress, expansion, evolvment, transformation, adaptation, modification, revision ② his interest in evolution DARWINISM, natural selection.

evolve ► *verb* DEVELOP, progress, advance, mature, grow, expand, spread, alter, change, transform, adapt, metamorphose; humorous transmogrify

exacerbate ► *verb* AGGRAVATE, worsen, inflame, compound, intensify, increase, heighten, magnify, add to, amplify, augment, informal add fuel to the fire/flames
—OPPOSITES reduce

exact ► *adjective* ① an exact description PRECISE, accurate, correct, faithful, close, true, literal, strict, faultless, perfect, impeccable, explicit, detailed, minute, meticulous, thorough, informal on the nail, on the mark, *Brit* informal spot on, bang on, *N Amer* informal on the money, on the button. ② an exact manager CAREFUL, meticulous, painstaking, punctilious, conscientious, scrupulous, exacting, methodical, organized, orderly
—OPPOSITES inaccurate, careless

► *verb* ① she exacted high standards from them DEMAND, require, insist on, request, impose, expect; extract, compel, force, squeeze ② they exacted a terrible vengeance on him INFLICT, impose, administer, apply

exacting ► *adjective* ① an exacting training routine DEMANDING, stringent, testing, challenging, onerous, arduous, laborious, taxing, gruelling, punishing, hard, tough ② an exacting boss STRICT, stern, firm, demanding, tough, harsh, inflexible, uncompromising, unyielding, unsparing
—OPPOSITES easy, easy-going

exactly ► *adverb* ① it's exactly as I expected it to be PRECISELY, entirely, absolutely, completely, totally, just, quite, in every way, in every respect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt, informal to a T, *N Amer* informal on the money ② write the quotation out exactly ACCURATELY, precisely, correctly, unerringly, faultlessly, perfectly; verbatim, word for word, letter for letter, to the letter, faithfully
► exclamation 'She escaped?' 'Exactly'. PRECISELY, yes, that's right, just so, quite (so), indeed, absolutely; informal you got it
■ not exactly BY NO MEANS, not at all, in no way, certainly not; not really.

exaggerate ► *verb* OVERSTATE, overemphasize, overestimate, magnify, amplify, aggrandize, inflate, embellish, embroider, elaborate, overplay, dramatize; hyperbolize, stretch the truth; *Brit* overpitch; informal lay it on thick, make a mountain out of a molehill, blow out of all proportion, make a big thing of.
—OPPOSITES understate

exaggerated ► *adjective* OVERSTATED, inflated, magnified, amplified, aggrandized, excessive, hyperbolic, elaborate, overdone, overplayed, over-dramatized, highly coloured, melodramatic, sensational; informal over the top, OTT

exaggeration ► *noun* OVERSTATEMENT, overemphasis, magnification, amplification, aggrandizement, dramatization, elaboration, embellishment, embroidery, hyperbole, overkill, gilding the lily

exalt ► *verb* ① they exalted their hero EXTOL, praise, acclaim, esteem, pay homage to, revere, venerate, worship, lionize, idolize, look up to, informal put on a pedestal, formal laud. ② this power exalts the peasant ELEVATE, promote, raise, advance, upgrade, ennoble, dignify, aggrandize ③ his works exalt the emotions UPLIFT, elevate, inspire, excite, stimulate, enliven, exhilarate
—OPPOSITES disparage, lower, depress

exaltation ► *noun* ① a heart full of exaltation ELATION, joy, rapture, ecstasy, bliss, happiness, delight, gladness ② their exaltation of Shakespeare PRAISE, extolment, acclamation, reverence, veneration, worship, adoration, idolization, lionization, formal laudation ③ the exaltation of Jesus to God's right hand ELEVATION, rise, promotion, advancement, ennoblement

exalted ► *adjective* ① his exalted office HIGH, high-ranking, elevated, superior, lofty, eminent, prestigious, illustrious, distinguished, esteemed ② his exalted aims NOBLE, lofty, high-minded, elevated, inflated, pretentious ③ she felt spiritually exalted ELATED, exultant, jubilant, joyous, rapturous, ecstatic, blissful, transported, happy, exuberant, exhilarated, informal high

exam ► *noun* TEST, examination, assessment, paper, oral, practical, *Brit* viva (voce), *N Amer* quiz

examination ► *noun* ① artefacts spread out for examination SCRUTINY, inspection, perusal, study, investigation, consideration, analysis, appraisal, evaluation ② a medical examination. IN SPECTION, check-up, assessment, appraisal, probe, test, scan, informal once-over, overhaul ③ a school examination TEST, exam, assessment, paper, oral, practical, *Brit* viva (voce), *N Amer* quiz ④ (Law) the examination of witnesses. INTERROGATION, questioning, cross-examination, inquisition

examine ► *verb* ① they examined the bank records INSPECT, scrutinize, investigate, look at, study, scan, sift, probe, appraise, analyse, review, survey, informal check out ② students were examined after a year TEST, quiz, question, assess, appraise. ③ (Law) name the witnesses to be examined INTERROGATE, question, quiz, cross-examine, catechize, give the third degree to, probe, sound out, informal grill, pump.

examiner ► *noun* TESTER, questioner, interviewer, assessor, appraiser, marker, inspector, auditor, analyst, adjudicator, judge, scrutineer

example ► *noun* ① a fine example of Chinese porcelain: SPECIMEN, sample, exemplar, exemplification, instance, case, illustration. ② we must follow their example: PRECEDENT, lead, model, pattern, exemplar, ideal, standard; role model ③ he was hanged as an example to others: WARNING, caution, lesson, deterrent, admonition; moral.

■ **for example** FOR INSTANCE, e.g., by way of illustration, such as, as, like, in particular, namely, viz

exasperate ▶ **verb** INFURIATE, incense, anger, annoy, irritate, madden, enrage, antagonize, provoke, irk, vex, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers, *Brit* rub up the wrong way; *informal* aggravate, rile, bug, needle, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's back up, get someone's goat, give someone the hump; *Brit informal* nark, wind up, get on someone's wick, *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off
-OPPOSITES please

exasperating ▶ **adjective** INFURIATING, annoying, irritating, maddening, provoking, irksome, vexatious, trying, displeasing, *informal* aggravating

exasperation ▶ **noun** IRRITATION, annoyance, vexation, anger, fury, rage, ill humour, crossness, tetchiness, testiness, disgruntlement, discontent, displeasure, *informal* aggravation

excavate ▶ **verb** ① she excavated a narrow tunnel DIG (OUT), bore, hollow out, scoop out, burrow, tunnel, sink, gouge ② numerous artefacts have been excavated UNEARTH, dig up, uncover, reveal, disinter, exhume

excavation ▶ **noun** ① the excavation of a grave UNEARTHING, digging up, disinterment, exhumation ② the excavation of a moat. DIGGING, hollowing out, boring, channelling ③ implements found in the excavations HOLE, pit, trench, trough, archaeological site

exceed ▶ **verb** ① the cost will exceed £400 BE MORE THAN, be greater than, be over, go beyond, overreach, top ② Brazil exceeds America in fertile land SURPASS, outdo, outstrip, outshine, outclass, transcend, top, beat, better, eclipse, overshadow, *informal* best, leave standing, be head and shoulders above

exceeding (*archaic*) ▶ **adjective** his exceeding kindness GREAT, considerable, exceptional, tremendous, immense, extreme, supreme, outstanding

▶ **adverb** the Lord has been exceeding gracious See EXCEEDINGLY

exceedingly ▶ **adverb** EXTREMELY, exceptionally, especially, tremendously, very, really, truly, most, *informal* terribly, awfully, seriously, mega, ultra, *Brit informal* ever so, well, dead, jolly, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, *archaic* exceeding

excel ▶ **verb** ① he excelled at football SHINE, be excellent, be outstanding, be skilful, be talented, be pre-eminent, reign supreme, stand out, be the best, be unparalleled, be unequalled, be second to none, be unsurpassed ② she excelled him in her work SURPASS, outdo, outshine, outclass, outstrip, beat, top, transcend, better, pass, eclipse, overshadow; *informal* best, be head and shoulders above, be a cut above

excellence ▶ **noun** DISTINCTION, quality, superiority, brilliance, greatness, merit, calibre, eminence, pre-eminence, supremacy, peerlessness, skill, talent, virtuosity, accomplishment, mastery

excellent ▶ **adjective** VERY GOOD, superb, outstanding, exceptional, marvellous, wonderful, pre-eminent, perfect, matchless, peerless, supreme, first-rate, first-class, superlative, splendid, fine, *informal* A1, ace, great, terrific, treme-

dous, fantastic, fabulous, fab, top-notch, class, awesome, magic, wicked, cool, out of this world; *Brit informal* brilliant, brill, smashing, *Austral informal* bonzer, *informal*, dated spiffing, capital
-OPPOSITES inferior

except ▶ **preposition** every day except Monday EXCLUDING, not including, excepting, omitting, not counting, but, besides, apart from, aside from, barring, bar, other than, saving, with the exception of; *informal* outside of, *formal* save
-OPPOSITES including

▶ **verb** you're all crooks, present company excepted EXCLUDE, omit, leave out, count out, disregard
-OPPOSITES include

exception ▶ **noun** this case is an exception ANOMALY, irregularity, deviation, special case, peculiarity, abnormality, oddity, misfit, *informal* freak

■ **take exception** OBJECT, take offence, take umbrage, demur, disagree, resent, argue against, protest against, oppose, complain about, *informal* kick up a fuss, kick up a stink

■ **with the exception of**. See EXCEPT preposition

exceptionable ▶ **adjective** (*formal*) See OBJECTIONABLE

exceptional ▶ **adjective** ① the drought was exceptional UNUSUAL, uncommon, abnormal, atypical, extraordinary, out of the ordinary, rare, unprecedented, unexpected, surprising, odd, strange, freakish, anomalous, peculiar; *Brit* out of the common, *informal* weird, fieaky, something else ② her exceptional ability OUTSTANDING, extraordinary, remarkable, special, excellent, phenomenal, prodigious, unequalled, unparalleled, unsurpassed, peerless, matchless, first-rate, first-class, *informal* A1, top-notch
-OPPOSITES normal, average

exceptionally ▶ **adverb** ① it was exceptionally cold UNUSUALLY, uncommonly, abnormally, atypically, extraordinarily, unexpectedly, surprisingly, strangely, oddly, *informal* weirdly, freakily ② an exceptionally acute mind EXCEEDINGLY, outstandingly, extraordinarily, remarkably, especially, phenomenally, prodigiously

excerpt ▶ **noun** EXTRACT, part, section, piece, portion, snippet, clip, bit, reading, citation, quotation, quote, line, passage, *N Amer* cite

excess ▶ **noun** ① an excess of calcium SURPLUS, surfeit, overabundance, superabundance, glut, superfluity, too much ② the excess is turned into fat REMAINDER, rest, residue, leftovers, remnants, surplus, extra, difference ③ a life of excess OVERINDULGENCE, intemperance, immoderation, profligacy, lavishness, extravagance, decadence, self-indulgence
-OPPOSITES lack, restraint

▶ **adjective** excess skin oils SURPLUS, superfluous, redundant, unwanted, unneeded, excessive, extra

■ **in excess of** MORE THAN, over, above, upwards of, beyond

excessive ▶ **adjective** ① excessive alcohol consumption IMMODERATE, intemperate, imprudent, overindulgent, unrestrained, uncontrolled, lavish, extravagant, superfluous. ② the cost is excessive EXORBITANT, extortionate, unreasonable, outrageous, undue, uncalled for, extreme, inordinate, unwarranted, disproportionate, too much, *informal* over the top, OTT.

excessively ► **adverb** INORDINATELY, unduly, unnecessarily, unreasonably, ridiculously, overly, very, extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, impossibly, immoderately, intemperately, too much

exchange ► **noun** ① the exchange of ideas: INTERCHANGE, trade, trading, swapping, traffic, trafficking, *archaic* truck ② a broker on the exchange: STOCK EXCHANGE, money market, bourse ③ an acrimonious exchange: CONVERSATION, dialogue, chat, talk, discussion, debate, argument, altercation, *informal* confab, *Brit informal* row, *barney*, *formal* confabulation, colloquy

► **verb** we exchanged shirts: TRADE, swap, switch, change, interchange, *archaic* truck

■ **exchange blows** FIGHT, brawl, scuffle, tussle, engage in fisticuffs, *informal* scrap, have a set-to, *Brit informal* have a punch-up

■ **exchange words** ARGUE, quarrel, squabble, have an argument/disagreement, *informal* have a slanging match

excise¹ ► **noun** the excise on spirits: DUTY, tax, levy, tariff

excise² ► **verb** ① the tumours were excised: CUT OUT/OFF/AWAY, take out, extract, remove, *technical* resect ② all unnecessary detail should be excised: DELETE, cross out/through, strike out, score out, cancel, put a line through, erase, *Computing*, *informal* kill, *Printing* dele

excitable ► **adjective** TEMPERAMENTAL, mercurial, volatile, emotional, sensitive, highly strung, unstable, nervous, tense, edgy, twitchy, uneasy, neurotic, *informal* uptight, jumpy, wired
—OPPOSITES placid

excite ► **verb** ① the prospect of a holiday excited me: THRILL, exhilarate, animate, enliven, rouse, stir, stimulate, galvanize, electrify, inspirit, *informal* buck up, pep up, ginger up, give someone a buzz/kick; *N Amer informal* give someone a charge ② she wore a chiffon nightgown to excite him: AROUSE (SEXUALLY), stimulate, titillate, inflame, *informal* turn someone on, get someone going, float someone's boat ③ his clothes excited envy: PROVOKE, stir up, rouse, arouse, kindle, trigger (off), spark off, incite, cause, *poetic/literary* enkindle
—OPPOSITES bore, depress

excited ► **adjective** ① they were excited about the prospect: THRILLED, exhilarated, animated, enlivened, electrified, enraptured, intoxicated, feverish, enthusiastic, *informal* high (as a kite), fired up ② (SEXUALLY) AROUSED, stimulated, titillated, inflamed; *informal* turned on, hot, horny, sexed up, *Brit informal* randy, *N Amer informal* squirrely

excitement ► **noun** ① the excitement of seeing a leopard in the wild: THRILL, pleasure, delight, joy, *informal* kick, buzz, *N Amer informal* charge ② excitement in her eyes: EXHILARATION, elation, animation, enthusiasm, eagerness, anticipation, feverishness; *informal* pep, vim, zing. ③ (SEXUAL) AROUSAL, passion, stimulation, titillation

exciting ► **adjective** ① an exciting story: THRILLING, exhilarating, stirring, rousing, stimulating, intoxicating, electrifying, invigorating; gripping, compelling, powerful, dramatic. ② (SEXUALLY) AROUSING, (sexually) stimulating, titillating, erotic, sexual, sexy; *informal* raunchy, steamy

exclaim ► **verb** CRY (OUT), declare, blurt out, call (out), shout, yell, *dated* ejaculate

exclamation ► **noun** CRY, call, shout, yell, interjection, *dated* ejaculation

exclude ► **verb** ① women were excluded from many scientific societies: KEEP OUT, deny access to, shut out, debar, disbar, bar, ban, prohibit ② the clause excluded any judicial review: ELIMINATE, rule out, preclude, *formal* except. ③ the price excludes postage: BE EXCLUSIVE OF, not include ④ he excluded his name from the list: LEAVE OUT, omit, miss out
—OPPOSITES admit, include

exclusion ► **noun** ① the exclusion of women from the society: BARRING, keeping out, debarment, debarring, disbarring, banning, prohibition ② the exclusion of other factors: ELIMINATION, ruling out, precluding ③ the exclusion of pupils: EXPULSION, ejection, throwing out, suspension
—OPPOSITES acceptance, inclusion

exclusive ► **adjective** ① an exclusive club: SELECT, chic, high-class, elite, fashionable, stylish, elegant, premier, grade A, expensive, *Brit* up-market, *N Amer* high-toned, *informal* posh, ritzy, classy, *Brit informal* swish, *N Amer informal* tony ② a room for your exclusive use: SOLE, unshared, unique, only, individual, personal, private ③ prices exclusive of VAT: NOT INCLUDING, excluding, leaving out, omitting, excepting ④ mutually exclusive alternatives: INCOMPATIBLE, irreconcilable
—OPPOSITES inclusive

► **noun** a six-page exclusive: SCOOP, exposé, special, coup

excoriate ► **verb** ① (Medicine) the skin had been excoriated: ABRASE, rub away/raw, scrape, scratch, chafe, strip away, skin ② (formal) he was excoriated in the press: See CRITICIZE

excrement ► **noun** FAECES, excreta, stools, droppings, waste matter, ordure, dung, *informal* poo, doings, *Brit informal* cack, whoopsies, jobbies, *N Amer informal* poop
—RELATED TERMS copro-, scato-

excrecence ► **noun** ① an excrecence on his leg: GROWTH, lump, swelling, nodule, outgrowth ② the new buildings were an excrecence: EYESORE, blot on the landscape, monstrosity

excrete ► **verb** EXPEL, pass, void, discharge, eject, evacuate, defecate, urinate
—OPPOSITES ingest

excruciating ► **adjective** AGONIZING, severe, acute, intense, violent, racking, searing, piercing, stabbing, raging, unbearable, unendurable; *informal* splitting, killing

excursion ► **noun** TRIP, outing, jaunt, expedition, journey, tour, day trip/out, drive, run, ride; *informal* junket, spin.

excusable ► **adjective** FORGIVABLE, pardonable, defensible, justifiable; venial.
—OPPOSITES unforgivable.

excuse ► **verb** ① eventually she excused him: FORGIVE, pardon, absolve, exonerate, acquit; *informal* let someone off (the hook), *formal* exculpate ② such conduct can never be excused: JUSTIFY, defend, condone, vindicate; forgive, overlook, disregard, ignore, tolerate, sanction. ③ she has been excused from her duties: LET OFF, release, relieve, exempt, absolve, free.

—OPPOSITES punish, blame, condemn

► **noun** ① *that's no excuse for stealing* JUSTIFICATION, defence, reason, explanation, mitigating circumstances, mitigation, vindication ② *an excuse to get away*: PRETEXT, ostensible reason, pretence, *Brit* get-out; *informal* story, alibi ③ (*informal*) *that pathetic excuse for a man!* TRAVESTY OF, poor specimen of, *informal* apology for

execrable ► **adjective** APPALLING, awful, dreadful, terrible, frightful, atrocious, lamentable, egregious; disgusting, deplorable, disgraceful, reprehensible, abhorrent, loathsome, odious, hateful, vile, *informal* abysmal, diabolical, lousy, God-awful, *Brit* *informal* chronic, shocking
—OPPOSITES admirable

execrate ► **verb** ① *the men were execrated as corrupt* REVILE, denounce, decry, condemn, vilify, detest, loathe, abhor, despise, *formal* abominate, excoriate ② (*archaic*) *he execrated aloud* See SWEAR sense 3

execute ► **verb** ① *he was convicted and executed* PUT TO DEATH, kill, hang, behead, guillotine, electrocute, shoot, put before a firing squad, *informal* string up, *N Amer* send to the (electric) chair, *N Amer* *informal* fry ② *the corporation executed a series of financial deals* CARRY OUT, accomplish, bring off/about, achieve, complete, engineer, *informal* pull off, *formal* effectuate ③ *a well-executed act* PERFORM, present, render, stage

execution ► **noun** ① *the execution of the plan* IMPLEMENTATION, carrying out, accomplishment, bringing off/about, engineering, attainment, realization ② *the execution of the play* PERFORMANCE, presentation, rendition, rendering, staging ③ *thousands were sentenced to execution* CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, the death penalty, the gibbet, the gallows, the noose, the rope, the scaffold, the guillotine, the firing squad, *N Amer* the (electric) chair

executioner ► **noun** HANGMAN, official killer, *historical* headsman

executive ► **adjective** executive powers ADMINISTRATIVE, decision-making, managerial, law-making

► **noun** ① *top-level bank executives*: CHIEF, head, director, senior official, senior manager, CEO, chief executive officer, *informal* boss, exec, suit ② *the executive has increased in number* ADMINISTRATION, management, directorate, government, legislative body

exegesis ► **noun** INTERPRETATION, explanation, exposition, explication.

exemplar ► **noun** EPITOME, perfect example, model, paragon, ideal, exemplification, textbook example, embodiment, essence, quintessence

exemplary ► **adjective** ① *her exemplary behaviour* PERFECT, ideal, model, faultless, flawless, impeccable, irreproachable, excellent, outstanding, admirable, commendable, laudable, above/beyond reproach. ② *exemplary jail sentences*: SERVING AS A DETERRENT, cautionary, warning, admonitory, *rare* monitory. ③ *her works are exemplary of certain feminist arguments*. TYPICAL, characteristic, representative, illustrative
—OPPOSITES deplorable.

exemplify ► **verb** ① *this story exemplifies current trends*: TYPIFY, epitomize, be a typical example

of, be representative of, symbolize ② *he exemplified his point with an anecdote* ILLUSTRATE, give an example of, demonstrate

exempt ► **adjective** they are exempt from all charges FREE, not liable/subject, exempted, accepted, excused, absolved

—OPPOSITES subject to

► **verb** *he had been exempted from military service* EXCUSE, free, release, exclude, give/grant immunity, spare, absolve, *informal* let off (the hook), *N Amer* *informal* grandfather

exemption ► **noun** IMMUNITY, exception, dispensation, indemnity, exclusion, freedom, release, relief, absolution, *informal* let-off

exercise ► **noun** ① *exercise improves your heart* PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, a workout, working-out, gymnastics, sports, games, physical education, PE, physical training, PT, aerobics, jogging, running, *Brit* *informal* physical jerks ② *translation exercises* TASK, piece of work, problem, assignment, *Music* étude ③ *the exercise of professional skill* USE, utilization, employment, practice, application ④ *military exercises* MANOEUVRES, operations, war games

► **verb** ① *she exercised every day* WORK OUT, do exercises, train, *informal* pump iron ② *he must learn to exercise patience* USE, employ, make use of, utilize, practise, apply ③ *the problem continued to exercise him* WORRY, trouble, concern, make anxious, bother, disturb, perturb, distress, preoccupy, prey on someone's mind, make uneasy, *informal* bug, do someone's head in

exert ► **verb** ① *he exerted considerable pressure on me* BRING TO BEAR, apply, exercise, employ, use, utilize, deploy ② *he had been exerting himself* MAKE AN/EVERY EFFORT, try hard, strive, endeavour, do one's best/utmost, give one's all, push oneself, drive oneself, work hard, *informal* go all out, pull out all the stops, bend/lean over backwards, do one's damndest, move heaven and earth, work one's socks off, *N Amer* *informal* do one's darnedest, bust one's chops, *Austral* *informal* go for the doctor

exertion ► **noun** ① *she was panting with the exertion* EFFORT, strain, struggle, toil, endeavour, hard work, labour, *Brit* *informal* graft, *Austral/NZ* *informal* yakka, *poetic/literary* travail ② *the exertion of pressure* USE, application, exercise, employment, utilization

exhale ► **verb** ① *she exhaled her cigarette smoke* BREATHE OUT, blow out, puff out ② *the jungle exhaled mists of early morning* GIVE OFF, emanate, send forth, emit
—OPPOSITES inhale

exhaust ► **verb** ① *the effort had exhausted him* TIRE (OUT), wear out, overture, fatigue, weary, drain, run someone into the ground, *informal* do in, take it out of one, wipe out, knock out, shatter, *Brit* *informal* knacker, *N Amer* *informal* poop, tucker out. ② *the country has exhausted its reserves* USE UP, run through, go through, consume, finish, deplete, spend, empty, drain, *informal* blow. ③ *we've exhausted the subject* TREAT THOROUGHLY, do to death, study in great detail
—OPPOSITES invigorate, replenish

exhausted ► **adjective** ① *I'm exhausted* TIRED OUT, worn out, weary, dog-tired, bone-tired, ready to drop, drained, fatigued, enervated; *informal* done in, all in, dead beat, shattered, bushed, knocked out, wiped out, bushwhacked,

Brit informal knackered, whacked (out), jiggered, *N Amer informal* pooped, tuckered out, fried, whipped, *Austral/NZ informal* stonkered ② *exhausted reserves* USED UP, consumed, finished, spent, depleted, empty, drained

exhausting ▶ **adjective** TIRING, wearying, taxing, fatiguing, wearing, enervating, draining, arduous, strenuous, onerous, demanding, gruelling, *informal* kulling, murderous, *Brit informal* knackinging

exhaustion ▶ **noun** ① *sheer exhaustion forced Paul to give up* EXTREME TIREDNESS, overtiredness, fatigue, weariness ② *the exhaustion of fuel reserves* CONSUMPTION, depletion, using up, expenditure, draining, emptying

exhaustive ▶ **adjective** COMPREHENSIVE, all-inclusive, complete, full, encyclopedic, thorough, in-depth, detailed, meticulous, painstaking
-OPPOSITES *perfunctory*

exhibit ▶ **verb** ① *the paintings were exhibited at Sotheby's* PUT ON DISPLAY/SHOW, display, show, put on public view, showcase, set out, lay out, array, arrange ② *Luke exhibited signs of jealousy* SHOW, reveal, display, manifest, express, indicate, demonstrate, present, *formal* evince

▶ **noun** ① *an exhibit at the British Museum* OBJECT ON DISPLAY, item, piece ② *(N Amer) people flocked to the exhibit* See EXHIBITION sense 1

exhibition ▶ **noun** ① *an exhibition of French sculpture* (PUBLIC) DISPLAY, show, showing, presentation, demonstration, exposition, showcase, *N Amer* exhibit ② *a convincing exhibition of concern* DISPLAY, show, demonstration, manifestation, expression

exhibitionist ▶ **noun** POSTURER, poser, self-publicist, extrovert, *informal* show-off, *N Amer informal* showboat

exhilarate ▶ **verb** THRILL, excite, intoxicate, elate, delight, enliven, animate, invigorate, energize, stimulate, *informal* give someone a thrill/buzz, *N Amer informal* give someone a charge

exhilaration ▶ **noun** ELATION, euphoria, exultation, exaltation, joy, happiness, delight, joyousness, jubilation, rapture, ecstasy

exhort ▶ **verb** URGE, encourage, call on, enjoin, charge, press, bid, appeal to, entreat, implore, *formal* adjure, *poetic/literary* beseech

exhortation ▶ **noun** ① *no amount of exhortation had any effect* URGING, encouragement, persuasion, pressure, admonishment, warning ② *the government's exhortations* ENTREATY, appeal, call, charge, injunction, admonition, warning

exhume ▶ **verb** DISINTER, dig up, disentomb
-OPPOSITES *bury*

exigency ▶ **noun** ① *the exigencies of the continuing war* NEED, demand, requirement, necessity ② *financial exigency* URGENCY, crisis, difficulty, pressure

exiguous ▶ **adjective** (formal) MEAGRE, inadequate, insufficient, small, scanty, paltry, negligible, modest, deficient, miserly, niggardly, beggarly; *informal* measly, stingy, piddling
-OPPOSITES *ample, generous*

exile ▶ **noun** ① *his exile from the land of his birth* BANISHMENT, expulsion, expatriation, deportation ② *political exiles* ÉMIGRÉ, expatriate; displaced person, DP, refugee, deportee; *informal*

expat

▶ **verb** *he was exiled from his country* EXPEL, banish, expatriate, deport, drive out, throw out, outlaw.

exist ▶ **verb** ① *animals existing in the distant past* LIVE, be alive, be living, be, have being, have existence ② *the liberal climate that existed during his presidency* PREVAIL, occur, be found, be in existence, be the case ③ *she had to exist on a low income* SURVIVE, subsist, live, support oneself, manage, make do, get by, scrape by, make ends meet

existence ▶ **noun** ① *the industry's continued existence* ACTUALITY, being, existing, reality, survival, continuation ② *her suburban existence* WAY OF LIFE/LIVING, life, lifestyle ③ (archaic) malevolent existences BEING, entity, creation

■ **in existence** ① *there are several million unidentified species in existence* ALIVE, existing, extant, existent ② *the only copy still in existence* SURVIVING, remaining, undestroyed, in circulation

existent ▶ **adjective** IN EXISTENCE, alive, existing, living, extant, surviving, remaining, undestroyed

exit ▶ **noun** ① *the fire exit* WAY OUT, door, egress, escape route, doorway, gate, gateway, portal ② *take the second exit* TURNING, turn-off, turn, *N Amer* turnout ③ *his sudden exit* DEPARTURE, leaving, withdrawal, going, decamping, retreat, flight, exodus, escape
-OPPOSITES *entrance, arrival*

▶ **verb** *the doctor had just exited* LEAVE, go (out), depart, withdraw, retreat
-OPPOSITES *enter*

exodus ▶ **noun** MASS DEPARTURE, withdrawal, evacuation, leaving, migration, emigration, flight, escape, fleeing

exonerate ▶ **verb** ① *the inquiry exonerated them* ABSOLVE, clear, acquit, find innocent, discharge, *formal* exculpate ② *the pope exonerated the king from his oath* RELEASE, discharge, free, liberate, excuse, exempt, except, dispense, *informal* let off
-OPPOSITES *convict*.

exorbitant ▶ **adjective** EXTORTIONATE, excessively high, excessive, prohibitive, outrageous, unreasonable, inflated, unconscionable, huge, enormous, *Brit* over the odds, *informal* steep, stiff, over the top, a rip-off; *Brit informal* daylight robbery
-OPPOSITES *reasonable*

exorcize ▶ **verb** ① *exorcizing an spirit* DRIVE OUT, cast out, expel ② *they exorcized the house* PURIFY, cleanse, purge; *rare* lustrate

exordium ▶ **noun** (formal) INTRODUCTION, opening, preface, prelude, foreword, preamble, prologue, *informal* intro, *formal* proem, prolegomenon.
-OPPOSITES *conclusion*

exotic ▶ **adjective** ① *exotic birds* FOREIGN, non-native, tropical. ② *exotic places* FOREIGN, far-away, far-off, far-flung, distant. ③ *Linda's exotic appearance* STRIKING, colourful, eye-catching, unusual, unconventional, out of the ordinary, foreign-looking, extravagant, outlandish; *informal* offbeat, off the wall
-OPPOSITES *native, nearby, conventional*

expand ▶ **verb** ① *metals expand when heated* INCREASE IN SIZE, become larger, enlarge; swell, dilate, inflate; lengthen, stretch, thicken, fill

out, rare intumesce ② the company is expanding GROW, become/make larger, become/make bigger, increase in size/scope, extend, augment, broaden, widen, develop, diversify, build up, branch out, spread, proliferate ③ the minister expanded on the proposals. ELABORATE ON, enlarge on, go into detail about, flesh out, develop, expatiate on ④ she expanded and flourished RELAX, unbend, become relaxed, grow friendlier, loosen up

—OPPOSITES shrink, contract

expanse ▶ noun AREA, stretch, sweep, tract, swathe, belt, region, sea, carpet, blanket, sheet

expansion ▶ noun ① expansion and contraction ENLARGEMENT, increase in size, swelling, dilation, lengthening, elongation, stretching, thickening ② the expansion of the company GROWTH, increase in size, enlargement, extension, development, spread, proliferation, multiplication ③ an expansion of a lecture given last year ELABORATION, enlargement, amplification, development

—OPPOSITES contraction

expansive ▶ adjective ① expansive moorland EXTENSIVE, sweeping, rolling ② expansive coverage WIDE-RANGING, extensive, broad, wide, comprehensive, thorough ③ Cara became engagingly expansive COMMUNICATIVE, forthcoming, sociable, friendly, outgoing, affable, chatty, talkative, garrulous, loquacious, voluble

expatiate ▶ verb SPEAK/WRITE AT LENGTH, go into detail, expound, dwell, dilate, expand, enlarge, elaborate, formal perorate

expatriate ▶ noun expatriates working overseas EMIGRANT, non-native, émigré, (economic) migrant, informal expat

—OPPOSITES national

▶ adjective expatriate workers EMIGRANT, living abroad, non-native, émigré, informal expat
—OPPOSITES indigenous

▶ verb ① he was not tempted to expatriate himself SETTLE ABROAD, live abroad ② he was expatriated EXILE, deport, banish, expel

expect ▶ verb ① I expect she'll be late SUPPOSE, presume, think, believe, imagine, assume, surmise, informal guess, reckon, N Amer informal figure ② a 10 per cent rise was expected ANTICIPATE, await, look for, hope for, look forward to, contemplate, bargain for/on, bank on, predict, forecast, envisage, envision ③ we expect total loyalty REQUIRE, ask for, call for, want, insist on, demand

expectancy ▶ noun ① feverish expectancy ANTICIPATION, expectation, eagerness, excitement ② life expectancy LIKELIHOOD, probability, outlook, prospect

expectant ▶ adjective ① expectant fans EAGER, excited, agog, waiting with bated breath, hopeful, in suspense, on tenterhooks. ② an expectant mother: PREGNANT, informal expecting, in the family way, preppers, Brit informal up the duff/spout, in the (pudding) club, technical gravid. archaic with child, in a delicate/interesting condition.

expectation ▶ noun ① her expectations were unrealistic: SUPPOSITION, assumption, presumption, conjecture, surmise, calculation, prediction. ② tense with expectation. ANTICIPATION, expectancy, eagerness, excitement, suspense

expecting ▶ adjective (informal). See EXPECTANT sense 2

expedient ▶ adjective a politically expedient strategy CONVENIENT, advantageous, in one's own interests, useful, of use, beneficial, of benefit, helpful, practical, pragmatic, politic, prudent, wise, judicious, sensible

▶ noun a temporary expedient: MEASURE, means, method, stratagem, scheme, plan, move, tactic, manoeuvre, device, contrivance, ploy, machination, dodge, Austral informal lurk

expedite ▶ verb SPEED UP, accelerate, hurry, hasten, step up, quicken, precipitate, dispatch, advance, facilitate, ease, make easier, further, promote, aid, push through, urge on, boost, stimulate, spur on, help along

—OPPOSITES delay

expedition ▶ noun ① an expedition to the South Pole JOURNEY, voyage, tour, odyssey, exploration, safari, trek, hike ② (informal) a shopping expedition TRIP, excursion, outing, jaunt ③ all members of the expedition GROUP, team, party, crew, band, squad ④ (formal) use all expedition possible SPEED, haste, swiftness, quickness, rapidity, briskness, poetic/literary fleetness, celerity

expeditious ▶ adjective SPEEDY, swift, quick, rapid, fast, brisk, efficient, prompt, punctual, immediate, instant, poetic/literary fleet

—OPPOSITES slow

expel ▶ verb ① she was expelled from her party THROW OUT, bar, ban, debar, drum out, oust, remove, get rid of, dismiss, Military cashier, informal chuck out, sling out, kick/boot out, Brit informal turf out, N Amer informal give someone the bum's rush; dated out ② he was expelled from the country BANISH, exile, deport, evict, expatriate, drive out, throw out ③ Dolly expelled a hiss LET OUT, discharge, eject, issue, send forth

—OPPOSITES admit

expend ▶ verb ① they had already expended \$75,000 SPEND, pay out, disburse, dole out, dish out, get through, waste, fritter (away), dissipate, informal fork out, shell out, lay out, cough up, blow, splurge, Brit informal splash out, stump up, N Amer informal ante up ② children expend a lot of energy USE (UP), utilize, consume, eat up, deplete, get through

—OPPOSITES save, conserve

expendable ▶ adjective ① an accountant decided he was expendable DISPENSABLE, replaceable, non-essential, inessential, unnecessary, not required, superfluous, disposable ② an expendable satellite launcher DISPOSABLE, throw-away, one-use, single-use

—OPPOSITES indispensable

expenditure ▶ noun ① the expenditure of funds SPENDING, paying out, outlay, disbursement, doling out, waste, wasting, frittering (away), dissipation ② reducing public expenditure OUT GOINGS, costs, payments, expenses, overheads, spending

—OPPOSITES saving, income

expense ▶ noun ① Nigel resented the expense COST, price, charge, outlay, fee, tariff, levy, payment; humorous damage ② regular expenses OUT GOING, payment, outlay, expenditure, charge, bill, overhead ③ pollution controls come at the expense of jobs SACRIFICE, cost, loss

expensive ▶ adjective COSTLY, dear, high-priced, overpriced, exorbitant, extortionate, informal steep, pricey, costing an arm and a leg, costing the earth, costing a bomb

—OPPOSITES cheap, economical

experience ▶ noun ① qualifications and experience SKILL, (practical) knowledge, understanding, background, record, history, maturity, worldliness, sophistication, informal know-how ② an enjoyable experience INCIDENT, occurrence, event, happening, episode, adventure, exploit, escapade ③ his first experience of business INVOLVEMENT IN, participation in, contact with, acquaintance with, exposure to, observation of, awareness of, insight into

▶ verb some policemen experience harassment UNDER GO, encounter, meet, come into contact with, come across, come up against, face, be faced with

experienced ▶ adjective ① an experienced pilot KNOWLEDGEABLE, skilful, skilled, expert, accomplished, adept, adroit, master, consummate, proficient, trained, competent, capable, well trained, well versed, seasoned, practised, mature, veteran ② she deluded herself that she was experienced WORLDLY (WISE), sophisticated, suave, urbane, mature, knowing, informal street-wise

—OPPOSITES novice, naive

experiment ▶ noun ① carrying out experiments TEST, investigation, trial, examination, observation, assessment, evaluation, appraisal, analysis, study ② these results have been established by experiment RESEARCH, experimentation, observation, analysis, testing

—RELATED TERMS empirical

▶ verb they experimented with new ideas CONDUCT EXPERIMENTS, carry out trials/tests, conduct research, test, trial, do tests on, try out, assess, appraise, evaluate

experimental ▶ adjective ① the experimental stage EXPLORATORY, investigational, trial, test, pilot, speculative, conjectural, hypothetical, tentative, preliminary, untested, untried ② experimental music INNOVATIVE, innovatory, new, original, radical, avant-garde, alternative, unorthodox, unconventional, left-field, informal way-out

expert ▶ noun he is an expert in kendo SPECIALIST, authority, pundit, adept, maestro, virtuoso, (past) master, wizard, connoisseur, aficionado, informal ace, buff, pro, whizz, hotshot, Brit informal dab hand, N Amer informal maven, cracker-jack

▶ adjective an expert chess player SKILFUL, skilled, adept, accomplished, talented, fine; master, masterly, brilliant, virtuoso, magnificent, outstanding, great, exceptional, excellent, first-class, first-rate, superb, proficient, good, able, capable, experienced, practised, knowledgeable, informal wizard, ace, crack, mean

—OPPOSITES incompetent

expertise ▶ noun SKILL, skilfulness, expertness, prowess, proficiency, competence, knowledge mastery, ability, aptitude, facility, capability, informal know-how

expiate ▶ verb ATONE FOR, make amends for, make up for, do penance for, pay for, redress, redeem, offset, make good.

expire ▶ verb ① my contract has expired: RUN OUT, become invalid, become void, lapse; END, finish, stop, come to an end, terminate ② the spot where he expired: DIE, pass away/on, breathe one's last; informal kick the bucket, bite the

dust, croak, buy it, Brit informal snuff it, peg out, pop one's clogs, archaic de cease, depart this life ③ (technical) afterwards the breath is expired BREATHE OUT, exhale, blow out, expel

expiry ▶ noun ① the expiry of the lease LAPSE, expiration ② the expiry of his term of office END, finish, termination, conclusion ③ (archaic) the sad expiry of their friend DEATH, demise, passing (away/on), dying, formal de cease

explain ▶ verb ① a technician explained the procedure DESCRIBE, give an explanation of, make clear/intelligible, spell out, put into words; elucidate, expound, explicate, clarify, throw light on, gloss, interpret ② nothing could explain his new-found wealth: ACCOUNT FOR, give an explanation for, give a reason for, justify, give a justification for, give an excuse for, vindicate, legitimize

explanation ▶ noun ① an explanation of the ideas contained in the essay CLARIFICATION, simplification, description, report, statement, elucidation, exposition, expounding, explication, gloss, interpretation, commentary, exegesis ② I owe you an explanation ACCOUNT, reason, justification, excuse, alibi, defence, vindication

explanatory ▶ adjective EXPLAINING, descriptive, describing, illustrative, illuminative, elucidatory

expletive ▶ noun SWEAR WORD, oath, curse, obscenity, profanity, four-letter word, dirty word, informal cuss word, cuss, formal imprecation, (expletives) bad language, foul language, strong language, swearing

explicable ▶ adjective EXPLAINABLE, understandable, comprehensible, accountable, intelligible, interpretable

explicate ▶ verb EXPLAIN, make explicit, clarify, make plain/clear, spell out, interpret, elucidate, expound, illuminate, throw light on

explicit ▶ adjective ① explicit instructions CLEAR, plain, straightforward, crystal clear, easily understandable, precise, exact, specific, unequivocal, unambiguous, detailed, comprehensive, exhaustive ② sexually explicit material UNCENSORED, graphic, candid, full-frontal

—OPPOSITES vague

explode ▶ verb ① a bomb has exploded BLOW UP, detonate, go off, burst (apart), fly apart ② exploding the first atomic device DETONATE, set off, let off, discharge. ③ he exploded in anger LOSE ONE'S TEMPER, blow up, get angry, become enraged, informal fly off the handle, hit the roof, blow one's cool/top, go wild, go bananas, see red, go off the deep end, Brit informal go spare, go crackers, N Amer informal blow one's lid/stack ④ the city's exploding population INCREASE SUDDENLY/RAPIDLY, mushroom, snowball, escalate, multiply, burgeon, rocket ⑤ exploding the myths about men: DISPROVE, refute, rebut, invalidate, negate, negative, controvert, repudiate, discredit, debunk, belie, give the lie to; informal shoot full of holes, blow out of the water; formal confute

—OPPOSITES defuse.

exploit ▶ verb ① we should exploit this new technology: UTILIZE, use, make use of, turn/put to good use, make the most of, capitalize on, benefit from, informal cash in on ② exploiting the workers: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, abuse, impose on, treat unfairly, misuse, ill-treat; informal walk (all)

Explorers and Navigators

Amundsen, Roald (Norwegian)
 Baffin, William (English)
 Balboa, Vasco Núñez de (Spanish)
 Banks, Joseph (English)
 Barents, Willem (Dutch)
 Barth, Heinrich (German)
 Bellingshausen, Fabian von (Russian)
 Bering, Vitus (Danish)
 Boone, Daniel (American)
 Bougainville, Louis Antoine de (French)
 Brazza, Pierre Savorgnan de (French)
 Bruce, James (Scottish)
 Burke, Robert O'Hara (Irish)
 Burton, Richard (English)
 Byrd, Richard (American)
 Cabot, John (Italian)
 Cartier, Jacques (French)
 Champlain, Samuel de (French)
 Clark, William (American)
 Columbus, Christopher (Spanish, b. in Italy)
 Cook, Captain James (English)
 Cortés, Hernando (Spanish)
 Cousteau, Jacques (French)
 Covilhã, Pêro da (Portuguese)
 da Gama, Vasco (Portuguese)
 Dampier, William (English)
 Dias, Bartolomeu (Portuguese)
 Diemen, Anthony van (Dutch)
 Drake, Francis (English)
 Dumont d'Urville, Jules-Sébastien-César (French)

Ellsworth, Lincoln (American)
 Ericsson, Leif (11th century; Norse)
 Eric the Red (Norse)
 Eyre, Edward John (Australian, b. in Britain)
 Flaherty, Robert (American)
 Flinders, Matthew (English)
 Forrest, John (Australian)
 Frémont, John (American)
 Frobisher, Martin (English)
 Fuchs, Vivian (English)
 Gilbert, Humphrey (English)
 Henry the Navigator (Portuguese)
 Hillary, Edmund (New Zealand)
 Hudson, Henry (English)
 Humboldt, Alexander von (German)
 Hume, Hamilton (Australian)
 Iberville, Pierre le Moyne, Sieur d' (French-Canadian)
 Ibn Batuta (Arab)
 La Salle, René-Robert Cavellier, Sieur de (French)
 Leichhardt, Ludwig (Australian, b. in Prussia)
 Lewis, Meriwether (American)
 Livingstone, David (Scottish)
 Lozier-Bouvet, François (French)
 Mackenzie, Alexander (Scottish)
 McKinlay, John (Australian, b. in Scotland)
 Magellan, Ferdinand (Portuguese)
 Marco Polo (Italian)
 Marquette, Jacques (French)
 Nansen, Fridtjof (Norwegian)

Orellana, Francisco de (Spanish)
 Park, Mungo (Scottish)
 Peary, Robert (American)
 Pizarro, Francisco (Spanish)
 Ponce de León, Juan (Spanish)
 Raleigh, Walter (English)
 Rasmussen, Knud (Danish)
 Ross, James (Scottish)
 Ross, John (Scottish)
 Scott, Robert (English)
 Selkirk, Alexander (Scottish)
 Selous, Frederick Courteney (English)
 Shackleton, Ernest (British, b. in Ireland)
 Soto, Hernando de (Spanish)
 Speke, John Hanning (English)
 Stanley, Henry Morton (Welsh)
 Stuart, John McDouall (Scottish)
 Sturt, Charles (English)
 Tasman, Abel (Dutch)
 Tenzing Norgay (Sherpa)
 Thesiger, Wilfred (English)
 Vancouver, George (English)
 Van der Post, Laurens (South African)
 Velázquez de Cuéllar, Diego (Spanish)
 Vespucci, Amerigo (Italian)
 Whymper, Edward (English)
 Wilkins, George (British, b. in Australia)
 Wills, William John (English)
 Wrangel, Ferdinand von (Russian)

over, take for a ride, rip off

► **noun** his exploits brought him notoriety **FEAT**, deed, act, adventure, stunt, escapade, achievement, accomplishment, attainment, informal lark, caper

exploitation ► **noun** ① the exploitation of mineral resources **UTILIZATION**, use, making use of, making the most of, capitalization on, informal cashing in on ② the exploitation of the poor **TAKING ADVANTAGE**, abuse, misuse, ill-treatment, unfair treatment, oppression

exploration ► **noun** ① the exploration of space **INVESTIGATION**, study, survey, research, inspection, examination, scrutiny, observation, consideration, analysis, review ② explorations into the mountains **EXPEDITION**, trip, journey, voyage, archaic peregrination, (**explorations**) travels

exploratory ► **adjective** **INVESTIGATIVE**, investigational, explorative, probing, fact-finding, experimental, trial, test, preliminary, provisional

explore ► **verb** ① they explored all the possibilities **INVESTIGATE**, look into, consider, examine, research, survey, scrutinize, study, review, go over with a fine-tooth comb; informal check out ② exploring Iceland's north-west **TRAVEL OVER**, tour, range over, survey, take a look at, inspect, investigate, reconnoitre, informal recce, give something a/the once-over

explorer ► **noun** **TRAVELLER**, discoverer, voyager, adventurer, surveyor, scout, prospector. See list.

explosion ► **noun** ① Edward heard the explosion **DETONATION**, eruption, blowing up, bang, blast, boom ② an explosion of anger **OUTBURST**, flare-up, outbreak, eruption, storm, rush, surge, fit, paroxysm, attack ③ the explosion of human populations **SUDDEN/RAPID INCREASE**, mushrooming, snowballing, escalation, multiplication, burgeoning, rocketing

explosive ► **adjective** ① explosive gases **VOLATILE**, inflammable, flammable, combustible, incendiary ② Marco's explosive temper **FIERY**, stormy, violent, volatile, angry, passionate, tempestuous, turbulent, touchy, irascible, hot-headed, short-tempered ③ an explosive situation **TENSE**, (highly) charged, overwrought, dangerous, perilous, hazardous, sensitive, delicate, unstable, volatile ④ explosive population growth **SUDDEN**, dramatic, rapid, mushrooming, snowballing, escalating, rocketing, accelerating
 ► **noun** they blast out the rock with explosive See list

Explosives

amatol
 cordite
 dynamite
 fuel-air explosive
 gellignite
 gun cotton
 gunpowder
 high explosive (HE)

lyddite
 nitroglycerine
 plastic explosive
 plastique
 RDX
 Semtex
 trinitrotoluene (TNT)

exponent ▶ noun ① an exponent of free-trade policies ADVOCATE, supporter, proponent, upholder, backer, defender, champion, promoter, propagandist, campaigner, fighter, crusader, enthusiast, apologist. ② a karate exponent PRAC TITIONER, performer, player
—OPPOSITES critic, opponent.

export ▶ verb ① exporting raw materials SELL OVERSEAS/ABROAD, send overseas/abroad, trade internationally ② he is trying to export his ideas to America. TRANSMIT, spread, disseminate, circulate, communicate, pass on, poetic/literary bruit about/abroad.
—OPPOSITES import

expose ▶ verb ① at low tide the sands are exposed REVEAL, uncover, lay bare ② he was exposed to asbestos MAKE VULNERABLE, subject, lay open, put at risk, put in jeopardy. ③ they were exposed to liberal ideas INTRODUCE TO, bring into contact with, make aware of, familiarize with, acquaint with ④ he was exposed as a liar UNCOVER, reveal, unveil, unmask, detect, find out, discover, bring to light, bring into the open, make known, denounce, condemn, informal spill the beans on, blow the whistle on
—OPPOSITES cover

■ **expose oneself** REVEAL ONE'S GENITALIA, informal flash

exposé ▶ noun REVELATION, disclosure, exposure, report, feature, piece, column, informal scoop
—OPPOSITES cover-up

exposed ▶ adjective UNPROTECTED, unsheltered, open to the elements/weather, vulnerable, defenceless, undefended, pregnable
—OPPOSITES sheltered

exposition ▶ noun ① a lucid exposition EXPLANATION, description, elucidation, explication, interpretation; account, commentary, appraisal, assessment, discussion, exegesis ② the exposition will feature 200 exhibits EXHIBITION, (trade) fair, display, show, presentation, demonstration; N Amer exhibit

expository ▶ adjective EXPLANATORY, descriptive, describing, elucidatory, explicatory, explicative, interpretative, exegetic

expostulate ▶ verb REMONSTRATE, disagree, argue, take issue, protest, reason, express disagreement, raise objections

exposure ▶ noun ① the exposure of the lizard's vivid blue tongue. REVEALING, revelation, uncovering, baring, laying bare. ② exposure to harmful chemicals SUBJECTION, vulnerability, laying open ③ suffering from exposure FROSTBITE, cold, hypothermia ④ exposure to great literature INTRODUCTION TO, experience of, contact with, familiarity with, acquaintance with, awareness of ⑤ the exposure of a banking scandal UNCOVERING, revelation, disclosure, unveiling, unmasking, discovery, detection, denunciation, condemnation. ⑥ we're getting a lot of exposure PUBLICITY, publicizing, advertising, public interest/attention, media interest/attention; informal hype ⑦ the exposure is perfect: OUTLOOK, aspect, view; position, setting, location.

xpound ▶ verb ① he expounded his theories: PRESENT, put forward, set forth, propose, propound, explain, give an explanation of, detail, spell out, describe. ② a treatise expounding Paul's

teachings EXPLAIN, interpret, explicate, elucidate; comment on, give a commentary on
■ **expound on** ELABORATE ON, expand on, expatiate on, discuss at length.

express¹ ▶ verb ① community leaders expressed their anger COMMUNICATE, convey, indicate, show, demonstrate, reveal, make manifest, put across/over, get across/over, articulate, put into words, utter, voice, give voice to, state, assert, proclaim, profess, air, make public, give vent to; formal evince ② all the juice is expressed SQUEEZE OUT, press out, extract

■ **express oneself** COMMUNICATE ONE'S THOUGHTS/OPINIONS/VIEWS, put thoughts into words, speak one's mind, say what's on one's mind

express² ▶ adjective an express bus RAPID, swift, fast, quick, speedy, high-speed, non-stop, direct

—OPPOSITES slow

▶ noun an overnight express EXPRESS TRAIN, fast train, direct train

express³ ▶ adjective ① express reference to confidential matters EXPLICIT, clear, direct, obvious, plain, distinct, unambiguous, unequivocal, specific, precise, crystal clear, certain, categorical ② one express purpose. SOLE, specific, particular, exclusive, specified, fixed
—OPPOSITES implied

expression ▶ noun ① the free expression of opposition views UTTERANCE, uttering, voicing, pronouncement, declaration, articulation, assertion, setting forth, dissemination, circulation, communication, spreading, promulgation ② an expression of sympathy INDICATION, demonstration, show, exhibition, token, communication, illustration, revelation ③ an expression of harassed fatigue LOOK, appearance, air, manner, countenance, mien ④ a time-worn expression IDIOM, phrase, idiomatic expression, proverb, saying, adage, maxim, axiom, aphorism, saw, motto, platitude, cliché ⑤ these pieces are very different in expression EMOTION, feeling, spirit, passion, intensity, style, intonation, tone ⑥ essential oils obtained by expression SQUEEZING, pressing, extraction, extracting

expressionless ▶ adjective ① his face was expressionless INSCRUTABLE, deadpan, poker-faced, blank, vacant, emotionless, unemotional, inexpressive, glazed, stony, wooden, impassive ② a flat, expressionless tone DULL, dry, toneless, monotonous, boring, tedious, flat, wooden, unmodulated, unvarying, devoid of feeling/emotion
—OPPOSITES expressive, lively

expressive ▶ adjective ① an expressive shrug ELOQUENT, meaningful, demonstrative, suggestive ② an expressive song EMOTIONAL, full of emotion/feeling, passionate, poignant, moving, stirring, evocative, powerful, emotionally charged. ③ his diction is very expressive of his Englishness INDICATIVE, demonstrative, demonstrative, showing, suggesting.
—OPPOSITES expressionless, unemotional.

expressly ▶ adverb ① he was expressly forbidden to discuss the matter: EXPLICITLY, clearly, directly, plainly, distinctly, unambiguously, unequivocally; absolutely; specifically, categorically, pointedly, emphatically. ② a machine expressly built for spraying paint: SOLELY, specifically, par-

ticularly, specially, exclusively, just, only, explicitly

expropriate ▶ **verb** SEIZE, take (away/over), appropriate, take possession of, requisition, commandeer, claim, acquire, sequester, confiscate, *Law* distrain

expulsion ▶ **noun** ① *expulsion from the party* REMOVAL, debarment, dismissal, exclusion, discharge, ejection, drumming out ② *the expulsion of bodily wastes* DISCHARGE, ejection, excretion, voiding, evacuation, elimination, passing
—OPPOSITES admission.

expunge ▶ **verb** ERASE, remove, delete, rub out, wipe out, efface, cross out, strike out, blot out, blank out, destroy, obliterate, eradicate, eliminate

expurgate ▶ **verb** CENSOR, bowdlerize, blue-pencil, cut, edit, clean up, sanitize, make acceptable, make palatable, water down

exquisite ▶ **adjective** ① *exquisite antique glass* BEAUTIFUL, lovely, elegant, fine, magnificent, superb, excellent, wonderful, well-crafted, well-made, perfect, delicate, fragile, dainty, subtle ② *exquisite taste* DISCRIMINATING, discerning, sensitive, selective, fastidious, refined, cultivated, cultured, educated ③ *exquisite agony* INTENSE, acute, keen, piercing, sharp, severe, racking, excruciating, agonizing, harrowing, searing, unbearable, unendurable

▶ **noun** (*dated*) *even among these snappy dressers, he was an exquisite* DANDY, fop, glamour boy, informal dude, snappy dresser, natty dresser, informal, dated swell, blade, dated beau

extant ▶ **adjective** STILL EXISTING, in existence, existent, surviving, remaining, undestroyed

extemporary, extemporaneous
▶ **adjective** an extemporaneous address See EXTEMPORE

extempore ▶ **adjective** an extempore speech IM PROMPTU, spontaneous, unscripted, ad lib, extemporary, extemporaneous, improvised, unrehearsed, unplanned, unprepared, off the top of one's head, informal off-the-cuff, formal ad libitum
—OPPOSITES rehearsed

▶ **adverb** *he was speaking extempore* SPONTANEOUSLY, extemporaneously, ad lib, without preparation, without rehearsal, off the top of one's head, informal off the cuff, formal ad libitum

extemporize ▶ **verb** IMPROVISE, ad lib, play it by ear, think on one's feet, do something off the top of one's head, informal busk it, wing it, do something off the cuff

extend ▶ **verb** ① *he attempted to extend his dominions* EXPAND, enlarge, increase, make larger/bigger, lengthen, widen, broaden ② *the garden extends down to the road* CONTINUE, carry on, run on, stretch (out), reach, lead. ③ *we have extended our range of services* WIDEN, expand, broaden; augment, supplement, increase, add to, enhance, develop ④ *extending the life of parliament*: PROLONG, lengthen, increase; stretch out, protract, spin out, string out. ⑤ *extend your arms and legs* STRETCH OUT, spread out, reach out, straighten out. ⑥ *he extended a hand in greeting*: HOLD OUT, reach out, hold forth; offer, give, outstretch, proffer ⑦ *we wish to extend our thanks to Mr Bayes*: OFFER, proffer, give, grant, bestow, accord.

—OPPOSITES reduce, narrow, shorten.

■ **extend to** INCLUDE, take in, incorporate, encompass

extended ▶ **adjective** PROLONGED, protracted, long-lasting, long-drawn-out, spun out, dragged out, strung out, lengthy, long

extension ▶ **noun** ① *they are planning a new extension* ADDITION, add-on, adjunct, annexe, wing, supplementary building, *N Amer* ell ② *an extension of knowledge* EXPANSION, increase, enlargement, widening, broadening, deepening, augmentation, enhancement, development, growth, continuation ③ *an extension of opening hours* PROLONGATION, lengthening, increase ④ *I need an extension of time* POSTPONEMENT, deferral, delay, more/extra time

extensive ▶ **adjective** ① *a mansion with extensive grounds* LARGE, large-scale, sizeable, substantial, considerable, ample, expansive, great, vast ② *extensive knowledge* COMPREHENSIVE, thorough, exhaustive, broad, wide, wide-ranging, catholic

extent ▶ **noun** ① *two acres in extent* AREA, size, expanse, length, proportions, dimensions ② *the full extent of her father's illness* DEGREE, scale, level, magnitude, scope, size, breadth, width, reach, range

extenuate ▶ **verb** EXCUSE, mitigate, palliate, make allowances/excuses for, defend, vindicate, justify, diminish, lessen, moderate, qualify, play down

extenuating ▶ **adjective** MITIGATING, excusing, exonerative, palliating, palliative, justifying, justificatory, vindicating, formal exculpatory

exterior ▶ **adjective** the exterior walls OUTER, outside, outermost, outward, external
—RELATED TERMS ecto-, exo-
—OPPOSITES interior

▶ **noun** the exterior of the building OUTSIDE, outer surface, external surface, outward appearance, facade

exterminate ▶ **verb** KILL, put to death, take/end the life of, dispatch, slaughter, butcher, massacre, wipe out, eliminate, eradicate, annihilate, murder, assassinate, execute, informal do away with, bump off, do in, top, take out, blow away, *N Amer informal* ice, rub out, waste, poetic/literary slay

extermination ▶ **noun** KILLING, murder, assassination, putting to death, execution, dispatch, slaughter, massacre, liquidation, elimination, eradication, annihilation, poetic/literary slaying

external ▶ **adjective** ① *an external wall* OUTER, outside, outermost, outward, exterior ② *an external examiner* OUTSIDE, independent, non-resident, from elsewhere
—RELATED TERMS ecto-, exo-
—OPPOSITES internal, in-house

extinct ▶ **adjective** ① *an extinct species* VANISHED, lost, died out, no longer existing, no longer extant, wiped out, destroyed, gone. ② *an extinct volcano* INACTIVE.
—OPPOSITES extant, dormant.

extinction ▶ **noun** DYING OUT, disappearance, vanishing; extermination, destruction, elimination, eradication, annihilation.

extinguish ▶ **verb** ① *the fire was extinguished* DOUSE, put out, stamp out, smother, beat out, dampen down. ② *all hope was extinguished*: DES-

TROY, end, finish off, put an end to, bring to an end, terminate, remove, annihilate, wipe out, erase, eliminate, eradicate, obliterate, *informal* take out, rub out
-OPPOSITES light

extirpate ▶ **verb** WEED OUT, destroy, eradicate, stamp out, root out, wipe out, eliminate, suppress, crush, put down, put an end to, get rid of

extol ▶ **verb** PRAISE ENTHUSIASTICALLY, go into raptures about/over, wax lyrical about, sing the praises of, praise to the skies, acclaim, eulogize, rhapsodize over, rave about, enthuse about/over, *informal* go wild about, go on about, *N Amer informal* ballyhoo, *formal* laud, *archaic* panegyryze
-OPPOSITES criticize

extort ▶ **verb** OBTAIN BY FORCE, obtain by threat(s), blackmail someone for, extract, exact, wring, wrest, screw, squeeze, *N Amer & Austral informal* put the bite on someone for

extortion ▶ **noun** DEMANDING MONEY WITH MENACES, blackmail, extraction, *N Amer informal* shakedown, *formal* exaction

extortionate ▶ **adjective** ① *extortionate prices* EXORBITANT, excessively high, excessive, outrageous, unreasonable, inordinate, inflated, *informal* over the top, OTT ② *an extortionate clause* GRASPING, bloodsucking, avaricious, greedy, exacting, harsh, severe, oppressive, *informal* money-grubbing

extortionist ▶ **noun** RACKETEER, extortioner, extorter, blackmailer, *informal* bloodsucker

extra ▶ **adjective** extra income ADDITIONAL, more, added, supplementary, further, auxiliary, ancillary, subsidiary, secondary

▶ **adverb** ① *working extra hard* EXCEPTIONALLY, particularly, specially, especially, very, extremely, unusually, extraordinarily, uncommonly, remarkably, outstandingly, amazingly, incredibly, really, *informal* seriously, mucho, awfully, terribly, *Brit* jolly, dead, well, *informal, dated* frightfully ② *postage is charged extra* IN ADDITION, additionally, as well, also, too, besides, on top (of that), *archaic* withal

▶ **noun** ① *an optional extra* ADDITION, supplement, adjunct, addendum, add-on ② *a film extra* WALK-ON, supernumerary, spear-carrier

extract ▶ **verb** ① *he extracted the cassette* TAKE OUT, draw out, pull out, remove, withdraw, free, release, extricate ② *extracting money* WREST, exact, wring, screw, squeeze, obtain by force, obtain by threat(s), extort, blackmail someone for, *N Amer & Austral informal* put the bite on someone for ③ *the roots are crushed to extract the juice* SQUEEZE OUT, express, press out, obtain ④ *the table is extracted from the report* EXCERPT, select, reproduce, copy, take ⑤ *ideas extracted from a variety of theories*. DERIVE, develop, evolve, deduce, infer, obtain; *formal* educe
-OPPOSITES insert

▶ **noun** ① *an extract from his article* EXCERPT, passage, citation, quotation; (EXCERPTS) analects ② *an extract of the ginseng root* DECOCTION, distillation, distillate, abstraction, concentrate, essence, juice.

extraction ▶ **noun** ① *the extraction of gall bladder stones*: REMOVAL, taking out, drawing out, pulling out, withdrawal, freeing, release, extraction ② *the extraction of grape juice*: SQUEEZING,

expressing, pressing, obtaining ③ *a man of Irish extraction* DESCENT, ancestry, parentage, ancestors, family, antecedents, lineage, line, origin, derivation, birth, genealogy, heredity, stock, pedigree, blood, bloodline, roots, origins
-OPPOSITES insertion

extradite ▶ **verb** ① *the government extradited him to Germany* DEPORT, send back, send home, repatriate ② *the government attempted to extradite suspects from Belgium* HAVE SOMEONE DEPORTED, have someone sent home, bring back

extradition ▶ **noun** DEPORTATION, repatriation, expulsion

extraneous ▶ **adjective** ① *extraneous considerations* IRRELEVANT, immaterial, beside the point, unrelated, unconnected, inapposite, inapplicable ② *extraneous noise* EXTERNAL, outside, exterior

extraordinary ▶ **adjective** ① *an extraordinary coincidence* REMARKABLE, exceptional, amazing, astonishing, astounding, sensational, stunning, incredible, unbelievable, phenomenal, striking, outstanding, momentous, impressive, singular, memorable, unforgettable, unique, noteworthy, out of the ordinary, unusual, uncommon, rare, surprising, *informal* fantastic, terrific, tremendous, stupendous, awesome, poetic/literary wondrous ② *extraordinary speed* VERY GREAT, tremendous, enormous, immense, prodigious, stupendous, monumental, *informal* almighty

extravagance ▶ **noun** ① *a fit of extravagance* PROFLIGACY, unthriftiness, improvidence, wastefulness, prodigality, lavishness ② *the costliest brands are an extravagance* LUXURY, indulgence, self-indulgence, treat, extra, non-essential ③ *the extravagance of the decor* ORNATENESS, elaborateness, embellishment, ornamentation, ostentation, over-elaborateness ④ *the extravagance of his compliments* EXCESSIVENESS, exaggeration, outrageousness, immoderation, excess

extravagant ▶ **adjective** ① *an extravagant lifestyle* SPENDTHRIFT, profligate, unthrift, improvident, wasteful, prodigal, lavish ② *extravagant gifts* EXPENSIVE, costly, dear, high-priced, high-cost; valuable, precious; *informal* pricey, costing the earth, costing a bomb ③ *extravagant prices* EXORBITANT, extortionate, excessive, high, unreasonable ④ *extravagant praise* EXCESSIVE, immoderate, exaggerated, gushing, unrestrained, effusive, fulsome ⑤ *decorated in an extravagant style* ORNATE, elaborate, decorated, ornamented, fancy, over-elaborate, ostentatious, exaggerated, baroque, rococo, *informal* flash, flashy

-OPPOSITES thrifty, cheap, plain

extravaganza ▶ **noun** SPECTACULAR, display, spectacle, show, pageant

extreme ▶ **adjective** ① *extreme danger*. UTMOST, very great, greatest (possible), maximum, maximal, highest, supreme, great, acute, enormous, severe, high, exceptional, extraordinary ② *extreme measures* DRASTIC, serious, desperate, dire, radical, far-reaching, momentous, consequential; heavy, sharp, severe, austere, harsh, tough, strict, rigorous, oppressive, draconian, *Brit* swingeing. ③ *extreme views*: RADICAL, extremist, immoderate, fanatical, revolutionary, rebel, subversive, militant. ④ *extreme sports*: DANGEROUS, hazardous, risky, high-risk, adventurous ⑤ *the extreme north-west*: FURTHEST, far-

theft, furthestmost, farthermost, very, utmost, archaic outmost

—RELATED TERMS ultra-

—OPPOSITES slight, moderate

- **noun** ① the two extremes OPPOSITE, antithesis, side of the coin, (opposite) pole, antipode ② this attitude is taken to its extreme in the following quote LIMIT, extremity, highest/greatest degree, maximum, height, top, zenith, peak ■ In the extreme. See EXTREMELY

extremely ► **adverb** VERY, exceedingly, exceptionally, especially, extraordinarily, in the extreme, tremendously, immensely, vastly, hugely, intensely, acutely, singularly, uncommonly, unusually, decidedly, particularly supremely, highly, remarkably, really, truly, mightily, *informal* terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, majorly, seriously, mega, ultra, damn, damned, *Brit informal* ever so, well, hellish, dead, jolly, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful, darned, *informal, dated* devilish, frightfully, *archaic* exceeding

—OPPOSITES slightly

extremist ► **noun** FANATIC, radical, zealot, fundamentalist, hardliner, militant, activist, *informal* ultra

—OPPOSITES inoderate

extremity ► **noun** ① the eastern extremity LIMIT, end, edge, side, farthest point, boundary, border, frontier, perimeter, periphery, margin, *poetic/literary* bourn, marge ② she lost feeling in her extremities HANDS AND FEET, fingers and toes, limbs ③ the extremity of the violence INTENSITY, magnitude, acuteness, ferocity, vehemence, fierceness, violence, severity, seriousness, strength, power, powerfulness, vigour, force, forcefulness ④ in extremity he will send for her DIRE STRAITS, trouble, difficulty, hard times, hardship, adversity, misfortune, distress, crisis, emergency, disaster, catastrophe, calamity, predicament, plight, mess, dilemma, *informal* fix, pickle, jam, spot, bind, scrape, hole, sticky situation, hot/deep water

extricate ► **verb** EXTRACT, free, release, disentangle, get out, remove, withdraw, disengage, *informal* get someone/oneself off the hook

extrinsic ► **adjective** EXTERNAL, extraneous, exterior, outside, outward

—OPPOSITES intrinsic

extrovert ► **noun** like most extroverts he was a good dancer OUTGOING PERSON, sociable person, socializer, life and soul of the party

—OPPOSITES introvert

► **adjective** his extrovert personality OUTGOING, extroverted, sociable, gregarious, genial, affable, friendly, unreserved

—OPPOSITES introverted

extrude ► **verb** FORCE OUT, thrust out, express, eject, expel, release, emit

exuberant ► **adjective** ① exuberant guests dancing on the terrace. EBULLIENT, buoyant, cheerful, jaunty, light-hearted, high-spirited, exhilarated, excited, elated, exultant, euphoric, joyful, cheery, merry, jubilant, vivacious, enthusiastic, irrepressible, energetic, animated, full of life, lively, vigorous; *informal* bubbly, bouncy, chipper, chirpy, full of beans; *poetic/literary* blithe, blithesome. ② an exuberant coating of mosses LUXURIANT, lush, rich, dense, thick, abundant, profuse, plentiful, prolific ③ an exuberant wel-

come EFFUSIVE, extravagant, fulsome, expansive, gushing, gushy, demonstrative
—OPPOSITES gloomy, restrained

exude ► **verb** ① milkweed exudes a milky sap: GIVE OFF/OUT, discharge, release, emit, issue, ooze, weep, secrete, excrete ② slime exudes from the fungus OOZE, seep, issue, escape, discharge, flow, leak ③ he exuded self-confidence EMANATE, radiate, ooze, emit, display, show, exhibit, manifest, transmit, embody.

exult ► **verb** ① her opponents exulted when she left. REJOICE, be joyful, be happy, be delighted, be elated, be ecstatic, be overjoyed, be cock-a-hoop, be jubilant, be rapturous, be in raptures, be thrilled, jump for joy, be on cloud nine, be in seventh heaven, celebrate, cheer, *informal* be over the moon, be on top of the world, *Austral informal* be wrapped, *poetic/literary* joy, *archaic* jubilate ② he exulted in his triumph REJOICE AT/IN, take delight in, find/take pleasure in, find joy in, enjoy, revel in, glory in, delight in, relish, savour, be/feel proud of, congratulate oneself on, *archaic* pique oneself on/in
—OPPOSITES sorrow

exultant ► **adjective** JUBILANT, thrilled, triumphant, delighted, exhilarated, happy, overjoyed, joyous, joyful, gleeful, cock-a-hoop, excited, rejoicing, ecstatic, euphoric, elated, rapturous, in raptures, enraptured, on cloud nine/seven, in seventh heaven, *informal* over the moon, *N Amer informal* wiggled out

exultation ► **noun** JUBILATION, rejoicing, happiness, pleasure, joy, gladness, delight, glee, elation, cheer, euphoria, exhilaration, delirium, ecstasy, rapture, exuberance

eye ► **noun** ① he rubbed his eyes EYEBALL, *informal* peeper, *poetic/literary* orb See list ② sharp eyes EYESIGHT, vision, sight, powers of observation, (visual) perception ③ an eye for a bargain AP PRECIATION, awareness, alertness, perception, consciousness, feeling, instinct, intuition, nose ④ his watchful eye WATCH, observance, gaze, stare, regard, observation, surveillance, vigilance, contemplation, scrutiny ⑤ to desert was despicable in their eyes OPINION, (way of) thinking, mind, view, viewpoint, attitude, standpoint, perspective, belief, judgement, assessment, analysis, estimation ⑥ the eye of a needle HOLE, opening, aperture, eyelet, slit, slot ⑦ the eye of the storm CENTRE, middle, heart, core, hub, thick

—RELATED TERMS ocular, ophthalmic

► **verb** ① he eyed the stranger suspiciously LOOK AT, observe, view, gaze at, stare at, regard, contemplate, survey, scrutinize, consider, glance at, watch, keep an eye on, keep under observation, *informal* have/take a gander at, check out, size up, *Brit informal* have/take a butcher's at, have/take a dekkko at, have/take a shufti at, clock; *N Amer informal* eyeball, *poetic/literary* behold ② eyeing young women in the street: OGLE, leer at, stare at, make eyes at; *informal* eye up, give someone the glad eye; *Brit informal* gawp at, gawk at, *Austral/NZ informal* perv on.


■ clap/lay/set eyes on (informal) SEE, observe, notice, spot, spy, catch sight of, glimpse, catch/get a glimpse of; *poetic/literary* behold, espy, descry

■ see eye to eye AGREE, concur, be in agreement, be of the same mind/opinion, be in ac-

cord, think as one, be on the same wavelength, get on/along.

■ **up to one's eyes** (*informal*) VERY BUSY, fully occupied, overloaded, overburdened, overworked, under pressure, hard-pressed, rushed/run off one's feet, *informal* pushed, up against it

Parts of the Human Eye



aqueous humour	limbus
blind spot	optic foramen
central retinal artery	optic nerve
central retinal vein	orbit
choroid	pupil
ciliary body	retina
cone	rod
conjunctiva	sclera
cornea	sinus venosus sclerae
dilator muscle	stroma
extrinsic muscle	suspensory ligament
eyeball	tarsal plate
eyelash	tear (or lacrimal)
eyelid	glands
fovea	vitreous humour
iris	zonular ligament
lens	

eye-catching ▶ **adjective** STRIKING, arresting, conspicuous, dramatic, impressive, spectacular, breathtaking, dazzling, amazing, stunning, sensational, remarkable, distinctive, unusual, out of the ordinary.

eyeful ▶ **noun** (*informal*) ① *did you get an eyeful of that?* LOOK, peep, peek, glimpse, view, gaze, glance, sight, *informal* gander, squint, *Brit informal* dekkko, shufti, butcher's; *Austral/NZ informal* geek, squiz ② *she was quite an eyeful* BEAUTIFUL SIGHT, vision, picture, dream, sensation, beauty, dazzler, *informal* stunner, looker, knockout, sight for sore eyes, bombshell, dish, cracker, good-looker; *Brit informal* smasher

eyelash ▶ **noun** LASH, *Anatomy* cilium

eyesight ▶ **noun** SIGHT, vision, faculty of sight, ability to see, (*visual*) perception

eyesore ▶ **noun** UGLY SIGHT, blot (on the landscape), mess, scar, blight, disfigurement, blemish, monstrosity, *informal* sight

eyewitness ▶ **noun** OBSERVER, onlooker, witness, bystander, spectator, watcher, viewer, passer-by, *poetic/literary* beholder

Ff

fable ▶ **noun** ① *the fable of the wary fox* MORAL TALE, parable, apologue, allegory ② *the fables of ancient Greece* MYTH, legend, saga, epic, folk tale, folk story, fairy tale, mythos, mythus; folklore, mythology ③ *it's a fable that I have a taste for fancy restaurants* FALSEHOOD, fib, fabrication, made-up story, invention, fiction, falsification, fairy story/tale, cock-and-bull story, lie, untruth, half-truth, exaggeration, story, rumour, myth, *informal* tall story, *Brit informal* porky (pie)

fabled ▶ **adjective** ① *a fabled god-giant of Irish myth* LEGENDARY, mythical, mythic, mythological, fabulous, folkloric, fairy-tale, fictitious, imaginary, imagined, made up ② *the fabled quality of French wine* CELEBRATED, renowned, famed, famous, well known, prized, noted, notable, acclaimed, esteemed, prestigious, of repute, of high standing

fabric ▶ **noun** ① *the finest silk fabric*. CLOTH, material, textile, tissue *See list* ② *the fabric of the building* STRUCTURE, framework, frame, form, composition, construction, foundations.

fabricate ▶ **verb** ① *he fabricated research data* FALSIFY, fake, counterfeit, invent, make up ② *fabricating a pack of lies* CONCOCT, make up, dream up, invent, trump up, *informal* cook up. ③ *you will have to fabricate an exhaust system* MAKE, create, manufacture, produce; construct, build, assemble, put together, form, fashion

fabrication ▶ **noun** ① *the story was a complete fabrication* INVENTION, concoction, (piece of) fiction, falsification, lie, untruth, falsehood, fib, myth, made-up story, fairy story/tale, cock-and-bull story; white lie, half-truth, exaggeration, *informal* tall story, whopper; *Brit informal* porky (pie) ② *the lintels are galvanized after fabrication* MANUFACTURE, creation, production, construction, building, assembly, forming, fashioning.

fabulous ▶ **adjective** ① *fabulous salaries*. TREMENDOUS, stupendous, prodigious, phenomenal, remarkable, exceptional; astounding, amazing, fantastic, breathtaking, staggering, unthinkable, unimaginable, incredible, unbelievable, unheard of, untold, undreamed of, beyond one's wildest dreams, *informal* mind-boggling, mind-blowing. ② *(informal) we had a fabulous time* *See* EXCELLENT. ③ *a fabulous horse-like beast*: MYTHICAL, legendary, mythic, mythological, fabled, folkloric, fairy-tale; fictitious, imaginary, imagined, made up.

facade ▶ **noun** ① *a half-timbered facade*: FRONT, frontage, face, elevation, exterior, outside. ② *a facade of bonhomie*: SHOW, front, appearance, pretence, simulation, affectation, semblance, illusion, act, masquerade, charade, mask, cloak, veil, veneer.

face ▶ **noun** ① *a beautiful face*: COUNTENANCE, physiognomy, features; *informal* mug; *Brit informal* mush, dial, clock, phiz, boat race; *N Amer informal* puss, pan; *poetic/literary* visage; *archaic* front. ② *her face grew sad*: (FACIAL) EXPRESSION, look, appearance, air, manner, bearing, countenance,

mien. ③ *he made a face at the sourness of the drink*: GRIMACE, scowl, wry face, wince, frown, glower, pout, moue ④ *a cube has six faces*. SIDE, aspect, flank, surface, plane, facet, wall, elevation ⑤ *a watch face* DIAL, display ⑥ *changing the face of the industry* (OUTWARD) APPEARANCE, aspect, nature, image ⑦ *he put on a brave face*. FRONT, show, display, act, appearance, facade, exterior, mask, masquerade, pretence, pose, veneer ⑧ *criticism should never cause the recipient to lose face* RESPECT, honour, esteem, regard, admiration, approbation, acclaim, approval, favour, appreciation, popularity, prestige, standing, status, dignity; self-respect, self-esteem ⑨ *(informal) they had the face to upbraid others* *See* EFFRONTERY

—RELATED TERMS facial.

▶ **verb** ① *the hotel faces the sea* LOOK OUT ON, front on to, look towards, be facing, look over/across, overlook, give on to, be opposite (to). ② *you'll just have to face facts* ACCEPT, become reconciled to, get used to, become accustomed to, adjust to, acclimatize oneself to; learn to live with, cope with, deal with, come to terms with, become resigned to ③ *he faces a humiliating rejection* BE CONFRONTED BY, be faced with, encounter, experience, come into contact with, come up against. ④ *the problems facing our police force* BESET, worry, distress, trouble, bother, confront, harass, oppress, vex, irritate, exasperate, strain, stress, tax, torment, plague, blight, bedevil, curse, *formal* discommode. ⑤ *he faced the challenge boldly*: BRAVE, face up to, encounter, meet (head-on), confront, oppose, resist, withstand. ⑥ *a wall faced with flint* COVER, clad, veneer, overlay, surface, dress, put a facing on, laminate, coat, line.

■ **face to face** FACING (EACH OTHER), opposite (each other), across from each other

■ **on the face of it** OSTENSIBLY, to all appearances, to all intents and purposes, at first glance, on the surface, superficially; apparently, seemingly, outwardly, it seems (that), it would seem (that), it appears (that), it would appear (that), as far as one can see/tell, by all accounts

facelift ▶ **noun** ① *she's planning to have a facelift*: COSMETIC SURGERY, plastic surgery ② *(informal) the theatre is reopening after a facelift*: RENOVATION, redecoration, refurbishment, revamp, revamping, makeover, reconditioning, overhauling, modernization, restoration, repair, redevelopment, rebuilding, reconstruction, refit.

facet ▶ **noun** ① *the many facets of the gem*. SURFACE, face, side, plane. ② *other facets of his character*: ASPECT, feature, side, dimension, characteristic, detail, point, ingredient, strand, component, constituent, element.

facetious ▶ **adjective** FLIPPANT, flip, glib, frivolous, tongue-in-cheek, joking, jokey, jocular, playful, sportive, teasing, mischievous, witty, amusing, funny, droll, comic, comical, light-hearted; *formal* jocular.

—OPPOSITES serious.

Fabrics and Fibres

acetate	crewel	jacquet	ninon	shoddy
Acrlan (trademark)	Crimplene	jacquard	Nottingham lace	silk
acrylic	(trademark)	jean	nylon	sisal
alpaca	crinoline	jersey	oakum	slipper satin
angora	crushed velvet	jute	oilcloth	slub
Antron (trademark)	Cupro (trademark)	kalamkari	oiled silk	Spandex
Arnel (trademark)	Dacron	karakul	oilskin	(trademark)
astrakhan	(trademark)	Kasha (trademark)	organdie	spun silk
bafta	damask	kenaf	organza	stammel
baize	denim	Kendal Green	organzine	stockinet
balbriggan	devoré	kente	Orlon (trademark)	stroud
barathea	dimity	kersey	osnaburg	suede
barège	doeskin	kerseymere	ottoman	Supplex
batiste	Donegal tweed	khadi	Oxford cloth	(trademark)
Bedford cord	drab	khaki	packthread	surah
bengaline	Dralon (trademark)	khanga	paduasoy	swansdown
bobbinet	drill	kikoi	paisley	tabaret
bombazine	drugget	kincob	panne velvet	tabby
Botany wool	duchesse satin	kitenge	paper taffeta	taffeta
bobbins lace	duchesse lace	lace	parramatta	tailor's twist
bouclé	duffel	lambswool	pashmina	tapestry
brilliantine	dungaree	lamé	peau-de-soie	tartan
broadcloth	duplon	lampas	percale	tarpaulin
brocade	elastane	lawn	Persian silk	tattersall
brocatelle	faillie	leathercloth	Pertex (trademark)	tatting
brown holland	felt	leatherette	petersham	Tencel (trademark)
buckram	filoselle	(trademark)	phulkari	terry
bunting	fishnet	leno	pillow lace	Terylene (Brit.
burlap	flannel	Lincoln green	pilot cloth	trademark)
butter muslin	flannelette	linen	piqué	ticking
byssus	flax	linsey-woolsey	plaid	tiffany
calamanco	fleece	lint	plush	toile
calico	flock	lise	plush velvet	toile de jouy
Cambrelle	floss silk	loden	point lace	torchon
(trademark)	foulard	Lurex (trademark)	polycotton	towelling
cambric	frieze	lustring	polyester	Trevira (trademark)
camel hair	fustian	Lycra (trademark)	pongee	Tricel (trademark)
candlewick	gaberdine	madras	poplin	tricot
canvas	gauze	marocain	poult	Tricotine (US
cashmere	georgette	marquissette	prunella	trademark)
cavalry twill	gimp	Marseilles	raffia	tulle
challis	gingham	matting	ramie	tussore
chambray	gossamer	Mechlin	rayon	tweed
Chantilly lace	Gore-tex	melton	rep	twill
charmeuse	(trademark)	merino	ripstop	Utrecht velvet
cheesecloth	grasscloth	microfibre	rose-point	Valenciennes
chenille	grenadine	micromesh	sackcloth	Velcro (trademark)
cheviot	grogam	Milanese silk	sacking	velour
chiffon	grosgrain	modacrylic	sailcloth	velvet
chinchilla	gros point	mohair	samite	velveteen
chino	gulpure	moiré	sarsenet	vicuña
chintz	gunny	moleskin	sateen	viscose
ciré	haircloth	moquette	satin	Viyella (trademark)
cloqué	Harris tweed	moreen	satinnette	volle
coconut matting	(trademark)	mousseline	saxony	waxcloth
coir	hemp	Moygashel	schappe	webbing
cord	herringbone	(trademark)	sea-island cotton	whipcord
Cordura	hessian	mungo	seersucker	wild silk
(trademark)	hoddon	muslin	sendal	wincey
corduroy	holland	nainsook	serge	winceyette
cotton	Heniton lace	nanken	shah-toosh	wool
crêpe	hopsack	Naugahyde (US	shantung	worsted
crêpe de Chine	horsehair	trademark)	sharkskin	zari
crêpon	huckaback	needlecord	sheer	
crêponne	ikat	net	Shetland wool	

facile ▶ **adjective** ① a facile explanation: SIMPLISTIC, superficial, oversimplified, shallow, glib, jejune, naive, *N Amer* dime-store ② he achieved a facile victory EFFORTLESS, easy, undemanding, unexacting, painless, trouble-free, *Brit informal* easy-peasy

facilitate ▶ **verb** MAKE EASY/EASIER, ease, make possible, make smooth/smoothen, smooth the way for, enable, assist, help (along), aid, oil the wheels of, expedite, speed up, accelerate, forward, advance, promote, further, encourage
-OPPOSITES impede

facility ▶ **noun** ① car-parking facilities PROVISION, space, means, potential, equipment ② the camera has a zoom facility POSSIBILITY, feature ③ a wealth of local facilities AMENITY, resource, service, advantage, convenience, benefit ④ a medical facility ESTABLISHMENT, centre, place, station, location, premises, site, post, base, *informal* joint, outfit, set-up ⑤ his facility for drawing APITUDE, talent, gift, flair, bent, skill, knack, genius, ability, proficiency, competence, capability, capacity, faculty, expertness, adeptness, prowess, mastery, artistry ⑥ I was turning out poetry with facility. EASE, effortlessness, no difficulty, no trouble, facileness, deftness, adroitness, dexterity, proficiency, mastery

facing ▶ **noun** ① green velvet facings COVERING, trimming, lining, interfacing ② brick facing on a concrete core CLADDING, veneer, skin, surface, facade, front, coating, covering, dressing, overlay, lamination, plating, *N Amer* siding

facsimile ▶ **noun** COPY, reproduction, duplicate, photocopy, mimeograph, replica, likeness, carbon copy, print, reprint, offprint, autotype, fax, telefax, trademark Xerox, photostat
-OPPOSITES original

fact ▶ **noun** ① it is a fact that the water is polluted REALITY, actuality, certainty, truth, verity, gospel ② every fact was double-checked DETAIL, piece of information, particular, item, specific, element, point, factor, feature, characteristic, ingredient, circumstance, aspect, facet, (facts) information ③ an accessory after the fact. EVENT, happening, occurrence, incident, act, deed
-OPPOSITES lie, fiction

■ In fact ACTUALLY, in actuality, in actual fact, really, in reality, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in truth, to tell the truth, *archaic* in sooth, verily.

faction ▶ **noun** ① a faction of the Liberal Party CLIQUE, coterie, caucus, cabal, bloc, camp, group, grouping, sector, section, wing, arm, branch, set, gunger group, pressure group ② the council was split by faction INFIGHTING, dissension, dissent, dispute, discord, strife, conflict, friction, argument, disagreement, controversy, quarrelling, wrangling, bickering, squabbling, disharmony, disunity, schism.

factious ▶ **adjective** DIVIDED, split, schismatic, discordant, conflicting, argumentative, disagreeing, disputatious, quarrelling, quarrelsome, clashing, warring, at loggerheads, at odds, rebellious, mutinous.
-OPPOSITES harmonious.

factitious ▶ **adjective** SOGUS, fake, specious, false, counterfeit, fraudulent, spurious, sham, mock, feigned, affected, pretended, contrived, engineered; *informal* phoney, pseudo, pretend, *Brit. informal* cod.

-OPPOSITES genuine

factor ▶ **noun** ELEMENT, part, component, ingredient, strand, constituent, point, detail, item, feature, facet, aspect, characteristic, consideration, influence, circumstance

factory ▶ **noun** WORKS, plant, yard, mill, industrial unit, workshop, shop, *archaic* manufactory

factotum ▶ **noun** ODD-JOB MAN, handyman, man/maid of all work, jack of all trades, man/girl Friday, *Austral* knockabout, *informal* (Mr) Fixit

factual ▶ **adjective** TRUTHFUL, true, accurate, authentic, historical, genuine, fact-based, true-to-life, correct, exact, honest, faithful, literal, verbatim, word for word, unbiased, objective, unvarnished, *formal* veridical
-OPPOSITES fictitious

faculty ▶ **noun** ① the faculty of speech POWER, capability, capacity, facility, wherewithal, means, (faculties) senses, wits, reason, intelligence ② an unusual faculty for unearthing contributors ABILITY, proficiency, competence, capability, potential, capacity, faculty, aptitude, talent, gift, flair, bent, skill, knack, genius, expertise, expertness, adeptness, adroitness, dexterity, prowess, mastery, artistry ③ the arts faculty DEPARTMENT, school, division, section ④ the vicar introduced certain ornaments without the faculty to do so AUTHORIZATION, authority, power, right, permission, consent, leave, sanction, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, endorsement, clearance, *informal* the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light, say-so

fad ▶ **noun** CRAZE, vogue, trend, fashion, mode, enthusiasm, passion, obsession, mania, rage, compulsion, fixation, fetish, fancy, whim, fascination, *informal* thing

faddy ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) FUSSY, finicky, faddish, over-particular, over-fastidious, dainty, *informal* picky, pernickety, *N Amer informal* pernickety, *archaic* nice

fade ▶ **verb** ① the paintwork has faded BECOME PALE, become bleached, become washed out, lose colour, discolour, grow dull, grow dim, lose lustre ② sunlight had faded the picture BLEACH, wash out, make pale, blanch, whiten ③ remove the flower heads as they fade WITHER, wilt, droop, shrivel, die ④ the afternoon light began to fade (GROW) DIM, grow faint, fail, dwindle, die away, wane, disappear, vanish, decline, melt away, poetic/literary evanesce ⑤ the Communist movement was fading away DECLINE, die out, diminish, deteriorate, decay, crumble, collapse, fail, fall, sink, slump, go downhill, *informal* go to pot, go to the dogs; *archaic* retrograde
-OPPOSITES brighten, increase.

faeces ▶ **plural noun** EXCREMENT, bodily waste, waste matter, ordure, dung, manure, excreta, stools, droppings; dirt, filth, muck, mess, night soil; *informal* poo, doo-doo, doings, turds; *Brit informal* cack, whoopsies, jobbies; *N Amer informal* poop.

-RELATED TERMS copro-

fag¹ (*Brit informal*) ▶ **noun** it's too much of a fag! CHORE, slog, grind, bother, bore; *informal* pain, sweat.

-OPPOSITES pleasure.

▶ **verb** we fagged away all day TOIL, slave, slog, labour, grind, work hard, *informal* work one's



socks off, *Brit informal graft, Austral/NZ informal bullock, poetic/literary travail*

■ **fag someone out** EXHAUST, tire (out), wear out, fatigue, overtire, weary, *informal do in, wipe out, knock out, shatter, Brit informal knacker, N Amer informal poop, tucker out*

fag² ► **noun** (*Brit informal*) he was smoking a fag CIGARETTE, filter tip, kung-size, *informal ciggy, cig, smoke, cancer stick, coffin nail, Brit informal snout, roll-up*

fagged ► **adjective** (*informal*) EXHAUSTED, tired (out), worn out, fatigued, weary, drained, washed out, *informal done in, all in, dead beat, dead on one's feet, shattered, bushed, Brit informal knackered, N Amer informal tuckered, pooped.*

fail ► **verb** ① the enterprise had failed BE UNSUCCESSFUL, not succeed, fall through, fall flat, collapse, founder, backfire, meet with disaster, come to nothing/naught, *informal flop, bomb* ② he failed his examination BE UNSUCCESSFUL IN, not pass, not make the grade, *informal flunk* ③ his friends had failed him LET DOWN, disappoint, desert, abandon, betray, be disloyal to, *poetic/literary forsake* ④ the crops failed BE DEFICIENT, be insufficient, be inadequate, wither ⑤ the daylight failed FADE, dim, die away, wane, disappear, vanish ⑥ the ventilation system failed BREAK (DOWN), stop working, cut out, crash, malfunction, go wrong, develop a fault, *informal conk out, go on the blink, Brit informal pack up, play up* ⑦ Cern's health was failing DETERIORATE, degenerate, decline, fade, wane, ebb ⑧ 900 businesses are failing a week COLLAPSE, crash, go under, go bankrupt, go into receivership, go into liquidation, cease trading, be wound up; *informal fold, flop, go bust, go broke, go to the wall*

—OPPOSITES succeed, pass, thrive, work

■ **without fail** WITHOUT EXCEPTION, unflinching, regularly, invariably, predictably, conscientiously, religiously, whatever happened

failing ► **noun** Jeanne accepted him despite his failings. FAULT, shortcoming, weakness, imperfection, defect, flaw, frailty, foible, idiosyncrasy, vice

—OPPOSITES strength

► **preposition** failing financial assistance, you will be bankrupt: IN THE ABSENCE OF, lacking, notwithstanding.

failure ► **noun** ① the failure of the assassination attempt: LACK OF SUCCESS, non-fulfilment, defeat, collapse, foundering. ② all his schemes had been a failure: FIASCO, debacle, catastrophe, disaster; *informal flop, washout, dead loss, N Amer informal snafu, clinker* ③ she was regarded as a failure LOSER, underachiever, ne'er-do-well, disappointment; *informal no-hoper, dead loss.* ④ a failure in duty: NEGLIGENCE, remissness, dereliction, omission, oversight. ⑤ a crop failure: INADEQUACY, insufficiency, deficiency. ⑥ the failure of the camera: BREAKING DOWN, breakdown, malfunction, crash. ⑦ company failures: COLLAPSE, crash, bankruptcy, insolvency, liquidation, closure.

—OPPOSITES success

faint ► **adjective** ① a faint mark: INDISTINCT, vague, unclear, indefinite, ill-defined, imperceptible, unobtrusive, pale, light, faded. ② a faint cry: QUIET, muted, muffled, stifled, feeble, weak, whispered, murmured, indistinct; low, soft, gentle ③ a faint possibility: SLIGHT, slender,

slim, small, tiny, negligible, remote, vague, unlikely, improbable; *informal minuscule* ④ faint praise. UNENTHUSIASTIC, half-hearted, weak, feeble ⑤ I suddenly felt faint: DIZZY, giddy, light-headed, unsteady; *informal woozy*

—OPPOSITES clear, loud, strong

► **verb** she thought he would faint PASS OUT, lose consciousness, black out, keel over, swoon, *informal flake out, conk out, zonk out, go out like a light*

► **noun** a dead faint BLACKOUT, fainting fit, loss of consciousness, swoon, *Medicine syncope*

faint-hearted ► **adjective** TIMID, timorous, nervous, nervy, easily scared, fearful, afraid, cowardly, craven, spineless, pusillanimous, lily-livered, *informal chicken, chicken-hearted, yellow, yellow-bellied, gutless, sissy, wimpy, wimpish, archaic recreant*

—OPPOSITES brave

faintly ► **adverb** ① Maria called his name faintly INDISTINCTLY, softly, gently, weakly, in a whisper, in a murmur, in a low voice ② he looked faintly bewildered SLIGHTLY, vaguely, somewhat, quite, fairly, rather, a little, a bit, a touch, a shade, *informal sort of, kind of*

—OPPOSITES loudly, extremely

fair¹ ► **adjective** ① the courts were generally fair JUST, equitable, honest, upright, honourable, trustworthy, impartial, unbiased, unprejudiced, non-partisan, neutral, even-handed, lawful, legal, legitimate, *informal legit, on the level, N Amer informal on the up and up* ② fair weather FINE, dry, bright, clear, sunny, cloudless, warm, balmy, clement, benign, pleasant ③ fair winds FAVOURABLE, advantageous, benign, on one's side, in one's favour ④ fair hair BLOND(E), yellowish, golden, flaxen, light, light brown, tow-coloured, ash blonde, fair-haired, light-haired, golden-haired ⑤ fair skin PALE, light, light-coloured, white, creamy ⑥ (archaic) the fair maiden's heart See BEAUTIFUL ⑦ a fair achievement REASONABLE, passably, tolerable, satisfactory, acceptable, respectable, decent, all right, good enough, pretty good, not bad, average, middling, *informal OK, so-so*

—OPPOSITES inclement, unfavourable, dark

■ **fair and square** HONESTLY, fairly, without cheating, without foul play, by the book, lawfully, legally, legitimately, *informal on the level, N Amer informal on the up and up*

fair² ► **noun** ① a country fair FÊTE, gala, festival, carnival ② an antiques fair MARKET, bazaar, mart, exchange, sale, *archaic emporium* ③ a new art fair: EXHIBITION, display, show, presentation, exposition, *N Amer exhibit*

fairly ► **adverb** ① all pupils were treated fairly JUSTLY, equitably, impartially, without bias, without prejudice, even-handedly; lawfully, legally, legitimately, by the book; equally, the same ② the pipes are in fairly good condition: REASONABLY, passably, tolerably, adequately, moderately, quite, relatively, comparatively; *informal pretty, kind of, sort of.* ③ he fairly hauled her along the street: POSITIVELY, really, veritably, simply, actually, absolutely; practically, almost, nearly, all but; *informal plain.*

fair-minded ► **adjective** FAIR, just, even-handed, equitable, impartial, non-partisan, unbiased, unprejudiced; honest, honourable, trustworthy, upright, decent; *informal on the level; N Amer informal on the up and up.*

fairy ► **noun** SPRITE, pixie, elf, imp, brownie, puck, leprechaun, pishogue, nixie, *poetic/literary* faerie, fay

fairy tale, fairy story ► **noun** ① the film was inspired by a fairy tale FOLK TALE, folk story, traditional story, myth, legend, fantasy, fable ② (informal) she accused him of telling fairy tales (WHITE) LIE, fib, half-truth, untruth, falsehood, (tall) story, fabrication, invention, piece of fiction, informal whopper, cock-and-bull story, *Brit informal* porky (pie)

faith ► **noun** ① he justified his boss's faith in him TRUST, belief, confidence, conviction, optimism, hopefulness, hope ② she gave her life for her faith RELIGION, church, sect, denomination, (religious) persuasion, (religious) belief, ideology, creed, teaching, doctrine
-OPPOSITES mistrust

■ **break faith with** BE DISLOYAL TO, be unfaithful to, be untrue to, betray, play someone false, break one's promise to, fail, let down, double-cross, deceive, cheat, stab in the back, *informal* do the dirty on

■ **keep faith with** BE LOYAL TO, be faithful to, be true to, stand by, stick by, keep one's promise to

faithful ► **adjective** ① his faithful assistant LOYAL, constant, true, devoted, true-blue, unswerving, staunch, steadfast, dedicated, committed, trusty, trustworthy, dependable, reliable ② a faithful copy ACCURATE, precise, exact, errorless, unerring, faultless, true, close, strict, realistic, authentic, *informal* on the mark, on the nail, *Brit informal* spot on, bang on, *N Amer informal* on the money
-OPPOSITES inaccurate

faithless ► **adjective** ① her faithless lover UN FAITHFUL, disloyal, inconstant, false, untrue, adulterous, traitorous, fickle, flighty, untrustworthy, unreliable, undependable, deceitful, two-faced, double-crossing, *informal* cheating, two-timing, back-stabbing, *poetic/literary* perfidious ② the natives were faithless UNBELIEVING, non-believing, irreligious, disbelieving, agnostic, atheistic, pagan, heathen, *rare* nullifidian

fake ► **noun** ① the sculpture was a fake FORGERY, counterfeit, copy, pirate(d) copy, sham, fraud, hoax, imitation, mock-up, dummy, reproduction, *informal* phoney, rip-off, dupe ② that doctor is a fake CHARLATAN, quack, mountebank, sham, fraud, humbug, impostor, hoaxer, cheat, (confidence) trickster, fraudster, *informal* phoney, con man, con artist

► **adjective** ① fake banknotes COUNTERFEIT, forged, fraudulent, sham, imitation, pirate(d), false, bogus, invalid, *informal* phoney, dud ② fake diamonds IMITATION, artificial, synthetic, simulated, reproduction, replica, ersatz, man-made, dummy, false, mock, bogus, *informal* pretend, phoney, pseudo ③ a fake accent: FEIGNED, faked, put-on, assumed, invented, affected, pseudo, unconvincing, artificial, mock, *informal* phoney, pseud; *Brit informal* cod.
-OPPOSITES genuine, authentic.

► **verb** ① the certificate was faked FORGE, counterfeit, falsify, mock up, copy, pirate, reproduce, replicate; doctor, alter, tamper with ② he faked a yawn: FEIGN, pretend, simulate, put on, make-believe, affect.

fall ► **verb** ① bombs began to fall: DROP, descend, come down, go down; plummet, plunge, sink,

dive, tumble, cascade ② he tripped and fell: TOPPLE OVER, tumble over, keel over, fall down/over, go head over heels, go headlong, collapse, take a spill, pitch forward, trip (over), stumble, slip; *informal* come a cropper, *Brit informal* go for six ③ the river began to fall SUBSIDE, recede, ebb, flow back, fall away, go down, sink. ④ inflation will fall: DECREASE, decline, diminish, fall off, drop off, lessen, dwindle, plummet, plunge, slump, sink, depreciate, cheapen, devalue, *informal* go through the floor, nosedive, take a header, crash ⑤ the Mogul empire fell DECLINE, deteriorate, degenerate, go downhill, go to rack and ruin, decay, wither, fade, fail, *informal* go to the dogs, go to pot, go down the toilet, *Austral/NZ informal* go to the pack ⑥ those who fell in the war DIE, perish, lose one's life, be killed, be slain, be lost, meet one's death, *informal* bite the dust, croak, buy it, *Brit informal* snuff it, *archaic* de cease ⑦ the town fell to the barbarians SURRENDER, yield, submit, give in, capitulate, succumb, be taken by, be defeated by, be conquered by, be overwhelmed by. ⑧ Easter falls on 23rd April OCCUR, take place, happen, come about, arise, *poetic/literary* come to pass ⑨ night fell COME, arrive, appear, arise, materialize ⑩ she fell ill BECOME, grow, get, turn ⑪ more tasks may fall to him BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF, be the duty of, be borne by, be one's job, come someone's way
-OPPOSITES rise, flood, increase, flourish

► **noun** ① an accidental fall TUMBLE, trip, spill, topple, slip, collapse, *informal* nosedive, header, cropper ② a fall in sales DECLINE, fall-off, drop, decrease, cut, dip, reduction, downsizing, plummet, plunge, slump, *informal* nosedive, crash ③ the fall of the Roman Empire DOWNFALL, collapse, ruin, ruination, failure, decline, deterioration, degeneration, destruction, overthrow, demise ④ the fall of the city SURRENDER, capitulation, yielding, submission, defeat ⑤ a steep fall down to the ocean DESCENT, declivity, slope, slant, incline, *N Amer* downgrade ⑥ the fall of man SIN, wrongdoing, transgression, error, offence, lapse, fall from grace ⑦ rafting trips below the falls WATERFALL, cascade, cataract, rapids, white water See list at WATERFALL
-OPPOSITES increase, rise, ascent

■ **fall apart** FALL/COME TO PIECES, fall/come to bits, come apart (at the seams), disintegrate, fragment, break up, break apart, crumble, decay, perish, *informal* bust

■ **fall asleep** DOZE OFF, drop off, go to sleep, *informal* nod off, go off, drift off, crash (out), flake out, conk out, go out like a light, *N Amer informal* sack out

■ **fall away** SLOPE (DOWN), slant down, go down, drop (away), descend, dip, sink, plunge

■ **fall back** RETREAT, withdraw, back off, draw back, pull back, pull away, move away

■ **fall back on** RESORT TO, turn to, look to, call on, have recourse to, rely on, depend on, lean on.

■ **fall behind** ① the other walkers fell behind: LAG (BEHIND), trail (behind), be left behind, drop back, bring up the rear; straggle, dally, dawdle, hang back. ② they fell behind on their payments: GET INTO DEBT, get into arrears, default, be in the red

■ **fall down** ① I spin round till I fall down. See FALL verb sense 2. ② his work fell down in some areas. FAIL, be unsuccessful, not succeed, not



make the grade, fall short, fall flat, disappoint, miss the mark; *informal* come a cropper, flop

■ **fall for** (*informal*) ① *she fell for John* FALL IN LOVE WITH, become infatuated with, lose one's heart to, take a fancy to, be smitten by, be attracted to, *informal* fancy, have the hots for ② *she won't fall for that trick* BE DECEIVED BY, be duped by, be fooled by, be taken in by, believe, trust, be convinced by; *informal* go for, buy, swallow (hook, line, and sinker)

■ **fall in** ① *the roof fell in* COLLAPSE, cave in, crash in, fall down, give way, crumble, disintegrate. ② *the troops fell in* GET IN FORMATION, get in line, line up, take one's position, *Military* dress

■ **fall in with** ① *he fell in with a bad crowd* GET INVOLVED WITH, take up with, join up with, go around with, string along with, make friends with, *informal* hang out/about with ② *he won't fall in with their demands* COMPLY WITH, go along with, support, cooperate with, obey, yield to, submit to, bow to, defer to, adhere to, conform to, agree to, agree with, consent, concur with

■ **fall off**. See FALL verb sense 4

■ **fall on** ATTACK, assail, assault, fly at, set about, set upon, pounce upon, ambush, surprise, rush, storm, charge, *informal* jump, lay into, pitch into, beat someone up, *Brit informal* have a go at

■ **fall out** ① *let's not fall out* QUARREL, argue, row, fight, squabble, bicker, have words, disagree, be at odds, clash, wrangle, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads, be at each other's throats, *informal* scrap, arguify, argybargy ② *the soldiers fell out* MOVE OUT OF FORMATION, move out of line, stand at ease

■ **fall short of** FAIL TO MEET, fail to reach, fail to live up to, be deficient, be inadequate, be insufficient, be wanting, be lacking, disappoint, *informal* not come up to scratch

■ **fall through** FAIL, be unsuccessful, come to nothing, miscarry, abort, go awry, collapse, founder, come to grief; *informal* fizzle out, flop, fold, come a cropper, go down like a lead balloon

fallacious ► **adjective** ERRONEOUS, false, untrue, wrong, incorrect, flawed, inaccurate, mistaken, misinformed, misguided, specious, spurious, bogus, fictitious, fabricated, made up, groundless, unfounded, unproven, unsupported, uncorroborated; *informal* phoney, full of holes, off beam

—OPPOSITES correct

fallacy ► **noun** MISCONCEPTION, misbelief, delusion, mistaken impression, misapprehension, misinterpretation, misconstruction, error, mistake; untruth, inconsistency, myth

fallen ► **adjective** ① *fallen heroes* DEAD, perished, killed, slain, slaughtered, murdered, lost, late, lamented, departed, gone, *formal* deceased, *rare* demised. ② (*dated*) *fallen women*: IMMORAL, loose, promiscuous, unchaste, sinful, impure, sullied, tainted, dishonoured, ruined

fallible ► **adjective** ERROR-PRONE, errant, liable to err, open to error; imperfect, flawed, weak.

fallow ► **adjective** ① *fallow farmland* UNCULTIVATED, unploughed, untilled, unplanted, unsown, unused, dormant, resting, empty, bare. ② *a fallow trading period*: INACTIVE, dormant, quiet, slack, slow, stagnant; barren, unproduct-

—OPPOSITES cultivated, busy

false ► **adjective** ① *a false report*: INCORRECT, untrue, wrong, erroneous, fallacious, flawed, distorted, inaccurate, imprecise; untruthful, fictitious, concocted, fabricated, invented, made up, trumped up, unfounded, spurious; counterfeit, forged, fraudulent ② *a false friend*. FAITHLESS, unfaithful, disloyal, untrue, inconstant, treacherous, traitorous, two-faced, double-crossing, deceitful, dishonest, duplicitous, untrustworthy, unreliable; untruthful, *informal* cheating, two-timing, back-stabbing; *poetic/literary* perfidious. ③ *false pearls* FAKE, artificial, imitation, synthetic, simulated, reproduction, replica, ersatz, man-made, dummy, mock, *informal* phoney, pretend, pseudo

—OPPOSITES correct, truthful, faithful, genuine

falsehood ► **noun** ① *a downright falsehood* LIE, untruth, fib, falsification, fabrication, invention, fiction, story, cock and bull story, flight of fancy, half truth, *informal* tall story, tall tale, fairy story, fairy tale, whopper, *Brit informal* porky (pie), *humorous* terminological inexactitude ② *he accused me of falsehood* LYING, mendacity, untruthfulness, fibbing, fabrication, invention, perjury, telling stories, deceit, deception, pretence, artifice, double-crossing, treachery, *poetic/literary* perfidy

—OPPOSITES truth, honesty

falsify ► **verb** ① *she falsified the accounts* FORGE, fake, counterfeit, fabricate, alter, change, doctor, tamper with, fudge, manipulate, adulterate, corrupt, misrepresent, misreport, distort, warp, embellish, embroider ② *the theory is falsified by the evidence* DISPROVE, refute, rebut, deny, debunk, negate, negative, invalidate, contradict, controvert, confound, demolish, discredit, *informal* shoot full of holes, blow out of the water, *formal* confute, gainsay

falsity ► **noun** UNTRUTHFULNESS, untruth, fallaciousness, falseness, falsehood, fictitiousness, inaccuracy; mendacity, fabrication, dishonesty, deceit

falter ► **verb** ① *the government faltered* HESITATE, delay, drag one's feet, stall, waver, vacillate, be indecisive, be irresolute, blow hot and cold, *Brit* haver, hum and haw, *informal* sit on the fence, dilly-dally, shilly-shally ② *she faltered over his name* STAMMER, stutter, stumble, hesitate, flounder

fame ► **noun** RENOWN, celebrity, stardom, popularity, prominence; note, distinction, esteem, importance, account, consequence, greatness, eminence, prestige, stature, repute, notoriety, infamy.

—OPPOSITES obscurity.

famed ► **adjective** FAMOUS, celebrated, well known, prominent, noted, notable, renowned, respected, esteemed, acclaimed; notorious, infamous.

—OPPOSITES unknown

familiar ► **adjective** ① *a familiar task*: WELL KNOWN, recognized, accustomed; common, commonplace, everyday, day-to-day, ordinary, habitual, usual, customary, routine, standard, stock, mundane, run-of-the-mill; *poetic/literary* wonted. ② *are you familiar with the subject?* ACQUAINTED, conversant, versed, knowledgeable, well informed; skilled, proficient; at home

with, no stranger to, au fait with, au courant with, *informal* well up on, in the know about, genned up on, clued up on. ③ a familiar atmosphere *INFORMAL*, casual, relaxed, easy, comfortable; friendly, unceremonious, unreserved, open, natural, unpretentious ④ he is too familiar with the teachers' *OVERFAMILIAR*, presumptuous, disrespectful, forward, bold, impudent, impertinent

—OPPOSITES formal

familiarity ▶ noun ① he wants greater familiarity with politics: ACQUAINTANCE WITH, awareness of, experience of, insight into, conversancy with, conversance with, knowledge of, understanding of, comprehension of, grasp of, skill in, proficiency in ② she was affronted by his familiarity *OVERFAMILIARITY*, presumption, presumptuousness, forwardness, boldness, audacity, cheek, impudence, impertinence, disrespect, liberties ③ our familiarity allows us to tease each other CLOSENESS, intimacy, attachment, affinity, friendliness, friendship, amity, *informal* chumminess, palliness, *Brit informal* mateyness

familiarize ▶ verb MAKE CONVERSANT, make familiar, acquaint, accustom to, habituate to, instruct in, teach in, educate in, school in, prime in, introduce to, *informal* gen up on, clue up on, put in the picture about, give the gen about, give the low-down on, fill in on

family ▶ noun ① I met his family RELATIVES, relations, (next of) kin, kinsfolk, kindred, one's (own) flesh and blood, nearest and dearest, people, connections; extended family, clan, tribe, *informal* folks ② he had the right kind of family ANCESTRY, parentage, pedigree, genealogy, background, family tree, descent, lineage, bloodline, blood, extraction, stock, forebears, forefathers, antecedents, roots, origins ③ she is married with a family CHILDREN, little ones, youngsters, offspring, progeny, descendants, scions, heirs, brood, *Law issue, informal* kids, kiddies, tots ④ the weaver bird family TAXONOMIC GROUP, order, class, genus, species, stock, strain, line, Zoology phylum

family tree ▶ noun ANCESTRY, genealogy, descent, lineage, line, bloodline, pedigree, background, extraction, derivation; family, dynasty, house, forebears, forefathers, antecedents, roots, origins

famine ▶ noun ① a nation threatened by famine SCARCITY OF FOOD, food shortages ② the cotton famine SHORTAGE, scarcity, lack, dearth, deficiency, insufficiency, shortfall, scantiness, paucity, poverty, drought

—OPPOSITES plenty

famished ▶ adjective RAVENOUS, hungry, starving, starved, empty, unfed; *informal* peckish.

—OPPOSITES full.

famous ▶ adjective WELL KNOWN, prominent, famed, popular; renowned, noted, eminent, distinguished, esteemed, celebrated, respected; of distinction, of repute; illustrious, acclaimed, great, legendary, lionized; notorious, infamous

—OPPOSITES unknown.

fan¹ ▶ noun a ceiling fan AIR-COOLER, air conditioner, ventilator, blower, aerator.

▶ verb ① she fanned her face' COOL, aerate, ventilate; freshen, refresh. ② they fanned public fears' INTENSIFY, increase, agitate, inflame, exacerbate; stimulate, stir up, whip up, fuel, kindle,

spark, arouse ③ the police squad fanned out SPREAD, branch; outspread

fan² ▶ noun a basketball fan' ENTHUSIAST, devotee, admirer, lover; supporter, follower, disciple, adherent, zealot, expert, connoisseur, aficionado, *informal* buff, fiend, freak, nut, addict, fanatic, groupie, *N Amer informal* jock

fanatic ▶ noun ① a religious fanatic ZEALOT, extremist, militant, dogmatist, devotee, adherent, sectarian, bigot, partisan, radical, diehard, ultra; *informal* maniac ② (informal) a keep-fit fanatic See FAN²

fanatical ▶ adjective ① they are fanatical about their faith ZEALOUS, extremist, extreme, militant, dogmatic, radical, diehard, intolerant, single-minded, blinkered, inflexible, uncompromising ② he was fanatical about tidiness ENTHUSIASTIC, eager, keen, fervent, ardent, passionate, obsessive, obsessed, fixated, compulsive, *informal* wild, gung-ho, nuts, crazy, *Brit informal* potty

fancier ▶ noun a pigeon fancier ENTHUSIAST, lover, hobbyist, expert, connoisseur, aficionado; breeder, *informal* buff

fanciful ▶ adjective ① a fanciful story FANTASTIC, far-fetched, unbelievable, extravagant, ridiculous, absurd, preposterous; imaginary, made-up, make-believe, mythical, fabulous, *informal* tall, hard to swallow ② a fanciful girl IMAGINATIVE, inventive, whimsical, impractical, dreamy, quixotic, out of touch with reality, in a world of one's own ③ a fanciful building ORNATE, exotic, fancy, imaginative, extravagant, fantastic, curious, bizarre, eccentric, unusual

—OPPOSITES literal, practical

fancy ▶ verb ① (*Brit informal*) I fancied a change of scene WISH FOR, want, desire, long for, yearn for, crave, thirst for, hanker after, dream of, covet, *informal* have a yen for; archaic be desirous of ② (*Brit informal*) she fancied him BE ATTRACTED TO, find attractive, be infatuated with, be taken with, desire, lust after, burn for, *informal* have a crush on, have the hots for, be crazy about, have a thing about, have a soft spot for, carry a torch for ③ I fancied I could see lights THINK, imagine, believe, be of the opinion, be under the impression, *informal* reckon

▶ adjective fancy clothes' ELABORATE, ornate, ornamental, decorative, adorned, embellished, intricate, ostentatious, showy, flamboyant, luxurious, lavish, extravagant, expensive; *informal* flash, flashy, jazzy, ritzy, snazzy, posh, classy, *Brit informal* swish

—OPPOSITES plain

▶ noun ① his fancy to own a farm DESIRE, urge, wish, inclination, whim, impulse, notion, whimsy; yearning, longing, hankering, craving, *informal* yen, itch ② I've a fancy they want to be alone IDEA, notion, thought, supposition, opinion, belief, impression, understanding, feeling, suspicion, hunch, inkling.

fanfare ▶ noun ① a fanfare announced her arrival TRUMPET CALL, flourish, fanfaronade; archaic trump. ② the project was greeted with great fanfare: FUSS, commotion, show, display, ostentation, flashiness, pageantry, splendour, *informal* ballyhoo, hype, pizzazz, razzle-dazzle, glitz.

fantasize ▶ verb DAYDREAM, dream, muse, make-believe, pretend, imagine, build castles in



the air, build castles in Spain, live in a dream world

fantastic ▶ **adjective** ① *a fantastic notion*: FANCIFUL, extravagant, extraordinary, irrational, wild, absurd, far-fetched, nonsensical, incredible, unbelievable, unthinkable, implausible, improbable, unlikely, doubtful, dubious, strange, peculiar, odd, queer, weird, eccentric, whimsical, capricious, visionary, romantic, *informal* crazy, cock-eyed, off the wall ② *his fantastic accuracy*: TREMENDOUS, remarkable, great, terrific, impressive, outstanding, phenomenal ③ *fantastic shapes*: STRANGE, weird, bizarre, outlandish, queer, peculiar, grotesque, freakish, surreal, exotic, elaborate, ornate, intricate ④ (*informal*) *a fantastic car*: MARVELLOUS, wonderful, sensational, outstanding, superb, excellent, first-rate, first-class, dazzling, out of this world, breathtaking, *informal* great, terrific, fabulous, fab, mega, super, ace, magic, cracking, cool, wicked, awesome, *Brit informal* brilliant, brill, smashing, *Austral/NZ informal* bonzer, *Brit informal*, dated spiffing

—OPPOSITES rational, ordinary

fantasy ▶ **noun** ① *a mix of fantasy and realism*: IMAGINATION, fancy, invention, make-believe, creativity, vision, daydreaming, reverie ② *his fantasy about being famous*: DREAM, daydream, pipe dream, fanciful notion, wish, fond hope, chimera, delusion, illusion, *informal* pie in the sky

—OPPOSITES realism

far ▶ **adverb** ① *we are far from the palace*: A LONG WAY, a great distance, a good way, afar ② *her charm far outweighs any flaws*: MUCH, considerably, markedly, immeasurably, greatly, significantly, substantially, appreciably, noticeably, to a great extent, by a long way, by far, by a mile, easily

—OPPOSITES near

▶ **adjective** ① *far places*: DISTANT, faraway, far-off, remote, out of the way, far-flung, outlying ② *the far side of the campus*: FURTHER, more distant, opposite

—OPPOSITES near

■ **by far**: BY A GREAT AMOUNT, by a good deal, by a long way, by a mile, far and away, undoubtedly, without doubt, without question, positively, absolutely, easily, significantly, substantially, appreciably, much, *Brit* by a long chalk

■ **far and away**: See BY FAR.

■ **far and near**: EVERYWHERE, (here, there, and everywhere), all over (the world), throughout the land, worldwide, *informal* all over the place; *Brit informal* all over the shop, *N Amer informal* all over the map.

■ **far and wide**: See FAR AND NEAR.

■ **far from**: *staff were far from happy*: NOT, not at all, nowhere near; the opposite of.

■ **go far**: BE SUCCESSFUL, succeed, prosper, flourish, thrive, get on (in the world), make good, set the world on fire, *informal* make a name for oneself, make one's mark, go places, do all right for oneself, find a place in the sun.

■ **go too far**: GO OVER THE TOP, go to extremes, go overboard

■ **so far** ① *nobody has noticed so far*: UNTIL NOW, up to now, up to this point, as yet, thus far, hitherto, up to the present, to date ② *his liberalism only extends so far*: TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, up to a point, to a degree, within reason, within limits.

faraway ▶ **adjective** ① *faraway places*: DISTANT, far off, far, remote, far-flung, outlying, obscure, out of the way, off the beaten track ② *a faraway look in her eyes*: DREAMY, daydreaming, abstracted, absent-minded, distracted, preoccupied, vague; lost in thought, somewhere else, not with us, in a world of one's own, *informal* miles away

—OPPOSITES nearby

farce ▶ **noun** ① *the stories approach farce*: SLAPSTICK (COMEDY), burlesque, vaudeville, buffoonery ② *the trial was a farce*: MOCKERY, travesty, absurdity, sham, pretence, masquerade, charade, joke, waste of time, *informal* shambles

—OPPOSITES tragedy

farcical ▶ **adjective** ① *the idea is farcical*: RIDICULOUS, preposterous, ludicrous, absurd, laughable, risible, nonsensical, senseless, pointless, useless, silly, foolish, idiotic, stupid, hare-brained, *informal* crazy, *Brit informal* barmy, daft ② *farcical goings-on*: MADCAP, zany, slapstick, comic, comical, clownish, amusing, hilarious, uproarious, *informal* wacky

fare ▶ **noun** ① *we paid the fare*: TICKET PRICE, transport cost, price, cost, charge, fee, toll, tariff ② *the taxi picked up a fare*: PASSENGER, traveler, customer, *Brit informal* punter ③ *they eat simple fare*: FOOD, meals, sustenance, nourishment, nutriment, foodstuffs, provender, eatables, provisions, cooking, cuisine, diet, table, *informal* grub, nosh, eats, chow, *Brit informal* scoff, *formal* comestibles, victuals

▶ **verb** *how are you faring?*: GET ON, get along, cope, manage, do, muddle through/along, survive, *informal* make out

farewell ▶ **exclamation** *farewell, Patrick!*: GOOD BYE, so long, adieu, au revoir, ciao, *informal* bye, bye-bye, cheerio, see you (later), later(s), *Brit informal* ta-ta, cheers, *informal*, dated toodle-oo, toodle-pip

▶ **noun** *an emotional farewell*: GOODBYE, valediction, adieu, leave-taking, parting, departure, send-off

far-fetched ▶ **adjective**: IMPROBABLE, unlikely, implausible, unconvincing, dubious, doubtful, incredible, unbelievable, unthinkable, contrived, fanciful, unrealistic, ridiculous, absurd, preposterous, *informal* hard to swallow, fishy

—OPPOSITES likely

farm ▶ **noun** *a farm of 100 acres*: SMALLHOLDING, farmstead, plantation, estate, farmland, *Brit* grange, croft, *Scottish* steading, *N Amer* ranch, *Austral/NZ* station

▶ **verb** ① *he farmed locally*: BE A FARMER, cultivate the land, work the land, rear livestock. ② *they farm the land*: CULTIVATE, till, work, plough, dig, plant ③ *the family farms sheep*: BREED, rear, keep, raise, tend.

■ **farm something out**: CONTRACT OUT, out-source, subcontract, delegate

farmer ▶ **noun**: AGRICULTURALIST, agronomist, smallholder, grazier; farmhand; *Brit* crofter, *N Amer* rancher; *historical* yeoman.

farming ▶ **noun**: AGRICULTURE, cultivation, husbandry. See list

—RELATED TERMS agri-, agro-

far out ▶ **adjective** (*informal*). See UNCONVENTIONAL.

farrago ▶ **noun**: HOTCHPOTCH, mishmash, rag-bag, pot-pourri, jumble, mess, confusion, me-

Types of Farming and Cultivation

agribusiness	horticulture
apiculture	hydroponics
arboriculture	intensive farming
aquaculture	livestock farming
arable farming	mariculture
battery farming	market gardening
biodynamics	organic farming
citriculture	pisciculture
crofting	polyculture
dairy farming	sericulture
dry-land farming	sharecropping
extensive farming	share farming
factory farming	silviculture
fish farming	subsistence farming
floriculture	viniculture
forestry	viticulture

lange, gallimaufry, hash, assortment, miscel-
lany, mixture, conglomeration, medley, *N Amer*
hodgepodge

far-reaching ► **adjective** EXTENSIVE, wide-
ranging, comprehensive, widespread, all-
embracing, overarching, across the board,
sweeping, blanket, wholesale, important, sig-
nificant, radical, major, consequential
—OPPOSITES limited

far-sighted ► **adjective** PRESCIENT, visionary,
perceptive, shrewd, discerning, judicious,
canny, prudent

farther ► **adverb & adjective**. See FURTHER

farthest ► **adjective**. See FURTHEST

fascinate ► **verb** INTEREST, captivate, engross,
absorb, enchant, enthrall, entrance, transfix,
rivet, mesmerize, engage, compel, lure, tempt,
entice, draw, charm, attract, intrigue, divert,
entertain
—OPPOSITES bore

fascinating ► **adjective** INTERESTING, captivat-
ing, engrossing, absorbing, enchanting, en-
thralling, spellbinding, riveting, engaging, com-
pelling, compulsive, gripping, thrilling; allur-
ing, tempting, irresistible, charming, attractive,
intriguing, diverting, entertaining.

fascination ► **noun** INTEREST, preoccupation,
passion, obsession, compulsion, allure, lure,
charm, attraction, intrigue, appeal, pull, draw

fascism ► **noun** AUTHORITARIANISM, totalitarian-
ism, dictatorship, despotism, autocracy; Naz-
ism, rightism; nationalism, xenophobia, ra-
cism, anti-Semitism, jingoism, isolationism,
neo-fascism, neo-Nazism

fascist ► **noun** *he was branded a fascist* AUTHORI-
TARIAN, totalitarian, autocrat, extreme right-
winger, rightist, Nazi, blackshirt, nationalist,
xenophobe, racist, anti-Semite, jingoist, neo-
fascist, neo-Nazi
—OPPOSITES liberal

► **adjective** *a fascist regime* AUTHORITARIAN, totalitar-
ian, dictatorial, despotic, autocratic, undemo-
cratic, illiberal, Nazi, extreme right-wing, right-
ist, militarist, nationalist(ic), xenophobic, ra-
cist, jingoistic
—OPPOSITES democratic

fashion ► **noun** ① *the fashion for tight clothes*
VOGUE, trend, craze, rage, mania, fad, style,
look, tendency, convention, custom, practice,
informal thing ② *the world of fashion* CLOTHES,
clothing design, couture, *informal* the rag trade
See list ③ *it needs to be run in a sensible fashion*
MANNER, way, method, mode, style, system, ap-
proach

► **verb** *the model was fashioned from lead* CON-
STRUCT, build, make, manufacture, fabricate,
contrive, cast, shape, form, mould, sculpt,
forge, hew

■ **after a fashion** TO A CERTAIN EXTENT, in a
way, somehow (or other), in a manner of
speaking, in its way

■ **in fashion** FASHIONABLE, in vogue, up to
date, up to the minute, all the rage, chic, à la



Fashion Designers

Amies, Hardy (English)
Armani, Giorgio (Italian)
Azagury, Jacques (Moroccan)
Balenciaga, Cristóbal (Spanish)
Balmain, Pierre (French)
Beene, Geoffrey (American)
Blass, Bill (American)
Bohan, Marc (French)
Cacharel, Jean (French)
Capellino, Ally (English)
Cardin, Pierre (French)
Cerruti, Nino (Italian)
Chanel, Coco (French)
Charles, Caroline (English)
Clark, Ossie (English)
Conan, Jasper (English)
Costelloe, Paul (Irish)
Courmages, André (French)
De la Renta, Oscar (Dominican)
Dior, Christian (French)
Erté (French)
Ferré, Gianfranco (Italian)
Florucci, Elio (Italian)
Fortuny, Mariano (Spanish)

Freud, Bella (English)
Galliano, John (English)
Gaultier, Jean-Paul (French)
Givenchy, Hubert de (French)
Halston (American)
Hamnett, Katharine (English)
Hartnell, Norman (English)
Hechter, Daniel (French)
Jackson, Betty (English)
Karan, Donna (American)
Kenzo (Japanese)
Klein, Anne (American)
Klein, Calvin (American)
Lacroix, Christian (French)
Lagerfeld, Karl-Otto (German)
Lang, Helmut (Austrian)
Larvin, Jeanne (French)
Laroche, Guy (French)
Lauren, Ralph (American)
Maimbocher (American)
McQueen, Alexander (English)
Missoni, Ottavio (Italian, b. in
Yugoslavia)
Miyake, Issey (Japanese)

Mizrahi, Isaac (American)
Montana, Claude (French)
Moschino, Franco (Italian)
Mugler, Thierry (French)
Muir, Jean (English)
Oldfield, Bruce (English)
Ozbek, Rifat (Turkish)
Patou, Jean (French)
Pucci, Emilio (Italian)
Quant, Mary (English)
Reger, Janet (English)
Rhodes, Zandra (English)
Ryckel, Sonia (French)
Saint-Laurent, Yves (French)
Schiaparelli, Elsa (French, b. in
Italy)
Smith, Paul (English)
Ungaro, Emmanuel (French)
Valentino (Italian)
Versace, Gianni (Italian)
Westwood, Vivienne (English)
Yamamoto, Yohji (Japanese)

mode, *informal* trendy, with it, cool, in, the in thing, hot, big, hip, happening, now, sharp, groovy, *N Amer* tony, fly, *Brit informal*, dated all the go

■ **out of fashion** UNFASHIONABLE, dated, old-fashioned, out of date, outdated, outmoded, behind the times, unstylish, unpopular, passé, *démodé*, *informal* old hat, out, square, out of the ark

fashionable ► **adjective** IN VOGUE, vogueish, in fashion, popular, (bang) up to date, up to the minute, modern, all the rage, modish, à la mode, trendsetting, stylish, chic, *informal* trendy, classy, with it, cool, in, the in thing, hot, big, hip, happening, now, sharp, groovy, snazzy, *N Amer informal* tony, fly, *Brit informal*, dated all the go

fast¹ ► **adjective** ① a fast pace SPEEDY, quick, swift, rapid, fast-moving, high-speed, turbo, sporty, accelerated, express, blistering, break-neck, pell-mell, hasty, hurried, *informal* nippy, zippy, scorching, blinding, supersonic, *Brit informal* cracking, poetic/literary fleet ② he held the door fast SECURE, fastened, tight, firm, closed, shut, to, immovable, unbudgeable ③ a fast colour IN DELIBLE, lasting, permanent, stable ④ fast friends LOYAL, devoted, faithful, firm, steadfast, staunch, true, boon, bosom, inseparable, constant, enduring, unswerving ⑤ a fast woman PROMISCUOUS, licentious, dissolute, debauched, impure, unchaste, wanton, abandoned, of easy virtue, sluttish, whorish, intemperate, immoderate, shameless, sinful, immoral, *informal* easy, tarty, *Brit informal* slaggy, *N Amer informal* roundheeled, dated loose

—OPPOSITES slow, loose, temporary, chaste

► **adverb** ① she drove fast QUICKLY, rapidly, swiftly, speedily, brnskly, at speed, at full tilt, hastily, hurriedly, in a hurry, post-haste, pell-mell, like a shot, like a flash, on the double, at the speed of light, *informal* double quick, p d q (pretty damn quick), nippily, like (greased) lightning, hell for leather, like mad, like the wind, like a scalded cat, like a bat out of hell, *Brit informal* like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o, *N Amer informal* lickety-split, poetic/literary apace ② his wheels were stuck fast SECURELY, firmly, immovably, fixedly ③ he's fast asleep DEEPLY, sound, completely ④ she lived fast and dangerously WILDLY, dissolutely, intemperately, immoderately, recklessly, self-indulgently, extravagantly

—OPPOSITES slowly

fast² ► **verb** we must fast and pray EAT NOTHING, abstain from food, refrain from eating, go without food, go hungry, starve oneself, go on hunger strike

—OPPOSITES eat

► **noun** a five-day fast PERIOD OF FASTING, period of abstinence, hunger strike, diet

—OPPOSITES feast.

fasten ► **verb** ① he fastened the door BOLT, lock, secure, make fast, chain, seal ② they fastened splints to his leg ATTACH, fix, affix, clip, pin, tack; stick, bond, join ③ he fastened his horse to a tree TIE (UP), bind, tether, truss, fetter, lash, hitch, anchor, strap, rope ④ the dress fastens at the front BUTTON (UP), zip (up), do up, close. ⑤ his gaze fastened on me: FOCUS, fix, be riveted, concentrate, zero in, zoom in, direct at. ⑥ blame had been fastened on some nutter ASCRIBE

to, attribute to, assign to, chalk up to, pin on, lay at the door of. ⑦ critics fastened on the end of the report: SINGLE OUT, concentrate on, focus on, pick out, fix on, seize on

—OPPOSITES unlock, remove, open, untie, undo

fastidious ► **adjective** SCRUPULOUS, punctilious, painstaking, meticulous, perfectionist, fussy, finicky, over-particular, critical, overcritical, hypercritical, hard to please, exacting, demanding, *informal* pernickety, nit-picking, choosy, picky, *N Amer informal* persnickety

—OPPOSITES lax

fat ► **adjective** ① a fat man PLUMP, stout, overweight, large, chubby, portly, flabby, paunchy, pot-bellied, beer-bellied, meaty, of ample proportions, obese, corpulent, gross, fleshy, *informal* tubby, roly-poly, beefy, porky, blubbery, chunky, *Brit informal* podgy, fussy, archaic porsy ② fat bacon FATTY, greasy, oily, oleaginous; *formal* pinguid ③ a fat book THICK, big, chunky, substantial, long ④ (informal) a fat salary LARGE, substantial, sizeable, considerable, generous, lucrative

—OPPOSITES thin, lean, small, good

► **noun** ① whale fat BLUBBER, fatty tissue, adipose tissue ② he was running to fat FATNESS, plumpness, stoutness, chubbiness, tubbiness, portliness, podginess, flabbiness, obesity, corpulence, *informal* flab, blubber ③ eggs in sizzling fat COOKING OIL, grease, lard, suet, butter, margarine

fatal ► **adjective** ① a fatal disease DEADLY, lethal, mortal, death-dealing, terminal, incurable, untreatable, inoperable, malignant, poetic/literary deathly ② a fatal mistake DISASTROUS, devastating, ruinous, catastrophic, calamitous, dire, costly, *formal* grievous

—OPPOSITES harmless, beneficial

fatalism ► **noun** PASSIVE ACCEPTANCE, resignation, stoicism, fate

fatality ► **noun** DEATH, casualty, mortality, victim, fatal accident

fate ► **noun** ① what has fate in store for me? DES- TINY, providence, the stars, chance, luck, serendipity, fortune, kismet, karma ② my fate was in their hands FUTURE, destiny, outcome, end, lot ③ a similar fate would befall other killers DEATH, demise, end, retribution, sentence ④ the Fates will decide the weird sisters, the Parcae, the Moirai See list

► **verb** his daughter was fated to face the same problem BE PREDESTINED, be preordained, be destined, be meant, be doomed; be sure, be certain, be bound, be guaranteed

The Three Fates

Lachesis (assigns a person's destiny)

Clotho (spins the thread of life)

Atropos (cuts the thread of life)

fateful ► **adjective** ① that fateful day: DECISIVE, critical, crucial, pivotal; momentous, important, key, significant, historic, portentous. ② the fateful defeat of 1402: DISASTROUS, ruinous, calamitous, devastating, tragic, terrible.

—OPPOSITES unimportant.

father ► **noun** ① his mother and father: MALE PARENT, patriarch, paterfamilias; *informal* dad, daddy, pop, pa, old man, *Brit informal*, dated pater. ② (poetic/literary) the religion of my fathers: ANCES-

TOR, forefather, forebear, predecessor, antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor ③ *the father of democracy* ORIGINATOR, initiator, founder, inventor, creator, maker, author, architect. ④ *the city fathers* LEADER, elder, patriarch, official ⑤ *our heavenly Father* GOD, Lord (God). ⑥ *pray for me, Father* PRIEST, pastor, parson, clergyman, cleric, minister, preacher, *informal* reverend, padre.

—RELATED TERMS paternal, patri-

—OPPOSITES child, mother, descendant

► **verb** ① *he fathered six children* BE THE FATHER OF, sire, bring into the world, spawn, breed, *poetic/literary* beget, *archaic* engender ② *he fathered a strand of applied economics* ESTABLISH, institute, originate, initiate, invent, found, create

fatherland ► **noun** NATIVE LAND, native country, homeland, mother country, motherland, land of one's birth

fatherly ► **adjective** PATERNAL, fatherlike, protective, supportive, encouraging, affectionate, caring, sympathetic, indulgent

fathom ► **verb** ① *Charlie tried to fathom her expression* UNDERSTAND, comprehend, work out, make sense of, grasp, divine, puzzle out, get to the bottom of, interpret, decipher, decode, *informal* make head or tail of, tumble to, crack, *Brit informal* twig, suss (out), savvy ② *fathoming the ocean* MEASURE THE DEPTH OF, sound, plumb

fatigue ► **noun** ① *his face was grey with fatigue* TIREDNESS, weariness, exhaustion, enervation, prostration ② (*Military*) kitchen fatigues MENIAL WORK, drudgery, chores, *informal* skivvying
—OPPOSITES energy

► **verb** *the troops were fatigued* TIRE (OUT), exhaust, wear out, drain, weary, wash out, overture, prostrate, enervate, *informal* knock out, take it out of, do in, fag out, whack, poop, shatter, bush, wear to a frazzle, *Brit informal* knacker
—OPPOSITES invigorate

fatness ► **noun** PLUMPNESS, stoutness, heaviness, chubbiness, portliness, rotundity, flabbiness, paunchiness, obesity, corpulence, *informal* tubbiness, podginess
—OPPOSITES thinness

fatten ► **verb** ① *fattening livestock* MAKE FAT/FATTER, feed (up), build up ② *we're sending her home to fatten up* PUT ON WEIGHT, gain weight, get heavier, grow fatter, fill out
—OPPOSITES slim

fatty ► **adjective** GREASY, oily, fat, oleaginous
—OPPOSITES lean

fatuous ► **adjective** SILLY, foolish, stupid, inane, idiotic, vacuous, asinine, pointless, senseless, ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd, *informal* dumb, gormless, *Brit informal* daft
—OPPOSITES sensible

fault ► **noun** ① *he has his faults* DEFECT, failing, imperfection, flaw, blemish, shortcoming, weakness, frailty, foible, vice ② *engineers have located the fault* DEFECT, flaw, imperfection, bug, error, mistake, inaccuracy, *informal* glitch, grem-lin. ③ *it was not my fault*: RESPONSIBILITY, liability, culpability, blameworthiness, guilt. ④ *don't blame one child for another's faults*: MISDEED, wrongdoing, offence, misdemeanour, misconduct, indiscretion, peccadillo, transgression.
—OPPOSITES merit, strength.

► **verb** *you couldn't fault any of the players*: FIND FAULT WITH, criticize, attack, censure, condemn,

reproach; complain about, quibble about, moan about, *informal* knock, slam, gripe about, beef about, pick holes in, *Brit informal* slag off, have a go at, slate

■ **at fault** TO BLAME, blameworthy, culpable, responsible, guilty, in the wrong

■ **to a fault** EXCESSIVELY, unduly, immoderately, overly, needlessly

fault-finding ► **noun** CRITICISM, captiousness, cavilling, quibbling, complaining, grumbling, carping, moaning, *informal* griping, grouching, bellyaching

—OPPOSITES praise

faultless ► **adjective** PERFECT, flawless, without fault, error-free, impeccable, accurate, precise, exact, correct, exemplary

—OPPOSITES flawed

faulty ► **adjective** ① *a faulty electric blanket* MAL FUNCTIONING, broken, damaged, defective, not working, out of order, *informal* on the blink, acting up, kaput, bust, *Brit informal* knackered, playing up, duff, *N Amer informal* on the fritz ② *her logic is faulty* DEFECTIVE, flawed, unsound, inaccurate, incorrect, erroneous, fallacious, wrong

—RELATED TERMS dys-

—OPPOSITES working, sound

faux pas ► **noun** GAFFE, blunder, mistake, indiscretion, impropriety, solecism, *informal* booboo, *Brit informal* boob, *N Amer informal* blooper

favour ► **noun** ① *will you do me a favour?* GOOD TURN, service, good deed, (act of) kindness, courtesy ② *she looked on him with favour* AP PROVAL, approbation, goodwill, kindness, benevolence ③ *they showed favour to one of the players* FAVOURITISM, bias, partiality, partisanship ④ *you shall receive the king's favour* PATRON AGE, backing, support, assistance ⑤ (*archaic*) *you shall wear my favours* RIBBON, rosette, badge, token, keepsake, souvenir, memento
—OPPOSITES disservice, disapproval

► **verb** ① *the party favours electoral reform* ADVOCATE, recommend, approve of, be in favour of, support, back, champion, campaign for, stand up for, press for, lobby for, promote, *informal* plug, push for ② *Robyn favours loose clothes* PREFER, go (in) for, choose, opt for, select, pick, plump for, be partial to, like ③ *father always favoured George* SHOW FAVOURITISM TOWARDS, have a bias towards, think more highly of ④ *the conditions favoured the other team*: BENEFIT, be to the advantage of, help, assist, aid, be of service to, do someone a favour ⑤ *he favoured Lucy with a smile* OBLIGE, honour, gratify, humour, indulge ⑥ (*informal*) *Travis favours our father* RESEMBLE, look like, be similar to, bear a resemblance to, remind one of, take after; *informal* be the spitting image of, be a dead ringer for
—OPPOSITES oppose, dislike, hinder.

■ **in favour of** ON THE SIDE OF, pro, (all) for, giving support to, approving of, sympathetic to.

favourable ► **adjective** ① *a favourable assessment of his ability*: APPROVING, commendatory, complimentary, flattering, glowing, enthusiastic; good, pleasing, positive; *informal* rave ② *conditions are favourable*: ADVANTAGEOUS, beneficial, in one's favour, good, right, suitable, fitting, appropriate; propitious, auspicious, promising, encouraging. ③ *a favourable reply*: POSITIVE, affirmative, assenting, agreeing, approving, encouraging, reassuring.

—OPPOSITES critical, disadvantageous, negative

favourably ► **adverb** POSITIVELY, approvingly, sympathetically, enthusiastically, appreciatively

favoured ► **adjective** PREFERRED, favourite, recommended, chosen, choice

favourite ► **adjective** his favourite aunt BEST-LOVED, most-liked, favoured, dearest, preferred, chosen, choice

► **noun** ① Brutus was Caesar's favourite (FIRST) CHOICE, pick, preference, pet, darling, the apple of one's eye, informal golden boy, *Brit informal* blue-eyed boy/girl; *N Amer informal* fair-haired boy/girl ② the favourite fell at the first fence EXPECTED WINNER, front runner

favouritism ► **noun** PARTIALITY, partisanship, unfair preference, preferential treatment, favour, prejudice, bias, inequality, unfairness, discrimination

fawn¹ ► **adjective** a fawn carpet BEIGE, yellowish-brown, pale brown, buff, sand, oatmeal, café au lait, camel, ecru, taupe, stone, mushroom

fawn² ► **verb** they were fawning over the President BE OBSEQUIOUS TO, be sycophantic to, curry favour with, pay court to, play up to, crawl to, ingratiate oneself with, dance attendance on, informal suck up to, make up to, be all over, *Austral/NZ informal* smooch to

fawning ► **adjective** OBSEQUIOUS, servile, sycophantic, flattering, ingratiating, unctuous, oleaginous, grovelling, crawling, informal bootlicking, smarmy

fear ► **noun** ① she felt fear at entering the house TERROR, fright, fearfulness, horror, alarm, panic, agitation, trepidation, dread, consternation, dismay, distress, anxiety, worry, angst, unease, uneasiness, apprehension, apprehensiveness, nervousness, nerves, perturbation, foreboding, informal the creeps, the willies, the heebie-jeebies, jitteriness, twitchiness, butterflies (in the stomach), (blue) funk ② she overcame her fears PHOBIA, aversion, antipathy, dread, bugbear, bogey, nightmare, horror, terror, anxiety, neurosis, informal hang-up See list at PHOBIA ③ (archaic) the love and fear of God AWE, wonder, wonderment; reverence, veneration, respect ④ there's no fear of me leaving you alone LIKELIHOOD, likelihood, prospect, possibility, chance, probability, risk, danger

► **verb** ① she feared her husband BE AFRAID OF, be fearful of, be scared of, be apprehensive of, dread, live in fear of, be terrified of, be anxious about, worry about, feel apprehensive about ② he fears heights HAVE A PHOBIA ABOUT, have a horror of, take fright at ③ he feared to tell them BE TOO AFRAID, be too scared, hesitate, dare not ④ they feared for his health: WORRY ABOUT, feel anxious about, feel concerned about, have anxieties about ⑤ (archaic) all who fear the Lord STAND IN AWE OF, revere, reverence, venerate, respect ⑥ I fear that you may be right. SUSPECT, have a (sneaking) suspicion, be inclined to think, be afraid, have a hunch, think it likely.

fearful ► **adjective** ① they are fearful of being overheard AFRAID, frightened, scared (stiff), scared to death, terrified, petrified, alarmed, panicky, nervy, nervous, tense, apprehensive, uneasy, worried (sick), anxious; informal jittery, jumpy; *Brit informal* in a (blue) funk; archaic afeared, af-

frighted ② the guards were fearful NERVOUS, trembling, quaking, cowed, daunted, timid, timorous, faint-hearted, nervy, informal jittery, jumpy, twitchy, keyed up, in a cold sweat, a bundle of nerves, like a cat on a hot tin roof, *Brit informal* having kittens, like a cat on hot bricks, *N Amer informal* spooky ③ a fearful accident TERRIBLE, dreadful, awful, appalling, frightful, ghastly, horrific, horrible, horrifying, horrendous, terribly bad, shocking, atrocious, abominable, hideous, monstrous, gruesome ④ (informal) he was in a fearful hurry (VERY) GREAT, extreme, real, dreadful, informal terrible

fearfully ► **adverb** ① she opened the door fearfully APPREHENSIVELY, uneasily, nervously, timidly, timorously, hesitantly, with one's heart in one's mouth ② (informal) Stephanie looked fearfully glamorous EXTREMELY, exceedingly, exceptionally, remarkably, uncommonly, extraordinarily, tremendously, incredibly, very, really, Scottish unco, informal awfully, terribly, dreadfully, *Brit well, ever so, dead, N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful, dated frightfully

fearless ► **adjective** BOLD, brave, courageous, intrepid, valiant, valorous, gallant, plucky, lionhearted, heroic, daring, audacious, indomitable, doughty, unafraid, undaunted, unflinching, informal gutsy, spunky, ballsy, feisty —OPPOSITES timid, cowardly

fearsome ► **adjective** FRIGHTENING, horrifying, terrifying, menacing, chilling, spine-chilling, hair-raising, alarming, unnerving, daunting, formidable, forbidding, dismaying, disquieting, disturbing, informal scary

feasible ► **adjective** PRACTICABLE, practical, workable, achievable, attainable, realizable, viable, realistic, sensible, reasonable, within reason, suitable, possible, expedient, constructive, informal doable —OPPOSITES impractical

feast ► **noun** ① a wedding feast BANQUET, celebration meal, lavish dinner, treat, entertainment, revels, festivities, informal blowout, spread, *Brit informal* nosh-up, beanfeast, bunfight, beano, slap-up meal ② the feast of St Stephen (RELIGIOUS) FESTIVAL, feast day, saint's day, holy day, holiday See lists at FESTIVAL, SAINT ③ a feast for the eyes TREAT, delight, joy, pleasure.

► **verb** ① they feasted on lobster: GORGE ON, dine on, eat one's fill of, overindulge in, binge on, eat, devour, consume, partake of, informal stuff one's face with, stuff oneself with, pig oneself on, pig out on. ② they feasted the deputation: HOLD A BANQUET FOR, throw a feast/party for, wine and dine, entertain lavishly, regale, treat, fête.

feat ► **noun** ACHIEVEMENT, accomplishment, attainment, coup, triumph; undertaking, enterprise, venture, operation, exercise, endeavour, effort, performance, exploit.

feather ► **noun** PLUME, quill, flight feather, tail feather; Ornithology covert, plumule, (feathers) plumage, feathering, down.

feature ► **noun** ① a typical feature of French music: CHARACTERISTIC, attribute, quality, property, trait, hallmark, trademark; aspect, facet, factor, ingredient, component, element, theme; peculiarity, idiosyncrasy, quirk. ② her delicate features: FACE, countenance, physiognomy; informal mug, kisser; *Brit informal* mush, phiz; *N Amer*

informal puss, pan; poetic/literary visage, lineaments ③ she made a feature of her garden sculptures CENTREPIECE, (special) attraction, highlight, focal point, focus (of attention) ④ a series of short features ARTICLE, piece, item, report, story, column, review, commentary, write-up

► **verb** ① Radio Ulster is featuring a week of live concerts PRESENT, promote, make a feature of, give prominence to, focus attention on, spotlight, highlight ② she is to feature in a major advertising campaign STAR, appear, participate, play a part

febrile ► **adjective** FEVERISH, hot, burning, flushed, sweating, informal having a temperature, rare pyretic

feckless ► **adjective** USELESS, worthless, incompetent, inept, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, lazy, idle, slothful, indolent, shiftless, informal no-good, no-account

fecund ► **adjective** FERTILE, fruitful, productive, high-yielding, rich, lush, flourishing, thriving, formal fructuous
-OPPOSITES barren

federal ► **adjective** CONFEDERATE, federated, federative, combined, allied, united, amalgamated, integrated

federate ► **verb** CONFEDERATE, combine, unite, unify, merge, amalgamate, integrate, join (up), band together, team up

federation ► **noun** CONFEDERATION, confederacy, federaacy, league, combination, alliance, coalition, union, syndicate, guild, consortium, partnership, cooperative, association, amalgamation

fee ► **noun** PAYMENT, wage, salary, allowance, price, cost, charge, tariff, rate, amount, sum, figure, (fees) remuneration, dues, earnings, pay, formal emolument

feeble ► **adjective** ① he was very old and feeble WEAK, weakly, weakened, frail, infirm, delicate, sickly, ailing, unwell, poorly, enfeebled, enervated, debilitated, incapacitated, decrepit ② a feeble argument INEFFECTIVE, ineffectual, inadequate, unconvincing, implausible, unsatisfactory, poor, weak, flimsy ③ he's too feeble to stand up to his boss COWARDLY, craven, faint-hearted, spineless, spiritless, lily-livered, timid, timorous, fearful, unassertive, weak, ineffectual, informal wimpy, sissy, sissified, gutless, chicken, Brt informal wet ④ a feeble light FAINT, dim, weak, pale, soft, subdued, muted
-OPPOSITES strong, brave

feeble-minded ► **adjective** ① don't be so feeble-minded STUPID, idiotic, imbecilic, foolish, witless, doltish, empty-headed, vacuous, informal half-witted, moronic, dumb, dim, dopey, dozy, dotty, dippy, Brt informal daft ② (dated) the segregation of the feeble-minded HAVING LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, having special (educational) needs, backward, simple, slow, (mentally) retarded, dated educationally subnormal, ESN, informal mental
-OPPOSITES clever, gifted

feed ► **verb** ① a large family to feed GIVE FOOD TO, provide (food) for, cater for, cook for, suckle, breastfeed, bottle-feed, dated victual ② the baby spends all day feeding EAT, consume food, have a meal, snack; informal nosh, graze. ③ too many cows feeding in a small area GRAZE, browse, crop, pasture. ④ the birds feed on a varied diet: LIVE ON/OFF, exist on, subsist on, eat, consume ⑤ feed-

ing one's self-esteem STRENGTHEN, fortify, support, bolster, reinforce, boost, fuel, encourage ⑥ she fed secrets to the Russians SUPPLY, provide, give, deliver, furnish, issue

► **noun** ① feed for goats and sheep. FODDER, food, forage, pasturage, herbage, provender, formal comestibles ② (informal) they halted for their feed MEAL, lunch, dinner, supper, Brt tea, informal nosh, Brt informal scoff, formal repast

feel ► **verb** ① she felt the fabric TOUCH, stroke, caress, fondle, finger, thumb, handle ② she felt a breeze on her back PERCEIVE, sense, detect, discern, notice, be aware of, be conscious of ③ the patient does not feel pain EXPERIENCE, undergo, go through, bear, endure, suffer ④ he felt his way towards the door GROPE, fumble, scrabble, pick ⑤ feel the temperature of the water TEST, try (out), assess ⑥ he feels that he should go to the meeting BELIEVE, think, consider (it right), be of the opinion, hold, maintain, judge, informal reckon, figure ⑦ I feel that he is only hiding his time SENSE, have a (funny) feeling, get the impression, have a hunch, intuit ⑧ the air feels damp SEEM, appear, strike one as

► **noun** ① the divers worked by feel (SENSE OF) TOUCH, tactile sense, feeling (one's way) ② the feel of the paper TEXTURE, surface, finish, weight, thickness, consistency, quality ③ the feel of a room ATMOSPHERE, ambience, aura, mood, feeling, air, impression, character, tenor, spirit, flavour, informal vibrations, vibes ④ a feel for languages APTITUDE, knack, flair, bent, talent, gift, faculty, ability

■ **feel for** SYMPATHIZE WITH, be sorry for, pity, feel pity for, feel sympathy for, feel compassion for, be moved by, commiserate with, condole with

■ **feel like** WANT, would like, wish for, desire, fancy, feel in need of, long for, informal yen for, be dying for

feeler ► **noun** ① the fish has two feelers on its head ANTENNA, tentacle, tactile/sensory organ, Zoology antennule ② the minister put out feelers TENTATIVE ENQUIRY, PROPOSAL, advance, approach, overture, probe

feeling ► **noun** ① assess the fabric by feeling (SENSE OF) TOUCH, feel, tactile sense, using one's hands ② a feeling of nausea SENSATION, sense, consciousness ③ I had a feeling that I would win (SNEAKING) SUSPICION, notion, inkling, hunch, funny feeling, feeling in one's bones, fancy, idea, presentiment, premonition, informal gut feeling ④ the strength of her feeling LOVE, affection, fondness, tenderness, warmth, warmth, emotion, sentiment; passion, ardour, desire. ⑤ out of touch with public feeling SENTIMENT, emotion, opinion, attitude, belief, ideas, views ⑥ a rush of feeling COMPASSION, sympathy, empathy, fellow feeling, concern, solicitude, solicitousness, tenderness, (brotherly) love, pity, sorrow, commiseration ⑦ he had hurt her feelings SENSIBILITIES, sensitivities, self-esteem, pride ⑧ my feeling is that it is true OPINION, belief, view, impression, intuition, instinct, hunch, estimation, guess ⑨ a feeling of peace ATMOSPHERE, ambience, aura, air, feel, mood, impression, spirit, quality, flavour, informal vibrations, vibes. ⑩ a remarkable feeling for language. APTITUDE, knack, flair, bent, talent, gift, faculty, ability

► **adjective** a feeling man: SENSITIVE, warm, warm-hearted, tender, tender-hearted, caring, sympa-



thetic, kind, compassionate, understanding, thoughtful.

feign ▶ **verb** ① *she lay still and feigned sleep* SIMULATE, fake, sham, affect, give the appearance of, make a pretence of ② *he's not really ill, he's only feigning* PRETEND, put it on, fake, sham, bluff, masquerade, play-act, informal kid

feigned ▶ **adjective** PRETENDED, simulated, affected, artificial, insincere, put-on, fake, false, sham, informal pretend, phoney
—OPPOSITES sincere

feint ▶ **noun** BLUFF, blind, ruse, deception, subterfuge, hoax, trick, ploy, device, dodge, sham, pretence, cover, smokescreen, distraction, contrivance, informal red herring

felicitations ▶ **plural noun** CONGRATULATIONS, good/best wishes, (kind) regards, blessings, compliments, respects

felicitous ▶ **adjective** ① *his nickname was particularly felicitous* APT, well chosen, fitting, suitable, appropriate, apposite, pertinent, germane, relevant ② *the room's only felicitous feature* FAVOURABLE, advantageous, good, pleasing
—OPPOSITES inappropriate, unfortunate.

felicity ▶ **noun** ① *domestic felicity* HAPPINESS, joy, joyfulness, joyousness, bliss, delight, cheerfulness, contentedness, satisfaction, pleasure ② *David expressed his feelings with his customary felicity* ELOQUENCE, aptness, appropriateness, suitability, suitableness, applicability, fitness, relevance, pertinence
—OPPOSITES unhappiness, inappropriateness

feline ▶ **adjective** *she moved with feline grace.* CAT LIKE, graceful, sleek, sinuous

▶ **noun** *her pet feline* CAT, kitten, informal puss, pussy (cat), *Brit informal moggie, mog, archaic grimalkin*

fell ▶ **verb** ① *all the dead sycamores had to be felled* CUT DOWN, chop down, hack down, saw down, clear ② *she felled him with one punch* KNOCK DOWN/OVER, knock to the ground, strike down, bring down, bring to the ground, floor, prostrate, knock out, knock unconscious, informal deck, flatten, down, lay out, KO, *Brit informal knock for six*

fell ▶ **adjective** (poetic/literary) *a fell intent* MURDEROUS, savage, violent, vicious, fierce, ferocious, barbarous, barbaric, monstrous, cruel, ruthless, archaic sanguinary.

■ **at/in one fell swoop** ALL AT ONCE, together, at the same time, in one go

fellow ▶ **noun** ① (informal) *he's a decent sort of fellow*: MAN, boy, person, individual, soul, informal guy, geezer, lad, fella, character, customer, devil, bastard; *Brit informal chap, bloke, N Amer informal dude, hombre; Austral/NZ informal digger, informal, dated body, dog, cove.* ② (informal) *she longed to have a fellow*: BOYFRIEND, lover. ③ *he exchanged glances with his fellows*: COMPANION, friend, comrade, partner, associate, co-worker, colleague, informal chum, pal, buddy; *Brit informal mate.* ④ *some peasants were wealthier than their fellows*: PEER, equal, contemporary, confrère; archaic compeer.

■ **fellow feeling** SYMPATHY, empathy, feeling, compassion, care, concern, solicitude, solicitousness, warmth, tenderness, (brotherly) love; pity, sorrow, commiseration.

fellowship ▶ **noun** ① *a community bound together in fellowship*: COMPANIONSHIP, companion-

ability, sociability, comradeship, camaraderie, friendship, mutual support; togetherness, solidarity, informal chumminess, palliness; *Brit informal mateyness* ② *the church fellowship*: ASSOCIATION, society, club, league, union, guild, affiliation, alliance, fraternity, brotherhood, sorority, sodality

female ▶ **adjective** typical female attributes FEMINE, womanly, ladylike, archaic feminal
—OPPOSITES male

▶ **noun** *the author was a female* See WOMAN sense 1
—RELATED TERMS gynaeco-

feminine ▶ **adjective** ① *a very feminine young woman* WOMANLY, ladylike, girlish, girly, archaic feminal ② *he seemed slightly feminine* EFFEMINATE, womanish, unmanly, effete, informal sissy, wimpy, limp-wristed
—OPPOSITES masculine, manly

femininity ▶ **noun** WOMANLINESS, feminine-ness, womanly/feminine qualities

feminism ▶ **noun** THE WOMEN'S MOVEMENT, the feminist movement, women's liberation, female emancipation, women's rights, informal women's lib

femme fatale ▶ **noun** SEDUCTRESS, temptress, siren, informal vamp

fen ▶ **noun** MARSH, marshland, salt marsh, fenland, wetland, (peat) bog, swamp, swampland, N Amer moor

fence ▶ **noun** ① *a gap in the fence* BARRIER, paling, railing, enclosure, barricade, stockade, palisade ② (informal) *a fence dealing mainly in jewellery* RECEIVER (OF STOLEN GOODS), dealer

▶ **verb** ① *they fenced off many acres* ENCLOSE, surround, circumscribe, encircle, circle, encompass, poetic/literary engirdle, archaic compass ② *he fenced in his chickens* CONFINED, pen in, coop up, shut in/up, separate off, enclose, surround, N Amer corral ③ *he fences as a hobby* FIGHT WITH SWORDS, sword-fight ④ *the man fenced but Jim persisted* BE EVASIVE, be vague, be non-committal, equivocate, prevaricate, stall, vacillate, hedge, pussyfoot around, sidestep the issue, informal duck the question/issue, flannel, shilly-shally, *Brit informal waffle, rare palter.*

■ **(sitting) on the fence** (informal) UNDECIDED, uncommitted, uncertain, unsure, vacillating, wavering, dithering, hesitant, doubtful, ambivalent, in two minds, in a quandary, neutral, impartial, non-partisan, open-minded, *Brit humming and hawing*

fend ▶ **verb** *they were unable to fend off the invasion* WARD OFF, head off, stave off, hold off, repel, repulse, resist, fight off, defend oneself against, prevent, stop, block, intercept, hold back.

■ **fend for oneself** TAKE CARE OF ONESELF, look after oneself, provide for oneself, shift for oneself, manage by oneself, cope alone, stand on one's own two feet.

feral ▶ **adjective** ① *feral dogs*: WILD, untamed, undomesticated, untrained. ② *a feral snarl*: FIERCE, ferocious, vicious, savage, predatory, menacing, bloodthirsty.

—OPPOSITES tame, pet.

ferment ▶ **verb** ① *the beer continues to ferment*: UNDERGO FERMENTATION, brew; effervesce, fizz, foam, froth ② *an environment that ferments disorder*: CAUSE, bring about, give rise to, generate, engender, spawn, instigate, provoke, in-

cite, excite, stir up, whip up, foment, *poetic/literary* beget, enkindle.

► **noun** ① a ferment of revolutionary upheaval FEVER, furor, frenzy, tumult, storm, rumpus, turmoil, upheaval, unrest, disquiet, uproar, agitation, turbulence, disruption, confusion, disorder, chaos, mayhem; *informal* kerfuffle, hoo-ha, to-do; *Brit informal* aggro ② (archaic) the action of a ferment FERMENTING AGENT/SUBSTANCE, enzyme; yeast, bacteria, leaven

ferocious ► **adjective** ① *ferocious* animals FIERCE, savage, wild, predatory, aggressive, dangerous ② a *ferocious* attack BRUTAL, vicious, violent, bloody, barbaric, savage, sadistic, ruthless, cruel, merciless, heartless, bloodthirsty, murderous, *poetic/literary* fell, *archaic* sanguinary ③ (*informal*) a *ferocious* headache INTENSE, strong, powerful, fierce, severe, extreme, acute, unbearable, *informal* hellish
-OPPOSITES gentle, mild

ferocity ► **noun** SAVAGERY, brutality, barbarity, fierceness, violence, bloodthirstiness, murderousness, ruthlessness, cruelty, pitilessness, mercilessness, heartlessness

ferret ► **verb** ① she *ferreted* in her handbag RUMMAGE, feel around, grope around, forage around, fish about/around, poke about/around, search through, hunt through, rifle through, *Austral/NZ informal* fossick through ② *ferreting* out misdemeanours UNEARTH, uncover, discover, detect, search out, bring to light, track down, dig up, root out, nose out, *informal* get wise to, *Brit informal* rumble

ferry ► **noun** the ferry from Dover to Calais PASSENGER BOAT/SHIP, ferry boat, car ferry, ship, boat, vessel, *dated* packet (boat)

► **verb** ① *ferrying* passengers to and from the Continent TRANSPORT, convey, carry, ship, run, take, bring, shuttle ② the boat *ferried* hourly across the river GO BACK AND FORTH, shuttle, run

fertile ► **adjective** ① the soil is *fertile* FECUND, fruitful, productive, high-yielding, rich, lush, *formal* fructuous ② *fertile* couples ABLE TO CONCEIVE, able to have children, *technical* fecund ③ a *fertile* brain IMAGINATIVE, inventive, innovative, creative, visionary, original, ingenious, productive, prolific
-OPPOSITES barren

fertilization ► **noun** CONCEPTION, impregnation, insemination, pollination, propagation

fertilize ► **verb** ① the field was *fertilized* ADD FERTILIZER TO, feed, mulch, compost, manure, dress, top-dress ② these orchids are *fertilized* by insects: POLLINATE, cross-pollinate, cross-fertilize

fertilizer ► **noun** MANURE, plant food, compost, dressing, top dressing, dung.

fervent ► **adjective** IMPASSIONED, passionate, intense, vehement, ardent, sincere, fervid, heartfelt, enthusiastic, zealous, fanatical, wholehearted, avid, eager, keen, committed, dedicated, devout, *informal* mad keen, *poetic/literary* perfervid.

-OPPOSITES apathetic.

fervid ► **adjective** FERVENT, ardent, passionate, impassioned, intense, vehement, wholehearted, heartfelt, sincere, earnest; *poetic/literary* perfervid.

fervour ► **noun** PASSION, ardour, intensity, zeal, vehemence, emotion, warmth, earnestness, avidity, eagerness, keenness, enthusiasm, ex-

citement, animation, vigour, energy, fire, spirit, zest, fervency, ardency.

-OPPOSITES apathy

fester ► **verb** ① his deep wound *festered*: SUPPURATE, become septic, form pus, weep; *Medicine* maturate, be purulent, *archaic* rankle. ② *rubbish* *festered* ROT, moulder, decay, decompose, putrefy, go bad/off, spoil, deteriorate. ③ their resentment *festered*: RANKLE, eat/gnaw away at one's mind, brew, smoulder

festival ► **noun** ① the town's autumn festival: FÊTE, fair, gala (day), carnival, fiesta, jamboree, celebrations, festivities, eisteddfod ② *fasting* precedes the festival: HOLY DAY, feast day, saint's day, commemoration, day of observance See list

festive ► **adjective** JOLLY, merry, joyous, joyful, happy, jovial, light-hearted, cheerful, jubilant, convivial, high-spirited, mirthful, uproarious, celebratory, holiday, carnival, Christmassy, *archaic* festal

festivity ► **noun** ① food plays an important part in the festivities CELEBRATION, festival, entertainment, party, jamboree, merrymaking, feasting, revelry, jollification; revels, fun and games, *informal* bash, shundig, shundy, *Brit informal* rave-up, knees-up, beanfeast, bunfight, beano ② the festivity of the Last Night of the Proms JOLLY, merriment, gaiety, cheerfulness, cheer, joyfulness, jubilation, conviviality, high spirits, revelry

festoon ► **noun** festoons of paper flowers GARLAND, chain, lei, swathe, swag, loop

► **verb** the room was *festooned* with streamers DECORATE, adorn, ornament, trim, deck (out), hang, loop, drape, swathe, garland, wreath, bedeck, *informal* do up/out, get up, trick out, *poetic/literary* bedizen, furbelow

fetch ► **verb** ① he went to *fetch* a doctor (GO AND) GET, go for, call for, summon, pick up, collect, bring, carry, convey, transport ② the land could *fetch* a million pounds SELL FOR, bring in, raise, realize, yield, make, command, cost, be priced at, *informal* go for, set one back, pull in, *Brit informal* knock someone back

■ **fetch up** (*informal*) END UP, finish up, turn up, appear, materialize, find itself; *informal* wind up, show up.

fetching ► **adjective** ATTRACTIVE, appealing, sweet, pretty, lovely, delightful, charming, prepossessing, captivating, enchanting, irresistible, *Scottish & N English* bonny, *informal* divine, heavenly, *Brit informal* fit, smashing, *archaic* comely, fair

fête ► **noun** (*Brit*), GALA (DAY), bazaar, fair, festival, fiesta, jubilee, carnival, fund-raiser, charity event

fetid ► **adjective** STINKING, smelly, foul-smelling, malodorous, reeking, pungent, acrid, high, rank, foul, noxious; *Brit informal* niffy, pongy, whiffy, humming; *N Amer informal* funky; *poetic/literary* noisome, miasmatic, miasmal.
-OPPOSITES fragrant.

fetish ► **noun** ① he developed a rubber *fetish*: FIXATION, obsession, compulsion, mania; weakness, fancy, fascination, fad, *informal* thing, hang-up ② an African *fetish*: JUJU, talisman, charm, amulet; totem, idol, image, effigy; *archaic* periapt.

fetter ► **verb** ① the captive was *fettered*. SHACKLE, manacle, handcuff, clap in irons, put in chains, chain (up), *informal* cuff; *poetic/literary* enfeather. ② these obligations *fetter* the company's powers:

Religious Festivals and Holy Days

FESTIVAL	MONTH
CHRISTIANITY	
Epiphany	January
Candlemas	February
Shrove Tuesday	February/March
Ash Wednesday	February/March
Annunciation	March
Easter	March/April
Pentecost or Whit Sunday	April/May
All Saints' Day or All Hallows	November
Christmas	December
Holy Innocents' Day	December
See also SAINT.	
JUDAISM	
Purim	February/March
Passover or Pesach	March/April
Lag b'Omer	April/May
Shavuoth	May/June
Rosh Hashana	September/October
Yom Kippur or Day of Atonement	September/October
Succoth	September/October
Hanukkah	December
HINDUISM	
Mahashivaratri	February/March
Holi	February/March
Rama Naumi	March/April
New Year	January/February
Raksha Bandhan	August
Janmashtami	August/September
Navaratri	October
Dussehra	October
Diwali	October/November
SIKHISM	
Holi Mohalla	March/April
Baisakhi	April
Martyrdom of Guru Arjan	May/June
Birthday of Guru Nanak	November
Birthday of Guru Gobind Singh	December/January
Martyrdom of Guru Tegh Bahadur	December/January
BUDDHISM	
Vesak	April/May
Dhammacakka	July
Bodhi Day	November
ISLAM	
Lailat ul-Ira wal Mi'raj	April/May
Lailat ul-Bara'h	April/May
Lailat ul-Qadr	May/June
Eid ul-Fitr	May/June
Eid ul-Adha	July
Muharran	September/October
PAGAN	
Beitane	April
Lanmas	August
Samhain	October

RESTRICT, restrain, constrain, limit, hinder, hamper, impede, obstruct, hamstring, inhibit, check, curb, trammel

fettors ► plural noun SHACKLES, manacles, handcuffs, irons, leg-irons, chains, restraints; *informal* cuffs, bracelets, *historical* bilboes

fettle ► noun SHAPE, trim, (physical) fitness, (state of) health, condition, form, (state of) repair, (working) order, *Bnt informal* nick

fetus ► noun EMBRYO, fertilized egg, unborn baby/child

feud ► noun tribal feuds VENDETTA, conflict, rivalry, hostility, enmity, strife, discord; quarrel, argument, falling-out

► verb he feuded with his teammates' QUARREL, fight, argue, bicker, squabble, fall out, dispute, clash, differ, be at odds, *informal* scrap

fever ► noun ① he developed fever FEVERISHNESS, high temperature, febrility, *Medicine* pyrexia, *informal* temperature ② a fever of excitement FRENZIED, frenzy, furore, ecstasy, rapture ③ World Cup fever EXCITEMENT, frenzy, agitation, passion -RELATED TERMS febrile

fevered ► adjective ① her fevered brow FEVERISH, febrile, hot, burning, rare pyretic ② a fevered imagination EXCITED, agitated, frenzied, overwrought, fervid

feverish ► adjective ① she's really feverish FEBRILE, fevered, hot, burning, *informal* having a temperature, rare pyretic ② feverish excitement FRENZIED, frenetic, hectic, agitated, excited, restless, nervous, worked up, overwrought, frantic, furious, hysterical, wild, uncontrolled, unrestrained

few ► determiner police are revealing few details NOT MANY, hardly any, scarcely any, a small number of, a small amount of, one or two, a handful of, little -OPPOSITES many

► adjective comforts here are few. SCARCE, scant, meagre, insufficient, in short supply, thin on the ground, few and far between, infrequent, uncommon, rare -OPPOSITES plentiful

■ a few A SMALL NUMBER, a handful, one or two, a couple, two or three, not many, hardly any

fiancée, fiancé ► noun BETROTHED, wife-to-be, husband-to-be, bride-to-be, future wife/husband, prospective spouse, *informal* intended.

fiasco ► noun FAILURE, disaster, catastrophe, debacle, shambles, farce, mess, wreck, *informal* flop, washout, *Bnt informal* cock-up, *N Amer informal* snafu, *Austral /NZ informal* fizzer -OPPOSITES success

flat ► noun DECREE, edict, order, command, commandment, injunction, proclamation, mandate, dictum, diktat.

fib ► noun you're telling a fib LIE, untruth, falsehood, made-up story, invention, fabrication, deception, (piece of) fiction; (little) white lie, half-truth, *informal* tall story/tale, whopper; *Bnt informal* porky (pie) -OPPOSITES truth

► verb she had bunked off school, fibbing about a sore throat LIE, tell a fib, tell a lie, invent a story, make up a story; *informal* kid.

fibre ► noun ① fibres from the murderer's jumper. THREAD, strand, filament; *technical* fibril. ② nat-

ural fibres. **MATERIAL**, cloth, fabric See list at **FABRIC** ① a man with no fibre See **MORAL FIBRE** ③ fibre in the diet **ROUGHAGE**, bulk

fickle ▶ **adjective** **CAPRICIOUS**, changeable, variable, volatile, mercurial, inconstant, undependable, unsteady, unfaithful, faithless, flighty, giddy, skittish, *technical* labile, *poetic/literary* mutable

—**OPPOSITES** constant

fiction ▶ **noun** ① the traditions of British fiction **NOVELS**, stories, creative writing, prose literature ② the president dismissed the allegation as absolute fiction **FABRICATION**, invention, lies, fibs, untruth, falsehood, fantasy, nonsense

—**OPPOSITES** fact

fictional ▶ **adjective** **FICTITIOUS**, invented, imaginary, made up, make-believe, unreal, fabricated, mythical

—**OPPOSITES** real

fictitious ▶ **adjective** ① a fictitious name **FALSE**, fake, fabricated, sham, bogus, spurious, assumed, affected, adopted, feigned, invented, made up, *informal* pretend, phoney ② a fictitious character See **FCTIONAL**

—**OPPOSITES** genuine

fiddle (*informal*) ▶ **noun** ① she played the fiddle **VIOLIN**, viola ② a VAT fiddle **FRAUD**, swindle, confidence trick, *informal* racket, con trick, flimflam

▶ **verb** ① he fiddled with a beer mat **FIDGET**, play, toy, twiddle, fuss, fool about/around, finger, thumb, handle, *informal* mess about/around, *Brit informal* muck about/around ② he fiddled with the dials **ADJUST**, tinker, play about/around, meddle, interfere ③ fiddling the figures **FALSIFY**, manipulate, massage, rig, distort, misrepresent, doctor, alter, tamper with, interfere with, *informal* fix, flimflam, cook (the books)

fiddling ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) **TRIVIAL**, petty, trifling, insignificant, unimportant, inconsequential, negligible, paltry, footling, minor, small, incidental, of little/no account, *informal* piddling, puffing

—**OPPOSITES** important

fidelity ▶ **noun** ① fidelity to her husband **FAITHFULNESS**, loyalty, constancy, true-heartedness, trustworthiness, dependability, reliability, *formal* troth. ② fidelity to your kang **LOYALTY**, allegiance, obedience, constancy, homage, *historical* fealty ③ the fidelity of the reproduction **ACCURACY**, exactness, precision, preciseness, correctness; strictness, closeness, faithfulness, authenticity

—**OPPOSITES** disloyalty

fidget ▶ **verb** ① the audience began to fidget **MOVE RESTLESSLY**, wriggle, squirm, twitch, jiggle, shuffle, be agitated, *informal* be jittery ② she fidgeted with her scarf **PLAY**, fuss, toy, twiddle, fool about/around, *informal* fiddle, mess about/around. ③ she seemed to fidget him **MAKE UNEASY**, worry, agitate, bother, upset, ruffle.

▶ **noun** ① his convulsive fidgets **TWITCH**, wriggle, squirm, jiggle, shuffle, tic, spasm. ② what a fidget you are! **RESTLESS PERSON**, bundle of nerves. ③ that woman gives me the fidgets: **RESTLESSNESS**, nervousness, fidgetiness; *informal* the jitters, twitchiness.

fidgety ▶ **adjective** **RESTLESS**, restive, on edge, uneasy, nervous, nervy, keyed up, anxious, agitated; *informal* jittery, twitchy.

field ▶ **noun** ① a large ploughed field: **MEADOW**, pasture, paddock, grassland, pastureland,

sward, *poetic/literary* lea, mead, *archaic* glebe. ② a football field. **PITCH**, ground, sports field, playing field, recreation ground. ③ the field of biotechnology **AREA**, sphere, discipline, province, department, domain, sector, branch, subject, *informal* bailiwick ④ your field of vision **SCOPE**, range, sweep, reach, extent. ⑤ she is well ahead of the field **COMPETITORS**, entrants, competition, applicants, candidates, possibles

▶ **verb** ① he was fielding **ACT AS A FIELDER**, play in outfield ② she fielded the ball **CATCH**, stop, retrieve, return, throw back ③ fielding an ineligible player **PUT IN THE TEAM**, send out, play, put up ④ they can field an army of about one million **DEPLOY**, position, range, dispose ⑤ he fielded some awkward questions **DEAL WITH**, handle, cope with, answer, reply to, respond to

▶ **adjective** ① field experience **PRACTICAL**, hands-on, applied, experiential, empirical ② field artillery **MOBILE**, portable, transportable, movable, manoeuvrable, light

—**OPPOSITES** theoretical

fiend ▶ **noun** ① a fiend had taken possession of him **DEMON**, devil, evil spirit, bogie, cacodemon, *informal* spook ② a fiend bent on global evil-doing: **BRUTE**, beast, villain, barbarian, monster, ogre, sadist, evil-doer; *informal* swine ③ (*informal*) a drug fiend **ADDICT**, abuser, user, *informal* junkie, —head/freak ④ (*informal*) I'm a fiend for Mexican food! **ENTHUSIAST**, maniac, devotee, fan, lover, *informal* fanatic, addict, buff, freak, nut

fiendish ▶ **adjective** ① a fiendish torturer **WICKED**, cruel, vicious, evil, malevolent, villainous, brutal, savage, barbaric, barbarous, inhuman, murderous, ruthless, merciless, *dated* dastardly ② a fiendish plot **CUNNING**, clever, ingenious, crafty, canny, wily, devious, shrewd, *informal* foxy, sneaky ③ a fiendish puzzle **DIFFICULT**, complex, challenging, complicated, intricate, involved, knotty, thorny

fierce ▶ **adjective** ① a fierce black mastiff **FEROCIOUS**, savage, vicious, aggressive ② fierce competition **AGGRESSIVE**, cut-throat, competitive, keen, intense, strong, relentless ③ fierce, murderous jealousy **INTENSE**, powerful, vehement, passionate, impassioned, fervent, fervid, ardent. ④ a fierce wind: **POWERFUL**, strong, violent, forceful, stormy, blustery, gusty, tempestuous ⑤ a fierce pain **SEVERE**, extreme, intense, acute, awful, dreadful, excruciating, agonizing, piercing

—**OPPOSITES** gentle, mild.

fiery ▶ **adjective** ① fiery breath **BURNING**, blazing, flaming, on fire, ablaze, *poetic/literary* afire ② a fiery red **BRIGHT**, brilliant, vivid, intense, deep, rich. ③ her fiery spirit **PASSIONATE**, impassioned, ardent, fervent, fervid, spirited, quick-tempered, volatile, explosive, aggressive, determined, resolute

fiesta ▶ **noun** **FESTIVAL**, carnival, holiday, celebration, party

fight ▶ **verb** ① two men were fighting: **BRAWL**, exchange blows, attack/assault each other, hit/punch each other; struggle, grapple, wrestle; *informal* scrap, have a dust-up, have a set-to; *Brit informal* have a punch-up; *N. Amer informal* rough-house; *Austral/NZ informal* stoush, go the knuckle. ② he fought in the First World War (DO) **BATTLE**, go to war, take up arms, be a soldier; engage, meet, clash, skirmish. ③ a war fought for freedom. **ENGAGE IN**, wage, conduct, prosecute,



undertake. ④ they are always fighting **QUARREL**, argue, row, bicker, squabble, fall out, have a row/fight, wrangle, be at odds, disagree, differ, have words, bandy words, be at each other's throats, be at loggerheads, *informal* scrap, *archaic* altercation. ⑤ fighting against wage reductions **CAMPAIGN**, strive, battle, struggle, contend, crusade, agitate, lobby, push, press. ⑥ they will fight the decision **OPPOSE**, contest, contend with, confront, challenge, combat, dispute, quarrel with, argue against/with, strive against, struggle against. ⑦ Donaldson fought the urge to put his tongue out. **REPRESS**, restrain, suppress, stifle, smother, hold back, fight back, keep in check, curb, control, rein in, choke back, *informal* keep the lid on, cork up.

► **noun** ① a fight outside a club **BRAWL**, fracas, melee, rumpus, skirmish, sparring match, struggle, scuffle, altercation, scrum, clash, disturbance, fisticuffs, *informal* scrap, dust-up, set-to, shindy, shindig, *Brit informal* punch-up, bust-up, ruck, *N Amer informal* rough house, brannigan, *Austral/NZ informal* stoush, *Law*, dated affray, *rare* broil. ② a heavyweight fight **BOXING MATCH**, bout, match. ③ Britain's fight against Germany **BATTLE**, engagement, clash, conflict, struggle, war, campaign, crusade, action, hostilities. ④ a fight with my girlfriend **ARGUMENT**, quarrel, squabble, row, wrangle, disagreement, falling-out, contretemps, altercation, dispute, *informal* tuff, spat, scrap, slanging match, *Brit informal* barney, ding-dong, bust-up. ⑤ their fight for control of the company **STRUGGLE**, battle, campaign, push, effort. ⑥ she had no fight left in her **WILL** to resist, resistance, spirit, courage, pluck, pluckiness, grit, strength, backbone, determination, resolution, resolve, resoluteness, aggression, aggressiveness, *informal* guts, spunk; *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* sand, moxie.

■ **fight back** ① use your pent-up anger to fight back **RETALIATE**, counter-attack, strike back, hit back, respond, reciprocate, return fire, give tit for tat; *formal* requite something. ② she fought back tears. See **FIGHT** verb sense 7.

■ **fight someone/something off** **REPEL**, repulse, beat off/back, ward off, fend off, keep/hold at bay, drive away/back, force back.

■ **fight shy of** **FLINCH FROM**, demur from, recoil from, have scruples about, have misgivings about, have qualms about, be averse to, be chary of, be loath to, be reluctant to, be disinclined to, be afraid to, hesitate to, baulk at, *informal* boggle at, *archaic* disrelish.

fightback ► **noun** (*Brit*) **COUNTER-ATTACK**, counter-offensive, rally, recovery, *informal* comeback.

fighter ► **noun** ① a guerrilla fighter **SOLDIER**, fighting man/woman, warrior, combatant, serviceman, servicewoman, trooper; *Brit informal* squaddie, *archaic* man-at-arms. See list at **SOLDIER**. ② the fighter was knocked to the ground. **BOXER**, pugilist, prizefighter, wrestler; *informal* scrapper, pug. ③ enemy fighters. See list at **AIRCRAFT**.

fighting ► **adjective** a fighting man: **VIOLENT**, combative, aggressive, pugnacious, truculent, belligerent, bellicose.
-**OPPOSITES** peaceful.

► **noun** 200 were injured in the fighting: **VIOLENCE**, hostilities, conflict, action, combat; warfare, war, battles, skirmishing, rioting; *Law*, dated affray.

-**OPPOSITES** peace.

figment ► **noun** **INVENTION**, creation, fabrication, hallucination, illusion, delusion, fancy, vision.

figurative ► **adjective** **METAPHORICAL**, non-literal, symbolic, allegorical, representative, emblematic.
-**OPPOSITES** literal.

figure ► **noun** ① the production figure **STATISTIC**, number, quantity, amount, level, total, sum, (**figures**) data, information. ② the second figure was 9 **DIGIT**, numeral, numerical symbol. ③ he can't put a figure on it **PRICE**, cost, amount, value, valuation. ④ I'm good at figures **ARITHMETIC**, mathematics, sums, calculations, computation, numbers, *Brit informal* maths, *N Amer informal* math. ⑤ her petite figure **PHYSIQUE**, build, frame, body, proportions, shape, form. ⑥ a dark figure emerged **SILHOUETTE**, outline, shape, form. ⑦ a figure of authority **PERSON**, personage, individual, man, woman, character, personality, representative, embodiment, personification, epitome. ⑧ life-size figures **HUMAN REPRESENTATION**, effigy. ⑨ geometrical figures **SHAPE**, pattern, design, motif. ⑩ see figure 4 **DIAGRAM**, illustration, drawing, picture, plate.

► **verb** ① a beast figuring in Egyptian legend **FEATURE**, appear, be featured, be mentioned, be referred to, have prominence. ② a way to figure the values **CALCULATE**, work out, total, reckon, compute, determine, assess, put a figure on, *Brit* tot up. ③ (*informal*) I figured that I didn't have a chance **SUPPOSE**, think, believe, consider, expect, take it, suspect, sense, assume, dare say, conclude, take it as read, presume, deduce, infer, gather, *N Amer* guess. ④ (*informal*) 'Rosemary's away' 'That figures' **MAKE SENSE**, seem reasonable, stand to reason, be to be expected, be logical, follow, ring true.

■ **figure on** (*N Amer informal*) they figured on paying about \$100 **PLAN ON**, count on, rely on, bank on, bargain on, depend on, pin one's hopes on, anticipate, expect to.

■ **figure something out** (*informal*) he tried to figure out how to switch on the lamp **WORK OUT**, fathom, puzzle out, decipher, ascertain, make sense of, think through, get to the bottom of, understand, comprehend, see, grasp, get the hang of, get the drift of; *informal* twig, crack, *Brit informal* suss out.

figure of speech ► **noun**. See list at **RHETORIC**.

filament ► **noun** **FIBRE**, thread, strand, *technical* fibril.

file¹ ► **noun** ① he opened the file. **FOLDER**, portfolio, binder, document case. ② we have files on all the major companies **DOSSIER**, document, record, report; data, information, documentation, annals, archives. ③ the computer file was searched **DATA**, document, text.

► **verb** ① file the documents correctly: **CATEGORIZE**, classify, organize, put in place/order, order, arrange, catalogue, record, store, archive. ② Debbie has filed for divorce: **APPLY**, register, ask. ③ two women have filed a civil suit against him **BRING**, press, lodge, place; *formal* prefer.

file² ► **noun** a file of boys: **LINE**, column, row, string, chain, procession; *Brit informal* crocodile.

► **verb** we filed out into the car park: **WALK IN A LINE**, march, parade, troop.

file ▶ **verb** she filed her nails SMOOTH, buff, rub (down), polish, shape; scrape, abrade, rasp, sandpaper.

filial ▶ **adjective** DUTIFUL, devoted, compliant, respectful, affectionate, loving.

filibuster ▶ **noun** many hours in committee are characterized by filibuster: DELAYING TACTICS, stonewalling, procrastination, obstruction, temporizing.

▶ **verb** the opposition are filibustering WASTE TIME, stall, play for time, stonewall, procrastinate, buy time, employ delaying tactics.

fillgree ▶ **noun** TRACERY, fretwork, latticework, scrollwork, lacework.

fill ▶ **verb** ① he filled a bowl with cereal: MAKE/BECOME FULL, fill up, fill to the brim, top up, charge ② guests filled the parlour CROWD INTO, throng, pack (into), occupy, squeeze into, cram (into); overcrowd, overfill. ③ he began filling his shelves STOCK, pack, load, supply, replenish, restock, refill ④ fill all the holes with a wood-repair compound: BLOCK UP, stop (up), plug, seal, caulk. ⑤ the perfume filled the room: PERVADE, permeate, suffuse, be diffused through, penetrate, infuse, perfuse ⑥ he was going to fill a government post. OCCUPY, hold, take up; informal hold down ⑦ we had just filled a big order CARRY OUT, complete, fulfil, execute, discharge; formal effectuate -OPPOSITES empty

■ **fill in** SUBSTITUTE, deputize, stand in, cover, take over, act as stand-in, take the place of; informal sub, step into someone's shoes/boots, *N Amer* informal pinch-hit

■ **fill someone in** INFORM OF, advise of, tell about, acquaint with, apprise of, brief on, update with, informal put in the picture about, bring up to speed on

■ **fill something in** (*Brit*) COMPLETE, answer, fill up, *N Amer* fill out.

■ **fill out** GROW FATTER, become plumper, flesh out, put on weight, get heavier

■ **fill something out** ① this account needs to be filled out EXPAND, enlarge, add to, elaborate on, flesh out; supplement, extend, develop, amplify ② (*N Amer*) he filled out the forms See FILL SOMETHING IN

filling ▶ **noun** filling for cushions. STUFFING, padding, wadding, filler.

▶ **adjective** a filling meal SUBSTANTIAL, hearty, ample, satisfying, square; heavy, stodgy

filip ▶ **noun** STIMULUS, stimulation, boost, incentive, impetus; tonic, spur, push, aid, help, informal shot in the arm

film ▶ **noun** ① a film of sweat: LAYER, coat, coating, covering, cover, sheet, patina, overlay ② Emma was watching a film: MOVIE, picture, feature (film), motion picture, informal flick, pic, talkie; dated moving picture. ③ she would like to work in film CINEMA, movies, the pictures. See list

-RELATED TERMS cinematic.

▶ **verb** ① he immediately filmed the next scene: RECORD (ON FILM), shoot, capture on film, video. ② his eyes had filmed over: CLOUD, mist, haze; become blurred, blur; archaic blear.

film star ▶ **noun** (FILM) ACTOR/ACTRESS, movie star, leading man/woman, leading lady, lead; celebrity, star, starlet, superstar; informal celeb; informal, dated matinee idol. See list at ACTOR.

filmy ▶ **adjective** DIAPHANOUS, transparent, see-through, translucent, sheer, gossamer; delicate, fine, light, thin, silky.

-OPPOSITES thick, opaque

filter ▶ **noun** a carbon filter: STRAINER, sifter; sieve, riddle; gauze, netting.

▶ **verb** ① the farmers filter the water SIEVE, strain, sift, filtrate, riddle; clarify, purify, refine, treat.

② the rain had filtered through her jacket: SEEP, percolate, leak, trickle, ooze.

filth ▶ **noun** ① stagnant pools of filth: DIRT, muck, grime, mud, mire, sludge, slime, ooze; excrement, excreta, dung, manure, ordure, sewage; rubbish, refuse, dross; pollution, contamination, filthiness, uncleanness, foulness, nastiness; *N Amer* garbage; informal crud, grunge; *Brit* informal grot, gunge, *N Amer* informal trash. ② I felt sick after reading that filth. PORNOGRAPHY, pornographic literature/films, dirty books, smut, obscenity, indecency; informal porn, porno

filthy ▶ **adjective** ① the room was filthy: DIRTY, mucky, grimy, muddy, slimy, unclean; foul, squalid, sordid, nasty, soiled, sullied; polluted, contaminated, unhygienic, unsanitary; informal crud, grungy, *Brit* informal grotty, poetic/literary besmirched ② his face was filthy. UNWASHED, unclean, dirty, grimy, smeared, grubby, muddy, mucky, black, blackened, stained, poetic/literary begrimed ③ filthy jokes. OBSCENE, indecent, dirty, smutty, rude, improper, coarse, bawdy, vulgar, lewd, racy, off colour, earthy, ribald, risqué, 'adult', pornographic, explicit; informal blue, porn, porno, X-rated, *N Amer* informal raw ④ you filthy brute! DESPICABLE, contemptible, nasty, low, base, mean, vile, obnoxious; informal dirty (rotten), low-down, no-good ⑤ he was in a filthy mood: BAD, foul, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, irritable, grumpy, grouchy, cross, fractious, peevish, informal snappish, snappy; *Brit* informal shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty, *N Amer* informal cranky, ornery -OPPOSITES clean

▶ **adverb** filthy rich. VERY, extremely, tremendously, immensely, remarkably, excessively, exceedingly, informal stinking, awfully, terribly, seriously, mega, ultra, damn

final ▶ **adjective** ① the final year of study: LAST, closing, concluding, finishing, end, terminating, ultimate, eventual. ② their decisions are final IRREVOCABLE, unalterable, absolute, conclusive, irrefutable, incontrovertible, indisputable, unchallengeable, binding.

-OPPOSITES first, provisional.

▶ **noun** the FA Cup final DECIDER, final game/match.

-OPPOSITES qualifier

finale ▶ **noun** CLIMAX, culmination, end, ending, finish, close, conclusion, termination, denouement, last act, final scene.

-OPPOSITES beginning.

finality ▶ **noun** CONCLUSIVENESS, decisiveness, decision, definiteness, definitiveness, certainty, certitude; irrevocability, irrefutability, incontrovertibility.

finalize ▶ **verb** CONCLUDE, complete, clinch, settle, work out, secure, wrap up, wind up, put the finishing touches to; reach an agreement on, agree on, come to terms on; informal sew up.

finally ▶ **adverb** ① she finally got her man to the altar: EVENTUALLY, ultimately, in the end, after



Film Directors

- Allen, Woody (American)
 Almodóvar, Pedro (Spanish)
 Altman, Robert (American)
 Anderson, Lindsay (English)
 Antonioni, Michelangelo (Italian)
 Artaud, Antonin (French)
 Attenborough, Richard (English)
 Barrault, Jean-Louis (French)
 Beatty, Warren (American)
 Bergman, Ingmar (Swedish)
 Berkeley, Busby (American)
 Bertolucci, Bernardo (Italian)
 Besson, Luc (French)
 Bogdanovich, Peter (American)
 Boorman, John (English)
 Boulting, John (English)
 Boulting, Roy (English)
 Branagh, Kenneth (English)
 Bresson, Robert (French)
 Brooks, Mel (American)
 Buñuel, Luis (Spanish)
 Burton, Tim (American)
 Cameron, James (Canadian)
 Campion, Jane (New Zealand)
 Capra, Frank (American, b. in Italy)
 Carné, Marcel (French)
 Carpenter, John (American)
 Cassavetes, John (American)
 Chabrol, Claude (French)
 Chaplin, Charlie (English)
 Clair, René (French)
 Clément, René (French)
 Cocteau, Jean (French)
 Coen, Ethan (American)
 Coen, Joel (American)
 Coppola, Francis (Ford) (American)
 Craven, Wes (American)
 Crichton, Charles (English)
 Cronenberg, David (Canadian)
 Cukor, George (American)
 Curtiz, Michael (Hungarian)
 Demme, Jonathan (American)
 de Mille, Cecil B. (American)
 De Niro, Robert (American)
 De Palma, Brian (American)
 De Sica, Vittorio (Italian)
 Eastwood, Clint (American)
 Eisenstein, Sergei (Soviet)
 Fassbinder, Rainer Werner (German)
 Fellini, Federico (Italian)
 Ford, John (American)
 Forman, Milos (American, b. in Czechoslovakia)
 Forsyth, Bill (Scottish)
 Gance, Abel (French)
 Gibson, Mel (Australian, b. in America)
 Gilliam, Terry (American)
 Godard, Jean-Luc (French)
 Greenaway, Peter (English)
 Grierson, John (Scottish)
 Griffith, D. W. (American)
 Hawks, Howard (American)
 Herzog, Werner (German)
 Hill, George Roy (American)
 Hitchcock, Alfred (English)
 Huston, John (Irish, b. in America)
 Ivory, James (American)
 Jarman, Derek (English)
 Jarmusch, Jim (American)
 Jewison, Norman (Canadian)
 Jordan, Neil (Irish)
 Kapur, Shekhar (b. in Lahore)
 Kasdan, Lawrence (American)
 Kazan, Elia (American, b. in Turkey)
 Kieslowski, Krzysztof (Polish)
 Kitano, Takeshi (Japanese)
 Korda, Alexander (British, b. in Hungary)
 Kubrick, Stanley (American)
 Kurosawa, Akira (Japanese)
 Lang, Fritz (Austrian)
 Lean, David (English)
 Lee, Ang (Taiwanese)
 Lee, Spike (American)
 Leigh, Mike (English)
 Leone, Sergio (Italian)
 Levinson, Barry (American)
 Loach, Ken (English)
 Losey, Joseph (American)
 Lucas, George (American)
 Lumet, Sydney (American)
 Lynch, David (American)
 Malle, Louis (French)
 Mankiewicz, Joseph (American)
 Mendes, Sam (English)
 Minnelli, Vincente (American)
 Mumau, F. W. (German)
 Ophüls/Opüls, Max (French, b. in Germany)
 Pabst, G. W. (Czech)
 Pagnol, Marcel (French)
 Pakula, Alan (American)
 Parker, Alan (English)
 Pasolini, Pier Paolo (Italian)
 Peckinpah, Sam (American)
 Polanski, Roman (French, of Polish descent)
 Pollack, Sydney (American)
 Powell, Michael (English)
 Preminger, Otto (American, b. in Austria)
 Pudovkin, Vsevolod (Russian)
 Raimi, Sam (American)
 Ray, Satyajit (Indian)
 Reed, Carol (English)
 Reiner, Rob (American)
 Reitz, Edgar (German)
 Renoir, Jean (French)
 Resnais, Alain (French)
 Riefenstahl, Leni (German)
 Ritchie, Guy (English)
 Roeg, Nicholas (English)
 Rohmer, Eric (French)
 Rossellini, Roberto (Italian)
 Russell, Ken (English)
 Schlesinger, John (English)
 Schlöndorff, Volker (German)
 Scorsese, Martin (American)
 Scott, Ridley (English)
 Scott, Tony (English)
 Soderbergh, Steven (American)
 Spielberg, Steven (American)
 Stone, Oliver (American)
 Stroheim, Erich von (Austrian)
 Tarantino, Quentin (American)
 Tarkovsky, Andrei (Russian)
 Tati, Jacques (French)
 Truffaut, François (French)
 Vadim, Roger (French)
 Vidor, King (American)
 Vigo, Jean (French)
 Visconti, Luchino (Italian)
 van Sant, Gus (American)
 von Sternberg, Josef (American, b. in Austria)
 Wajda, Andrzej (Polish)
 Weir, Peter (Australian)
 Welles, Orson (American)
 Wenders, Wim (German)
 Widerberg, Bo (Swedish)
 Wilder, Billy (American, b. in Austria)
 Woo, John (Chinese)
 Wyler, William (German)
 Zeffirelli, Franco (Italian)
 Zemeckis, Robert (American)
 Zinneman, Fred (American, b. in Austria)

a long time, at (long) last; in the long run, in the fullness of time ② finally, wrap the ribbon round the edge: LASTLY, last, in conclusion, to conclude, to end ③ this should finally dispel that common misconception. CONCLUSIVELY, irrevocably, decisively, definitively, for ever, for good, once and for all.

finance ► noun ① he knows about finance: FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, money matters, fiscal matters, economics, money management, commerce, business, investment. ② short-term finance FUNDS, assets, money, capital, resources, cash, reserves, revenue, income; funding, backing, sponsorship.

► verb the project was financed by grants. FUND, pay for, back, capitalize, endow, subsidize, invest in, underwrite, guarantee, sponsor, support; *N Amer informal* bankroll.

financial ► adjective MONETARY, money, economic, pecuniary, fiscal, banking, commercial, business, investment

financier ► noun INVESTOR, speculator, banker, capitalist, industrialist, businessman, businesswoman, stockbroker; *informal* money man.

find ► verb ① I found the book I wanted: LOCATE, spot, pinpoint, unearth, obtain; search out, nose out, track down, root out; come across/

upon, run across/into, chance on, light on, happen on, stumble on, encounter; *informal* bump into, *poetic/literary* espy, descry ② *they have found a cure for rabies* DISCOVER, invent, come up with, hit on. ③ *the police found her purse* RECOVER, recover, get back, regain, repossess ④ *I hope you find peace* OBTAIN, acquire, get, procure, come by, secure, gain, earn, achieve, attain ⑤ *I found the courage to speak* SUMMON (UP), gather, muster (up), screw up, call up ⑥ *caféine is found in coffee and tea* BE (PRESENT), occur, exist, be existent, appear ⑦ *you'll find that it's a lively area* DISCOVER, become aware, realize, observe, notice, note, perceive, learn ⑧ *I find their decision strange* CONSIDER, think, believe to be, feel to be, look on as, view as, see as, judge, deem, regard as ⑨ *he was found guilty* JUDGE, adjudge, adjudicate, deem, rule, declare, pronounce ⑩ *her barb found its mark* ARRIVE AT, reach, attain, achieve, hit, strike
-OPPOSITES lose.

► **noun** ① *an archaeological find* DISCOVERY, acquisition, asset ② *this table is a real find* GODSEND, boon, bargain, *informal* good buy

■ **find out** DISCOVER, become aware, learn detect, discern, perceive, observe, notice, note, get/come to know, realize, bring to light, reveal, expose, unearth, disclose, *informal* figure out, cotton on, catch on, tumble, get wise, savvy, *Brit informal* twig, rumble, suss

finding ► **noun** ① *the finding of the leak* DISCOVERY, location, locating, detection, detecting, uncovering ② *the tribunal's findings* CONCLUSION, decision, verdict, pronouncement, judgement, ruling, rule, decree, order, recommendation, Law determination, *N Amer* resolve

fine ► **adjective** ① *fine wines* EXCELLENT, first-class, first-rate, great, exceptional, outstanding, quality, superior, splendid, magnificent, exquisite, choice, select, prime, supreme, superb, wonderful, superlative, of high quality, second to none, *informal* A1, top-notch, splendid ② *a fine lady*, WORTHY, admirable, praiseworthy, laudable, estimable, upright, upstanding, respectable ③ *the initiative is fine, but it's not enough on its own* ALL RIGHT, acceptable, suitable, good (enough), passable, satisfactory, adequate, reasonable, tolerable, *informal* OK ④ *I feel fine* IN GOOD HEALTH, well, healthy, all right, (fighting) fit, as fit as a fiddle/flea, blooming, thriving, in good shape/condition, in fine fettle; *informal* OK, in the pink ⑤ *a fine day* FAIR, dry, bright, clear, sunny, without a cloud in the sky, warm, balmy, summery ⑥ *a fine old house*: IMPRESSIVE, imposing, striking, splendid, grand, majestic, magnificent, stately ⑦ *fine clothes*: ELEGANT, stylish, expensive, smart, chic, fashionable; fancy, sumptuous, lavish, opulent, *informal* flashy, swanky, ritzy, plush. ⑧ *a fine mind*: KEEN, quick, alert, sharp, bright, brilliant, astute, clever, intelligent, perspicacious. ⑨ *fine china* DELICATE, fragile, dainty. ⑩ *fine hair* THIN, light, delicate, wispy, flyaway. ⑪ *a fine point*: SHARP, keen, acute, sharpened, razor-sharp ⑫ *fine material*: SHEER, light, lightweight, thin, flimsy; diaphanous, filmy, gossamer, silky, transparent, translucent, see-through. ⑬ *a fine gold chain*. PURE, sterling, solid, unmixed, unblended, one hundred per cent. ⑭ *fine sand*: FINE-GRAINED, powdery, powdered, dusty, ground, crushed; *technical* comminuted; *archaic* pulverulent. ⑮ *fine detailed work*

INTRICATE, delicate, detailed, elaborate, dainty, meticulous ⑯ *a fine distinction*. SUBTLE, ultra-fine, nice, hair-splitting. ⑰ *people's finer feelings* ELEVATED, lofty, exalted; refined, sensitive, cultivated, cultured, civilized, sophisticated ⑱ *fine taste* DISCERNING, discriminating, refined, cultivated, cultured, critical
-OPPOSITES poor, unsatisfactory, ill, inclement, thick, coarse

► **adverb** (*informal*) *you're doing fine* WELL, all right, not badly, satisfactorily, adequately, nicely, tolerably, *informal* OK, good

-OPPOSITES badly

► **verb** ① *it can be fined right down to the required shape* THIN, make/become thin, narrow, taper, attenuate ② *additives for fining wine* CLARIFY, clear, purify, refine, filter

fine ► **noun** heavy fines (FINANCIAL) PENALTY, sanction, fee, charge, formal mulct, *Brit historical* amercement

► **verb** *they were fined for breaking environmental laws* PENALIZE, impose a fine on, charge; formal mulct, *Brit historical* amerce

finery ► **noun** REGALIA, best clothes, (Sunday) best, *informal* glad rags, best bib and tucker.

finesse ► **noun** ① *masterly finesse* SKILL, skilfulness, expertise, subtlety, flair, panache, élan, polish, artistry, virtuosity, mastery ② *a modicum of finesse* TACT, tactfulness, discretion, diplomacy, delicacy, sensitivity, perceptiveness, savoir faire ③ *a clever finesse* WINNING MOVE, trick, stratagem, ruse, manoeuvre, artifice, machination

finger ► **noun** *he wagged his finger at her* DIGIT, thumb, index finger, forefinger, *informal* pinkie.
-RELATED TERMS digital

► **verb** ① *she fingered her brooch uneasily* TOUCH, feel, handle, stroke, rub, caress, fondle, toy with, play (about/around) with, fiddle with ② (*N Amer informal*) *no one fingered the culprit* IDENTIFY, recognize, pick out, spot, inform on, point the finger at, *informal* rat on, squeal on, tell on, blow the whistle on, snitch on, peach on, *Brit informal* grass on

finicky ► **adjective** Fussy, fastidious, punctilious, over-particular, difficult, exacting, demanding, *informal* picky, choosy, pernickety, *N Amer informal* persnickety, *archaic* nice

finish ► **verb** ① *Mrs Porter had just finished the task*: COMPLETE, end, conclude, stop, cease, terminate, bring to a conclusion/end/close, wind up; crown, cap, round off, put the finishing touches to, accomplish, discharge, carry out, do, get done, fulfil; *informal* wrap up, sew up, polish off ② *Sarah has finished school* LEAVE, give up, drop; stop, discontinue, have done with, complete, *informal* pack in, quit ③ *Hitch finished his dinner* CONSUME, eat, devour, drink, finish off, polish off, gulp (down); use (up), exhaust, empty, drain, get through, run through, *informal* down. ④ *the programme has finished* END, come to an end, stop, conclude, come to a conclusion/end/close, cease ⑤ *some items were finished in a black lacquer*: VARNISH, lacquer, veneer, coat, stain, wax, shellac, enamel, glaze
-OPPOSITES start, begin, continue.

► **noun** ① *the finish of filming*: END, ending, completion, conclusion, close, closing, cessation, termination; final part/stage, finale, denouement; *informal* sewing up, polishing off. ② *a gallop to the finish*: FINISHING LINE/POST, tape. ③ *an anti-*



quated paint finish VENEER, lacquer, lamination, glaze, coating, covering, surface, texture
-OPPOSITES start, beginning.

■ **finish someone/something off** ① the executioners finished them off: KILL, take/end the life of, execute, terminate, exterminate, liquidate, get rid of; *informal* wipe out, do in, bump off, take out, dispose of, do away with, *N Amer informal* ice, rub out, waste ② financial difficulties finished off the business OVERWHELM, overcome, defeat, get the better of, worst, bring down, *informal* drive to the wall, best

finished ▶ **adjective** ① the finished job. COMPLETED, concluded, terminated, over (and done with), at an end, accomplished, executed, discharged, fulfilled, done, *informal* wrapped up, sewn up, polished off, *formal* effectuated ② a finished performance. ACCOMPLISHED, polished, flawless, faultless, perfect, expert, proficient, masterly, impeccable, virtuoso, skilful, skilled, professional ③ he was finished RUINED, defeated, beaten, wrecked, doomed, bankrupt, broken, *informal* washed up, through
-OPPOSITES incomplete.

finite ▶ **adjective** LIMITED, restricted, determinate, fixed

fire ▶ **noun** ① a fire broke out BLAZE, conflagration, inferno, flames, burning, combustion ② an electric fire. HEATER, radiator, convector ③ he lacked fire: DYNAMISM, energy, vigour, animation, vitality, vibrancy, exuberance, zest, elan, passion, ardour, zeal, spirit, verve, vivacity, vivaciousness, enthusiasm, eagerness, gusto, fervour, fervency, *informal* pep, vim, go, get-up-and-go, oomph ④ rapid machine-gun fire GUNFIRE, firing, flak, bombardment. ⑤ they directed their fire at the prime minister CRITICISM, censure, condemnation, denunciation, opprobrium, admonishments, brickbats; hostility, antagonism, animosity; *informal* flak
-RELATED TERMS pyro-

▶ **verb** ① howitzers firing shells LAUNCH, shoot, discharge, let fly with ② someone fired a gun. SHOOT, discharge, let off, set off ③ (informal) he was fired: DISMISS, discharge, give someone their notice, lay off, let go, get rid of, axe, cashier; *informal* sack, give someone the sack, boot out, give someone the boot/bullet, give someone the elbow/push, give someone their marching orders; *Brit informal* give someone their cards. ④ the engine fired: START, get started, get going. ⑤ (archaic) I fired the straw: LIGHT, ignite, set fire to, set on fire, set alight, set ablaze; *informal* torch, *poetic/literary* enkindle, inflame ⑥ the stories fired my imagination STIMULATE, stir up, excite, awaken, arouse, rouse, inflame, animate, inspire, motivate.

■ **catch fire** IGNITE, catch light, burst into flames, go up in flames.

■ **on fire** ① the restaurant was on fire: BURNING, alight, ablaze, blazing, aflame, in flames; *poetic/literary* afire. ② she was on fire with passion: ARDENT, passionate, fervent, excited, eager, enthusiastic.

firearm ▶ **noun** GUN, weapon; *informal* shooter; *N Amer informal* piece, rod, shooting iron. See *list* at GUN.

firebrand ▶ **noun** RADICAL, revolutionary, agitator, rabble-rouser, incendiary, subversive, troublemaker.

fireproof ▶ **adjective** NON-FLAMMABLE, combustible, fire resistant, flame resistant, flame retardant, heatproof
-OPPOSITES inflammable

firm¹ ▶ **adjective** ① the ground is fairly firm. HARD, solid, unyielding, resistant, solidified, hardened, compacted, compressed, dense, stiff, rigid, frozen, set. ② firm foundations: SECURE, secured, stable, steady, strong, fixed, fast, set, taut, tight, immovable, irremovable, stationary, motionless ③ a firm handshake. STRONG, vigorous, sturdy, forceful ④ I was very firm about what I wanted | a firm supporter RESOLUTE, determined, decided, resolved, steadfast; adamant, emphatic, insistent, single-minded, in earnest, whole-hearted; unfaltering, unwavering, unflinching, unswerving, unbending; hard-line, committed, dyed-in-the-wool. ⑤ firm friends CLOSE, good, boon, intimate, inseparable, dear, special, fast, constant, devoted, loving, faithful, long-standing, steady, steadfast ⑥ firm plans DEFINITE, fixed, settled, decided, established, confirmed, agreed, unalterable, unchangeable, irreversible

-OPPOSITES soft, unstable, limp, indefinite

firm² ▶ **noun** an accountancy firm COMPANY, business, concern, enterprise, organization, corporation, conglomerate, office, bureau, agency, consortium; *informal* outfit, set-up

firmament ▶ **noun** (*poetic/literary*) THE SKY, heaven; the skies; *poetic/literary* the heavens, the empyrean, the welkin

first ▶ **adjective** ① the first chapter: EARLIEST, initial, opening, introductory ② first principles FUNDAMENTAL, basic, rudimentary, primary, key, cardinal, central, chief, vital, essential ③ our first priority FOREMOST, principal, highest, greatest, paramount, top, uppermost, prime, chief, leading, main, major, overriding, predominant, prevailing, central, core, dominant, *informal* number-one ④ first prize: TOP, best, prime, premier, winner's, winning.
-OPPOSITES last, closing.

▶ **adverb** ① the room they had first entered: AT FIRST, to begin with, first of all, at the outset, initially ② she would eat first: BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE, first and foremost, now ③ she wouldn't go—she'd die first! IN PREFERENCE, sooner, rather, more willingly.

▶ **noun** ① from the first, surrealism was theatrical THE (VERY) BEGINNING, the start, the outset, the commencement; *informal* the word go, the off. ② (informal) it was a first for both of us. NOVELTY, new/first experience.

first-class ▶ **adjective** SUPERIOR, first-rate, high-quality, top-quality, high-grade, five-star, prime, premier, premium, grade A, best, finest, select, exclusive, excellent, superb; *informal* tip-top, A1, top-notch.
-OPPOSITES poor.

first-hand ▶ **adjective** DIRECT, immediate, personal, hands-on, experiential, empirical.
-OPPOSITES vicarious, indirect.

first name ▶ **noun** FORENAME, Christian name, given name.
-OPPOSITES surname.

first-rate ▶ **adjective** TOP-QUALITY, high-quality, top-grade, first-class, second to none, fine; su-

Fish

acara	butterfish	eelpout	headstander	menhaden
aholehole	butterfly fish	electric eel	herring	midshipman
albacore	butterfly ray	electric ray	high hat	milkfish
alewife	cabezon	elephant fish	hogfish	miller's thumb
alligator fish	callop	elephant-snout	hold	minnow
allis shad	candiru	fish	horse mackerel	mirror carp
amberjack	candlefish	escalar	houndfish	mojarra
anchoveta	capelin	espada	houting	molly
anchovy	cardinal fish	fallfish	huchen	monkfish
anemone fish	carp	featherback	humpback salmon	moon-eye
angelfish	carpet shark	ferox	huss	moonfish
angel shark	catfish	fighting fish	icefish	Moorish idol
anglerfish	cat shark	filefish	ide	moray eel
arapalma	cavefish	fingerfish	inanga	morwong
archerfish	cero	firefish	inconnu	mosquito fish
argentine	channel cat	flagfish	jackfish	mouthbrooder
argus fish	characin	flatfish	jackknife fish	mudfish
asp	charr	flathead	jack mackerel	mudminnow
ballan wrasse	chimera	flounder	jawfish	mudskipper
balloonfish	chinook salmon	fluke	jewelfish	mullet
bandfish	chromide	flyer fish	jewfish	mulloway
barbel	chub	flyer gurnard	John Dory	mummichog
barracouta	chum salmon	four-eyed fish	kaapenaar	Murray cod
barracuda	cisco	frilled shark	kabelljou	muskellunge
barramundi	climbing perch	frogfish	killifish	musselcracker
barrelfish	clingfish	fugu	kingclip	nannygai
basking shark	clownfish	galjoen	kingfish	needlefish
bass	coalfish	gambusia	klipfish	neon tetra
basslet	cobia	gaper	knifefish	Nile perch
batfish	cockabully	garden eel	kob	numbfish
beaconfish	cod	garfish	koi carp	nurse hound
beardfish	coelacanth	garibaldi	kokanee	nurse shark
beluga	coho	garpike	labyrinth fish	oarfish
bib	coley	glassfish	ladyfish	oilfish
bichir	comber	globefish	lake trout	old wife
bigeye	combfish	goatfish	lampern	opah
billfish	coney	goby	lamprey	orfe
bitterling	conger eel	goggle-eye	lancetfish	oscar
black bass	cornetfish	goldfish	lanternfish	ouananiche
black durgon	corvina	goosefish	leaf fish	pacu
blackfish	cowfish	gourami	leatherjacket	paddlefish
bleak	cow shark	grass carp	leervis	paradise fish
blenny	crappie	grayling	lemon sole	parrotfish
bloodfin	crestfish	great white shark	ling	pearleye
blowfish	crucian carp	greeneye	lingcod	pearlfish
bluefin	cunner	greenling	lionhead	perch
bluefish	cusk	grenadier	livebearer	permit
bluegill	cutlassfish	grey mullet	lizardfish	pickerel
bluehead	dab	grouper	loach	pigfish
blue shark	dace	grunion	louvar	pike
boarfish	daggertooth	grunt	luderick	pikeperch
bonefish	damselfish	gudgeon	lumpawcker	pilchard
bonito	danio	guitarfish	lungfish	pilotfish
bonnethead	darter	gulper eel	lyrefish	pipefish
bonnetmouth	dealfish	gummy shark	mackerel	piranha
bowfin	devil ray	gunnel	mado	plaice
boxfish	discus	guppy	madtom	platy
bramble shark	dogfish	gurnard	mahimahi	poacher
bream	Dolly Varden	gwyniad	mahseer	poenskop
brill	dolphinfish	haddock	mako	pollack
brisling	dorado	hagfish	man-of-war fish	pollan
brown trout	dory	haite	manta	pollock
buffalo fish	Dover sole	halfbeak	marari	pomfret
bullhead	dragonet	halibut	margate	pompano
bull trout	dragonfish	hammerhead	marlin	pope
bumblebee fish	driftfish	shark	medaka	porbeagle
burnmako	drumfish	harlequin fish	medusa fish	porcupine fish
burbot	eagle ray	hatchettfish	megamouth shark	porgy
burnfish	eel	hawkfish	megrim	pout



Fish (cont.)

powan	sand eel	skipper	surmullet	tunny
prickleback	sandfish	smelt	swallower	turbot
prowfish	sand shark	smooth hound	sweeper	twaites shad
puffer fish	sardine	snake mackerel	sweetlips	unicorn fish
pumpkinseed	sargassum fish	snaggle-tooth	swordfish	vendace
pupfish	sauger	snailfish	swordtail	viperfish
queenfish	sauri	snakehead	tail	wahoo
rabbitfish	sawfish	snapper	tailorfish	walleye
ragfish	scabbardfish	snipe eel	taimen	warbonnet
rainbow trout	scad	snipefish	tang	warehou
rascasse	scaldfish	snook	tarakihi	weakfish
ratfish	scat	soapfish	tarpon	weatherfish
ray	schelly	sockeye salmon	tarwhine	weever
razorfish	scissortail	soldierfish	tautog	wels
redfin	scorpionfish	sole	tench	whale shark
redfish	sculpin	spadefish	tenpounder	whitebait
red mullet	scup	Spanish mackerel	tetra	white bass
red snapper	sea bass	sparling	thornback	whitefish
remora	sea bream	spearfish	threadfin	whiting
requiem shark	sea horse	splake	thresher shark	witch
ribbonfish	sea moth	sprat	tiger fish	windowpane
rivulus	sea perch	spur-dog	tiger shark	winter flounder
roach	sea robin	square-tail	tilapia	wobbegong
rock bass	sea trout	squawfish	tilefish	wolf fish
rockfish	sergeant fish	squirrelfish	toadfish	wormfish
rockling	sergeant major	stargazer	tomcod	wrasse
rock snapper	sevruga	steelhead	tonguefish	wreckfish
roman fish	sewin	steenbras	toothcarp	wrymouth
ronquill	shad	sterlet	tope	X-ray fish
rosefish	shanny	stickleback	topminnow	yellowfin
rouget	shark	stingaree	torpedo ray	yellowtail
roughy	shark-sucker	stingray	torsk	zander
rudd	sheepshead	stockfish	trevally	zebra fish
ruffe	shiner	stonefish	triggerfish	
sablefish	shovelhead	striped bass	trout	EXTINCT FISH
sailfin molty	shubunkin	stumpnose	trumpeter	acanthodian
sailfish	sild	sturgeon	trumpetfish	ostracoderm
salthe	silverside	sucker	trunkfish	placoderm
salmon	skate	sunfish	tubesnout	
salmon trout	skilfish	surfperch	tullibee	
sand dab	skipjack tuna	surgeonfish	tuna	

perilous, excellent, superb, outstanding, exceptional, exemplary, marvellous, magnificent, splendid, *informal* tip-top, top-notch, ace, A1, super, great, terrific, tremendous, fantastic; *Bnt* *informal* top-hole, smashing, *informal*, dated capital.

fiscal ► **adjective** TAX, budgetary, financial, economic, monetary, money

fish ► **noun**. See list

—RELATED TERMS piscine, ichthyo-

► **verb** ① *some people were fishing in the lake* GO FISHING, angle, trawl. ② *she fished for her purse* SEARCH, delve, look, hunt; grope, fumble, ferret (about/around), root about/around, rummage (about/around/round) ③ *I'm not fishing for compliments* TRY TO GET, seek to obtain, solicit, angle, aim, hope, cast about/around/round, be after.

■ **fish someone/something out** PULL OUT, haul out, remove, extricate, extract, retrieve; rescue from, save from

fisherman ► **noun** ANGLER, rod; *archaic* fisher

fishing ► **noun** ANGLING, trawling, catching fish.

fishy ► **adjective** ① *a fishy smell*: FISHLIKE, piscine. ② *round fishy eyes*: EXPRESSIONLESS, inexpressive, vacant, lacklustre, glassy. ③ (*informal*) *there was something fishy going on*: SUSPICIOUS, ques-

tionable, dubious, doubtful, suspect, odd, queer, peculiar, strange; *informal* funny, shady, crooked, bent, *Bnt* *informal* dodgy, *Austral/NZ* *informal* shonky

fission ► **noun** SPLITTING, division, dividing, rupture, breaking, severance
—OPPOSITES fusion

fissure ► **noun** OPENING, crevice, crack, cleft, breach, crevasse, chasm, break, fracture, fault, rift, rupture, split

fit ► **noun** CLENCHED HAND, *informal* duke, meat hook, *Bnt* *informal* bunch of fives

fit ► **adjective** ① *fit for human habitation* | *he is a fit subject for such a book*: SUITABLE, good enough, relevant, pertinent, apt, appropriate, suited, apposite, fitting, *archaic* meet. ② *is he fit to look after a child?* COMPETENT, able, capable; ready, prepared, qualified, trained, equipped. ③ (*informal*) *you look fit to commit murder*! READY, prepared, all set, in a fit state, likely, about; *informal* psyched up ④ *he looked tanned and fit*: HEALTHY, well, in good health, in (good) shape, in (good) trim, in good condition, fighting fit, as fit as a fiddle/flea; athletic, muscular, strong, robust, hale and hearty.

—OPPOSITES unsuitable, incapable, unwell

- **verb** ① *My overcoat should fit you* BE THE RIGHT/CORRECT SIZE (FOR), be big/small enough (for), fit like a glove ② *have your carpets fitted professionally* LAY, put in place/position, position, place, fix. ③ *cameras fitted with a backlight* EQUIP, provide, supply, fit out, furnish. ④ *concrete slabs were fitted together* JOIN, connect, put together, piece together, attach, unite, link ⑤ *a sentence that fits his crimes* BE APPROPRIATE TO, suit, match, correspond to, tally with, go with, accord with, correlate to, be congruous with, be congruent with, be consonant with ⑥ *an MSc fits you for a professional career* QUALIFY, prepare, make ready, train, groom
- **noun** the degree of fit between a school's philosophy and practice: CORRELATION, correspondence, agreement, consistency, equivalence, match, similarity, compatibility, concurrence
- **fit in** CONFORM, be in harmony, blend in, be in line, be assimilated into
- **fit someone/something out/up** EQUIP, provide, supply, furnish, kit out, rig out
- **fit someone up** (Bnt informal) FALSELY INCRIMINATE, informal frame, set up

fit² ► **noun** ① *an epileptic fit* CONVULSION, spasm, paroxysm, seizure, attack, *Medicine* ictus ② *a fit of the giggles* OUTBREAK, outburst, attack, bout, spell ③ *my mother would have a fit if she knew* TANTRUM, fit of temper, outburst of anger/rage, frenzy, informal paddy, stress, N Amer informal blowout, formal boutade

■ **in/by fits and starts** SPASMODICALLY, intermittently, sporadically, erratically, irregularly, fitfully, haphazardly

fitful ► **adjective** INTERMITTENT, sporadic, spasmodic, broken, disturbed, disrupted, patchy, irregular, uneven, unsettled

fitness ► **noun** ① *polo requires tremendous fitness* GOOD HEALTH, strength, robustness, vigour, athleticism, toughness, physical fitness, muscularity; good condition, good shape, well-being ② *his fitness for active service* SUITABILITY, capability, competence, ability, aptitude, readiness, preparedness, eligibility

fitted ► **adjective** ① *a fitted sheet* SHAPED, contoured, fitting tightly/well ② *a fitted wardrobe* BUILT-IN, integral, integrated, fixed ③ *he wasn't fitted for the job* (WELL) SUITED, right, suitable, equipped, fit, informal cut out

fitting ► **noun** ① *a light fitting*: ATTACHMENT, connection, part, piece, component, accessory ② *bathroom fittings* FURNISHINGS, furniture, fixtures, fitments, equipment, appointments, appointments ③ *the fitting of catalytic converters* INSTALLATION, installing, putting in, fixing

► **adjective** a fitting conclusion APT, appropriate, suitable, apposite; fit, proper, right, seemly, correct, archaic meet

—OPPOSITES unsuitable

five ► **cardinal number** QUINTET, fivesome, quintuplets; technical pentad

—RELATED TERMS quin-, quinque-, penta-

fix ► **verb** ① *signs were fixed to lamp posts* FASTEN, attach, affix, secure, join, connect, couple, link, install, implant, embed; stick, glue, pin, nail, screw, bolt, clamp, clip. ② *his words are fixed in my memory*: STICK, lodge, embed ③ *his eyes were fixed on the ground*: FOCUS, direct, level, point, train. ④ *techniques of fixing audience's attention*: ATTRACT, draw; hold, grip, engage, captivate,

rivet ⑤ *he fixed my washing machine*: REPAIR, mend, put right, put to rights, get working, restore (to working order), overhaul, service, renovate, recondition ⑥ *James fixed it for his parents to watch the show from the wings* AR RANGE, organize, contrive, manage, engineer, informal swing, wangle ⑦ (informal) *Laura was fixing her hair* ARRANGE, put in order, adjust, style, groom, comb, brush, informal do ⑧ (informal) *Chris will fix supper* PREPARE, cook, make, get, informal rustle up, Bnt informal knock up ⑨ *let's fix a date for the meeting* DECIDE ON, select, choose, resolve on, determine, settle, set, arrange, establish, allot, designate, name, appoint, specify ⑩ *chemicals are used to fix the dye* MAKE PERMANENT, make fast, set ⑪ (informal) *the fight was fixed* RIG, arrange fraudulently, tamper with, influence, informal fiddle ⑫ (informal) *don't tell anybody, or I'll fix you!* GET ONE'S REVENGE ON, avenge oneself on, get even with, get back at, take reprisals against, punish, deal with, informal get one's own back on, sort someone out, settle someone's hash ⑬ (informal) *a place where they can fix* INJECT DRUGS, take drugs, informal shoot up, mainline ⑭ *the cat has been fixed* CASTRATE, neuter, geld, spay, desex, sterilize, N Amer & Austral alter, Bnt informal doctor, archaic emasculate

—OPPOSITES remove

► **noun** (informal) ① *they are in a bit of a fix* PREDICAMENT, plight, difficulty, awkward situation, corner, tight spot, mess, mare's nest, dire straits, informal pickle, jam, hole, scrape, bind, sticky situation ② *he needed his fix* DOSE, informal hit ③ *a quick fix for the coal industry* SOLUTION, answer, resolution, way out, remedy, cure, informal magic bullet ④ *the result was a complete fix* FRAUD, swindle, trick, charade, sham, informal set-up, fiddle

■ **fix someone up** (informal) PROVIDE, supply, furnish

■ **fix something up** ORGANIZE, arrange, make arrangements for, fix, sort out

fixated ► **adjective** OBSESSED, preoccupied, obsessive, focussed, keen, gripped, engrossed, immersed, wrapped up, enthusiastic, fanatical, informal hooked, wild, nuts, crazy, Bnt informal potty

fixation ► **noun** OBSESSION, preoccupation, mania, addiction, compulsion, informal thing, bug, craze, fad

fixed ► **adjective** ① *there are fixed ropes on the rock face* FASTENED, secure, fast, firm, riveted, moored, anchored ② *a fixed period of time*: PRE DETERMINED, set, established, arranged, specified, decided, agreed, determined, confirmed, prescribed, definite, defined, explicit, precise

fixture ► **noun** ① *fixtures and fittings* FIXED APPLIANCE, installation, unit ② (Bnt) *their first fixture of the season*. MATCH, race, game, competition, contest, sporting event

fizz ► **verb** ① *the mixture fizzed like mad* EFFER VESCE, sparkle, bubble, froth, poetic/literary spume ② *all the screens were fizzing* CRACKLE, buzz, hiss, fizzle, crepitate

► **noun** ① *the fizz in champagne*: EFFERVESCENCE, sparkle, fizziness, bubbles, bubbliness, gassiness, carbonation, froth. ② (informal) *they all had another glass of fizz* SPARKLING WINE, champagne, informal bubbly, champers, sparkler ③ (informal) *their set is a little lacking in fizz*: EBULLIENCE, ex-



uberance, liveliness, life, vivacity, animation, vigour, energy, verve, dash, spirit, sparkle, zest, *informal* pizzazz, pep, zip, oomph. ③ the fizz of the static CRACKLE, crackling, buzz, buzzing, hiss, hissing, white noise; *poetic/literary* susurration.

fizzle ▶ *verb* the loudspeaker fizzled CRACKLE, buzz, hiss, fizz, crepitate

▶ *noun* ① electric fizzle See FIZZ *noun* sense 4. ② the whole thing turned out to be a fizzle FAILURE, fiasco, debacle, disaster; *Brit* damp squib, *informal* flop, washout, let-down, dead loss, *N Amer* *informal* snafu

■ **fizzle out** PETER OUT, die off, ease off, cool off; tail off, wither away

fizzy ▶ *adjective* EFFERVESCENT, sparkling, carbonated, gassy, bubbly, frothy; mousseux, pétillant, spumante, frizzante
—OPPOSITES still, flat

flab ▶ *noun* (*informal*) FAT, excessive weight, fatness, plumpness, paunch, pot belly, beer gut.

flabbergast ▶ *verb* (*informal*) See ASTONISH

flabbiness ▶ *noun* FAT, fatness, fleshiness, plumpness, chubbiness, portliness, obesity, corpulence, softness, looseness, flaccidity, droopiness, sag; *informal* flab, tubbiness

flabby ▶ *adjective* ① his flabby stomach SOFT, loose, flaccid, slack, untuned, drooping, sagging ② a flabby woman FAT, fleshy, overweight, plump, chubby, portly, rotund, broad in the beam, of ample proportions, obese, corpulent, *informal* tubby, roly-poly, well covered, well upholstered

—OPPOSITES firm, thin.

flaccid ▶ *adjective* ① your muscles are sagging, they're flaccid SOFT, loose, flabby, slack, lax, drooping, sagging. ② his play seemed flaccid LACKLUSTRE, lifeless, listless, uninspiring, unanimated, tame

—OPPOSITES firm, spinted.

flag¹ ▶ *noun* the Irish flag BANNER, standard, ensign, pennant, banderole, streamer, jack, gonfalon, colours, *Brit* pendant

—RELATED TERMS vexillary

▶ *verb* flag the misspelt words INDICATE, identify, point out, mark, label, tag

■ **flag someone/something down** HAIL, wave down, signal to stop, stop, halt

flag² ▶ *noun* stone flags See FLAGSTONE

flag³ ▶ *verb* ① they were flagging towards the finish. TIRE, grow tired/weary, weaken, grow weak, wilt, droop ② my energy flags in the afternoon FADE, decline, wane, ebb, diminish, decrease, lessen, dwindle, wither, melt away, peter out, die away/down.

—OPPOSITES revive

flagellate ▶ *verb* FLOG, whip, beat, scourge, lash, birch, strap, belt, cane, thrash, horse-whip, tan/whip someone's hide, give someone a hiding.

flagon ▶ *noun* JUG, vessel, bottle, carafe, flask, decanter, tankard, ewer, pitcher.

flagrant ▶ *adjective* BLATANT, glaring, obvious, overt, conspicuous, barefaced, shameless, brazen, undisguised, unconcealed; outrageous, scandalous, shocking, disgraceful, dreadful, terrible, gross.

flagstone ▶ *noun* PAVING SLAB, paving stone, slab, flag, sett.

flail ▶ *verb* ① he fell headlong, his arms flailing. WAVE, swing, thrash about, flap about. ② I was flailing about in the water: FLOUNDER, struggle, thrash, writhe, splash ③ he flailed their shoulders with his cane. THRASH, beat, strike, flog, whip, lash, scourge, cane; *informal* wallop, whack.

flair ▶ *noun* ① a flair for publicity: APTITUDE, talent, gift, instinct, (natural) ability, facility, skill, bent, feel ② she dressed with flair: STYLE, stylishness, panache, dash, elan, poise, elegance, (good) taste, discernment, discrimination, *informal* class

flak ▶ *noun* ① my aircraft had been damaged by flak ANTI-AIRCRAFT FIRE, shelling, gunfire, bombardment, barrage, salvo, volley ② (*informal*) he has come in for a lot of flak: CRITICISM, censure, disapproval, disapprobation, hostility, complaints; opprobrium, obloquy, calumny, vilification, abuse, brickbats, *Brit* *informal* stick, verbal, *formal* castigation, excoriation, calumny.

flake¹ ▶ *noun* flakes of pastry. SLIVER, wafer, shaving, paring, chip, scale, spillikin, fragment, scrap, shred; *technical* lamina

▶ *verb* the paint was flaking: PEEL (OFF), chip, blister, come off (in layers)

flake²

■ **flake out** (*informal*) she flaked out in her chair FALL ASLEEP, go to sleep, drop off; collapse, faint, pass out, lose consciousness, black out, swoon, *informal* conk out, nod off, *N Amer* *informal* sack out, zone out

flaky ▶ *adjective* FLAKING, peeling, scaly, blistering, scabrous

flamboyant ▶ *adjective* ① her flamboyant personality OSTENTATIOUS, exuberant, confident, lively, animated, vibrant, vivacious. ② a flamboyant cravat. COLOURFUL, brightly coloured, bright, vibrant, vivid, dazzling, eye-catching, bold, showy, gaudy, garish, lurid, loud, *informal* jazzy, flashy; dated gay ③ a flamboyant architectural style ELABORATE, ornate, fancy, baroque, rococo

—OPPOSITES restrained

flame ▶ *noun* ① a sheet of flames: FIRE, blaze, conflagration, inferno ② the flames of her anger PASSION, warmth, ardour, fervour, fervency, fire, intensity ③ (*informal*) an old flame SWEET HEART, boyfriend, girlfriend, lover, partner, *informal* steady, dated beau

▶ *verb* ① logs crackled and flamed: BURN, blaze, be ablaze, be alight, be on fire, be in flames, be aflame. ② pour the whisky over the lobster and flame it: IGNITE, light, set light to, set fire to, set on fire, set alight, touch off; *informal* set/put a match to ③ Erica's cheeks flamed: BECOME RED, go red, blush, flush, redden, grow pink/crimson/scarlet, colour, glow.

—OPPOSITES extinguish

■ **in flames** ON FIRE, burning, alight, flaming, blazing, ignited; *poetic/literary* afire.

flameproof ▶ *adjective* NON-FLAMMABLE, non-inflammable, flame-resistant, fire-resistant, flame-retardant, unflammanable.

—OPPOSITES flammable.

flaming ▶ *adjective* ① a flaming bonfire: BLAZING, ablaze, burning, on fire, in flames, aflame; *poetic/literary* afire. ② flaming hair: BRIGHT, brilliant, vivid; red, reddish-orange, ginger. ③ a flaming row: FURIOUS, violent, vehement, frenzied, angry, passionate. ④ in a flaming temper:

FURIOUS, enraged, fuming, seething, incensed, infuriated, angry, raging; *informal* livid, poetic/literary wrathful. ⑤ (*informal*) where's that flaming ambulance? **WRETCHED**, *informal* damned, damnable, blasted, blessed, confounded, *Brit informal* flipping, blinking, blooming, bleeding, effing, *Brit informal*, dated bally, ruddy, dated cursed, accursed

flammable ▶ **adjective** **INFLAMMABLE**, burnable, combustible.

flank ▶ **noun** ① the horse's flanks **SIDE**, haunch, quarter, thigh ② the southern flank of the Eighth Army: **SIDE**, wing, face, aspect

▶ **verb** the garden is flanked by two rivers **EDGE**, bound, line, border, fringe.

flannel ▶ **noun** ① (*Brit*) she dabbed her face with a flannel **FACECLOTH**, cloth, *N Amer* washcloth, washrag, *Austral* washer ② (*Brit informal*) don't accept any flannel from salespeople **SMOOTH TALK**, flattery, blarney, blandishments, honeyed words, prevarication, equivocation, evasion, doublespeak, *informal* spiel, soft soap, sweet talk, baloney, hot air, *Brit informal* waffle, *Austral/NZ informal* guyyer

▶ **verb** (*Brit informal*) she can tell if you're flannelling **USE FLATTERY**, talk blarney, prevaricate, equivocate, be evasive, blather, stall, *Brit* hum and haw, *informal* soft-soap, sweet-talk, *Brit informal* waffle, *N Amer informal* fast-talk, rare tergiversate

flap ▶ **verb** ① the mallards flapped their wings **BEAT**, flutter, agitate, wave, wag, swing ② the flag flapped in the breeze **FLUTTER**, fly, blow, swing, sway, ripple, stir ③ (*informal*) a deliberate ploy to make us flap **PANIC**, go into a panic, become flustered, be agitated, fuss, *informal* be in a state, be in a tizzy

▶ **noun** ① pockets with buttoned flaps **FOLD**, overlap, covering, lappet ② a few flaps of the wing **FLUTTER**, fluttering, beat, beating, waving ③ (*informal*) I'm in a frightful flap **PANIC**, fluster, *informal* state, dither, twitter, blue funk, stew, tizzy, *N Amer informal* twit ④ (*informal*) she created a flap with her controversial statement. **FUSS**, commotion, stir, hubbub, storm, uproar, controversy, brouhaha, furore, *informal* to-do, ballyhoo, hoo-ha, kerfuffle

flare ▶ **noun** ① the flare of the match **BLAZE**, flash, dazzle, burst, flicker ② a flare set off by the crew **DISTRESS SIGNAL**, rocket, Very light, beacon, light, signal. ③ a flare of anger: **BURST**, rush, eruption, explosion, spasm, access

▶ **verb** ① the match flared **BLAZE**, flash, flare up, flame, burn; glow, flicker ② her nostrils flared **SPREAD**, broaden, widen; dilate.

■ **flare up** ① the wooden houses flared up like matchsticks: **BURN**, blaze, go up in flames ② his injury has flared up again. **RECUR**, reoccur, reappear, break out, start suddenly, erupt. ③ I flared up at him **LOSE ONE'S TEMPER**, become enraged, fly into a temper, go berserk; *informal* blow one's top, fly off the handle, go mad, go bananas, hit the roof, go up the wall, go off the deep end, lose one's rag, flip (one's lid), explode, have a fit; *Brit informal* go spare, go crackers, do one's nut; *N Amer informal* flip one's wig, blow one's lid/stack, have a conniption fit

flash ▶ **verb** ① a torch flashed: **LIGHT UP**, shine, flare, blaze, gleam, glint, sparkle, burn; blink, wink, flicker, shimmer, twinkle, glimmer, glisten, scintillate; poetic/literary glister, coruscate. ② (*informal*) he was flashing his money about: **SHOW**

OFF, flaunt, flourish, display, parade ③ (*informal*) he flashed at me: **EXPOSE ONESELF** ④ racing cars flashed past **ZOOM**, streak, tear, shoot, dash, dart, fly, whistle, hurtle, rush, bolt, race, speed, career, whizz, whoosh, buzz; *informal* belt, zap; *Brit informal* bomb, bucket; *N Amer informal* barrel

▶ **noun** ① a flash of light **FLARE**, blaze, burst, gleam, glint, sparkle, flicker, shimmer, twinkle, glimmer ② a basic uniform with no flashes **EMBLEM**, insignia, badge, stripe, bar, chevron ③ a sudden flash of inspiration **BURST**, outburst, wave, rush, surge, flush

▶ **adjective** (*informal*) a flash sports car See **FLASHY**

■ **in/like a flash** **INSTANTLY**, suddenly, abruptly, immediately, all of a sudden, quickly, rapidly, swiftly, speedily, in an instant/moment, in a (split) second, in a trice, in the blink of an eye, *informal* in a jiffy, before you can say Jack Robinson

flashy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) **OSTENTATIOUS**, flamboyant, showy, conspicuous, extravagant, expensive, vulgar, tasteless, brash, lurid, garish, loud, gaudy, *informal* snazzy, fancy, swanky, flash, jazzy, glitzy

—**OPPOSITES** understated

flask ▶ **noun** **BOTTLE**, container; hip flask, vacuum flask, trademark Thermos

flat 1 ▶ **adjective** ① a flat surface **LEVEL**, horizontal, smooth, even, uniform, regular, plane ② the sea was flat **CALM**, still, pacific, glassy, undisturbed, without waves, like a millpond ③ a flat wooden box **SHALLOW**, low-sided ④ flat sandals **LOW**, low-heeled, without heels ⑤ his voice was flat **MONOTONOUS**, toneless, droning, boring, dull, tedious, uninteresting, unexciting, soporific, bland, dreary, colourless, featureless, emotionless, expressionless, lifeless, spiritless, lacklustre ⑥ he felt flat and weary **DEPRESSED**, dejected, dispirited, despondent, downhearted, disheartened, low, low-spirited, down, unhappy, blue, without energy, enervated, sapped, weary, tired out, worn out, exhausted, drained, *informal* down in the mouth/dumps. ⑦ the market was flat **SLOW**, inactive, sluggish, slack, quiet, depressed. ⑧ (*Brit*) a flat battery: **EXPIRED**, dead, finished, used up, run out ⑨ a flat tyre **DEFLATED**, punctured, burst ⑩ a flat fee **FIXED**, set, regular, unchanging, unvarying, invariable ⑪ a flat denial **OUTRIGHT**, direct, absolute, definite, positive, straight, plain, explicit; firm, resolute, adamant, assertive, emphatic, categorical, unconditional, unqualified, unequivocal

—**OPPOSITES** vertical, uneven.

▶ **adverb** ① she lay down flat on the floor **STRETCHED OUT**, outstretched, spreadeagled, sprawling, prone, supine, prostrate, recumbent. ② (*informal*) she turned me down flat **OUTRIGHT**, absolutely, firmly, resolutely, adamantly, emphatically, insistently, categorically, unconditionally, unequivocally

■ **flat out** **HARD**, as hard as possible, for all one's worth, to the full/limit, all out, at full speed, as fast as possible, at full tilt, *informal* like crazy, like mad, like the wind, like a bomb; *Brit informal* like billy-o, like the clappers

flat 2 ▶ **noun** a two-bedroom flat: **APARTMENT**, set of rooms, penthouse; rooms; *Austral* home unit; *N Amer. informal* crib.

flatten ▶ **verb** ① Tom flattened the crumpled paper: **MAKE/BECOME FLAT**, make/become even,



smooth (out/off), level (out/off) ② the cows flattened the grass COMPRESS, press down, crush, squash, compact, trample ③ tornadoes can flatten buildings in seconds DEMOLISH, raze (to the ground), tear down, knock down, destroy, wreck, devastate, obliterate, *N Amer informal* total ④ (informal) Flynn flattened him with a single punch KNOCK DOWN/OVER, knock to the ground, fell, floor, prostrate, *informal* deck, *Brit informal* knock for six ⑤ I flattened a drunken heckler HUMILIATE, crush, quash, squash, take down a peg or two, put someone in their place, *informal* put down, cut down to size.

flatter ▶ verb ① it amused him to flatter her COMPLIMENT, praise, express admiration for, say nice things about, pay court to, fawn on, cajole, humour, flannel, blarney, *informal* sweet-talk, soft-soap, butter up, play up to; *formal* laud ② I was flattered to be asked HONOUR, gratify, please, delight, *informal* tickle pink ③ a hair-style that flattered her SUIT, become, look good on, go well with, *informal* do something for –OPPOSITES insult, offend

flatterer ▶ noun SYCOPHANT, groveller, fawner, lackey, *informal* crawler, toady, bootlicker, yes man, lickspittle, *formal* encomiast

flattering ▶ adjective ① flattering remarks COMPLIMENTARY, praising, favourable, commending, admiring, applauding, appreciative, good, honeyed, sugary, cajoling, flannelling, silver-tongued, honey-tongued, fawning, oily, obsequious, ingratiating, servile, sycophantic, *informal* sweet-talking, soft-soaping, crawling, bootlicking; *formal* encomiastic ② it was very flattering to be nominated PLEASING, gratifying, honouring, gladdening ③ her most flattering dress BECOMING, enhancing

flattery ▶ noun PRAISE, adulation, compliments, blandishments, honeyed words; fawning, blarney, cajolery, *informal* sweet talk, soft soap, buttering up, toadying, *Brit informal* flannel; *formal* laudation

flatulence ▶ noun ① medications that help with flatulence (INTESTINAL) GAS, wind, *informal* farting, *formal* flatus ② the flatulence of his latest recordings POMPOSITY, pompousness, pretension, pretentiousness, grandiloquence, bombast, turgidity

flaunt ▶ verb SHOW OFF, display ostentatiously, make a (great) show of, put on show/display, parade; brag about, crow about, vaunt; *informal* flash.

flavour ▶ noun ① the flavour of prosciutto TASTE, savour, tang ② salami can give extra flavour FLAVOURING, seasoning, tastiness, tang, relish, bite, piquancy, pungency, spice, spiciness, zest, *informal* zing, zip ③ a strong international flavour CHARACTER, quality, feel, feeling, ambience, atmosphere, aura, air, mood, tone; spirit, essence, nature ④ this excerpt will give a flavour of the report IMPRESSION, suggestion, hint, taste –RELATED TERMS gustative, gustatory.

▶ verb spices for flavouring food: ADD FLAVOUR TO, add flavouring to, season, spice (up), add piquancy to, ginger up, enrich; *informal* pep up ■ **flavour of the month** (informal) ALL THE RAGE, the latest thing, the fashion, in vogue; *informal* hot, in; *Brit informal*, dated all the go

flavouring ▶ noun ① this cheese is often combined with other flavourings: SEASONING, spice, herb,

additive; condiment, dressing ② vanilla flavouring. ESSENCE, extract, concentrate, distillate

flaw ▶ noun DEFECT, blemish, fault, imperfection, deficiency, weakness, weak spot/point, inadequacy, shortcoming, limitation, failing, foible, *Computing* bug; *informal* glitch –OPPOSITES strength

flawed ▶ adjective ① a flawed mirror FAULTY, defective, unsound, imperfect, broken, cracked, torn, scratched, deformed, distorted, warped, buckled, *Brit informal* duff ② the findings were flawed UNSOUND, defective, faulty, distorted, inaccurate, incorrect, erroneous, imprecise, fallacious, misleading –OPPOSITES flawless, sound

flawless ▶ adjective PERFECT, unblemished, unmarked, unimpaired, whole, intact, sound, unbroken, undamaged, mint, pristine, impeccable, immaculate, consummate, accurate, correct, faultless, error-free, unerring, exemplary, model, ideal, copybook –OPPOSITES flawed

flay ▶ verb ① the saint was flayed alive SKIN, strip the skin off, *Medicine* excoriate ② he flayed his critics See CRITICIZE

fleck ▶ noun flecks of pale blue SPOT, mark, dot, speck, speckle, freckle, patch, smudge, streak, blotch, dab, *informal* splosh, splodge, *rare* macula ▶ verb the deer's flanks were flecked with white SPOT, mark, dot, speckle, bespeckle, freckle, stipple, stud, bestud, blotch, mottle, streak, splash, spatter, bespatter, scatter, sprinkle, *Scottish & Irish* slabber, *informal* splosh, splodge

fledgling ▶ noun a woodpecker fledgling CHICK, baby bird, nestling

▶ adjective fledgling industries EMERGING, emergent, sunrise, dawning, embryonic, infant, nascent, developing, in the making, budding, up-and-coming, rising –OPPOSITES declining, mature

flee ▶ verb ① she fled to her room RUN (AWAY/OFF), run for it, make a run for it, take flight, be gone, make off, take off, take to one's heels, make a break for it, bolt, beat a (hasty) retreat, make a quick exit, make one's getaway, escape, *informal* beat it, clear off/out, vamoose, skedaddle, split, leg it, turn tail, scram, *Brit informal* scarp, *N Amer informal* light out, bug out, cut out, peel out, *Austral informal* shoot through, *archaic* fly ② they fled the country RUN AWAY FROM, leave hastily, escape from, *informal* skip, *archaic* fly

fleece ▶ noun a sheep's fleece WOOL, coat

▶ verb (informal) we were fleeced by a ticket tout See SWINDLE verb

fleecy ▶ adjective FLUFFY, woolly, downy, soft, fuzzy, furry, velvety, shaggy, *technical* floccose, pilose –OPPOSITES coarse.

fleet¹ ▶ noun the fleet set sail. NAVY, naval force, (naval) task force, armada, flotilla, squadron, convoy

fleet² ▶ adjective (poetic/literary) as fleet as a greyhound: NIMBLE, agile, lithe, lissom, acrobatic, supple, light-footed, light on one's feet, spry, sprightly; quick, fast, swift, rapid, speedy, brisk, smart; *informal* nippy, zippy, twinkle-toed.

fleeting ▶ adjective BRIEF, short, short-lived, quick, momentary, cursory, transient, ephem-

eral, fugitive, passing, transitory; *poetic/literary* evanescent

—OPPOSITES lasting.

flesh ▶ **noun** ① *you need more flesh on your bones* MUSCLE, meat, tissue, brawn, *informal* beef ② *she carries too much flesh* FAT, weight, *Anatomy* adipose tissue, *informal* blubber, flab. ③ *a fruit with juicy flesh* PULP, soft part, marrow, meat ④ *the pleasures of the flesh* THE BODY, human nature, physicality, carnality, animality, sensuality, sexuality

—RELATED TERMS **CARN**—

■ **one's (own) flesh and blood** FAMILY, relative(s), relation(s), blood relation(s), kin, kinsfolk, kinsman, kinsmen, kinswoman, kinswomen, kindred, nearest and dearest, people, *informal* folks

■ **flesh out** PUT ON WEIGHT, gain weight, get heavier, grow fat/fatter, fatten up, get fat, fill out

■ **flesh something out** EXPAND (ON), elaborate on, add to, build on, add flesh to, put flesh on (the bones of), add detail to, expatiate on, supplement, reinforce, augment, fill out, enlarge on

■ **in the flesh** IN PERSON, before one's (very) eyes, in front of one, in real life, live, physically, bodily, in bodily/human form, incarnate

fleshly ▶ **adjective** CARNAL, physical, animal, bestial, sexual, sensual, erotic, lustful

—OPPOSITES spiritual, noble

fleshy ▶ **adjective** PLUMP, chubby, portly, fat, obese, overweight, stout, corpulent, paunchy, well padded, well covered, well upholstered, rotund, *informal* tubby, pudgy, beefy, porky, roly-poly, blubbery, *Brit informal* podgy, fubby, *N Amer informal* corn-fed, *Austral/NZ* nuggety, rare abdominal

—OPPOSITES thin

flex¹ ▶ **verb** ① *you must flex your elbow* BEND, creak, hook, cock, angle, double up ② *Rachel flexed her cramped muscles* TIGHTEN, tauten, tense (up), tension, contract

—OPPOSITES straighten, relax

flex² ▶ **noun** (*Brit*) an electric flex CABLE, WIRE, lead; *N Amer* cord

flexibility ▶ **noun** ① *the flexibility of wood* PLIABILITY, suppleness, pliancy, plasticity, elasticity, stretchiness, springiness, spring, resilience, bounce, *informal* give ② *the flexibility of an endowment loan* ADAPTABILITY, adjustability, variability, versatility, open-endedness, freedom, latitude ③ *the flexibility shown by the local authority* WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE, accommodation, amenability, cooperation, tolerance.

—OPPOSITES rigidity, inflexibility, intransigence

flexible ▶ **adjective** ① *flexible tubing* PLIABLE, supple, bendable, pliant, plastic; elastic, stretchy, whippy, springy, resilient, bouncy; *informal* bendy; *archaic* flexible. ② *a flexible arrangement*. ADAPTABLE, adjustable, variable, versatile, open-ended, open, free ③ *the need to be flexible towards tenants* ACCOMMODATING, amenable, willing to compromise, cooperative, tolerant, easy-going.

—OPPOSITES rigid, inflexible, intransigent

flick ▶ **noun** a flick of the wrist: JERK, snap, flip, whisk.

▶ **verb** ① *he flicked the switch*: CLICK, snap, flip.

jerk. ② *the horse flicked its tail*: SWISH, twitch, wave, wag, waggle, shake.

■ **flick through** THUMB (THROUGH), leaf through, flip through, skim through, scan, look through, browse through, dip into, glance at/through, peruse, run one's eye over.

flicker ▶ **verb** ① *the lights flickered*. GLIMMER, glint, flare, dance, gutter, twinkle, sparkle, blink, wink, flash, scintillate, *poetic/literary* glister, coruscate ② *his eyelids flickered*. FLUTTER, quiver, tremble, shiver, shudder, spasm, jerk, twitch

flight ▶ **noun** ① *the history of flight* AVIATION, flying, air transport, aerial navigation, aeronautics ② *a flight to Rome* PLANE TRIP/JOURNEY, air trip/journey, trip/journey by air ③ *the flight of a cricket ball* TRAJECTORY, path through the air, track, orbit. ④ *a flight of birds* FLOCK, skein, covey, swarm, cloud ⑤ *his headlong flight from home* ESCAPE, getaway, hasty departure, exit, exodus, decamping, breakout, bolt, disappearance, *Brit informal* flit ⑥ *a flight of stairs* STAIR CASE, set of steps/stairs

■ **put someone to flight** CHASE AWAY/OFF, drive back/away/off/out, scatter (to the four winds), disperse, repel, repulse, rout, stampede, scare off, *Brit* see off, *informal* send packing

■ **take flight** FLEE, run (away/off), run for it, make a run for it, be gone, make off, take off, take to one's heels, make a break for it, bolt, beat a (hasty) retreat, make a quick exit, make one's getaway, escape, *informal* beat it, clear off/out, vamoose, skedaddle, split, leg it, turn tail, scam, *Brit informal* scarper, *N Amer informal* light out, bug out, cut out, peel out, *Austral informal* shoot through, *archaic* fly

flighty ▶ **adjective** FICKLE, inconstant, mercurial, whimsical, capricious, skittish, volatile, impulsive, irresponsible, giddy, reckless, wild, careless, thoughtless

—OPPOSITES steady, responsible

flimsy ▶ **adjective** ① *a flimsy building*: INSUBSTANTIAL, fragile, breakable, frail, shaky, unstable, wobbly, tottery, rickety, ramshackle, makeshift, jerry-built, badly built, shoddy, gimcrack ② *a flimsy garment* THIN, light, fine, filmy, floaty, diaphanous, sheer, delicate, insubstantial, wispy, gossamer, gauzy ③ *flimsy evidence* WEAK, feeble, poor, inadequate, insufficient, thin, unsubstantial, unconvincing, implausible, unsatisfactory

—OPPOSITES sturdy, thick, sound

flinch ▶ **verb** ① *he flinched at the noise* WINCE, start, shudder, quiver, jerk, shy. ② *he never flinched from his duty* SHRINK FROM, recoil from, shy away from, swerve from, demur from; dodge, evade, avoid, duck, balk at, jib at, quail at, fight shy of.

fling ▶ **verb** *he flung the axe into the river*: THROW, toss, sling, hurl, cast, pitch, lob; *informal* chuck, heave, bung, buzz, *dated* shy

▶ **noun** ① *a birthday fling*: GOOD TIME, spree, bit of fun, fun and games, revels, larks; *informal* binge, night on the town ② *she had a brief fling with him*: AFFAIR, love affair, relationship, romance, affaire (de cœur), amour, flirtation, dalliance, liaison, entanglement, involvement, attachment

flip ▶ **verb** ① *the wave flipped the dinghy over* | *the plane flipped on to its back*: OVERTURN, turn over,





tip over, roll (over), upturn, capsize, upend, invert, knock over, keel over, topple over, turn turtle, *archaic* overset ② *he flipped the key through the air* THROW, flick, toss, fling, sling, pitch, cast, spin, lob, *informal* chuck, bung, *dated* shy ③ *I flipped the transmitter switch* FLICK, click, snap

■ **flip through** THUMB (THROUGH), leaf through, flick through, skim through, scan, look through, browse through, dip into, glance at/through, peruse, run one's eye over

flippancy ▶ **noun** FRIVOLITY, levity, facetiousness; disrespect, irreverence, impudence, cheek, impertinence; *Brit informal* sauce, *N Amer informal* sassiness, *dated* waggyery
-OPPOSITES seriousness, respect

flippant ▶ **adjective** FRIVOLOUS, facetious, tongue-in-cheek, disrespectful, irreverent, impudent, cheeky, impertinent, *informal* flip, saucy, waggish, *N Amer informal* sassy
-OPPOSITES serious, respectful

flirt ▶ **verb** ① *it amused him to flirt with her* TRIFLE WITH, toy with, tease, lead on. ② *those conservatives who flirted with fascism* DABBLE IN, toy with, trifle with, amuse oneself with, play with, tinker with, dip into, scratch the surface of ③ *he is flirting with danger* DICE WITH, court, risk, not fear.

▶ **noun** *Anna was quite a flirt*: TEASE, trisler, philanderer, coquette, heartbreaker, *archaic* fizgig

flirtation ▶ **noun** COQUETRY, teasing, trifling

flirtatious ▶ **adjective** COQUETTISH, flirty, kittenish, teasing

flit ▶ **verb** DART, dance, skip, play, dash, trip, flutter, bob, bounce

float ▶ **verb** ① *oil floats on water*. STAY AFLOAT, stay on the surface, be buoyant, be buoyed up ② *the balloon floated in the air* HOVER, levitate, be suspended, hang, defy gravity ③ *a cloud floated across the moon* DRIFT, glide, sail, slip, slide, waft ④ *they have just floated that idea* SUGGEST, put forward, come up with, submit, moot, propose, advance, test the popularity of, *informal* run something up the flagpole (to see who salutes) ⑤ *the company was floated on the Stock Exchange*: LAUNCH, get going, get off the ground, offer, sell, introduce
-OPPOSITES sink, rush, withdraw

floating ▶ **adjective** ① *floating seaweed*. BUOYANT, on the surface, afloat, drifting ② *floating gas balloons* HOVERING, levitating, suspended, hanging, defying gravity ③ *floating voters* UNCOMMITTED, undecided, in two minds, torn, split, uncertain, unsure, wavering, vacillating, indecisive, blowing hot and cold, undeclared; *informal* sitting on the fence. ④ *a floating population* UNSETTLED, transient, temporary, variable, fluctuating, migrant, wandering, nomadic, on the move, migratory, travelling, drifting, roving, roaming, itinerant, vagabond. ⑤ *a floating exchange rate* VARIABLE, changeable, changing, fluid, fluctuating
-OPPOSITES sunken, grounded, committed, settled, fixed.

flock ▶ **noun** ① *a flock of sheep*: HERD, drove. ② *a flock of birds*: FLIGHT, congregation, covey, clutch. ③ *flocks of people*: CROWD, throng, horde, mob, rabble, mass, multitude, host, army, pack, swarm, sea; *informal* gaggle

▶ **verb** ① *people flocked around Jesus*: GATHER, col-

lect, congregate, assemble, converge, mass, crowd, throng, cluster, swarm; *formal* foregather ② *tourists flock to the place*: STREAM, go in large numbers, swarm, crowd, troop

flog ▶ **verb** ① *the thief was flogged* WHIP, scourge, flagellate, lash, birch, switch, cane, thrash, beat, tan/whip someone's hide ② (*Brit informal*) *he is flogging his old car* SELL, put on sale, put up for sale, offer for sale, trade in, deal in, peddle, *informal* push

flood ▶ **noun** ① *a flood warning* INUNDATION, swaniping, deluge, torrent, overflow, flash flood, freshet, *Brit* spate ② *a flood of tears*. OUT POURING, torrent, rush, stream, gush, surge, cascade ③ *a flood of complaints* SUCCESSION, series, string, chain, barrage, volley, battery, avalanche, torrent, stream, tide, spate, storm, shower, cascade
-OPPOSITES trickle

▶ **verb** ① *the whole town was flooded* INUNDATE, swamp, deluge, immerse, submerge, drown, engulf ② *the river could flood* OVERFLOW, burst its banks, brim over, run over ③ *imports are flooding the domestic market*. GLUT, swamp, saturate, oversupply ④ *refugees flooded in* POUR, stream, flow, surge, swarm, pile, crowd
-OPPOSITES trickle

floor ▶ **noun** ① *he sat on the floor* GROUND, flooring ② *the second floor* STOREY, level, deck, tier

▶ **verb** ① *he floored his attacker* KNOCK DOWN, knock over, bring down, fell, prostrate, *informal* lay out ② (*informal*) *the question floored him* BAF FLE, defeat, confound, perplex, puzzle, non-plus, mystify; *informal* beat, flummox, stump, fox, make someone scratch their head, *N Amer informal* buffalo, *archaic* pose

flop ▶ **verb** ① *he flopped into a chair* COLLAPSE, slump, crumple, subside, sink, drop. ② *his hair flopped over his eyes* HANG (DOWN), dangle, droop, sag, loll ③ (*informal*) *the play flopped* BE UNSUCCESSFUL, fail, not work, fall flat, founder, misfire, backfire, be a disappointment, do badly, lose money, be a disaster, *informal* bomb, go to the wall, come a cropper, bite the dust, blow up in someone's face, *N Amer informal* tank
-OPPOSITES succeed

▶ **noun** (*informal*) *the play was a flop* FAILURE, disaster, debacle, catastrophe, loser; *Brit* damp squib; *informal* flopperoo, washout, also-ran, dog, lemon, non-starter; *N Amer informal* clinker
-OPPOSITES success.

floppy ▶ **adjective** LIMP, flaccid, slack, flabby, relaxed; drooping, droopy; loose, flowing
-OPPOSITES erect, stiff.

florid ▶ **adjective** ① *a florid complexion*. RUDDY, red, red-faced, rosy, rosy-cheeked, pink, flushed, blushing, high-coloured; *archaic* sanguine. ② *florid plasterwork*. ORNATE, fancy, elaborate, embellished, curlicued, extravagant, flamboyant, baroque, rococo, fussy, busy ③ *florid English*: FLOWERY, flamboyant, high-flown, high-sounding, grandiloquent, ornate, fancy, bombastic, elaborate, turgid, pleonastic; *informal* highfalutin; *rare* fustian.

-OPPOSITES pale, plain.

flotsam ▶ **noun** WRECKAGE, lost cargo, floating remains; rubbish, debris, detritus, waste, dross, refuse, scrap; *N Amer* trash, garbage; *informal* dreck, junk; *Brit informal* grot.

Flowering Plants and Shrubs

- Aaron's rod
 abelia
 abutilon
 acacia
 acanthus
 achimenes
 aconite
 African daisy
 African violet
 agapanthus
 agave
 agrimony
 akebia
 albizzia
 alkanet
 allamanda
 aloe
 alstroemeria
 alyssum
 amaranth
 amaryllis
 anchusa
 anemone
 angelica
 angel's trumpet
 anthurium
 aquilegia
 arabis
 arbutus
 arnica
 arrowgrass
 arum lily
 asphodel
 aspidistra
 aster
 astilbe
 astrantia
 aubretia
 autumn crocus
 avens
 azalea
 baby's breath
 bachelor's buttons
 balsam
 baneberry
 banksia
 barberry
 barrenwort
 bauera
 bearberry
 bear's breech
 bedstraw
 begonia
 belladonna
 bellflower
 bergamot
 bergenia
 betony
 bignonia
 bilberry
 bindi-eye
 bindweed
 bird of paradise
 flower
 bird's-eye
 primrose
 bird's-eye
 speedwell
 bird's-foot trefoil
 bird's-nest
 birthwort
 bistort
 bittersweet
 black-eyed Susan
 blackthorn
 blazing star
 bleeding heart
 bloodroot
 bluebell
 blue-eyed grass
 blue-eyed Mary
 bluet
 bog asphodel
 bog rosemary
 boneset
 borage
 boronia
 bottlebrush
 bougainvillea
 bramble
 brooklime
 brookweed
 broom
 broomrape
 bryony
 buckeye
 buddleia
 bugbane
 bugle
 bugloss
 bulrush
 bunchberry
 bunchflower
 burdock
 bur-marigold
 burnet
 busy Lizzie
 butterbur
 buttercup
 butterfly bush
 butterwort
 buttonbush
 cabbage rose
 cactus
 calamint
 calamondin
 calceolaria
 calendula
 California poppy
 camas
 camellia
 camomile
 campanula
 campion
 canary creeper
 candytuft
 canna lily
 Canterbury bell
 Cape primrose
 cardinal flower
 carnation
 carrion flower
 catchfly
 catmint
 cattleya
 ceanothus
 celandine
 centaury
 chaffweed
 champak
 charlock
 checkerberry
 Cherokee rose
 chervil
 chickweed
 chicory
 chinaberry
 chinchinchee
 Chinese lantern
 chionodoxa
 chives
 choisya
 chokeberry
 cholla
 Christmas cactus
 Christmas rose
 chrysanthemum
 cicely
 cinchona
 cineraria
 cinquefoil
 cistus
 clarkia
 clematis
 dianthus
 clivia
 cloudberry
 clove pink
 clover
 cockscomb
 coltsfoot
 columbine
 comfrey
 coneflower
 convolvulus
 coralberry
 coral tree
 coreopsis
 corncockle
 cornflower
 corydalis
 cotoneaster
 cottonweed
 cow parsley
 cowslip
 cranesbill
 creeping Jenny
 crocus
 crosswort
 crowfoot
 crown imperial
 crown of thorns
 cuckoo flower
 cuckoo pint
 cupid's dart
 cyclamen
 cymbidium
 cyphel
 daffodil
 dahilia
 daisy
 damask rose
 dandelion
 daphne
 datura
 day lily
 deadly nightshade
 delphinium
 desert rose
 deutzia
 devil's bit scabious
 dianthus
 dill
 dittany
 dock
 dogbane
 dog rose
 dog's mercury
 dog violet
 dropwort
 duckweed
 Dutchman's
 breeches
 echinacea
 edelweiss
 eglantine
 elder
 epiphyllum
 escallonia
 eschscholzia
 eucryphia
 evening primrose
 eyebright
 felwort
 feverfew
 figwort
 firethorn
 flax
 fleabane
 flaxweed
 fluellen
 forget-me-not
 forsythia
 foxglove
 frangipani
 fraxinella
 freesia
 fritillary
 fuchsia
 fumitory
 furze
 gallardia
 gardenia
 gazania
 geebung
 genista
 gentian
 geranium
 gerbera
 gillyflower
 gladdon
 gladiolus
 globeflower
 globe thistle
 glory-of-the-snow
 gloxinia
 goat's beard
 godetia
 golden rod
 goldlocks
 gorse
 grape hyacinth
 grass of Parnassus
 gromwell
 groundsel
 guelder rose
 gypsophila
 gypsywort
 harebell
 hare's-foot
 hawkbit
 hawksbeard
 hawkweed
 hawthorn
 heartsease
 heather
 hebe
 helenium
 helianthemum
 helianthus
 heliconia
 heliotrope
 hellebore
 helleborine
 hemlock
 hemp agrimony
 hepatica
 herb Christopher
 herb Paris
 herb Robert
 heuchera
 hibiscus
 hobblebush
 hogweed
 holly
 hollyhock
 honesty
 honeysuckle
 honeywort
 hop
 hosta
 Hottentot fig
 hound's tongue
 houseleek
 hoya
 hyacinth
 hydrangea
 ice plant
 Indian pipe
 iris
 ixia
 jacaranda
 jack-by-the-hedge
 Jacob's ladder
 japonica
 jasmine
 jonquil
 juneberry
 Kaffir lily
 kalanchoe
 kalmia
 kangaroo paw
 karo
 kayakeet
 kerria
 kidney vetch
 kingcup
 knapweed
 knotgrass
 kudzu
 laburnum
 lady's bedstraw
 lady's finger
 lady's mantle
 lady's slipper

Flowering Plants and Shrubs (cont.)

lady's smock	moschatel	poppy	sheep's-bit	teasel
lady's tresses	motherwort	potentilla	shepherd's needle	thistle
larkspur	mullein	prickly pear	shooting star	thorn apple
laurustinus	musk rose	prickly poppy	shrimp plant	thrift
lavatera	myrtle	primrose	silverberry	tiger lily
lavender	narcissus	primula	silversword	toadflax
lemon balm	nasturtium	privet	skimmia	tormentil
leopard lily	nemesia	protea	skulkcap	touch-me-not
lilac	nettle	pulsatilla	skyflower	tradescantia
lily	nicotiana	purslane	slipperwort	traveller's joy
lily of the valley	nigella	pyracantha	snakeroot	trefoil
lobelia	night-scented stock	pyrethrum	snapdragon	trillium
London pride	nightshade	Queen Anne's lace	sneezeweed	tuberose
loosestrife	nopal	rabbitbrush	snowdrop	tulip
loranthus	num-num	rafflesia	snowflake	turnsole
lords and ladies	ocotillo	ragged robin	snow-in-summer	turtle-grass
lotus	old man's beard	ragweed	soapwort	turtlehead
lovage	oleander	ragwort	soldanella	twayblade
love-in-a-mist	orchid	rampion	Solomon's seal	valerian
love-lies-bleeding	organ pipe cactus	ramsons	sorrel	velvetleaf
lungwort	orpine	rape	sowbread	Venus flytrap
lupin	ox-eye	red-hot poker	sowthistle	verbena
madonna lily	ox-eye daisy	red rattle	Spanish bayonet	veronica
magnolia	oxlip	restharrow	sparaxis	vervain
mahonia	ox-tongue	rhododendron	spatterdock	vetch
mallow	oyster plant	rhodora	speedwell	viburnum
malope	paloverde	rock rose	spider flower	violet
mandrake	pansy	rose	spider plant	viper's bugloss
marguerite	Parma violet	rosebay	spiderwort	wallflower
marigold	parsley	willowherb	spignel	waratah
mariposa tulip	pasque flower	rose of Sharon	spikenard	water lily
marsh marigold	passion flower	rudbeckia	spiraea	water violet
marshwort	paulownia	rugosa	spurge	weigela
marvel of Peru	pelargonium	safflower	spurrey	willowherb
may	pennyroyal	saffron crocus	squill	wintergreen
mayapple	penstemon	saguaro	stapelia	winter jasmine
mayflower	peony	sainfoin	star of Bethlehem	wintersweet
mayweed	peppermint	St John's wort	starwort	wisteria
meadow rue	periwinkle	St Patrick's cabbage	stephanotis	witch hazel
meadow saffron	petunia	salal	stitchwort	wolfsbane
meadowsweet	peyote	salpiglossis	stock	wood anemone
Michaelmas daisy	phacelia	salvia	stonecrop	wood avens
mignonette	pheasant's eye	samphire	storax	woodruff
milfoil	phlox	sandwort	storksbill	wood sage
milkwort	pimpernel	sarcococca	strawflower	wood sorrel
mimosa	pincushion	sasanqua	streptocarpus	woody nightshade
mint	plaris	saw-wort	sundrops	wormwood
mistletoe	plinesap	saxifrage	sunflower	yarrow
mock orange	pink	scabious	sweetbriar	yellow archangel
moly	pitcher plant	scarlet pimpernel	sweet cicely	yellow rattle
monkey flower	plantain	schizanthus	sweet pea	yellow-wort
monkshood	plumbago	scilla	sweet rocket	yerba buena
montbretia	poinsettia	sea holly	sweet sultan	yucca
moonflower	pokeweed	sedum	sweet william	yulan
morning glory	polyanthus	shamrock	tansy	zinnia
			tea rose	

flounce¹ ► verb she flounced off to her room.
STORM, stride angrily, sweep, stomp, stamp, march, strut, stalk.

flounce² ► noun a lace flounce: FRILL, ruffle, ruff, peplum, jabot, furbelow, ruche.

flounder ► verb ❶ people were floundering in the water: STRUGGLE, thrash, flail, twist and turn, splash, stagger, stumble, reel, lurch, blunder, squirm, writhe ❷ she floundered, not knowing quite what to say: STRUGGLE MENTALLY, be out of one's depth, have difficulty, be confounded, be confused; informal scratch one's head, be flum-

moxed, be clueless, be foxed, be fazed, be flooded, be beaten. ❸ more firms are floundering: STRUGGLE FINANCIALLY, be in dire straits, face financial ruin, be in difficulties, face bankruptcy/insolvency.
-OPPOSITES prosper.

flourish ► verb ❶ ferns flourish in the shade: GROW, thrive, prosper, do well, burgeon, increase, multiply, proliferate; spring up, shoot up, bloom, blossom, bear fruit, burst forth, run riot. ❷ the arts flourished: THRIVE, prosper, bloom, be in good health, be vigorous, be in its

heyday, progress, make progress, advance, make headway, develop, improve, evolve, make strides, move forward (in leaps and bounds), expand, *informal* be in the pink, go places, go great guns, get somewhere ③ *he flourished the sword at them* BRANDISH, wave, shake, wield; swing, twirl, swish, display, exhibit, flaunt, show off

—OPPOSITES die, wither, decline

flout ▶ **verb** DEFY, refuse to obey, disobey, break, violate, fail to comply with, fail to observe, contravene, infringe, breach, commit a breach of, transgress against, ignore, disregard, *informal* cock a snook at

—OPPOSITES observe

flow ▶ **verb** ① *the water flowed down the channel* RUN, course, glide, drift, circulate, trickle, seep, ooze, dribble, drip, drizzle, spill, stream, swirl, surge, sweep, gush, cascade, pour, roll, rush ② *many questions flow from today's announcement* RESULT, proceed, arise, follow, ensue, derive, stem, accrue, originate, emanate, spring, emerge; be caused by, be brought about by, be produced by, be consequent on

▶ **noun** a good flow of water MOVEMENT, motion, current, flux, circulation, trickle, ooze, percolation, drip, stream, swirl, surge, gush, rush, spate, tide.

flower ▶ **noun** ① *blue flowers* BLOOM, blossom, floweret, floret See lists ② *the flower of the nation's youth* BEST, finest, pick, choice, cream, the crème de la crème, elite

—RELATED TERMS floral, flor-

—OPPOSITES dregs

Types and Parts of Flowers

androecium	involucre	pollinium
anther	lemma	raceme
calyx	lip	rachis
capitulum	monochasium	receptacle
carpel	nectary	sepal
carpophore	nucellus	spadix
catkin	ovary	spathe
corolla	ovule	spike
corymb	palea	spikelet
cyathium	panicle	spur
cyme	pedicel	stamen
dichasium	peduncle	stigma
filament	perianth	style
floret	petal	tassel
glume	pistil	tepal
gynoecium	placenta	torus
hypanthium	pollen	umbel
involucel	pollen grain	whorl

flowery ▶ **adjective** ① *flowery fabrics* FLORAL, flower-patterned. ② *flowery language* FLORID, flamboyant, ornate, fancy, convoluted, high-flown, high-sounding, magniloquent, grandiloquent, baroque, orotund, overblown, pleonastic, *informal* highfalutin, purple; *rare* fustian

—OPPOSITES plain.

flowing ▶ **adjective** ① *long flowing hair* LOOSE, free, unconfined, draping ② *the new model will have soft, flowing lines*: SLEEK, streamlined, aerodynamic, smooth, clean; elegant, graceful, technical faired. ③ *he writes in an easy, flowing style* FLUENT, fluid, free-flowing, effortless, easy, natural, smooth.

—OPPOSITES stiff, curly, jagged, halting.

fluctuate ▶ **verb** VARY, change, differ, shift, alter, waver, swing, oscillate, alternate, rise and fall, go up and down, see-saw, yo-yo, be unstable

fluctuation ▶ **noun** VARIATION, change, shift, alteration, swing, movement, oscillation, alternation, rise and fall, see-sawing, yo-yoing, instability, unsteadiness

—OPPOSITES stability

flue ▶ **noun** DUCT, tube, shaft, vent, pipe, passage, channel, conduit, funnel, chimney, smokestack.

fluent ▶ **adjective** ① *a fluent speech* ARTICULATE, eloquent, expressive, communicative, coherent, cogent, illuminating, vivid ② *fluent in French* ARTICULATE, (be fluent in) have a (good) command of ③ *a very fluent running style* FREE-FLOWING, smooth, effortless, easy, natural, fluid, graceful, elegant, regular, rhythmic

—OPPOSITES inarticulate, jerky

fluff ▶ **noun** ① *fluff on her sleeve* FUZZ, lint, dust, N Amer dustballs, dust bunnies ② (*informal*) *he only made a few fluffs*: MISTAKE, error, slip, slip of the tongue, wrong note, *informal* slip-up, formal lapsus lingue

▶ **verb** (*informal*) *Penney fluffed the shot | he fluffed his only line* BUNGLER, make a mess of, fumble, miss, deliver badly, muddle up, forget, *informal* mess up, make a hash of, make a botch of, foul up, bitch up, screw up, *Brit informal* make a muck of, make a pig's ear of, cock up, make a Horlicks of, N Amer *informal* flub, goof up

—OPPOSITES succeed in

fluffy ▶ **adjective** FLEECY, woolly, fuzzy, hairy, feathery, downy, furry, soft

—OPPOSITES rough

fluid ▶ **noun** *the fluid seeps up the tube* LIQUID, watery substance, solution, GAS, gaseous substance, vapour

—OPPOSITES solid

▶ **adjective** ① *a fluid substance* FREE-FLOWING, liquid, liquefied, melted, molten, runny, running, gaseous, gassy ② *his plans were still fluid* ADAPTABLE, flexible, adjustable, open-ended, open, open to change, changeable, variable ③ *the fluid state of affairs* FLUCTUATING, changeable, subject/likely to change, (ever-)shifting, inconstant, unstable, unsettled, turbulent, volatile, mercurial, protean ④ *he stood up in one fluid movement* SMOOTH, fluent, flowing, effortless, easy, continuous, graceful, elegant

—OPPOSITES solid, firm, static, jerky

fluke ▶ **noun** CHANCE, coincidence, accident, twist of fate, piece of luck, stroke of good luck/fortune

fluky ▶ **adjective** LUCKY, fortunate, providential, timely, opportune, serendipitous, expedient, heaven-sent, auspicious, propitious, felicitous, chance, fortuitous, accidental, unintended; *Brit informal* jammy.

—OPPOSITES planned

flummox ▶ **verb** (*informal*) BAFFLE, perplex, puzzle, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound, nonplus; *informal* faze, stump, beat, fox, make someone scratch their head, be all Greek to, floor, N Amer *informal* discombobulate, buf-falo

flunkkey ▶ **noun** ① *a flunkkey brought us drinks*: LIVERIED SERVANT, lackey, steward, butler, footman, valet, attendant, page ② *government flunk-*

keys searched his offices MINION, lackey, hireling, subordinate, underling, servant; creature, instrument, cat's paw; *informal* stooge, gofer, *Brit informal* poodle, dogsbody, skivvy

flurried ▶ **adjective** AGITATED, flustered, ruffled, in a panic, worked up, beside oneself, overwrought, perturbed, frantic, *informal* in a flap, in a state, in a twitter, in a fluster, in a dither, all of a dither, all of a lather, in a tizz/tizzy, in a tiz-woz, *Brit informal* in a (flat) spin, having kittens; *N. Amer informal* in a twit
-OPPOSITES calm

flurry ▶ **noun** ① a flurry of snow SWIRL, whirl, eddy, billow, shower, gust ② a flurry of activity BURST, outbreak, spurt, fit, spell, bout, rash, eruption, fuss, stir, bustle, hubbub, commotion, disturbance, furore, *informal* to-do, flap. ③ a flurry of imports: SPATE, wave, flood, deluge, torrent, stream, tide, avalanche, series, succession, string, outbreak, rash, explosion, run, rush
-OPPOSITES dearth, trickle.

▶ **verb** snow flurried through the door SWIRL, whirl, eddy, billow, gust, blast, blow, rush

flush¹ ▶ **verb** ① she flushed in embarrassment BLUSH, redden, go pink, go red, go crimson, go scarlet, colour (up); *archaic* mantle ② fruit helps to flush toxins from the body RINSE, wash, sluice, swill, cleanse, clean, *Brit informal* sloosh ③ they flushed out the snipers DRIVE, chase, force, dislodge, expel, frighten, scare
-OPPOSITES pale

▶ **noun** ① a flush crept over her face BLUSH, reddening, high colour, colour, rosiness, pinkness, ruddiness, bloom ② the first flush of manhood BLOOM, glow, freshness, radiance, vigour, rush
-OPPOSITES paleness

flush² ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) ① the company was flush with cash WELL SUPPLIED, well provided, well stocked, replete, overflowing, bursting, brimful, brimming, loaded, overloaded, teeming, stuffed, swarming, thick, solid; full of, abounding in, rich in, abundant in, *informal* awash, jam-packed, chock-full of, *Austral/NZ informal* chocker ② the years when cash was flush PLENTIFUL, abundant, in abundance, copious, ample, profuse, superabundant, *informal* a gogo, galore, *poetic/literary* plenteous, bounteous
-OPPOSITES lacking, low (on).

flushed ▶ **adjective** ① flushed faces: RED, pink, ruddy, glowing, reddish, pinkish, rosy, florid, high-coloured, healthy-looking, aglow, burning, feverish, blushing, red-faced, embarrassed, shamefaced ② flushed with success ELATED, excited, thrilled, exhilarated, happy, delighted, overjoyed, joyous, gleeful, jubilant, exultant, ecstatic, euphoric, rapturous; *informal* blissed out, over the moon, high, on a high; *N. Amer informal* wiggled out.
-OPPOSITES pale, dismayed.

fluster ▶ **verb** she was flustered by his presence. UNSETTLE, make nervous, unnerve, agitate, ruffle, upset, bother, put on edge, disquiet, disturb, worry, perturb, disconcert, confuse, throw off balance, confound, nonplus; *informal* rattle, faze, put into a flap, throw into a tizzy; *Brit informal* send into a spin; *N. Amer informal* discombobulate.
-OPPOSITES calm.

▶ **noun** I was in a terrible fluster: STATE OF AGITATION, state of anxiety, nervous state, panic, frenzy,

fret, *informal* dither, flap, tizz, tizzy, tiz-woz, twitter, state, sweat; *N. Amer informal* twit
-OPPOSITES state of calm.

fluted ▶ **adjective** GROOVED, channelled, furrowed, ribbed, corrugated, ridged.
-OPPOSITES smooth, plain

flutter ▶ **verb** ① butterflies fluttered around. FLIT, hover, flutter, dance. ② a tern was fluttering its wings FLAP, move up and down, beat, quiver, agitate, vibrate ③ she fluttered her eyelashes FLICKER, bat. ④ flags fluttered FLAP, wave, ripple, undulate, quiver; fly ⑤ her heart fluttered BEAT WEAKLY, beat irregularly, palpitate, miss/skip a beat, quiver, go pit-a-pat; *Medicine* exhibit arrhythmia, *rare* quop

▶ **noun** ① the flutter of wings BEATING, flapping, quivering, agitation, vibrating. ② a flutter of dark eyelashes FLICKER, bat ③ the flutter of the flags FLAPPING, waving, rippling ④ a flutter of nervousness TREMOR, wave, rush, surge, flash, stab, flush, tremble, quiver, shiver, frisson, chill, thrill, tingle, shudder, ripple, flicker ⑤ (*Brit informal*) he enjoys a flutter on the horses BET, wager, gamble, *Brit informal* punt

flux ▶ **noun** CONTINUOUS CHANGE, changeability, variability, inconstancy, fluidity, instability, unsteadiness, fluctuation, variation, shift, movement, oscillation, alternation, rise and fall, see-sawing, yo-yoing
-OPPOSITES stability

fly¹ ▶ **verb** ① a bird flew overhead. TRAVEL THROUGH THE AIR, wing its way, wing, glide, soar, wheel, hover, hang, take wing, take to the air, mount ② they flew to Paris TRAVEL BY PLANE/AIR, jet ③ military planes flew in food supplies TRANSPORT BY PLANE/AIR, airlift, lift, jet ④ he could fly a plane PILOT, operate, control, manoeuvre, steer ⑤ the ship was flying a quarantine flag DISPLAY, show, exhibit, have hoisted, have run up ⑥ flags flew in the town FLUTTER, flap, wave ⑦ doesn't time fly? GO QUICKLY, fly by/past, pass swiftly, slip past, rush past. ⑧ the runners flew by See SPEED verb sense 1 ⑨ (*archaic*) the beaten army had to fly See FLEE sense 1 ⑩ (*dated*) they had to fly the country See FLEE sense 2

■ **fly** AT ATTACK, assault, pounce on, set upon, set about, weigh into, let fly at, turn on, round on, lash out at, hit out at, belabour, fall on; *informal* lay into, tear into, lace into, sail into, pitch into, wade into, let someone have it, jump, *Brit informal* have a go at, *N. Amer informal* light into.

■ **let fly.** See LET

fly² ▶ **noun.** See *hst* at INSECT

fly³ ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) she's fly enough not to get conned: SHREWD, sharp, astute, acute, canny, worldly-wise, knowing, clever; *informal* street-wise, not born yesterday, smart, no fool, nobody's fool; *Brit informal* suss, knowing how many beans make five, *Scottish & N. English informal* pawky.
-OPPOSITES naive.

fly-by-night ▶ **adjective** UNRELIABLE, un dependable, untrustworthy, disreputable; DISHONEST, deceitful, dubious, unscrupulous, *informal* iffy, shady, shifty, slippery, crooked; *Brit. informal* dodgy, bent; *Austral/NZ informal* shonky.
-OPPOSITES reliable, honest.

flyer, flier ▶ **noun** ① frequent flyers: AIR TRAVELLER, air passenger, airline customer. ② flyers

killed in the war **PILOT**, airman, airwoman, *N Amer informal jock, dated aviator, aeronaut* See *list at PILOT* ③ *flyers promoting a new sandwich bar* **HANDBILL**, bill, handout, leaflet, circular, advertisement, *N Amer dodger*.

flying ▶ **adjective** ① *a flying beetle* **WINGED**, **AIR BORNE**, in the air, in flight ② *a flying visit* **BRIEF**, short, lightning, fleeting, hasty, rushed, hurried, quick, whistle-stop, cursory, perfunctory, *informal quickie*
-**OPPOSITES** long

foam ▶ **noun** *the foam on the waves* **FROTH**, spume, surf, fizz, effervescence, bubbles, head, lather, suds

▶ **verb** *the water foamed* **FROTH**, spume, fizz, effervesce, bubble, lather, ferment, rise, boil, seethe, simmer

foamy ▶ **adjective** **FROTHY**, foaming, spumy, bubbly, aerated, bubbling, sudsy, whipped, whisked

fob

■ **fob someone off** *I wasn't going to be fobbed off with excuses* **PUT OFF**, stall, give someone the runaround, deceive, placate, appease

■ **fob something off on** *he fobbed off the chairmanship on Clifford* **IMPOSE**, palm off, unload, dump, get rid of, foist, offload; saddle someone with something, land someone with something, lumber someone with something

focus ▶ **noun** ① *schools are a focus of community life* **CENTRE**, focal point, central point, centre of attention, hub, pivot, nucleus, heart, cornerstone, linchpin, cynosure ② *the focus is on helping people* **EMPHASIS**, accent, priority, attention, concentration ③ *the main focus of this chapter* **SUBJECT**, theme, concern, subject matter, topic, issue, thesis, point, thread, substance, essence, gist, matter ④ *the resulting light beams are brought to a focus at the eyepiece* **FOCAL POINT**, point of convergence

▶ **verb** ① *he focused his binoculars on the tower* **BRING INTO FOCUS**, aim, point, turn ② *the investigation will focus on areas of social need* **CONCENTRATE**, centre, zero in, zoom in, address itself to, pay attention to, pinpoint, revolve around, have as its starting point

■ **in focus** **SHARP**, crisp, distinct, clear, well defined, well focused.

■ **out of focus** **BLURRED**, unfocused, indistinct, blurry, fuzzy, hazy, misty, cloudy, lacking definition, nebulous

foe ▶ **noun** (*poetic/literary*) **ENEMY**, adversary, opponent, rival, antagonist, combatant, challenger, competitor, opposer, opposition, competition, other side

-**OPPOSITES** friend

fog ▶ **noun** **MIST**, smog, murk, haze, haar, *N English (sea) fret, informal pea-souper, poetic/literary brume, fume*.

▶ **verb** ① *the windscreen fogged up | his breath fogged the glass* **STEAM UP**, mist over, cloud over, film over, make/become misty. ② *his brain was fogged with sleep* **MUDDLE**, daze, stupefy, fuddle, befuddle, bewilder, confuse, befog; *poetic/literary* bedim, becloud.

-**OPPOSITES** demist, clear.

foggy ▶ **adjective** ① *the weather was foggy* **MISTY**, smoggy, hazy, murky. ② *she was foggy with sleep | a foggy memory* **MUDDIED**, fuddled, befuddled, confused, at sea, bewildered, dazed, stupefied,

numb, groggy, fuzzy, bleary, dark, dim, hazy, shadowy, cloudy, blurred, obscure, vague, indistinct, unclear; *informal* dopey, woolly, woozy, out of it.

-**OPPOSITES** clear

folble ▶ **noun** **WEAKNESS**, failing, shortcoming, flaw, imperfection, blemish, fault, defect, limitation, quirk, kink, idiosyncrasy, eccentricity, peculiarity

-**OPPOSITES** strength

foil ▶ **verb** *their escape attempt was foiled* **THWART**, frustrate, counter, baulk, impede, obstruct, hamper, hinder, snooker, cripple, scotch, derail, smash, stop, block, prevent, defeat; *informal* do for, put paid to, stymie, cook someone's goose, *Brit informal* scupper, nobble, queer, put the mockers on

-**OPPOSITES** assist

foil ▶ **noun** *the wine was a perfect foil to pasta* **CONTRAST**, complement, antithesis, relief

foist ▶ **verb** **IMPOSE**, force, thrust, offload, unload, dump, palm off, fob off; pass off, get rid of, saddle someone with, land someone with, lumber someone with

fold ▶ **verb** ① *I folded the cloth* **DOUBLE** (**OVER/UP**), crease, turn under/up/over, bend, tuck, gather, pleat ② *fold the cream into the chocolate mixture* **MIX**, blend, stir gently ③ *he folded her in his arms* **ENFOLD**, wrap, envelop; take, gather, clasp, squeeze, clutch; embrace, hug, cuddle, cradle ④ *the firm folded last year* **FAIL**, collapse, founder, go bankrupt, become insolvent, cease trading, go into receivership, go into liquidation, be wound up, be closed (down), be shut (down), *informal* crash, go bust, go broke, go under, go to the wall, go belly up.

▶ **noun** *there was a fold in the paper* **CREASE**, knife-edge, wrinkle, crinkle, pucker, furrow; pleat, gather

fold ▶ **noun** ① *the sheep were in their fold* **ENCLOSURE**, pen, paddock, pound, compound, ring, *N Amer corral* ② *Lloyd George returned to the Liberal fold* **COMMUNITY**, group, body, company, mass, throng, flock, congregation, assembly

folder ▶ **noun** **FILE**, binder, ring binder, portfolio, document case, envelope, sleeve, wallet.

follage ▶ **noun** **LEAVES**, leafage; greenery, vegetation, verdure

folk ▶ **noun** (*informal*) ① *the local folk* **PEOPLE**, individuals, (men, women, and children), (living) souls, mortals, citizenry, inhabitants, residents, populace, population, *informal* peeps, *formal* denizens. ② *my folks came from the north* **RELATIVES**, relations, blood relations, family, nearest and dearest, people, kinsfolk, kinsmen, kinswomen, kin, kith and kin, kindred, flesh and blood.

folklore ▶ **noun** **MYTHOLOGY**, lore, oral history, tradition, folk tradition, legends, fables, myths, folk tales, folk stories, old wives' tales; mythos

follow ▶ **verb** ① *we'll let the others follow* **COME BEHIND**, come after, go behind, go after, walk behind ② *he was expected to follow his father in the business* **TAKE THE PLACE OF**, replace, succeed, take over from; *informal* step into someone's shoes, fill someone's shoes/boots. ③ *people used to follow the band around* **ACCOMPANY**, go along with, go around with, travel with, escort, attend, trail around with, string along with; *infor-*



mal tag along with ① the KGB man followed her everywhere SHADOW, trail, stalk, track, dog, hound, informal tail ② do follow the instructions OBEY, comply with, conform to, adhere to, stick to, keep to, act in accordance with, abide by, observe, heed, pay attention to ③ penalties may follow from such behaviour RESULT, arise, be a consequence of, be caused by, be brought about by, be a result of, come after, develop, ensue, emanate, issue, proceed, spring, flow, originate, stem ④ I couldn't follow what he said UNDERSTAND, comprehend, apprehend, take in, grasp, fathom, appreciate, see, informal make head or tail of, get, figure out, savvy, get one's head around, get one's mind around, get the drift of, Brt informal suss out ⑤ he followed his master in his poetic style IMITATE, copy, mimic, ape, reproduce, mirror, echo, emulate, take as a pattern, take as an example, take as a model, adopt the style of, model oneself on, take a leaf out of someone's book ⑥ he follows Manchester United BE A FAN OF, be a supporter of, support, be a follower of, be an admirer of, be a devotee of, be devoted to

—OPPOSITES lead, flout, misunderstand

■ follow something through COMPLETE, bring to completion, see something through, continue with, carry on with, keep on with, keep going with, stay with, informal stick something out

■ follow something up INVESTIGATE, research, look into, dig into, delve into, make enquiries into, enquire about, ask questions about, pursue, chase up, informal check out, N Amer informal scope out

follower ► noun ① the president's closest followers ACOLYTE, assistant, attendant, companion, henchman, minion, lackey, servant, informal hanger-on, sidekick, archaic liegeman ② a follower of Caravaggio IMITATOR, emulator, copier, mimic, pupil, disciple, informal copycat ③ a follower of Christ DISCIPLE, apostle, supporter, defender, champion, believer, worshipper ④ followers of Scottish football FAN, enthusiast, admirer, devotee, lover, supporter, adherent, N Amer informal rooter

—OPPOSITES leader, opponent

following ► noun his devoted following ADMIRERS, supporters, backers, fans, adherents, devotees, advocates, patrons, public, audience, circle, retinue, train

—OPPOSITES opposition

► adjective ① the following day NEXT, ensuing, succeeding, subsequent ② the following questions below, further on, underneath, these, formal hereunder, hereinafter

—OPPOSITES preceding, aforementioned

folly ► noun FOOLISHNESS, foolhardiness, stupidity, idiocy, lunacy, madness, rashness, recklessness, imprudence, injudiciousness, irresponsibility, thoughtlessness, indiscretion, informal craziness; Brt informal daftness

—OPPOSITES wisdom

foment ► verb INSTIGATE, incite, provoke, agitate, excite, stir up, whip up, encourage, urge, fan the flames of

fond ► adjective ① she was fond of dancing: KEEN ON, partial to, addicted to, enthusiastic about, passionate about; attached to, attracted to, enamoured of, in love with, having a soft spot for; informal into, hooked on, gone on, sweet on,

struck on ② his fond father ADORING, devoted, doting, loving, caring, affectionate, warm, tender, kind, attentive ③ a fond hope: UNREALISTIC, naive, foolish, over-optimistic, deluded, delusory, absurd, vain, Panglossian.

—OPPOSITES indifferent, unfeeling, realistic.

fondle ► verb CARESS, stroke, pat, pet, finger, tickle, play with, maul, molest, informal paw, grope, feel up, touch up, cop a feel of

fondness ► noun ① they look at each other with such fondness AFFECTION, love, liking, warmth, tenderness, kindness, devotion, endearment, attachment, friendliness ② a fondness for spicy food LIKING, love, taste, partiality, keenness, inclination, penchant, predilection, relish, passion, appetite, weakness, soft spot, informal thing, yen

—OPPOSITES hatred

food ► noun ① French food NOURISHMENT, sustenance, nutriment, fare, bread, daily bread, cooking, cuisine, foodstuffs, edibles, provender, refreshments, meals, provisions, rations, solids, informal eats, eatables, nosh, grub, chow, nibbles, Brt informal scoff, tuck, N Amer informal chuck, formal comestibles, poetic/literary viands, dated victuals, archaic commons, meat, aliment See lists at BEAN, BISCUIT, BREAD, CAKE, CEREAL, CHEESE, DIET, FRUIT, HERB, MEAL, MEAT, NUT, PASTA, PIE, SAUCE, SAUSAGE, SOUP, SPICE, STEW, SWEET, VEGETABLE, VITAMIN ② food for the cattle FODDER, feed, provender, forage

—RELATED TERMS alimentary, culinary

foodie ► noun (informal) GOURMET, epicure, gastronome, gourmand

fool ► noun ① you've acted like a complete fool IDIOT, ass, halfwit, blockhead, dunce, dolt, dullard, simpleton, clod, informal dope, nunny, nincompoop, chump, dimwit, coot, goon, dumbo, dummy, dum-dum, fathead, numbskull, dunderhead, pudding-head, thickhead, airhead, lamebrain, cretin, moron, nerd, imbecile, pea-brain, birdbrain, jerk, dipstick, donkey, noodle, Brt informal nit, nitwit, twit, clot, goat, plonker, berk, prat, pillock, wally, git, dork, twerp, charlie, mug; Scottish informal nyaff, balloon, sumph, gowk, N Amer informal schmuck, bozo, boob, turkey, schlepper, chowderhead, dumbhead, goofball, goof, goofus, galoot, lummoX, klutz, putz, schlemiel, sap, meatball; Austral/NZ informal drongo, dill, alec, galah, boofhead ② she made a fool of me LAUGHING STOCK, dupe, butt, gull, informal stooge, sucker, mug, fall guy, N Amer informal sap ③ (historical) the fool in King James's court JESTER, court jester, clown, buffoon, joker, zany, merry andrew, wearer of the motley

► verb ① he'd been fooled by a schoolboy. DECEIVE, trick, hoax, dupe, take in, mislead, delude, hoodwink, bluff, gull; swindle, defraud, cheat, double-cross, informal con, bamboozle, pull a fast one on, take for a ride, pull the wool over someone's eyes, put one over on, have on, diddle, fiddle, rip off, do, sting, shaft; Brt informal sell a pup to; N Amer informal sucker, snooker, stiff, euchre, hornswoggle; Austral informal pull a swifty on, poetic/literary cozen. ② I'm not fooling, I promise: PRETEND, make believe, feign, put on an act, act, sham, fake; joke, jest; informal kid; Brt informal have someone on.

■ fool around ① someone's been fooling around with the controls: FIDDLE, play (about/around),



toy, trifle, meddle, tamper, interfere, monkey about/around, *informal* mess about/around; *Brit informal* muck about/around. ② (*N Amer informal*) my husband's been fooling around. **PHILANDER**, womanize, flirt, have an affair, commit adultery; *informal* play around, mess about/around, carry on, play the field, sleep around; *Brit informal* play away

foolery ► **noun** CLOWNING, fooling, tomfoolery, buffoonery, silliness, foolishness, stupidity, idiocy, antics, capers; *informal* larking around, larks, shenanigans, *Brit informal* monkey tricks, *N Amer informal* didoes, *archaic* harlequinade

foolhardy ► **adjective** RECKLESS, rash, irresponsible, impulsive, hot-headed, impetuous, daredevil, devil-may-care, death-or-glory, madcap, hare-brained, precipitate, hasty, overhasty; *poetic/literary* temerarious
—OPPOSITES prudent

foolish ► **adjective** STUPID, silly, idiotic, witless, brainless, mindless, unintelligent, thoughtless, half-baked, imprudent, incautious, injudicious, unwise, ill-advised, ill-considered, impolitic, rash, reckless, foolhardy; *informal* dumb, dim, dim-witted, half-witted, thick, gormless, hare-brained, crackbrained, pea-brained, wooden-headed, *Brit informal* barmy, daft, *Scottish & N English informal* glaikit, *N Amer informal* dumb-ass, chowderheaded
—OPPOSITES sensible, wise

foolishness ► **noun** FOLLY, stupidity, idiocy, imbecility, silliness, inanity, thoughtlessness, imprudence, injudiciousness, lack of caution/foresight/sense, irresponsibility, indiscretion, foolhardiness, rashness, recklessness, *Brit informal* daftness
—OPPOSITES sense, wisdom

foolproof ► **adjective** INFALLIBLE, dependable, reliable, trustworthy, certain, sure, guaranteed, safe, sound, tried and tested, watertight, airtight, flawless, perfect, *informal* sure-fire, *formal* efficacious
—OPPOSITES flawed

foot ► **noun** ① my feet hurt *informal* tootsies, trotters, plates of meat, *N Amer informal* dogs. ② the animal's foot: paw, hoof, trotter, pad. ③ the foot of the hill **BOTTOM**, base, lowest part, end; foundation.

—RELATED TERMS pedi-, -pod(e)

■ **foot the bill** (*informal*) **PAY (THE BILL)**, settle up; *informal* pick up the tab, cough up, fork out, shell out, come across, *N Amer informal* pick up the check

football (*Brit*) ► **noun** SOCCER, Association Football. See list at **SOCCER**

footing ► **noun** ① Jenny lost her footing: **FOOT HOLD**, toehold, grip, purchase. ② a solid financial footing: **BASIS**, base, foundation. ③ on an equal footing: **STANDING**, status, position; condition, arrangement, basis; relationship, terms.

footling ► **adjective** TRIVIAL, trifling, petty, insignificant, inconsequential, unimportant, minor, small, time-wasting; *informal* piddling, piffling, fiddling.

—OPPOSITES important, large.

footnote ► **noun** **NOTE**, marginal note, annotation, comment, gloss; aside, incidental remark, digression.

footprint ► **noun** **FOOTMARK**, footstep, mark, impression, pug, slot; (**footprints**) track(s), spoor

footstep ► **noun** ① he heard a footstep. **FOOT FALL**, step, tread, stomp, stamp. ② footsteps in the sand **FOOTPRINT**, footmark, mark, impression, (**footsteps**) track(s), spoor

footwear ► **noun** **BOOTS AND SHOES**, footgear. See list

Boots and Shoes

alpargatas
ankle boots
babouches
ballet shoes
balmorals
beetle-crushers
bluchers
bootees
bowyer boots
brogans
brogues
buskins
carpet slippers
chappals
Chelsea boots
clogs
combat boots
court shoes
cowboy boots
crepe-soled shoes
Cuban heels
daps
deck shoes
Derbies
desert boots
Dr Martens (DMs)
(*trademark*)
espadrilles
field boots
flip-flops
galoshes
ghillies
gumboots
half-boots
Hessian boots
high-lows
high-tops
hobnail boots
huaraches
jackboots
jelly shoes
kitten heels
kletterschuhe

lace-ups
loafers
moccasins
moon boots
mukluks
mules
napoleons
opankas
overboots
overshoes
Oxfords
pattens
peep-toes
penny loafers
platforms
plimsolls
pumps
rubbers
sabots
saddle shoes
sandals
slingbacks
slip-ons
slippers
sneakers
snowshoes
step-ins
stilettos
stogies
tap shoes
tennis shoe
thongs
top boots
track shoes
trainers
Turkish slippers
waders
walking boots/shoes
wedges
wedgies
wellington boots
winkle-pickers
zoris

fop ► **noun** **DANDY**, poseur, man about town; *informal* snappy dresser, natty dresser, trendy; *informal*, dated swell, dated beau, popinjay, *archaic* coxcomb

foppish ► **adjective** **DANDYISH**, dandified, dapper, dressy, affected, preening, vain, effeminate, girly, minny-punny, muncing; *informal* natty, sissy, camp, campy; *Brit informal* poncey.

forage ► **verb** **HUNT**, search, look, rummage (about/around/round), ferret (about/around), root about/around, scratch about/around, nose around/about/round, scavenge; *Brit. informal* rootle around.

► **noun** ① forage for the horses: **FODDER**, feed, food,



provender ② a nightly forage for food HUNT, search, look, quest, rummage, scavenge

foray ▶ noun RAID, attack, assault, incursion, swoop, strike, onslaught, sortie, sally, push, thrust, *archaic* onset

forbear ▶ verb REFRAIN, abstain, desist, keep, restrain oneself, stop oneself, hold back, withhold, resist the temptation to, eschew, avoid, decline to
-OPPOSITES persist

forbearance ▶ noun TOLERANCE, patience, resignation, endurance, fortitude, stoicism, leniency, clemency, indulgence, restraint, self-restraint, self-control

forbearing ▶ adjective PATIENT, tolerant, easy-going, lenient, clement, forgiving, understanding, accommodating, indulgent; long-suffering, resigned, stoic, restrained, self-controlled
-OPPOSITES impatient, intolerant

forbid ▶ verb PROHIBIT, ban, outlaw, make illegal, veto, proscribe, disallow, embargo, bar, debar, interdict, *Law* enjoin, restrain
-OPPOSITES permit

forbidden ▶ adjective PROHIBITED, verboten, taboo, illegal, illicit, against the law, *Islam* haram, *informal* not on, out, no go, *formal* non licet See also FORBID
-OPPOSITES permitted

forbidding ▶ adjective ① a forbidding manner HOSTILE, unwelcoming, unfriendly, off-putting, unsympathetic, unapproachable, grim, stern, hard, tough, frosty ② the dark castle looked forbidding: THREATENING, ominous, menacing, sinister, brooding, daunting, fearsome, frightening, chilling, disturbing, disquieting
-OPPOSITES friendly, inviting.

force ▶ noun ① he pushed with all his force STRENGTH, power, energy, might, effort, exertion, impact, pressure, weight, impetus ② they used force to achieve their aims: COERCION, compulsion, constraint, duress, oppression, harassment, intimidation, threats; *informal* arm-twisting. ③ the force of the argument COGENCY, weight, effectiveness, soundness, validity, strength, power, significance, influence, authority; *informal* punch, *formal* efficacy ④ a force for good: AGENCY, power, influence, instrument, vehicle, means. ⑤ a peace-keeping force BODY, body of people, group, outfit, party, team; detachment, unit, squad, *informal* bunch
-OPPOSITES weakness.

▶ verb ① he was forced to pay. COMPEL, coerce, make, constrain, oblige, impel, drive, pressurize, pressure, press, push, press-gang, bully, dragoon, bludgeon; *informal* put the screws on, lean on, twist someone's arm ② the door had to be forced: BREAK OPEN, burst open, knock down, smash down, kick in. ③ water was forced through a hole. PROPEL, push, thrust, shove, drive, press, pump ④ they forced a confession out of the kids EXTRACT, elicit, exact, extort, wrest, wring, drag, screw, squeeze.

■ in force ① the law is now in force: EFFECTIVE, in operation, operative, operational, in action, valid ② her fans were out in force. IN GREAT NUMBERS, in hordes, in full strength.

forced ▶ adjective ① forced entry: VIOLENT, forcible ② forced repatriation: ENFORCED, compulsory, obligatory, mandatory, involuntary, imposed, required, stipulated, dictated, ordained,

prescribed ③ a forced smile. STRAINED, unnatural, artificial, false, feigned, simulated, contrived, laboured, stilted, studied, mannered, affected, unconvincing, insincere, hollow, *informal* phony, pretend, put on

-OPPOSITES voluntary, natural

forceful ▶ adjective ① a forceful personality. DYNAMIC, energetic, assertive, authoritative, vigorous, powerful, strong, pushy, driving, determined, insistent, commanding, dominant, domineering, *informal* bossy, in-your-face, go-ahead, feisty ② a forceful argument COGENT, convincing, compelling, strong, powerful, potent, weighty, effective, well founded, telling, persuasive, irresistible, eloquent, coherent
-OPPOSITES weak, submissive, unconvincing

forcible ▶ adjective ① forcible entry FORCED, violent ② forcible repatriation See FORCED sense 2 ③ a forcible argument See FORCEFUL sense 2

forebear ▶ noun ANCESTOR, forefather, antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor
-OPPOSITES descendant

forebode ▶ verb (*poetic/literary*) PRESAGE, augur, portend, herald, warn of, forewarn of, foreshadow, be an omen of, indicate, signify, signal, promise, threaten, spell, denote, *poetic/literary* betoken, foretoken

foreboding ▶ noun ① a feeling of foreboding AP PREHENSION, anxiety, trepidation, disquiet, unease, uneasiness, misgiving, suspicion, worry, fear, fearfulness, dread, alarm, *informal* the willies, the heebie-jeebies, the jitters ② their forebodings proved justified PREMONITION, presentiment, bad feeling, sneaking suspicion, funny feeling, intuition, *archaic* presage
-OPPOSITES calm

forecast ▶ verb they forecast record profits PRE DICT, prophesy, prognosticate, foretell, foresee, forewarn of

▶ noun a gloomy forecast PREDICTION, prophecy, forewarning, prognostication, augury, divination, prognosis

forefather ▶ noun FOREBEAR, ancestor, antecedent, progenitor, primogenitor
-OPPOSITES descendant

forefront ▶ noun VANGUARD, van, spearhead, head, lead, front, fore, front line, cutting edge
-OPPOSITES rear, background

forego ▶ verb. See FORGO.

foregoing ▶ adjective PRECEDING, aforesaid, aforementioned, previously mentioned, earlier, above; previous, prior, antecedent.
-OPPOSITES following

foregone

■ a foregone conclusion CERTAINTY, inevitability, matter of course, predictable result, *informal* sure thing; *Brit informal* cert, dead cert

foreground ▶ noun ① the foreground of the picture. FRONT, fore. ② in the foreground of the political drama: FOREFRONT, vanguard, van, spearhead, head, lead, front, fore, front line, cutting edge.

forehead ▶ noun BROW, temple.
-RELATED TERMS frontal, metopic.

foreign ▶ adjective ① foreign branches of UK banks. OVERSEAS, exotic, distant, external, alien, non-native. ② the concept is very foreign to us: UNFAMILIAR, unknown, unheard of, strange, alien; novel, new.

—RELATED TERMS XENO-

—OPPOSITES domestic, native, familiar

foreigner ▶ noun ALIEN, non-native, stranger, outsider, immigrant, settler, newcomer, incomer

—OPPOSITES native

foreman, forewoman ▶ noun SUPERVISOR, overseer, superintendent, team leader, foreperson, *BrE* chargehand, captain, ganger, *Scottish* griever, *N Amer* informal ramrod, straw boss, *Austral* informal pannikin boss, *Mining* overman

foremost ▶ adjective LEADING, principal, premier, prime, top, top-level, greatest, best, supreme, pre-eminent, outstanding, most important, most prominent, most influential, most illustrious, most notable, *N Amer* ranking; *informal* number-one

—OPPOSITES minor

foreordained ▶ adjective PREDETERMINED, pre-ordained, ordained, predestined, destined, fated

forerunner ▶ noun ① archosaurs were the forerunners of dinosaurs PREDECESSOR, precursor, antecedent, ancestor, forebear, prototype ② headache may be the forerunner of other complaints PRELUDE, herald, harbinger, precursor, sign, signal, indication, warning

—OPPOSITES descendant

foresee ▶ verb ANTICIPATE, predict, forecast, expect, envisage, envision, see, foretell, prophesy, prognosticate, *Scottish* spae, *poetic/literary* fore-know

foreshadow ▶ verb SIGNAL, indicate, signify, mean, be a sign of, suggest, herald, be a harbinger of, warn of, portend, prefigure, presage, promise, point to, anticipate, *informal* spell, *poetic/literary* forebode, foretoken, betoken, *archaic* foreshow

foresight ▶ noun FORETHOUGHT, planning, far-sightedness, vision, anticipation, prudence, care, caution, precaution, readiness, preparedness, *N Amer* forehandedness

—OPPOSITES hindsight

forest ▶ noun WOOD(s), woodland, trees, plantation, jungle, *archaic* greenwood

—RELATED TERMS sylvan

foretell ▶ verb PRE-EMPT, get in before, steal a march on, anticipate, second-guess, nip in the bud, thwart, frustrate, foil, stave off, ward off, fend off, avert, preclude, obviate, prevent, *informal* beat someone to it

forestry ▶ noun FOREST MANAGEMENT, tree growing, agroforestry, *technical* arboriculture, silviculture

foretaste ▶ noun SAMPLE, taster, taste, preview, specimen, example; indication, suggestion, hint, whiff; warning, forewarning, omen, *informal* try-out.

foretell ▶ verb ① the locals can foretell a storm PREDICT, forecast, prophesy, prognosticate, foresee, anticipate, envisage, envision, see, *Scottish* spae ② dreams can foretell the future INDICATE, foreshadow, prefigure, anticipate, warn of, point to, signal, portend, augur, presage, be an omen of; *poetic/literary* forebode, foretoken, betoken; *archaic* foreshow.

forethought ▶ noun ANTICIPATION, planning, forward planning, provision, precaution, pru-

dence, care, caution, foresight, far-sightedness, vision.

—OPPOSITES impulse, recklessness

forever ▶ adverb ① their love would last forever FOR ALWAYS, evermore, for ever and ever, for good, for all time, until the end of time, until hell freezes over, eternally, *BrE* for evermore, *N Amer* forevermore, *informal* until the cows come home, until doomsday, until kingdom come, *archaic* for aye ② he was forever bungling into things ALWAYS, continually, constantly, perpetually, incessantly, endlessly, persistently, repeatedly, regularly, non-stop, day and night, {morning, noon, and night}, all the time, the entire time, *Scottish* aye, *informal* 24-7

—OPPOSITES never, occasionally

forewarn ▶ verb WARN, warn in advance, give advance warning, give fair warning, give notice, apprise, inform, alert, caution, put someone on their guard, *informal* tip off, *BrE* *informal* tip someone the wink

forewarning ▶ noun OMEN, sign, indication, portent, presage, warning, harbinger, foreshadowing, augury, signal, promise, threat, straw in the wind, writing on the wall, hint, *poetic/literary* foretoken

foreword ▶ noun PREFACE, introduction, prologue, preamble, *informal* intro, *formal* exordium, prolegomenon, proem

—OPPOSITES conclusion

forfeit ▶ verb latecomers will forfeit their places LOSE, be deprived of, surrender, relinquish, sacrifice, give up, yield, renounce, forgo, *informal* pass up, lose out on

—OPPOSITES retain

▶ noun they are liable to a forfeit PENALTY, sanction, punishment, penance, fine, confiscation, loss, relinquishment, forfeiture, surrender, *Law* sequestration

forfeiture ▶ noun CONFISCATION, loss, relinquishment, giving up, surrender, sacrifice, *Law* sequestration, *historical* attainder

forge¹ ▶ verb ① a smith forged swords HAMMER OUT, beat into shape, fashion. ② they forged a partnership BUILD, construct, form, create, establish, set up ③ he forged her signature FAKE, falsify, counterfeit, copy, imitate, reproduce, replicate, simulate, *informal* pirate

forge² ▶ verb they forged through swamps ADVANCE STEADILY, advance gradually, press on, push on, soldier on, march on, push forward, make progress, make headway

■ **forge ahead** ADVANCE RAPIDLY, progress quickly, make rapid progress, increase speed, put a spurt on

forged ▶ adjective FAKE, faked, false, counterfeit, imitation, copied, pirate(d), sham, bogus, *informal* phoney, dud.

—OPPOSITES genuine

forgery ▶ noun COUNTERFEITER, faker, copyist, imitator, pirate

forgery ▶ noun ① guilty of forgery COUNTERFEITING, falsification, faking, copying, pirating. ② the painting was a forgery FAKE, counterfeit, fraud, sham, imitation, replica, copy, pirate copy; *informal* phoney

forget ▶ verb ① he forgot where he was FAIL TO REMEMBER, fail to recall, fail to think of. ② I never forget my briefcase: LEAVE BEHIND, fail to



take/bring ❶ I forgot to close the door NEGLECT, fail, omit ❷ you can forget that idea STOP THINKING ABOUT, put out of one's mind, shut out, blank out, pay no heed to, not worry about, ignore, overlook, take no notice of

—OPPOSITES remember

❸ forget oneself MISBEHAVE, behave badly, be naughty, be disobedient, get up to mischief, get up to no good, be bad-mannered, be rude, informal carry on, act up

forgetful ▶ adjective ❶ I'm so forgetful these days ABSENT-MINDED, amnesic, amnesiac, vague, disorganized, dreamy, abstracted, scatterbrained, with a mind/memory like a sieve, informal scatty ❷ forgetful of the time HEEDLESS, careless, unmindful, inattentive to, negligent about, oblivious to, unconcerned about, indifferent to, not bothered about

—OPPOSITES reliable, heedful

forgetfulness ▶ noun ❶ his excuse was forgetfulness ABSENT-MINDEDNESS, amnesia, poor memory, a lapse of memory, vagueness, abstraction, informal scattiness ❷ a forgetfulness of God NEGLECT, heedlessness, carelessness, disregard, inattention, obliviousness, lack of concern, indifference

—OPPOSITES reliability, heed

forgivable ▶ adjective PARDONABLE, excusable, condonable, understandable, tolerable, permissible, allowable, justifiable

forgive ▶ verb ❶ she would not forgive him PARDON, excuse, exonerate, absolve, make allowances for, feel no resentment/malice towards, harbour no grudge against, bury the hatchet with, let bygones be bygones, informal let off (the hook), formal exculpate ❷ you must forgive his rude conduct EXCUSE, overlook, disregard, ignore, pass over, make allowances for, allow, turn a blind eye to, turn a deaf ear to, wink at, blink at, indulge, tolerate

—OPPOSITES blame, resent, punish

forgiveness ▶ noun PARDON, absolution, exoneration, remission, dispensation, indulgence, clemency, mercy; reprieve, amnesty, informal let-off; archaic shrift

—OPPOSITES mercilessness, punishment

forgiving ▶ adjective MERCIFUL, lenient, compassionate, magnanimous, humane, soft-hearted, forbearing, tolerant, indulgent, understanding.

—OPPOSITES merciless, vindictive.

forgo, forego ▶ verb DO WITHOUT, go without, give up, waive, renounce, surrender, relinquish, part with, drop, sacrifice, abstain from, refrain from, eschew, cut out; informal swear off; formal forswear, abjure

—OPPOSITES keep.

forgotten ▶ adjective UNREMEMBERED, out of mind, gone clean out of someone's mind, past recollection, beyond/past recall, consigned to oblivion, left behind; neglected, overlooked, ignored, disregarded, unrecognized.

—OPPOSITES remembered.

fork ▶ verb SPLIT, branch (off), divide, subdivide, separate, part, diverge, go in different directions, bifurcate; technical furcate, divaricate, ramify.

forked ▶ adjective SPLIT, branching, branched, bifurcate(d), Y-shaped, V-shaped, pronged, divided; technical divaricate.

—OPPOSITES straight.

forlorn ▶ adjective ❶ he sounded forlorn. UNHAPPY, sad, miserable, sorrowful, dejected, despondent, disconsolate, wretched, abject, down, downcast, dispirited, downhearted, crestfallen, depressed, melancholy, gloomy, glum, mournful, despairing, doleful, woebegone; informal blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up; formal lachrymose ❷ a forlorn garden DESOLATE, deserted, abandoned, forsaken, forgotten, neglected ❸ a forlorn attempt. HOPELESS, with no chance of success; useless, futile, pointless, purposeless, vain, unavailing, nugatory, archaic bootless

—OPPOSITES happy, busy, cared for, hopeful, sure-fire

form ▶ noun ❶ the general form of the landscape | form is less important than content SHAPE, configuration, formation, structure, construction, arrangement, appearance, exterior, outline, format, layout, design ❷ the human form BODY, shape, figure, stature, build, frame, physique, anatomy, informal vital statistics ❸ the infection takes different forms MANIFESTATION, appearance, embodiment, incarnation, semblance, shape, guise ❹ sponsorship is a form of advertising KIND, sort, type, class, classification, category, variety, genre, brand, style, species, genus, family ❺ put the mixture into a form MOULD, cast, shape, matrix, die. ❻ what is the form here? ETIQUETTE, social practice, custom, usage, use, modus operandi, habit, protocol, procedure, rules, convention, tradition, fashion, style, formal praxis, wont ❼ you have to fill in a form QUESTIONNAIRE, document, coupon, tear-off slip, paper ❽ what form is your daughter in? CLASS, year, N Amer grade ❾ in top form: FITNESS, condition, fettle, shape, trim, health, Bnt informal nick ❿ (Bnt) a wooden form BENCH, pew, stall

—OPPOSITES content

▶ verb ❶ the pads are formed from mild steel MAKE, construct, build, manufacture, fabricate, assemble, put together; create, produce, concoct, devise, contrive, frame, fashion, shape ❷ he formed a plan. FORMULATE, devise, conceive, work out, think up, lay, draw up, put together, produce, fashion, concoct, forge, hatch, develop, informal dream up ❸ they plan to form a company SET UP, establish, found, launch, float, create, bring into being, institute, start, get going, initiate, bring about, inaugurate. ❹ a mist was forming: MATERIALIZE, come into being/ existence, crystallize, emerge, spring up, develop; take shape, appear, loom, show up, become visible ❺ the horse may form bad habits ACQUIRE, develop, get, pick up, contract, slip into, get into. ❻ his men formed themselves into an arrowhead: ARRANGE, draw up, line up, assemble, organize, sort, order, range, array, dispose, marshal, deploy. ❼ the parts of society form an integrated whole: COMPRISE, make, make up, constitute, compose, add up to. ❽ the city formed a natural meeting point: CONSTITUTE, serve as, act as, function as, perform the function of, do duty for, make. ❹ natural objects are most important in forming the mind of the child: DEVELOP, mould, shape, train, teach, instruct, educate, school, drill, discipline, prime, prepare, guide, direct, inform, enlighten, inculcate, indoctrinate; formal edify.

—OPPOSITES dissolve, disappear, break.

■ **good form** GOOD MANNERS, manners, polite behaviour, correct behaviour, convention, etiquette, protocol, *informal* the done thing.

formal ► **adjective** ① *a formal dinner* CEREMONIAL, ceremonious, ritualistic, ritual, conventional, traditional, stately, courtly, solemn, dignified, elaborate, ornate, dressy ② *a very formal manner* ALOOF, reserved, remote, detached, unapproachable, stiff, prim, stuffy, staid, ceremonious, correct, proper, decorous, conventional, precise, exact, punctilious, unbending, inflexible, strait-laced, *informal* stand-offish ③ *a formal garden* SYMMETRICAL, regular, orderly, arranged, methodical, systematic ④ *formal permission* OFFICIAL, legal, authorized, approved, validated, certified, endorsed, documented, sanctioned, licensed, recognized, authoritative ⑤ *formal education* CONVENTIONAL, mainstream, school, institutional
-OPPOSITES informal, casual, colloquial, unofficial

formality ► **noun** ① *the formality of the occasion* CEREMONY, ceremoniousness, ritual, conventionality, red tape, protocol, decorum, stateliness, courtliness, solemnity ② *his formality was off-putting* ALOOFNESS, reserve, remoteness, detachment, unapproachability, stiffness, primness, stuffiness, staidness, correctness, decorum, punctiliousness, inflexibility, *informal* stand-offishness ③ *we keep the formalities to a minimum* OFFICIAL PROCEDURE, bureaucracy, red tape, paperwork ④ *the medical examination is just a formality* ROUTINE, routine practice, normal procedure ⑤ *promotion looks a formality* MATTER OF COURSE, foregone conclusion, inevitability, certainty, *informal* sure thing
-OPPOSITES informality

format ► **noun** DESIGN, style, presentation, appearance, look, form, shape, size, arrangement, plan, structure, scheme, composition, configuration

formation ► **noun** ① *the formation of the island's sand ridges* EMERGENCE, coming into being, genesis, development, evolution, shaping, origination ② *the formation of a new government* ESTABLISHMENT, setting up, start, initiation, institution, foundation, inception, creation, inauguration, launch, flotation ③ *the aircraft were flying in tight formation* CONFIGURATION, arrangement, pattern, array, alignment, positioning, disposition, order
-OPPOSITES destruction, disappearance, dissolution.

formative ► **adjective** ① *at a formative stage* DEVELOPMENTAL, developing, growing, malleable, impressionable, susceptible ② *a formative influence*: DETERMINING, controlling, influential, guiding, decisive, forming, shaping, determinative

former ► **adjective** ① *the former bishop* ONE-TIME, erstwhile, sometime, ex-, late; PREVIOUS, foregoing, preceding, earlier, prior, past, last. ② *in former times* EARLIER, old, past, bygone, olden, long-ago, gone by, long past, of old; *poetic/literary* of yore. ③ *the former view* FIRST-MENTIONED, first
-OPPOSITES future, next, latter.

formerly ► **adverb** PREVIOUSLY, earlier, before, until now/then, hitherto, *née*, once, once upon a time, at one time, in the past; *formal* heretofore.

formidable ► **adjective** ① *a formidable curved dagger* INTIMIDATING, forbidding, daunting, disturbing, alarming, frightening, disquieting, brooding, awesome, fearsome, ominous, foreboding, sinister, menacing, threatening, dangerous. ② *a formidable task* ONEROUS, arduous, taxing, difficult, hard, heavy, laborious, burdensome, strenuous, back-breaking, uphill, Herculean, monumental, colossal, demanding, tough, challenging, exacting, *formal* exigent, archaic toilsome ③ *a formidable pianist* CAPABLE, able, proficient, adept, adroit, accomplished, seasoned, skilful, skilled, gifted, talented, masterly, virtuoso, expert, knowledgeable, qualified, impressive, powerful, mighty, terrific, tremendous, great, complete, redoubtable, *informal* mean, wicked, deadly, nifty, crack, ace, wizard, magic, *N Amer informal* crackerjack
-OPPOSITES pleasant-looking, comforting, easy, poor, weak

formless ► **adjective** SHAPELESS, amorphous, unshaped, indeterminate, structureless, unstructured
-OPPOSITES shaped, definite

formula ► **noun** ① *a legal formula* FORM OF WORDS, set expression, phrase, saying, aphorism ② *a peace formula* RECIPE, prescription, blueprint, plan, method, procedure, technique, system ③ *a formula for removing grease* PREPARATION, concoction, mixture, compound, creation, substance

formulate ► **verb** ① *the miners formulated a plan* DEVISE, conceive, work out, think up, lay, draw up, put together, form, produce, fashion, concoct, contrive, forge, hatch, prepare, develop, *informal* dream up ② *this is how Marx formulated his question* EXPRESS, phrase, word, put into words, frame, couch, put, articulate, convey, say, state, utter

fornication ► **noun** (*formal*) EXTRAMARITAL SEX, extramarital relations, adultery, infidelity, unfaithfulness, cuckoldry, *informal* hanky-panky, a bit on the side

forsake ► **verb** (*poetic/literary*) ① *he forsook his wife* ABANDON, desert, leave, leave high and dry, turn one's back on, cast aside, break (up) with, jilt, strand, leave stranded, leave in the lurch, throw over, *informal* walk out on, run out on, dump, ditch ② *I won't forsake my vegetarian principles* RENOUNCE, abandon, relinquish, disperse with, disclaim, disown, disavow, discard, wash one's hands of; give up, drop, jettison, do away with, axe, *informal* ditch, scrap, scrub, junk, *formal* forswear
-OPPOSITES keep to, adopt

forswear ► **verb** (*formal*) RENOUNCE, relinquish, reject, forgo, disavow, abandon, deny, repudiate, give up, wash one's hands of; eschew, abstain from, refrain from, *informal* kick, pack in, quit, swear off, *Law* disaffirm, *poetic/literary* forsake; *formal* abjure, abnegate
-OPPOSITES adhere to, persist with, take up

fort ► **noun** FORTRESS, castle, citadel, blockhouse, burg, stronghold, redoubt, fortification, bastion, fastness

forte ► **noun** STRENGTH, strong point, speciality, strong suit, talent, special ability, skill, bent, gift, *métier*; *informal* thing
-OPPOSITES weakness.



forth ▶ **adverb** ① *smoke billowed forth*: OUT, outside, away, off, ahead, forward, into view; into existence. ② *from that day forth* ONWARDS, onward, on, forward, for ever, into eternity, until now.

forthcoming ▶ **adjective** ① *forthcoming events* IMMINENT, impending, coming, upcoming, approaching, future, close, (close) at hand, in store, in the wind, in the air, in the offing, in the pipeline, on the horizon, on the way, on us, about to happen. ② *no reply was forthcoming* AVAILABLE, ready, at hand, accessible, obtainable, at someone's disposal, on offer, obtained, given, vouchsafed to someone, *informal* up for grabs, on tap. ③ *he was not very forthcoming about himself* COMMUNICATIVE, talkative, chatty, loquacious, vocal, expansive, expressive, unreserved, uninhibited, outgoing, frank, open, candid, *informal* gabby.

—OPPOSITES past, current, unavailable, uncommunicative

forthright ▶ **adjective** FRANK, direct, straightforward, honest, candid, open, sincere, outspoken, straight, blunt, plain-spoken, no-nonsense, bluff, matter-of-fact, to the point, *informal* upfront.

—OPPOSITES secretive, evasive

forthwith ▶ **adverb** IMMEDIATELY, at once, instantly, directly, right away, straight away, post-haste, without delay, without hesitation, quickly, speedily, promptly, *informal* pronto.

—OPPOSITES sometime.

fortification ▶ **noun** RAMPART, wall, defence, bulwark, palisade, stockade, redoubt, earthwork, bastion, parapet, barricade.

fortify ▶ **verb** ① *the knights fortified their citadel* BUILD DEFENCES ROUND, strengthen, secure, protect. ② *the wall had been fortified*: STRENGTHEN, reinforce, toughen, consolidate, bolster, shore up, brace, buttress. ③ *I'll have a drink to fortify me* INVIGORATE, strengthen, energize, enliven, liven up, animate, vitalize, rejuvenate, restore, revive, refresh, *informal* pep up, buck up, give a shot in the arm to.

—OPPOSITES weaken, sedate, subdue.

fortitude ▶ **noun** COURAGE, bravery, endurance, resilience, mettle, moral fibre, strength of mind, strength of character, strong-mindedness, backbone, spirit, grit, doughtiness, steadfastness; *informal* guts; *Brit informal* bottle.

—OPPOSITES faint-heartedness

fortress ▶ **noun** FORT, castle, citadel, blockhouse, burg, stronghold, redoubt, fortification, bastion; fastness.

fortuitous ▶ **adjective** ① *a fortuitous resemblance*. CHANCE, adventitious, unexpected, unanticipated, unpredictable, unforeseen, unlooked-for, serendipitous, casual, incidental, coincidental, random, accidental, inadvertent, unintentional, unintended, unplanned, unpremeditated. ② *United were saved by a fortuitous penalty* LUCKY, fluky, fortunate, providential, advantageous, timely, opportune, serendipitous, heaven-sent; *Brit informal* jammy.

—OPPOSITES predictable, unlucky.

fortunate ▶ **adjective** ① *he was fortunate that the punishment was so slight*: LUCKY, favoured, blessed, blessed with good luck, in luck, having a charmed life, charmed; *informal* sitting pretty,

Brit informal jammy. ② *in a fortunate position*: FAVOURABLE, advantageous, providential, auspicious, welcome, heaven-sent, beneficial, propitious, fortuitous, opportune, happy, felicitous. ③ *the society gives generously to less fortunate people* WEALTHY, rich, affluent, prosperous, well off, moneyed, well-to-do, well heeled, opulent, comfortable, favoured, privileged.

—OPPOSITES unfortunate, unfavourable, underprivileged

fortunately ▶ **adverb** LUCKILY, by good luck, by good fortune, as luck would have it, propitiously, mercifully, thankfully, thank goodness, thank God, thank heavens, thank the stars.

fortune ▶ **noun** ① *fortune favoured him* CHANCE, accident, coincidence, serendipity, destiny, fortuity, providence, *N Amer* happenstance. ② *a change of fortune* LUCK, fate, destiny, predestination, the stars, serendipity, karma, kismet, lot. ③ *an upswing in Sheffield's fortunes* CIRCUMSTANCES, state of affairs, condition, position, situation, plight, predicament. ④ *he made his fortune in steel* WEALTH, riches, substance, property, assets, resources, means, possessions, treasure, estate. ⑤ (*informal*) *this dress cost a fortune* HUGE AMOUNT, vast sum, king's ransom, millions, billions, *informal* small fortune, packet, mint, bundle, pile, wad, arm and a leg, pretty penny, tidy sum, killing, big money, *Brit informal* bomb, loadsamoney, shedloads, *N Amer informal* big bucks, gazillions.

—OPPOSITES pittance

fortune teller ▶ **noun** CLAIRVOYANT, crystal-gazer, psychic, prophet, seer, oracle, soothsayer, augur, diviner, sibyl, palmist, palm-reader, *Scottish* spae-wife.

forum ▶ **noun** ① *forums were held for staff to air grievances* MEETING, assembly, gathering, rally, conference, seminar, convention, symposium, colloquium, *N Amer & NZ* caucus, *informal* get-together, *formal* colloquy. ② *a forum for discussion* SETTING, place, scene, context, stage, framework, backdrop, medium, means, apparatus, auspices. ③ *the Roman forum* PUBLIC MEETING PLACE, marketplace, agora.

forward ▶ **adverb** ① *the traffic moved forward* AHEAD, forwards, onward, on, further. ② *the winner stepped forward* TOWARDS THE FRONT, out, forth, into view. ③ *from that day forward* ONWARD, onwards, on, forth, for ever, into eternity, until now.

—OPPOSITES backwards.

▶ **adjective** ① *in a forward direction* MOVING FORWARDS, moving ahead, onward, advancing, progressing, progressive. ② *the fortress served as the Austrian army's forward base against the Russians* FRONT, advance, foremost, head, leading, frontal. ③ *forward planning*: FUTURE, forward-looking, for the future, prospective. ④ *the girls seemed very forward*. BOLD, BRAZEN, brazen-faced, bare-faced, brash, shameless, immodest, audacious, daring, presumptuous, familiar, overfamiliar, pert, *informal* brass-necked, fresh.

—OPPOSITES backward, rear, shy, late.

▶ **verb** ① *my mother forwarded me your letter*: SEND ON, post on, redirect, readdress, pass on. ② *the goods were forwarded by sea*: SEND, dispatch, transmit, carry, convey, deliver, ship. ③ *Sir William forwarded his plan*: ADVANCE, further, promote, assist, carry forward, hasten, hurry along, expedite, accelerate, speed up.

forward-looking ▶ **adjective** PROGRESSIVE, enlightened, dynamic, pushing, bold, enterprising, ambitious, pioneering, innovative, modern, avant-garde, positive, reforming, radical, *informal* go-ahead, go-getting
 —OPPOSITES backward-looking

forwards ▶ **adverb**. See FORWARD adverb

fossil ▶ **noun** PETRIFIED REMAINS, petrified impression, remnant, relic, *Geology* reliquiae

fossilized ▶ **adjective** ① fossilized remains petrified, ossified ② a fossilized idea ARCHAIC, antiquated, antediluvian, old-fashioned, quaint, outdated, outmoded, behind the times, anachronistic, stuck in time, *informal* prehistoric

foster ▶ **verb** ① he fostered the arts ENCOURAGE, promote, further, stimulate, advance, forward, cultivate, nurture, strengthen, enrich, help, aid, abet, assist, contribute to, support, back ② they started fostering children BRING UP, rear, raise, care for, take care of, look after, nurture, provide for, mother, parent
 —OPPOSITES neglect, suppress

foul ▶ **adjective** ① a foul stench DISGUSTING, revolting, repulsive, repugnant, abhorrent, loathsome, offensive, sickening, nauseating, nauseous, stomach-churning, stomach-turning, distasteful, obnoxious, objectionable, odious, noxious, *N Amer* vomitous, *informal* ghastly, gruesome, gross, putrid, yucky, skanky, sick-making, *Brit informal* beastly, *Austral informal* on the nose, *poetic/literary* miasmatic, noisome, mephitic ② a foul mess DIRTY, filthy, mucky, grimy, grubby, muddy, muddied, unclean, unwashed, squalid, sordid, soiled, sullied, scummy, rotten, defiled, decaying, putrid, putrefied, smelly, fetid, *informal* cruddy, yucky, icky, *Brit informal* manky, gungy, grotty, *rare* feculent ③ he had been foul to her UNKIND, malicious, mean, nasty, unpleasant, unfriendly, spiteful, cruel, vicious, base, malevolent, despicable, contemptible, *informal* horrible, horrid, rotten, *Brit informal* beastly ④ foul weather INCLEMENT, unpleasant, disagreeable, bad, rough, stormy, squally, gusty, windy, blustery, wild, blowy, rainy, wet, *Brit informal* filthy ⑤ foul drinking water CONTAMINATED, polluted, infected, tainted, impure, filthy, dirty, unclean, *rare* feculent ⑥ a foul deed EVIL, wicked, bad, wrong, immoral, sinful, vile, dishonourable, corrupt, iniquitous, depraved, villainous, nefarious, vicious, malicious, malevolent, sinister, demonic, devilish, diabolical, fiendish, dark, monstrous, shocking, despicable, atrocious, heinous, odious, contemptible, horrible, execrable, *informal* low-down, dirty ⑦ foul language VULGAR, crude, coarse, filthy, dirty, obscene, indecent, indelicate, naughty, lewd, suggestive, smutty, ribald, salacious, scatological, offensive, abusive; *informal* blue. ⑧ a foul tackle UNFAIR, illegal, unsporting, unsportsmanlike, below the belt, dirty
 —OPPOSITES pleasant, kind, fair, clean, righteous, mild, fair.

▶ **verb** ① the river had been fouled with waste: DIRTY, infect, pollute, contaminate, poison, taint, sully, soil, stain, blacken, muddy, splash, spatter, smear, blight, defile, make filthy. ② the vessel had fouled her nets: TANGLE UP, entangle, snarl, catch, entwine, enmesh, twist
 —OPPOSITES clean up, disentangle.

foul-mouthed ▶ **adjective** VULGAR, crude, coarse; obscene, rude, smutty, dirty, filthy, in-

decent, indelicate, offensive, lewd, X-rated, scatological, foul, abusive; *informal* blue.

found ▶ **verb** ① he founded his company in 1989. ESTABLISH, set up, start, begin, get going, institute, inaugurate, launch, float, form, create, bring into being, originate, develop. ② they founded a new city BUILD, construct, erect, put up, plan, lay plans for. ③ their relationship was founded on trust BASE, build, construct, ground in, root in, rest, hinge, depend
 —OPPOSITES dissolve, liquidate, abandon, demolish

foundation ▶ **noun** ① the foundations of a wall FOOTING, foot, base, substructure, underpinning, bottom, bedrock, substratum ② the report has a scientific foundation BASIS, starting point, base, point of departure, beginning, premise, principles, fundamentals, rudiments, cornerstone, core, heart, thrust, essence, kernel ③ there was no foundation for the claim JUSTIFICATION, grounds, defence, reason, rationale, cause, basis, motive, excuse, call, pretext, provocation ④ an educational foundation ENDOWED INSTITUTION, charitable body, funding agency, source of funds

founder¹ ▶ **noun** the founder of modern physics ORIGINATOR, creator, (founding) father, prime mover, architect, engineer, designer, developer, pioneer, author, planner, inventor, mastermind, *poetic/literary* begetter

founder² ▶ **verb** ① the ship foundered SINK, go to the bottom, go down, be lost at sea, *informal* go to Davy Jones's locker ② the scheme foundered FAIL, be unsuccessful, not succeed, fall flat, fall through, collapse, backfire, meet with disaster, come to nothing/naught, *informal* flop, bomb ③ their horses foundered in the river bed STUMBLE, trip, trip up, lose one's balance, lose/miss one's footing, slip, stagger, lurch, totter, fall, tumble, topple, sprawl, collapse
 —OPPOSITES succeed

foundling ▶ **noun** ABANDONED INFANT, waif, stray, orphan, outcast, *archaic* wastrel

fountain ▶ **noun** ① a fountain of water. JET, spray, spout, spurt, well, fount, cascade ② a fountain of knowledge. SOURCE, fount, well, reservoir, fund, mass, mine

four ▶ **cardinal number** QUARTET, foursome, tetralogy, quadruplets, *technical* tetrad, *rare* quadrumvirate
 —RELATED TERMS quadri-, tetra-

fowl ▶ **noun**. See list

fox ▶ **noun**. See list

foxy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) CRAFTY, wily, artful, guileful, devious, sly, scheming, designing, calculating, Machiavellian, shrewd, astute, clever, canny; deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous; *archaic* subtle

foyer ▶ **noun** ENTRANCE HALL, hall, hallway, entrance, entry, porch, reception area, atrium, concourse, lobby, *N Amer* entryway

fracas ▶ **noun** DISTURBANCE, brawl, melee, rum-pus, skirmish, struggle, scuffle, scrum, clash, fisticuffs, altercation; *informal* scrap, dust-up, set-to, shundy, shindig; *Brit informal* punch-up, bust-up, ruck; *N Amer informal* rough house, brannigan; *Austral/NZ informal* stoush; *Law*, dated affray.



Breeds of Fowl

CHICKENS

Ancona
Andalusian
Australorp
Bantam
Booted
Brahmaputra
Bresse
Campine
Cochin
Crèvecoeur
Croad Langshan
Dorking
Faverolle
Frizzles
Hamburg
Houdan
Indian Game
Ixworth
Jersey Giant
Jubilee Indian Game
La Fleche
Lakenfelder
Leghorn
Malay
Malines
Marans
Marsh Daisy
Minorca
Modern Game
Modern Langshan
Nankin
New Hampshire Red
Norfolk Grey
North Holland Blue
Old English Game
Old English Pheasant
Fowl
Orloff
Orpington
Phoenix
Plymouth Rock
Poland
Redcap
Rhode Island Red
Rosecomb
Rumpless
Scots Dumpy
Scots Grey
Sebright
Sikilian Buttercup

Silkie
Spanish
Sultan
Sumatra Game
Sussex
Transylvanian Naked
Necks
Welsummer
Wyandotte
Yokohama

DUCKS

Aylesbury
Black East Indian
Cayuga
Crested
Indian Runner
Khaki Campbell
Magpie
Muscovy
Orpington
Rouen
Welsh Harlequin
Whalesbury

GESE

Brecon Buff
Chinese
Emden
Pilgrim
Roman
Sebastopol
Toulouse

GUINEAFOWL

Lavender
Pearl Grey
White

TURKEYS

Black Norfolk
Bourbon Red
Broad-Breasted Bronze
Broad-Breasted White
Cambridge Bronze
Mammoth Bronze
Narragansett
Nicholas
White Austrian
White Holland

fraction ▶ noun ① a fraction of the population: PART, subdivision, division, portion, segment, slice, section, sector; proportion, percentage, ratio, measure ② only a fraction of the collection TINY PART, fragment, snippet, snatch, smattering, selection ③ he moved a fraction closer TINY AMOUNT, little, bit, touch, soupçon, trifle, mite, shade, jot, informal smidgen, smidge, tad
—OPPOSITES whole.

fractious ▶ adjective ① fractious children: GRUMPY, bad-tempered, irascible, irritable, crotchety, grouchy, cantankerous, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, pettish, waspish, crabbed, crabby, crusty, prickly, touchy; informal snappish, snappy, chippy; Brit informal shirky, stropky, narky, ratty; N Amer informal cranky,

Foxes

Arctic fox	corsac fox	red fox
Azara's fox	crab-eating fox	pale fox
bat-eared fox	cross fox	sand fox
Blanford's fox	fennec	Samson fox
blue fox	grey fox	silver fox
Colpo fox	hoary fox	swift fox
	kit fox	zorzo

ornery; Austral/NZ informal snaky ② the fractious parliamentary party WAYWARD, unruly, uncontrollable, unmanageable, out of hand, obstreperous, difficult, headstrong, recalcitrant, intractable, disobedient, insubordinate, disruptive, disorderly, undisciplined, contrary, wilful, formal refractory, archaic contumacious
—OPPOSITES contented, affable, dutiful

fracture ▶ noun ① the risk of vertebral fracture BREAKING, breakage, cracking, fragmentation, splintering, rupture See list ② tiny fractures in the rock CRACK, split, fissure, crevice, break, rupture, breach, rift, cleft, chink, interstice, crazing

▶ verb the glass fractured BREAK, crack, shatter, splinter, split, rupture, informal bust

Human Bone Fractures

Colles' fracture	multiple fracture
comminuted fracture	open fracture
compound fracture	Pott's fracture
greenstick fracture	simple fracture
impacted fracture	spiral fracture
marrow fracture	stress fracture

fragile ▶ adjective ① fragile porcelain BREAKABLE, easily broken, delicate, dainty, fine, flimsy egg-shell, formal frangible ② the fragile ceasefire TENUOUS, shaky, insecure, unreliable, vulnerable, flimsy ③ she is still very fragile WEAK, delicate, frail, debilitated, ill, unwell, ailing, poorly, sickly, infirm, enfeebled
—OPPOSITES strong, durable, robust

fragment ▶ noun ① meteorite fragments PIECE, bit, particle, speck; chip, shard, sliver, splinter, shaving, paring, snippet, scrap, offcut, flake, shred, wisp, morsel; Scottish skelf. ② a fragment of conversation SNATCH, snippet, scrap, bit
▶ verb explosions caused the chalk to fragment: BREAK UP, break, break into pieces, crack open/apart, shatter, splinter, fracture; disintegrate, fall to pieces, fall apart

fragmentary ▶ adjective INCOMPLETE, fragmented, disconnected, disjointed, broken, discontinuous, piecemeal, scrappy, bitty, sketchy, uneven, patchy.

fragrance ▶ noun ① the fragrance of spring flowers. SWEET SMELL, scent, perfume, bouquet, aroma, redolence, nose. ② a bottle of fragrance: PERFUME, scent, eau de toilette, toilet water; eau de cologne, cologne, aftershave.

fragrant ▶ adjective SWEET-SCENTED, sweet-smelling, scented, perfumed, aromatic, perfumy; poetic/literary redolent.
—OPPOSITES smelly.

frail ▶ adjective ① a frail old lady: WEAK, delicate, feeble, enfeebled, debilitated; infirm, ill, ailing,

unwell, sickly, poorly, in poor health ② a frail structure FRAGILE, breakable, easily damaged, delicate, flimsy, insubstantial, unsteady, unstable, rickety; *formal* frangible
-OPPOSITES strong, robust

frailty ▶ noun ① the frailty of old age INFIRMITY, weakness, enfeeblement, debility, fragility, delicacy, ill health, sickness ② his many frailties WEAKNESS, fallibility, weak point, flaw, imperfection, defect, failing, fault, shortcoming, deficiency, inadequacy, limitation
-OPPOSITES strength

frame ▶ noun ① a tubular metal frame FRAMEWORK, structure, substructure, skeleton, chassis, shell, casing, body, bodywork, support, scaffolding, foundation ② his tall, slender frame BODY, figure, form, shape, physique, build, size, proportions ③ a photograph frame SETTING, mount, mounting

▶ verb ① he had the picture framed MOUNT, set in a frame ② the legislators who frame the regulations FORMULATE, draw up, draft, plan, shape, compose, put together, foim, devise, create, establish, conceive, think up, originate, *informal* dream up

■ frame of mind MOOD, state of mind, humour, temper, disposition

frame-up ▶ noun (*informal*) CONSPIRACY, plot, trick, trap, entrapment, *informal* put-up job, fit-up, set-up

framework ▶ noun ① a metal framework FRAME, substructure, structure, skeleton, chassis, shell, body, bodywork, support, scaffolding, foundation ② the framework of society STRUCTURE, shape, fabric, order, scheme, system, organization, construction, configuration, composition, *informal* make-up

France ▶ noun. See list
-RELATED TERMS Gallic, Franco-, Gallo-

Regions of France

REGION	CHIEF TOWN
Alsace	Strasbourg
Aquitaine	Bordeaux
Auvergne	Clermont-Ferrand
Basse-Normandie	Caen
Burgundy	Dijon
Brittany	Rennes
Centre	Orléans
Champagne-Ardenne	Rheims
Corsica	Ajaccio
Franche-Comté	Besançon
Haute-Normandie	Rouen
Île-de-France	Paris
Languedoc-Roussillon	Montpellier
Limousin	Limoges
Lorraine	Nancy
Midi-Pyrénées	Toulouse
Nord-Pas-de-Calais	Lille
Pays de la Loire	Nantes
Picardie	Amiens
Poitou-Charentes	Poitiers
Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur	Marseille
Rhône-Alpes	Lyons

franchise ▶ noun ① the extension of the franchise to women: SUFFRAGE, the vote, the right to vote,

voting rights, enfranchisement ② the company lost its TV franchise WARRANT, charter, licence, permit, authorization, permission, sanction

frank ▶ adjective ① he was quite frank with me CANDID, direct, forthright, plain, plain-spoken, straight, straightforward, straight from the shoulder, explicit, to the point, matter-of-fact, open, honest, truthful, sincere; outspoken, bluff, blunt, unsparing, not afraid to call a spade a spade, *informal* upfront ② she looked at Sam with frank admiration OPEN, undisguised, unconcealed, naked, unmistakable, clear, obvious, transparent, patent, manifest, evident, perceptible, palpable, blatant, barefaced, flagrant
-OPPOSITES evasive

frank ▶ verb the envelope had not been franked STAMP, postmark, imprint, print, mark

frankly ▶ adverb ① frankly, I'm not very interested TO BE FRANK, to be honest, to tell you the truth, to be truthful, in all honesty, as it happens ② he stated the case quite frankly CANDIDLY, directly, plainly, straightforwardly, straight from the shoulder, forthrightly, openly, honestly, without beating about the bush, without mincing one's words, without prevarication, point-blank, bluntly, outspokenly, with no holds barred

frantic ▶ adjective PANIC-STRICKEN, panic-struck, panicky, beside oneself, at one's wits' end, distraught, overwrought, worked up, agitated, distressed, frenzied, wild, frenetic, fraught, feverish, hysterical, desperate, *informal* in a state, in a tizzy/tizz, wound up, het up, in a flap, tearing one's hair out, *Brit informal* having kittens, in a flat spin
-OPPOSITES calm

fraternity ▶ noun ① a spirit of fraternity BROTHERHOOD, fellowship, kinship, friendship, (mutual) support, solidarity, community, union, togetherness, sisterhood ② the teaching fraternity PROFESSION, body of workers, band, group, set, circle ③ (*N Amer*) a college fraternity SOCIETY, club, association, group, set

fraternize ▶ verb ASSOCIATE, mix, consort, socialize, keep company, rub shoulders, *N Amer* rub elbows, *informal* hang around/round, hang out, run around, knock about/around, hobnob, be thick with

fraud ▶ noun ① he was arrested for fraud FRAUDULENCE, sharp practice, cheating, swindling, embezzlement, deceit, deception, double-dealing, chicanery. ② social security frauds SWINDLE, racket, deception, trick, cheat, hoax, *informal* scam, con, con trick, rip-off, sting, gyp, diddle, fiddle, *N Amer informal* bunco, hustle, grift ③ they exposed him as a fraud IMPOSTOR, fake, sham, charlatan, quack, mountebank; swindler, fraudster, racketeer, cheat, confidence trickster, *informal* phoney, con man, con artist

fraudulent ▶ adjective DISHONEST, cheating, swindling, corrupt, criminal, illegal, unlawful, illicit; deceitful, double-dealing, duplicitous, dishonourable, unscrupulous, unprincipled, *informal* crooked, shady, dirty, *Brit informal* bent, dodgy; *Austral / NZ informal* shonky.
-OPPOSITES honest

fraught ▶ adjective ① their world is fraught with danger FULL OF, filled with, rife with; attended by, accompanied by ② she sounded a bit fraught



ANXIOUS, worried, stressed, upset, distraught, overwrought, worked up, agitated, distressed, distracted, desperate, frantic, panic-stricken, panic-struck, panicky, beside oneself, at one's wits' end, at the end of one's tether, *informal* wound up, in a state, in a flap, in a cold sweat, tearing one's hair out, *Brit informal* having kittens, in a flat spin

fray¹ ▶ **verb** ① cheap fabric soon frays UNRAVEL, wear, wear thin, wear out/through, become worn ② her nerves were frayed STRAIN, tax, overtax, put on edge

fray² ▶ **noun** two men started the fray. BATTLE, fight, engagement, conflict, clash, skirmish, altercation, tussle, struggle, scuffle, melee, brawl, *informal* scrap, dust-up, set-to, *Brit informal* punch-up, bust-up, *Scottish informal* rammy, *Law*, dated affray

frayed ▶ **adjective** ① a frayed shirt collar: WORN, well worn, threadbare, tattered, ragged, holey, moth-eaten, in holes, the worse for wear, *informal* tatty, *N Amer informal* raggedy. ② his frayed nerves. STRAINED, fraught, tense, edgy, stressed

freak ▶ **noun** ① a genetically engineered freak ABERRATION, abnormality, irregularity, oddity, monster, monstrosity, mutant, freak of nature ② the accident was a complete freak ANOMALY, aberration, rarity, oddity, unusual occurrence, fluke, twist of fate ③ (informal) they were dismissed as a bunch of freaks ODDITY, eccentric, misfit, crank, lunatic, *informal* oddball, weirdo, nutcase, nut; *Brit informal* nutter, *N Amer informal* wacko, kook ④ (informal) a fitness freak ENTHUSIAST, fan, devotee, lover, aficionado, *informal* fiend, nut, fanatic, addict, maniac

▶ **adjective** a freak storm | a freak result UNUSUAL, anomalous, aberrant, atypical, unrepresentative, irregular, fluky, exceptional, unaccountable, bizarre, queer, peculiar, odd, freakish, unpredictable, unforeseeable, unexpected, unanticipated, surprising; rare, singular, isolated –OPPOSITES normal

▶ **verb** (informal) he freaked out GO CRAZY, go mad, go out of one's mind, go to pieces, crack, snap, lose control, panic, become hysterical, *informal* lose it, lose one's cool, crack up, *N Amer informal* go ape, go postal

freakish ▶ **adjective** freakish weather See FREAK adjective

freaky ▶ **adjective** (informal). See ODD senses 1, 2

free ▶ **adjective** ① admission is free WITHOUT CHARGE, free of charge, for nothing, complimentary, gratis, *informal* for free, on the house ② she was free of any pressures UNENCUMBERED BY, unaffected by, clear of, without, rid of, exempt from, not liable to, safe from, immune to, excused of; *informal* sans, minus. ③ I'm free this afternoon: UNOCCUPIED, not busy, available, between appointments, off duty, off work, off, on holiday, on leave, at leisure, with time on one's hands, with time to spare ④ the bathroom's free now VACANT, empty, available, unoccupied, not taken, not in use ⑤ a citizen of a proud free nation: INDEPENDENT, self-governing, self-governed, self-ruling, self-determining, non-aligned, sovereign, autonomous; democratic. ⑥ the killer is still free ON THE LOOSE, at liberty, at large, loose, unconfined, unbound, untied, unchained, untethered, unshackled, unfettered, unrestrained. ⑦ you are free to leave: ABLE TO, in a position to, capable of; ALLOWED, per-

mitted ⑧ the free flow of water. UNIMPEDED, unobstructed, unrestricted, unhampered, clear, open, unblocked. ⑨ she was free with her money GENEROUS, liberal, open-handed, unstinting, bountiful, lavish, extravagant, prodigal ⑩ his free and hearty manner FRANK, open, candid, direct, plain-spoken, unrestrained, unconstrained, free and easy, uninhibited

–OPPOSITES busy, occupied, captive, mean

▶ **verb** ① three of the hostages were freed RELEASE, set free, let go, liberate, discharge, deliver, set loose let loose, turn loose, untie, unchain, unfetter, unshackle, unleash, *poetic/literary* disenfranchise, *historical* manumit ② the victims were freed by firefighters EXTRICATE, release, get out, pull out, pull free, rescue, set free ③ they wish to be freed from all legal ties EXEMPT, except, excuse, relieve, unburden, disburden

–OPPOSITES confine, trap

■ **free and easy** EASY-GOING, relaxed, casual, informal, unceremonious, unforced, natural, open, spontaneous, uninhibited, friendly, tolerant, liberal, *informal* laid-back

■ **a free hand** FREE REIN, carte blanche, freedom, liberty, licence, latitude, leeway

freebooter ▶ **noun** PIRATE, marauder, raider, bandit, robber, adventurer, swashbuckler, *historical* privateer, *archaic* buccaneer, corsair

freedom ▶ **noun** ① a desperate bid for freedom LIBERTY, liberation, release, deliverance, delivery, discharge, *poetic/literary* disenfranchisement, *historical* manumission ② national revolution was the only path to freedom INDEPENDENCE, self-government, self-determination, self rule, home rule, sovereignty, non-alignment, autonomy, democracy ③ freedom from local political accountability EXEMPTION, immunity, dispensation, impunity ④ patients have more freedom to choose who treats them RIGHT, entitlement, privilege, prerogative, scope, latitude, leeway, flexibility, space, breathing space, room, elbow room, licence, leave, free rein, a free hand, carte blanche –OPPOSITES captivity, subjection, liability

free-for-all ▶ **noun** BRAWL, fight, scuffle, tussle, struggle, confrontation, clash, altercation, fray, fracas, melee, rumpus, disturbance, breach of the peace, *informal* dust-up, scrap, set-to, shindy, *Brit informal* punch-up, bust-up, barney, *Scottish informal* rammy, *Law*, dated affray

freely ▶ **adverb** ① may I speak freely? OPENLY, candidly, frankly, directly, without constraint, without inhibition, truthfully, honestly, without beating about the bush, without mincing one's words, without prevarication. ② they gave their time and labour freely VOLUNTARILY, willingly, readily, of one's own volition, of one's own accord, of one's own free will, without compulsion.

freethinker ▶ **noun** NONCONFORMIST, individualist, independent, maverick, agnostic, atheist, non-believer, unbeliever. –OPPOSITES conformist.

free will ▶ **noun** SELF-DETERMINATION, freedom of choice, autonomy, liberty, independence.

■ **of one's own free will** VOLUNTARILY, willingly, readily, freely, without reluctance, without compulsion, of one's own accord, of one's own volition, of one's own choosing.

freeze ▶ **verb** ① the stream had frozen: ICE OVER, ice up, solidify. ② the campers stifled in summer and froze in winter: BE VERY COLD, be numb with

cold, turn blue with cold, shiver, be chilled to the bone/marrow ③ *she froze in horror* STOP DEAD, stop in one's tracks, stop, stand (stock) still, go rigid, become motionless, become paralysed ④ *the prices of basic foodstuffs were frozen* FIX, hold, peg, set, limit, restrict, cap, confine, regulate, hold/keep down

—OPPOSITES thaw

■ **freeze someone out** (informal) EXCLUDE, leave out, shut out, cut out, ignore, ostracize, spurn, snub, shun, cut, cut dead, turn one's back on, cold-shoulder, give someone the cold shoulder, leave out in the cold, *Brit* send to Coventry, *Brit* informal blank

freezing ► **adjective** ① *a freezing wind* BITTER, bitterly cold, icy, chill, frosty, glacial, wintry, sub-zero, raw, biting, piercing, penetrating, cutting, numbing, arctic, polar, Siberian ② *you must be freezing* FROZEN, extremely cold, numb with cold, chilled to the bone/marrow, frozen stiff, shivery, shivering, informal frozen to death —OPPOSITES balmy, hot

freight ► **noun** ① *freight carried by rail* GOODS, cargo, freightage, load, consignment, delivery, shipment, merchandise ② *the importance of air freight* TRANSPORTATION, transport, conveyance, freightage, carriage, portage, haulage

frenetic ► **adjective** FRANTIC, wild, frenzied, hectic, fraught, feverish, fevered, mad, manic, hyperactive, energetic, intense, fast and furious, turbulent, tumultuous —OPPOSITES calm

frenzied ► **adjective** FRANTIC, wild, frenetic, hectic, fraught, feverish, fevered, mad, crazed, manic, intense, furious, uncontrolled, out of control. —OPPOSITES calm

frenzy ► **noun** ① *the crowd worked themselves into a state of frenzy* HYSTERIA, madness, mania, dementedness, delirium, feverishness, fever, wildness, agitation, turmoil, tumult, wild excitement, euphoria, elation, ecstasy ② *a frenzy of anger* FIT, paroxysm, spasm, bout

frequency ► **noun** RATE OF OCCURRENCE, incidence, amount, commonness, prevalence, *Statistics* distribution

frequent ► **adjective** ① *frequent bouts of chest infection* RECURRENT, recurring, repeated, periodic, continual, one after another, successive, many, numerous, lots of, several ② *a frequent business traveller* HABITUAL, regular —OPPOSITES occasional

► **verb** *he frequented chic supper clubs* VISIT, patronize, spend time in, visit regularly, be a regular visitor to, haunt, informal hang out at

frequenter ► **noun** HABITUÉ, patron, regular, regular visitor, regular customer, regular client, familiar face.

frequently ► **adverb** REGULARLY, often, very often, all the time, habitually, customarily, routinely, many times, many a time, lots of times, again and again, time and again, over and over again, repeatedly, recurrently, continually; *N Amer* oftentimes, poetic/literary oft, oft-times.

fresh ► **adjective** ① *fresh fruit*: NEWLY PICKED, garden-fresh, crisp, unwilted; raw, natural, unprocessed. ② *a fresh sheet of paper* CLEAN, blank, empty, clear, white; unused, new, pristine, unmarked, untouched. ③ *a fresh approach*: NEW, re-

cent, latest, up to date, modern, modernistic, ultra-modern, newfangled, original, novel, different, innovative, unusual, unconventional, unorthodox, radical, revolutionary; informal off-beat. ④ *fresh recruits* YOUNG, youthful, new, inexperienced, naive, untrained, unqualified, untied, raw; informal wet behind the ears. ⑤ *he felt fresh and happy to be alive* REFRESHED, rested, restored, revived; (as) fresh as a daisy, energetic, vigorous, invigorated, full of vim and vigour, lively, vibrant, spry, sprightly, bright, alert, perky, informal full of beans, raring to go, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, chirpy, chipper

⑥ *her fresh complexion* HEALTHY, healthy-looking, clear, bright, youthful, blooming, glowing, unblemished, fair, rosy, rosy-cheeked, pink, ruddy ⑦ *the night air was fresh* COOL, crisp, refreshing, invigorating, tonic, pure, clean, clear, uncontaminated, untainted ⑧ *a fresh wind* CHILLY, chill, cool, cold, brisk, bracing, invigorating, strong, informal nippy, *Brit* informal parky

⑨ (informal) *that young man has been getting a little too fresh*. IMPUDENT, impertinent, insolent, presumptuous, forward, cheeky, disrespectful, rude, brazen, shameless, pert, bold, (as) bold as brass, informal brass-necked, lippy, mouthy, saucy, *N Amer* informal sassy

—OPPOSITES stale, old, tired, warm

freshen ► **verb** ① *the cold water freshened him* REFRESH, revitalize, restore, revive, wake up, rouse, enliven, liven up, energize, brace, invigorate, informal buck up, pep up ② *he opened a window to freshen the room* VENTILATE, air, aerate, oxygenate, deodorize, purify, cleanse, refresh, cool ③ *she went to freshen up before dinner* HAVE A WASH, wash oneself, bathe, shower, tidy oneself (up), spruce oneself up, smarten oneself up, groom oneself, primp oneself, *N Amer* wash up, informal titivate oneself, do oneself up, doll oneself up, *Brit* informal tart oneself up, formal or humorous perform one's ablutions ④ (*N Amer*) *the waitress freshened their coffee* REFILL, top up, fill up, replenish

freshman, freshman ► **noun** FIRST-YEAR STUDENT, undergraduate, newcomer, new recruit, starter, probationer, beginner, learner, novice, *N Amer* tenderfoot, informal undergrad, rookie, *Brit* informal fresher, *N Amer* informal greenhorn

fret ► **verb** ① *she was fretting about Jonathan* WORRY, be anxious, feel uneasy, be distressed, be upset, upset oneself, concern oneself; agonize, sigh, pine, brood, eat one's heart out ② *his absence began to fret her*: TROUBLE, bother, concern, perturb, disturb, disquiet, disconcert, distress, upset, alarm, panic, agitate, informal eat away at

fretful ► **adjective** DISTRESSED, upset, miserable, unsettled, uneasy, ill at ease, uncomfortable, edgy, agitated, worked up, tense, stressed, restive, fidgety, querulous, irritable, cross, fractious, peevish, petulant, out of sorts, bad-tempered, irascible, grumpy, crotchety, capacious, testy, tetchy, *N Amer* informal cranky; informal het up, uptight, twitchy, crabby

friable ► **adjective** CRUMBLY, easily crumbled, powdery, dusty, chalky, soft, dry, crisp, brittle

friar ► **noun** MONK, brother, religious, coenobite, contemplative; prior, abbot.

friction ► **noun** ① *a lubrication system which reduces friction*: ABRASION, rubbing, chafing, grat-



ing, rasping, scraping; resistance, drag ② *there was considerable friction between father and son* DISCORD, strife, conflict, disagreement, dissension, dissent, opposition, contention, dispute, disputation, arguing, argument, quarrelling, bickering, squabbling, wrangling, fighting, feuding, rivalry, hostility, animosity, antipathy, enmity, antagonism, resentment, acrimony, bitterness, bad feeling, ill feeling, ill will, bad blood

—OPPOSITES harmony

friend ▶ **noun** ① *a close friend* COMPANION, boon companion, bosom friend, best friend, intimate, confidante, confidant, familiar, soul mate, alter ego, second self, playmate, playfellow, classmate, schoolmate, workmate, ally, associate, sister, brother, *informal* pal, chum, sidekick, crony, main man; *Brit informal* mate, china, mucker, *N English informal* marrow, marra, *N Amer informal* buddy, amigo, compadre, homeboy; *archaic* compeer ② *the friends of the Royal Botanic Garden* PATRON, backer, supporter, benefactor, benefactress, sponsor; well-wisher, defender, champion, *informal* angel

—OPPOSITES enemy

friendless ▶ **adjective** ALONE, all alone, by oneself, solitary, lonely, with no one to turn to, lone, without friends, companionless, unfriended, unpopular, unwanted, unloved, abandoned, rejected, forsaken, shunned, spurned, forlorn, *N Amer* lonesome

—OPPOSITES popular

friendliness ▶ **noun** AFFABILITY, amiability, geniality, congeniality, bonhomie, cordiality, good nature, good humour, warmth, affection, demonstrativeness, conviviality, joviality, companionability, sociability, gregariousness, camaraderie, neighbourliness, hospitableness, approachability, accessibility, openness, kindness, kindness, sympathy, amenability, benevolence

friendly ▶ **adjective** ① *a friendly woman* AFFABLE, amiable, genial, congenial, cordial, warm, affectionate, demonstrative, convivial, companionable, sociable, gregarious, outgoing, clubbable, comradely, neighbourly, hospitable, approachable, easy to get on with, accessible, communicative, open, unreserved, easy-going, good-natured, kindly, benign, amenable, agreeable, obliging, sympathetic, well disposed, benevolent, *Scottish* couthy, *informal* chummy, pally, clubby; *Brit informal* matey; *N Amer informal* buddy-buddy. ② *friendly conversation* AMICABLE, congenial, cordial, pleasant, easy, relaxed, casual, *informal*, unceremonious; close, intimate, familiar. ③ *a friendly wind swept the boat to the shore* FAVOURABLE, advantageous, helpful, lucky, providential

—OPPOSITES hostile

friendship ▶ **noun** ① *lasting friendships* RELATIONSHIP, close relationship, attachment, mutual attachment, association, bond, tie, link, union ② *old ties of love and friendship* AMITY, camaraderie, friendliness, comradeship, companionship, fellowship, fellow feeling, closeness, affinity, rapport, understanding, harmony, unity; intimacy, mutual affection

—OPPOSITES enmity

fright ▶ **noun** ① *she was paralysed with fright*. FEAR, fearfulness, terror, horror, alarm, panic, dread, trepidation, dismay, nervousness, appre-

hension, apprehensiveness, perturbation, disquiet; *informal* jitteriness, twitchiness ② *the experience gave everyone a fright* SCARE, shock, surprise, turn, jolt, start; the shivers, the shakes, *informal* the jitters, the heebie-jeebies, the wilies, the creeps, the collywobbles, a cold sweat, *Brit informal* the (screaming) abdots, butterflies (in one's stomach) ③ *(informal) she looked an absolute fright* UGLY SIGHT, eyesore, monstrosity; *informal* mess, sight, state, blot on the landscape

frighten ▶ **verb** SCARE, startle, alarm, terrify, petrify, shock, chill, panic, shake, disturb, dismay, unnerve, unman, intimidate, terrorize, cow, daunt, strike terror into, put the fear of God into, chill someone to the bone/marrow, make someone's blood run cold, *informal* scare the living daylight out of, scare stiff, scare someone out of their wits, scare witless, scare to death, scare the pants off, spook, make someone's hair stand on end, throw into a blue funk, make someone jump out of their skin, *Brit informal* put the wind up, give someone the heebie-jeebies, make someone's hair curl, *Insh informal* scare the bejesus out of, *archaic* affright

frightening ▶ **adjective** TERRIFYING, horrifying, alarming, startling, chilling, spine-chilling, hair-raising, blood-curdling, disturbing, unnerving, intimidating, daunting, dismaying, upsetting, harrowing, traumatic, eerie, sinister, fearsome, nightmarish, macabre, menacing, *Scottish* eldritch, *informal* scary, spooky, creepy, hairy

frightful ▶ **adjective** ① *a frightful accident* HORRIBLE, horrific, ghastly, horrendous, serious, awful, dreadful, terrible, nasty, grim, dire, unspeakable, alarming, shocking, terrifying, harrowing, appalling, fearful, hideous, gruesome, grisly, *informal* horrid, *formal* grievous ② *(informal) a frightful racket* AWFUL, very bad, terrible, dreadful, appalling, ghastly, abominable, unpleasant, disagreeable, lamentable, deplorable, insufferable, unbearable, *informal* God-awful; *Brit informal* beastly

frigid ▶ **adjective** ① *a frigid January night* VERY COLD, bitterly cold, bitter, freezing, frozen, frosty, icy, gelid, chilly, chill, wintry, bleak, sub-zero, arctic, Siberian, polar, glacial, *informal* nippy; *Brit informal* parky ② *frigid politeness* STIFF, formal, stony, wooden, unemotional, passionless, unfeeling, indifferent, unresponsive, unenthusiastic, austere, distant, aloof, remote, reserved, unapproachable, frosty, cold, icy, cool, unsmiling, forbidding, unfriendly, unwelcoming, hostile, *informal* offish, stand-offish.

—OPPOSITES hot, friendly.

frill ▶ **noun** ① *a full skirt with a wide frill*: RUFFLE, flounce, ruff, furbelow, jabot, peplum, ruche, ruching, fringe, *archaic* purtle ② *a comfortable flat with no frills*: OSTENTATION, ornamentation, decoration, embellishment, fanciness, fuss, chichi, gilding, excess; trimmings, extras, additions, non-essentials, luxuries, extravagances, superfluous.

frilly ▶ **adjective** RUFFLED, flounced, frilled, crimped, ruched, trimmed, lacy, frothy; fancy, ornate.

fringe ▶ **noun** ① *the city's northern fringe*: PERIMETER, periphery, border, borderline, margin, rim, outer edge, edge, extremity, limit; outer limits, limits, borders, bounds, outskirts, marches; *poetic/literary* marge, bourn. ② *blue curtains with a yellow fringe*: EDGING, edge, border,

trimming, frill, flounce, ruffle, tassels, *archaic* purfle

—OPPOSITES middle

► **adjective** *fringe theatre* UNCONVENTIONAL, unorthodox, alternative, avant-garde, experimental, innovative, left-field, innovatory, radical, extreme, peripheral, off Broadway, *informal* off-beat, way out

—OPPOSITES mainstream

► **verb** ① *a robe of gold, fringed with black velvet* TRIM, edge, hem, border, bind, braid, decorate, adorn, ornament, embellish, finish, *archaic* purfle ② *the lake is fringed by a belt of trees* BORDER, edge, bound, skirt, line, surround, enclose, encircle, circle, girdle, encompass, ring, *poetic/literary* gird

fringe benefit ► **noun** EXTRA, added extra, additional benefit, privilege, *informal* perk, *formal* perquisite

frippery ► **noun** ① *a functional building with not a hint of frippery* OSTENTATION, showiness, embellishment, adornment, ornamentation, ornament, decoration, trimming, gilding, prettification, gingerbread, finery, *informal* bells and whistles ② *stalls full of fripperies* TRINKET, bauble, knick-knack, gewgaw, gimcrack, bibelot, ornament, novelty, trifle, *N Amer* kickshaw, *archaic* gaud

frisk ► **verb** ① *the spaniels frisked around my ankles* FROLIC, gambol, cavort, caper, cut capers, scamper, skip, dance, romp, trip, prance, leap, spring, hop, jump, bounce ② *the officer frisked him* SEARCH, body-search, check

frisky ► **adjective** LIVELY, bouncy, bubbly, perky, active, energetic, animated, zestful, full of vim and vigour, playful, coltish, skittish, spirited, high-spirited, in high spirits, exuberant, *informal* full of beans, sparky, zippy, peppy, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, *poetic/literary* frolicsome

fritter ► **verb** SQUANDER, waste, misuse, mispend, dissipate, overspend, spend like water, be prodigal with, run through, get through, *informal* blow, splurge, pour/chuck something down the drain, *Brit informal, dated* blue

—OPPOSITES save

frivolity ► **noun** LIGHT-HEARTEDNESS, levity, joking, jocularly, gaiety, fun, frivolousness, silliness, foolishness, flightiness, skittishness, superficiality, shallowness, vacuity, empty-headedness

frivolous ► **adjective** ① *a frivolous girl* SKITTISH, flighty, giddy, silly, foolish, superficial, shallow, light-minded, irresponsible, thoughtless, feather-brained, empty-headed, pea-brained, birdbrained, vacuous, vapid, *informal* dizzy, dippy, *N Amer informal* ditzy ② *frivolous remarks* FLIPPANT, glib, facetious, joking, jokey, light-hearted; fatuous, inane, senseless, thoughtless, *informal* flip ③ *new rules to stop frivolous lawsuits* TIME-WASTING, pointless, trivial, trifling, minor, petty, insignificant, unimportant.

—OPPOSITES sensible, serious

frizzle► **verb** *a hamburger frizzled in the pan* SIZZLE, crackle, fizz, hiss, spit, sputter, crack, snap; fry, cook.

frizzle► **verb** *their hair was powdered and frizzled* CURL, coil, crimp, crinkle, kink, wave, frizz.

—OPPOSITES straighten

frizzy► **adjective** CURLY, curled, corkscrew, ringlety, crimped, crinkly, kinky, frizzed, permed.

N Amer informal nappy

—OPPOSITES straight

frock► **noun** DRESS, gown, robe, shift, garment, costume

frog► **noun** See list at AMPHIBIAN

frolic► **verb** *children frolicked on the sand* PLAY, amuse oneself, romp, disport oneself, frisk, gambol, cavort, caper, cut capers, scamper, skip, dance, prance, leap about, jump about, *dated* sport

► **noun** *the youngsters enjoyed their frolic* ANTIC, caper, game, romp, escapade, (frolics) fun (and games), high jinks, merrymaking, amusement, skylarking

frolicsome► **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) PLAYFUL, frisky, fun-loving, jolly, merry, gleeful, light-hearted, exuberant, high-spirited, spirited, lively, perky, skittish, coltish, kittenish, mischievous, impish, roguish, *informal* peppy, zippy, full of beans

front► **noun** ① *the front of the boat* FORE, foremost part, forepart, anterior, forefront, nose, head, bow, prow, foreground ② *a shop front* FRONTAGE, face, facing, facade, window ③ *the battlefield surgeons who work at the front* FRONT LINE, firing line, vanguard, van, trenches ④ *the front of the queue* HEAD, beginning, start, top, lead ⑤ *she kept up a brave front* APPEARANCE, air, face, manner, demeanour, bearing, pose, exterior, veneer, (outward) show, act, pretence, affectation ⑥ *the shop was a front for his real business* COVER, cover-up, false front, blind, disguise, facade, mask, cloak, screen, smoke-screen, camouflage ⑦ (*informal*) *he's got a lot of front* SELF-CONFIDENCE, boldness, forwardness, pushiness, audacity, temerity, presumption, presumptuousness, cockiness, daring, *informal* nerve, face, neck, brass neck

—OPPOSITES rear, back

► **adjective** *the front runners* LEADING, lead, first, foremost, in first place

—OPPOSITES last

► **verb** *the houses fronted on a reservoir* OVERLOOK, look out on/over, face (towards), lie opposite (to), have a view of, command a view of.

■ **in front** AHEAD, to/at the fore, at the head, up ahead, in the vanguard, in the van, in the lead, leading, coming first, at the head of the queue, *informal* up front

frontier► **noun** BORDER, boundary, borderline, dividing line, demarcation line, perimeter, limit, edge, rim; marches, bounds

frost► **noun** ① *hedges covered with frost* ICE CRYSTALS, ice, rime, verglas, hoar frost, ground frost, black frost, *informal* Jack Frost; *archaic* hoar ② *there was frost in his tone* COLDNESS, coolness, frostiness, ice, iciness, frigidity; hostility, unfriendliness, stiffness, *informal* stand-offishness.

frosty► **adjective** ① *a frosty morning* FREEZING, cold, icy-cold, bitter, bitterly cold, chill, wintry, frigid, glacial, arctic, frozen, icy, gelid, *informal* nippy; *Brit informal* parky; *poetic/literary* froze, rimy ② *her frosty gaze* COLD, frigid, icy, glacial, unfriendly, inhospitable, unwelcoming, forbidding, hostile, stony, stern, hard

froth► **noun** *the froth on top of the beer* FOAM, head; bubbles, frothiness, fizz, effervescence; lather, suds; scum, *poetic/literary* spume.

► **verb** the liquid frothed up BUBBLE, fizz, effervesce, foam, lather, churn, seethe, *poetic/literary* spume

frothy ► **adjective** ① a frothy liquid FOAMING, foamy, bubbling, bubbly, fizzy, sparkling, effervescent, gassy, carbonated, sudsy, *poetic/literary* spumy, spumous ② a frothy pink evening dress FRILLY, flouncy, lacy ③ a frothy woman's magazine LIGHTWEIGHT, light, superficial, shallow, slight, insubstantial; trivial, trifling, frivolous

frown ► **verb** ① she frowned at him SCOWL, glower, glare, lour, make a face, look daggers, give someone a black look, knit/furrow one's brows, *informal* give someone a dirty look ② public displays of affection were frowned on DISAPPROVE OF, view with disfavour, dislike, look askance at, not take kindly to, take a dim view of, take exception to, object to, have a low opinion of

—OPPOSITES smile

frowsty ► **adjective** (Brit) STUFFY, airless, unventilated, fusty, close, muggy, stifling; stale, musty, smelly, *N Amer* funky
—OPPOSITES airy

frowzy ► **adjective** ① a frowzy old biddy SCRUFFY, unkempt, untidy, messy, dishevelled, slovenly, slatternly, bedraggled, down at heel, badly dressed, dowdy, *N Amer informal* raggedy ② a frowzy room DINGY, gloomy, dull, drab, dark, dim, stuffy, close, musty, stale, stifling, shabby, seedy, run down, *Brit* frowsty, fuggy.

frozen ► **adjective** ① the frozen ground ICY, ice-covered, ice-bound, frosty, frosted, gelid, frozen solid, hard, (as) hard as iron, *poetic/literary* rimy ② his hands were frozen. FREEZING, icy, very cold, chilled to the bone/marrow, numb, numbed, frozen stiff, *informal* frozen to death.
—OPPOSITES boiling

frugal ► **adjective** ① a hard-working, frugal man THRIFTY, economical, careful, cautious, prudent, provident, unwasteful, sparing, scrimping, abstemious, abstinent, austere, self-denying, ascetic, monkish, spartan, parsimonious, miserly, niggardly, cheese-paring, penny-pinching, close-fisted, *N Amer* forehanded, *informal* tight-fisted, tight, stingy ② their frugal breakfast MEAGRE, scanty, scant, paltry, skimpy, plain, simple, spartan, inexpensive, cheap, economic
—OPPOSITES extravagant, lavish

fruit ► **noun** ① fresh fruit See list ② the fruits of their labours REWARD, benefit, profit, product, return, yield, legacy, issue; result, outcome, upshot, consequence, effect.

fruitful ► **adjective** ① a fruitful tree FERTILE, fecund, prolific, high-yielding; fruit-bearing, fruiting. ② fruitful discussions PRODUCTIVE, constructive, useful, of use, worthwhile, helpful, beneficial, valuable, rewarding, profitable, advantageous, gainful, successful, effective, effectual, well spent.

—OPPOSITES barren, futile

fruition ► **noun** FULFILMENT, realization, actualization, materialization, achievement, attainment, accomplishment, resolution; success, completion, consummation, conclusion, close, finish, perfection, maturity, maturation, ripening, ripeness, implementation, execution, performance.

fruitless ► **adjective** FUTILE, vain, in vain, to no avail, to no effect, idle; pointless, useless,

Edible Fruits

ackee	fig	partridgeberry
alligator	galia melon	passionfruit
pear	geebung	pawpaw
ananas	genip	peach
apple	genipap	pear
apricot	gooseberry	persimmon
Asian pear	gourd	physalis
avocado	granadilla	pineapple
azarole	grape	pipplin
babaco	grapefruit	pitahaya
bael	greengage	plantain
bakeapple	guava	plum
banana	hackberry	pomegranate
beach plum	honeydew	pomelo
bilberry	melon	prickly pear
blackberry	huckleberry	pumpkin
blackcurrant	jaboticaba	quandong
blood	jackfruit	quince
orange	jamun	rambutan
blueberry	jujube	raspberry
boysenberry	juneberry	redcurrant
breadfruit	kaki	roseapple
bullace	kiwi fruit	salmonberry
cantaloupe	kumquat	sapodilla
Cape	lemon	satsuma
gooseberry	lime	sea grape
carambola	lingonberry	serviceberry
cashew	loganberry	sharon fruit
apple	longan	sloe
chayote	loquat	sorb
checkerberry	lychee	soursop
cherimoya	mam mee	star apple
cherry	mandarin	starfruit
cherry plum	mango	strawberry
Chinese	mangosteen	sugar apple
gooseberry	manzanilla	sweetsop
citron	maypop	tamarillo
clementine	medlar	tamarind
cloudberry	melon	tangelo
coconut	minneola	tangerine
Costard	mombin	tayberry
cowberry	mulberry	thimbleberry
crab apple	muscat	tomatillo
cranberry	musk melon	tomato
crowberry	myrobalan	Ugli fruit
currant	naseberry	(trademark)
custard	nashi	veitchberry
apple	navel orange	victoria plum
damson	nectarine	watermelon
date	Ogen melon	white
dewberry	olive	currant
durian	orange	whortleberry
elderberry	ortanique	wineberry
feljoa	papaya	youngberry

worthless, wasted, hollow; ineffectual, ineffective, inefficacious; unproductive, unrewarding, profitless, unsuccessful, unavailing, barren, for naught; abortive; *archaic* bootless.

—OPPOSITES productive.

fruity ► **adjective** ① his fruity voice: DEEP, rich, resonant, full, mellow, clear, strong, vibrant. ② (Brit *informal*) a fruity story: BAWDY, racy, risqué, naughty, spicy, earthy, ribald, suggestive, titillating; rude, indelicate, vulgar, indecent, improper, dirty, smutty, coarse, off colour; *N Amer* gamy, *euphemistic* adult; *informal* blue, near the knuckle, nudge-nudge, raunchy; *Brit informal* saucy

frumpy ▶ **adjective** DOWDY, frumpish, unfashionable, old-fashioned; drab, dull, shabby, scruffy. *Brit informal* mumsy.
-OPPOSITES fashionable.

frustrate ▶ **verb** ① *his plans were frustrated* THWART, defeat, foil, block, stop, put a stop to, counter, spoil, check, balk, disappoint, forestall, dash, scotch, quash, crush, derail, snooker; obstruct, impede, hamper, hinder, hamstring, stand in the way of, spike someone's guns, *informal* stymie, foul up, screw up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for; *Brit informal* scupper ② *the delays frustrated him* EXASPERATE, infuriate, annoy, anger, vex, irritate, irk, try someone's patience; disappoint, discontent, dissatisfy, discourage, dishearten, dispirit; *informal* aggravate, bug, muff, hack off
-OPPOSITES help, facilitate

frustration ▶ **noun** ① *he clenched his fists in frustration* EXASPERATION, annoyance, anger, vexation, irritation, disappointment, dissatisfaction, discontentment, discontent, *informal* aggravation ② *the frustration of his attempts to introduce changes* THWARTING, defeat, prevention, foiling, blocking, spoiling, circumvention, forestalling, disappointment, derailment, obstruction, hampering, hindering; failure, collapse

fuddled ▶ **adjective** STUPEFIED, addled, befuddled, confused, muddled, bewildered, dazed, stunned, muzzy, groggy, foggy, fuzzy, vague, disorientated, disoriented, all at sea, *informal* dopey, woozy, woolly-minded, fazed, not with it, *N Amer informal* discombobulated

fuddy-duddy ▶ **noun** (*informal*) (OLD) FOGY, conservative, traditionalist, conformist; fossil, dinosaur, troglodyte, *Brit* museum piece, *informal* stick-in-the-mud, square, stuffed shirt, dodo

fudge ▶ **verb** ① *the minister tried to fudge the issue* EVADE, avoid, dodge, skirt, duck, gloss over, hedge, prevaricate, vacillate, be non-committal, stall, beat about the bush, equivocate, *Brit* hum and haw, *informal* cop out, sit on the fence, *rare* tergiversate ② *the government has been fudging figures* ADJUST, manipulate, massage, put a spin on, juggle, misrepresent, misreport, bend; tamper with, tinker with, interfere with, doctor, falsify, distort; *informal* cook, fiddle with.

▶ **noun** *the latest proposals are a fudge* COMPROMISE, cover-up, spin, casuistry, sophistry; *informal* cop-out

fuel ▶ **noun** ① *the car ran out of fuel* PETROL, diesel; power source; *N Amer* gasoline, gas. See list at ENERGY ② *she added more fuel to the fire* FIREWOOD, wood, kindling, logs; coal, coke, anthracite, oil, paraffin, kerosene, heat source. ③ *we all need fuel to keep our bodies going*: NOURISHMENT, food, sustenance, nutriment, nutrition ④ *his antics added fuel to the Republican cause*: ENCOURAGEMENT, ammunition, stimulus, incentive; provocation, goading.

▶ **verb** ① *power stations fuelled by low-grade coal* POWER, fire, charge. ② *the rumours fuelled anxiety among opposition backbenchers* FAN, feed, stoke up, inflame, intensify, stimulate, encourage, provoke, incite, whip up; sustain, keep alive.

fug ▶ **noun** (*Brit. informal*) STUFFINESS, fustiness, frowstiness, staleness, stuffy atmosphere.

fuggy ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) STUFFY, smoky, close, muggy, stale, fusty, unventilated, airless, stifling, heavy
-OPPOSITES airy.

fugitive ▶ **noun** *a hunted fugitive*: ESCAPEE, runaway, deserter, absconder; refugee.

▶ **adjective** ① *a fugitive criminal* ESCAPED, runaway, on the run, on the loose, at large, wanted; *informal* AWOL, *N Amer informal* on the lam. ② *the fugitive nature of life* FLEETING, transient, transitory, ephemeral, fading, momentary, short-lived, short, brief, passing, impermanent, here today and gone tomorrow, *poetic/literary* evanescent

fulfil ▶ **verb** ① *he fulfilled a lifelong ambition to visit Israel* ACHIEVE, attain, realize, actualize, make happen, succeed in, bring to completion, bring to fruition, satisfy ② *she failed to fulfil her duties* CARRY OUT, perform, accomplish, execute, do, discharge, conduct, complete, finish, conclude, perfect ③ *they fulfilled the criteria* MEET, satisfy, comply with, conform to, fill, answer

fulfilled ▶ **adjective** SATISFIED, content, contented, happy, pleased, serene, placid, untroubled, at ease, at peace
-OPPOSITES discontented.

full ▶ **adjective** ① *her glass was full*: FILLED, filled up, filled to capacity, filled to the brim, brimming, brimful ② *streets full of people* CROWDED, packed, crammed, congested, teeming, swarming, thick, thronged, overcrowded, overrun, abounding, bursting, overflowing; *informal* jam-packed, wall-to-wall, stuffed, chock-a-block, chock-full, bursting at the seams, packed to the gunwales, awash ③ *all the seats were full*: OCCUPIED, taken, in use, unavailable. ④ *I'm full* REplete, full up, satisfied, well fed, sated, satiated, surfeited; gorged, glutted, *informal* stuffed. ⑤ *she'd had a full life*: EVENTFUL, interesting, exciting, lively, action-packed, busy, energetic, active ⑥ *a full list of available facilities*: COMPREHENSIVE, thorough, exhaustive, all-inclusive, all-encompassing, all-embracing, in depth, complete, entire, whole, unabridged, uncut. ⑦ *a fire engine driven at full speed*: MAXIMUM, top, greatest, highest ⑧ *she had a full figure* PLUMP, well rounded, rounded, buxom, shapely, ample, curvaceous, voluptuous, womanly, Junoesque; *informal* busty, curvy, well upholstered, well endowed; *N Amer informal* zaftig ⑨ *a full skirt*: LOOSE-FITTING, loose, baggy, voluminous, roomy, capacious, billowing. ⑩ *his full baritone voice*: RESONANT, rich, sonorous, deep, vibrant, full-bodied, strong, fruity, clear ⑪ *the full flavour of a Bordeaux*. RICH, intense, full-bodied, strong, deep.

-OPPOSITES empty, hungry, selective, thin.

▶ **adverb** ① *she looked full into his face*: DIRECTLY, right, straight, squarely, square, dead, point-blank; *informal* bang, slap (bang), plumb. ② *you knew full well I was leaving*: VERY, perfectly, quite; *informal* darn, damn, damned, *Brit informal* jolly, bloody; *N. Amer. informal* darned.

■ **In full** IN ITS ENTIRETY, in toto, in total, unabridged, uncut

■ **to the full** FULLY, thoroughly, completely, to the utmost, to the limit, to the maximum, for all one's worth.

full-blooded ▶ **adjective** *a full-blooded price war*: UNCOMPROMISING, all-out, out-and-out, committed, vigorous, strenuous, intense; unrestrained,

uncontrolled, unbridled, hard-hitting, pulling no punches
-OPPOSITES half-hearted

full-blown ▶ **adjective** FULLY DEVELOPED, full-scale, full-blooded, fully fledged, complete, total, thorough, entire, advanced

full-bodied ▶ **adjective** FULL-FLAVOURED, flavourful, flavoursome, full of flavour, rich, mel-low, fruity, robust, strong, well-matured
-OPPOSITES tasteless

full-grown ▶ **adjective** ADULT, mature, grown-up, of age, fully grown, fully developed, fully fledged, in one's prime, in full bloom, ripe
-OPPOSITES infant

fullness ▶ **noun** ① the fullness of the information they provide COMPREHENSIVENESS, completeness, thoroughness, exhaustiveness, all-inclusiveness ② the fullness of her body PLUMPNESS, roundness, roundedness, shapeliness, curvaceousness, voluptuousness, womanliness, informal curviness ③ the recording has a fullness and warmth RESONANCE, richness, intensity, depth, vibrancy, strength, clarity

■ **In the fullness of time** IN DUE COURSE, when the time is ripe, eventually, in time, in time to come, one day, some day, sooner or later, ultimately, finally, in the end

full-scale ▶ **adjective** ① a full-scale model FULL-SIZE, unreduced ② a full-scale public inquiry THOROUGH, comprehensive, extensive, exhaustive, complete, all-out, all-encompassing, all-inclusive, all-embracing, thoroughgoing, wide-ranging, sweeping, in-depth, far-reaching
-OPPOSITES small-scale

fully ▶ **adverb** ① I fully agree with him COMPLETELY, entirely, wholly, totally, quite, utterly, perfectly, altogether, thoroughly, in all respects, in every respect, without reservation, without exception, to the hilt ② fully two minutes must have passed AT LEAST, no less than, no fewer than, easily, without exaggeration
-OPPOSITES partly, nearly

fully fledged ▶ **adjective** TRAINED, qualified, proficient, experienced, mature, fully developed, full grown, *Bnt* time-served
-OPPOSITES novice

fulminate ▶ **verb** PROTEST, rail, rage, rant, thunder, storm, vociferate, declaim, inveigh, speak out, make/take a stand, denounce, decry, condemn, criticize, censure, disparage, attack, execrate, arraign, informal mouth off about, kick up a stink about, formal excoriate

fulmination ▶ **noun** PROTEST, objection, complaint, rant, tirade, diatribe, harangue, invective, railing, obloquy, denunciation, condemnation, criticism, censure, attack, broadside, brickbats, formal excoriation, poetic/literary philippic

fulsome ▶ **adjective** EXCESSIVE, extravagant, overdone, immoderate, inordinate, over-appreciative, flattering, adulatory, fawning, unctuous, ingratiating, cloying, saccharine; enthusiastic, effusive, rapturous, glowing, gushing, profuse, generous, lavish; informal over the top, OTT, smarmy

fumble ▶ **verb** ① he fumbled for his keys: GROPE, fish, search blindly, scramble around ② he fumbled about in the dark: STUMBLE, blunder, flounder, lumber, stagger, totter, lurch; feel one's way, grope one's way ③ the keeper fumbled the

ball MISS, drop, mishandle; misfield ④ he fumbled his lines MESS UP, make a mess of, bungle, mismanage, mishandle, spoil, informal make a hash of, fluff, botch, muff, *Bnt* informal cock up, *N Amer* informal flub

▶ **noun** a fumble from the goalkeeper SLIP, mistake, error, gaffe, informal slip-up, boo-boo, *Bnt* informal cock-up, boob

fume ▶ **noun** ① a fire giving off toxic fumes SMOKE, vapour, gas, effluvium, exhaust, pollution ② stale wine fumes SMELL, odour, stink, reek, stench, *Bnt* informal pong, niff, *Scottish* informal guff; *N Amer* informal funk, poetic/literary mi-asma

▶ **verb** ① fragments of lava were fuming and sizzling EMIT SMOKE, emit gas, smoke, archaic reek ② Ella was still fuming at his arrogance BE FURIOUS, be enraged, be very angry, seethe, be livid, be incensed, boil, be beside oneself, spit, rage, rant and rave, informal be hot under the collar, foam at the mouth, see red

fumigate ▶ **verb** DISINFECT, purify, sterilize, sanitize, decontaminate, cleanse, clean out
-OPPOSITES soil

fun ▶ **noun** ① I joined in with the fun ENJOYMENT, entertainment, amusement, pleasure, jollification, merrymaking, recreation, diversion, leisure, relaxation, good time, great time, informal R and R (rest and recreation), living it up, a ball, beer and skittles. ② she's full of fun MERRIMENT, cheerfulness, cheeriness, jollity, joviality, jocularity, high spirits, gaiety, mirth, laughter, hilarity, glee, gladness, light-heartedness, levity ③ he became a figure of fun RIDICULE, derision, mockery, laughter, scorn, contempt, jeering, sneering, jibing, teasing, taunting
-OPPOSITES boredom, misery

▶ **adjective** (informal) a fun evening ENJOYABLE, entertaining, amusing, diverting, pleasurable, pleasing, agreeable, interesting

■ **in fun** PLAYFUL, in jest, as a joke, tongue in cheek, light-hearted, for a laugh, to tease, teasing

■ **make fun of** TEASE, poke fun at, chaff, rag, ridicule, mock, laugh at, taunt, jeer at, scoff at, deride, parody, lampoon, caricature, satirize, informal take the mickey out of, rib, kid, have on, pull someone's leg, send up, *Bnt* informal wind up, *N Amer* informal goof on, rag on, razz

function ▶ **noun** ① the main function of the machine PURPOSE, task, use, role ② my function was to select and train the recruits RESPONSIBILITY, duty, role, concern, province, activity, assignment, obligation, charge, task, job, mission, undertaking, commission, capacity, post, situation, office, occupation, employment, business ③ a function attended by local dignitaries SOCIAL EVENT, party, social occasion, affair, gathering, reception, soirée, jamboree, gala, *N Amer* levee; informal do, bash, shundig; *Bnt* informal jolly, beanfeast.

▶ **verb** ① the electrical system had ceased to function WORK, go, run, be in working/running order, operate, be operative. ② the museum functions as an educational and study centre: ACT, serve, operate, perform, work, play the role of, do duty as.

functional ▶ **adjective** ① a small functional kitchen: PRACTICAL, useful, utilitarian, utility, workaday, serviceable; minimalist, plain, simple, basic, modest, unadorned, unostentatious, no-frills, without frills; impersonal, character-

less, soulless, institutional, clinical ② *the machine is now fully functional* WORKING, in working order, functioning, in service, in use, going, running, operative, operating, in operation, in commission, in action, *informal* up and running

functionary ► **noun** OFFICIAL, office-holder, public servant, civil servant, bureaucrat, administrator, apparatchik, *Brit* jack-in-office

fund ► **noun** ① *an emergency fund for refugees* COLLECTION, kitty, reserve, pool, purse, endowment, foundation, trust, grant, investment; savings, nest egg, *informal* stash ② *I was very short of funds* MONEY, cash, ready money; wealth, means, assets, resources, savings, capital, reserves, the wherewithal, *informal* dough, bread, loot, dosh, *Brit informal* lolly, spondulicks, the ready ③ *his fund of stories* STOCK, store, supply, accumulation, collection, bank, pool, mine, reservoir, storehouse, treasury, treasure house, hoard, repository

► **verb** *the agency was funded by the Treasury* FINANCE, pay for, back, capitalize, sponsor, put up the money for, subsidize, underwrite, endow, support, maintain, *informal* foot the bill for, pick up the tab for, *N Amer informal* bank-roll, stake

fundamental ► **adjective** BASIC, underlying, core, foundational, rudimentary, elemental, elementary, basal, root, primary, prime, cardinal, first, principal, chief, key, central, vital, essential, important, indispensable, necessary, crucial, pivotal, critical, structural, organic, constitutional, inherent, intrinsic
—OPPOSITES secondary, unimportant

fundamentally ► **adverb** *she was, fundamentally, a good person* ESSENTIALLY, in essence, basically, at heart, at bottom, deep down, au fond, primarily, above all, first and foremost, first of all, *informal* at the end of the day, when all is said and done, when you get right down to it

fundamentals ► **plural noun** BASICS, essentials, rudiments, foundations, basic principles, first principles, preliminaries, crux, crux of the matter, heart of the matter, essence, core, heart, base, bedrock, *informal* nuts and bolts, nitty-gritty, brass tacks, ABC

funeral ► **noun** ① *he'd attended a funeral* BURIAL, interment, entombment, committal, inhumation, laying to rest, cremation, obsequies, last offices, *formal* exequies, *archaic* sepulture ② (*informal*) *remember, it was you who asked—it's your funeral* RESPONSIBILITY, problem, worry, concern, business, affair, *informal* headache, *Brit informal* lookout

funereal ► **adjective** ① *the funereal atmosphere* SOMBRE, gloomy, mournful, melancholy, lugubrious, sepulchral, miserable, doleful, woeful, sad, sorrowful, cheerless, joyless, bleak, dismal, depressing, dreary, grave, solemn, serious, *poetic/literary* dolorous ② *funereal colours*. DARK, black, drab.
—OPPOSITES cheerful

fungus ► **noun** MUSHROOM, toadstool; mould, mildew, rust; *Biology* saprophyte. *See list*.
—RELATED TERMS myco-

funk (*informal*) ► **noun** *he put us all into a funk* PANIC, state of fear, fluster; *informal* cold sweat, state, stew, flap, tizzy, tizz; *Brit informal* blue funk, heebie-jeebies; *N Amer informal* twit.

Fungi, Mushrooms, and Toadstools

See also POISON.

agaric
amethyst deceiver
anise cap
armillaria
artist's fungus
beefsteak fungus
bird's-nest fungus
black bulgar
blewit
blusher
bolete
boletus
bonnet
bootlace fungus
bracket fungus
brain fungus
brown hay cap
brown roll rim
butter cap
button mushroom
Caesar's mushroom
cage fungus
candle snuff fungus
cauliflower fungus
cep
champignon
chanterelle
charcoal burner
chicken of the woods
club foot
coral fungus
coral spot
cramp balls
cup fungus
dead man's fingers
death cap
destroying angel
dryad's saddle
ear pick fungus
earth ball
earth fan
earthstar
elf cup
ergot
fairies' bonnets
fairy ring fungus
false chanterelle
false morel
field mushroom
fly agaric
funnel cap
ghost fungus
giant puffball
grisette
hedgehog fungus
herald of the winter
honey fungus
horn of plenty
horsehair toadstool
horse mushroom
ink cap
jelly babies
jelly fungus
jelly tongue
Jew's ear
King Alfred's cakes
lawyer's wig
mushroom
liberty cap
lorchel
meadow mushroom
milk cap
miller
morel
mousseron
old man of the woods
oyster mushroom
panther cap
parasol mushroom
parrot toadstool
penny bun
peppery bolete
plums and custard
poached egg fungus
poison pie
polypore
porcelain fungus
porcini
portobello
prince
puffball
russet shank
russula
saffron milkcap
St Anthony's fire
St George's mushroom
scarlet elf cup
scarlet hood
shaggy ink cap
shaggy parasol
shiitake
sickener
slimy beech cap
slippery jack
spike cap
stag's-horn fungus
stinkhorn
stinking parasol
sulphur tuft
tartufo
tawny grisette
tinder fungus
tough shank
truffle
tuckahoe
velvet shank
verdigris agaric
wax cap
weeping widow
white truffle
witches' butter
wood blewit
wood mushroom
wood woolly foot
yellow stainer

► **verb** *I'm certain he funk'd it* AVOID, evade, dodge, run away from, baulk at, flinch from; *in-*

formal chicken out of, duck out of, wriggle out of, cop out of, get out of

funnel ▶ **noun** ① *fluid was poured through the funnel* TUBE, pipe, channel, conduit ② *smoke poured from the ship's funnels* CHIMNEY, flue, vent. ▶ **verb** *the money was funnelled back into Europe* CHANNEL, feed, direct, convey, move, pass, pour, filter

funny ▶ **adjective** ① *a very funny film* AMUSING, humorous, witty, comic, comical, droll, facetious, jocular, jokey, hilarious, hysterical, riotous, uproarious, entertaining, diverting, sparkling, scintillating, silly, farcical, slapstick, *informal* side-splitting, rib-tickling, laugh-a-minute, wacky, zany, waggish, off the wall, a scream, rich, priceless, *informal, dated* killing. ② *a funny coincidence* STRANGE, peculiar, odd, queer, weird, bizarre, curious, freakish, freak, quirky; mysterious, mystifying, puzzling, perplexing, unusual, uncommon, anomalous, irregular, abnormal, exceptional, singular, out of the ordinary, extraordinary, *Brit informal, dated* rum ③ *there's something funny about him* SUSPICIOUS, suspect, dubious, untrustworthy, questionable, *informal* shady, fishy, *Brit informal* dodgy

—OPPOSITES serious, unsurprising, trustworthy

fur ▶ **noun** HAIR, wool, coat, fleece, pelt, Zoology pelage

furious ▶ **adjective** ① *he was furious when he learned about it* ENRAGED, infuriated, very angry, irate, incensed, raging, incandescent, fuming, ranting, raving, seething, beside oneself, outraged, *informal* mad, hopping mad, wild, livid, boiling, apoplectic, hot under the collar, on the warpath, foaming at the mouth, steamed up, in a paddy, fit to be tied, *poetic/literary* wrathful ② *a furious debate* HEATED, hot, passionate, fiery, 'lively', fierce, vehement, violent, wild, unrestrained, tumultuous, turbulent, tempestuous, stormy

—OPPOSITES calm.

furnish ▶ **verb** ① *the bedrooms are elegantly furnished* FIT OUT, provide with furniture, appoint, outfit, *Brit informal* do out ② *grooms furnished us with horses for our journey*: SUPPLY, provide, equip, provision, issue, kit out, present, give, offer, afford, purvey, bestow, *informal* fix up

furniture ▶ **noun** FURNISHINGS, fittings, fittings, movables, appointments, effects; *Law* chattels, *informal* stuff, things. See lists here and at BED, CHAIR, CUPBOARD, TABLE.

Types and Styles of Furniture

Bauhaus
Biedermeier
Cape Dutch
Chippendale
Empire
Gothic Revival
Hepplewhite
Jacobean
Louis Quatorze

Louis Quinze
Louis Seize
Louis Treize
Queen Anne
Regency
reproduction
Scandinavian
Shaker
Sheraton

furor ▶ **noun** COMMOTION, uproar, outcry, fuss, upset, brouhaha, palaver, pother, tempest, agitation, pandemonium, disturbance, hubbub, rumpus, tumult, turmoil; stir, excitement; *informal* song and dance, to-do, hoo-ha, hullabaloo,

ballyhoo, kerfuffle, flap, stink; *Brit informal* carry-on.

furrow ▶ **noun** ① *furrows in a ploughed field* GROOVE, trench, rut, trough, channel, hollow ② *the furrows on either side of her mouth* WRINKLE, line, crease, crinkle, crow's foot, corrugation.

▶ **verb** *his brow furrowed*: WRINKLE, crease, line, crinkle, pucker, screw up, scrunch up, corrugate.

furry ▶ **adjective** COVERED WITH FUR, hairy, downy, fleecy, soft, fluffy, fuzzy, woolly.

further ▶ **adverb** *further, it gave him an excellent excuse not to attend* FURTHERMORE, moreover, what's more, also, additionally, in addition, besides, as well, too, to boot, on top of that, over and above that, into the bargain, by the same token; *archaic* withal

▶ **adjective** ① *the further side of the field* MORE DISTANT, more remote, remoter, further away/off, farther (away/off), far, other, opposite ② *further information* ADDITIONAL, more, extra, supplementary, supplemental, other, new, fresh

▶ **verb** *an attempt to further his career*: PROMOTE, advance, forward, develop, facilitate, aid, assist, help, help along, lend a hand to, abet, expedite, hasten, speed up, accelerate, step up, spur on, oil the wheels of, give a push to, boost, encourage, cultivate, nurture, foster

—OPPOSITES impede

furtherance ▶ **noun** PROMOTION, furthering, advancement, forwarding, development, facilitation, aiding, assisting, helping, abetting, hastening, acceleration, boosting, encouragement, cultivation, nurturing, fostering

—OPPOSITES hindrance

furthermore ▶ **adverb** MOREOVER, further, what's more, also, additionally, in addition, besides, as well, too, to boot, on top of that, over and above that, into the bargain, by the same token, *archaic* withal

furthest ▶ **adjective** MOST DISTANT, most remote, remotest, furthest/farthest away, farthest, furthestmost, farthestmost, outlying, outer, outermost, extreme, uttermost, ultimate, *archaic* outmost

—OPPOSITES nearest.

furtive ▶ **adjective** SECRETIVE, secret, surreptitious, clandestine, hidden, covert, conspiratorial, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, backstairs, hugger-mugger; sly, sneaky, under-the-table; sidelong, sideways, oblique, indirect, *informal* hush-hush, shifty.

—OPPOSITES open

fury ▶ **noun** ① *she exploded with fury*: RAGE, anger, wrath, outrage, spleen, temper, crossness, indignation, umbrage, annoyance, exasperation, *poetic/literary* ire, cholera. ② *the fury of the storm* FIERCENESS, ferocity, violence, turbulence, tempestuousness, savagery; severity, intensity, vehemence, force, forcefulness, power, strength. ③ *she turned on Mother like a fury*: VIRAGO, hellcat, termagant, spitfire, vixen, shrew, harridan, dragon, gorgon; (Furies) Greek Mythology Eumenides.

—OPPOSITES good humour, mildness.

fuse ▶ **verb** ① *a band which fuses rap with rock*: COMBINE, amalgamate, put together, join, unite, marry, blend, merge, meld, mingle, integrate, intermix, intermingle, synthesize; coalesce, compound, alloy; *technical* admix; *poetic/literary*

commingle ② *metal fused to a base of coloured glass* BOND, stick, bind, weld, solder, melt, smelt ③ (*Brit*) *a light had fused* SHORT-CIRCUIT, stop working, trip, *informal* go, blow

—OPPOSITES separate

fusillade ► **noun** SALVO, volley, barrage, bombardment, cannonade, battery, burst, blast, hail, shower, rain, stream, *historical* broadside

fusion ► **noun** BLEND, blending, combination, amalgamation, joining, union, marrying, bonding, merging, melding, mingling, integration, intermixture, intermingling, synthesis, coalescence

fuss ► **noun** ① *what's all the fuss about?* ADO, excitement, agitation, pother, stir, commotion, confusion, disturbance, brouhaha, uproar, furore, palaver, storm in a teacup, much ado about nothing; bother, fluster, flurry, bustle, *informal* hoo-ha, to-do, ballyhoo, song and dance, performance, pantomime, kerfuffle, *Brit informal* carry-on, *N Amer informal* fuss and feathers ② *they settled in with very little fuss* BOTHER, trouble, inconvenience, effort, exertion, labour, *informal* hassle ③ *he didn't put up a fuss* PROTEST, complaint, objection, grumble, grouse, *informal* gripe

► **verb** *he was still fussing about his clothes* WORRY, fret, be anxious, be agitated, make a big thing out of, make a mountain out of a molehill, *informal* flap, be in a tizzy, be in a stew, make a meal of

fussy ► **adjective** ① *he's very fussy about what he eats* FINICKY, particular, over-particular, fastidious, discriminating, selective, dainty, hard to please, difficult, exacting, demanding, faddish, *informal* pernickety, choosy, picky, old womanish, *Brit informal* faddy, *N Amer informal* persnickety ② *a fussy, frilly bridal gown* OVER-ELABORATE, over-decorated, ornate, fancy, overdone, busy, cluttered

fusty ► **adjective** ① *the room smelt fusty* STALE, musty, dusty, stuffy, airless, unventilated, damp, mildewed, mildewy, *Brit* frowsty ② *a fusty conservative* OLD-FASHIONED, out of date, outdated, behind the times, antediluvian, backward-looking, fogeyish, *informal* square, out

of the ark

—OPPOSITES fresh

futile ► **adjective** FRUITLESS, vain, pointless, useless, ineffectual, ineffective, inefficacious, to no effect, of no use, in vain, to no avail, unavailing, unsuccessful, failed, thwarted, unproductive, barren, unprofitable, abortive, impotent, hollow, empty, forlorn, idle, hopeless, *archaic* bootless

—OPPOSITES useful

futility ► **noun** FRUITLESSNESS, pointlessness, uselessness, vanity, ineffectiveness, inefficacy, failure, barrenness, unprofitability, impotence, hollowness, emptiness, forlornness, hopelessness, *archaic* bootlessness

future ► **noun** ① *his plans for the future* TIME TO COME, time ahead, what lies ahead, coming times ② *she knew her future lay in acting* DES TINY, fate, fortune, prospects, expectations, chances

—OPPOSITES past

► **adjective** ① *a future date* LATER, to come, iollowing, ensuing, succeeding, subsequent, coming ② *his future wife* TO BE, destined, intended, planned, prospective

■ **In future** FROM NOW ON, after this, in the future, from this day forward, hence, henceforward, subsequently, in time to come, *formal* hereafter

fuzz¹ ► **noun** *the soft fuzz on his cheeks* HAIR, down, fur, fluff, fleeciness

fuzz² ► **noun** (*informal*) *we'd better call the fuzz* See POLICE **noun**

fuzzy ► **adjective** ① *her fuzzy hair* FRIZZY, fluffy, woolly, downy, soft, *N Amer informal* nappy ② *a fuzzy picture* BLURRY, blurred, indistinct, unclear, bleary, misty, distorted, out of focus, unfocused, lacking definition, nebulous, ill-defined, indefinite, vague, hazy, imprecise, inexact, loose, woolly ③ *my mind was fuzzy* CON FUSED, muddled, addled, fuddled, befuddled, groggy, disoriented, disorientated, mixed up, fazed, foggy, dizzy, stupefied, benumbed

Gg

gab (informal) ► **verb** they were all gabbing away like crazy CHATTER, chitter-chatter, chat, talk, gossip, gabble, babble, prattle, jabber, blather, blab, informal yak, yackety-yak, yabber, yatter, yammer, blabber, blah-blah, jaw, gas, shoot one's mouth off, *Brit* informal witter, rabbit, chunter, natter, *N Amer* informal run off at the mouth

■ **the gift of the gab** ELOQUENCE, fluency, expressiveness, a silver tongue, persuasiveness, informal a way with words, blarney

gabble ► **verb** he gabbled on in a panicky way JABBER, babble, prattle, rattle, blabber, gibber, blab, drivel, twitter, splutter, *Brit* informal waffle, chunter, witter

► **noun** the boozy gabble of the crowd JABBERING, babbling, chattering, gibbering, babble, chatter, rambling, *Brit* informal waffle, waffling, chuntering, wittering

gabby ► **adjective** (informal) See TALKATIVE

gad ► **verb** (informal) ROAM, travel, flit, informal galivant, *Brit* informal swan

gadabout ► **noun** (informal) PLEASURE-SEEKER, traveller, globetrotter, wanderer, drifter, bird of passage, informal gallivanter

gadget ► **noun** APPLIANCE, apparatus, instrument, implement, tool, utensil, contrivance, contraption, machine, mechanism, device, labour-saving device, convenience, invention, informal gizmo, gimmick, widget, mod con

gaffe ► **noun** BLUNDER, mistake, error, slip, faux pas, indiscretion, impropriety, miscalculation, gaucherie, solecism, informal slip-up, howler, boo-boo, boner, fluff, *Brit* informal boob, bloomer, clanger, *N Amer* informal blooper, goof

gaffer ► **noun** ① (*Brit* informal) being the gaffer's gone to her head MANAGER, manageress, foreman, forewoman, overseer, supervisor, superintendent, informal boss, boss man, head honcho, numero uno, number one, kingpin, top dog, big chief, skipper, *Brit* informal governor, guv'nor, *N Amer* informal padrone, sachem, big kahuna ② (informal) an old gaffer OLD MAN, elderly man, senior citizen, pensioner, OAP, informal old boy, old codger, old-timer, greybeard, grandad, wrinkly, *Brit* informal buffer

gag¹ ► **verb** ① a dirty rag was used to gag her mouth STOP UP, block, plug, stifle, smother, muffle ② the government tried to gag its critics SILENCE, muzzle, mute, muffle, suppress, stifle, censor, curb, check, restrain, fetter, shackle, restrict. ③ the stench made her gag RETCH, heave, dry-heave, informal keck

► **noun** his scream was muffled by the gag MUZZLE, tie, restraint

gag² ► **noun** (informal) he told a few gags JOKE, jest, witticism, quip, pun, play on words, double entendre, informal crack, wisecrack, one-liner, funny

gaiety ► **noun** ① I was struck by her gaiety CHEERFULNESS, light-heartedness, happiness, merriment, glee, gladness, joy, joie de vivre, joyfulness, joyousness, delight, high spirits,

good spirits, good humour, cheeriness, jollity, mirth, joviality, exuberance, elation, liveliness, vivacity, animation, effervescence, sprightliness, zest, zestfulness, informal chirpiness, bounce, pep, poetic/literary blitheness ② the hotel restaurant was a scene of gaiety MERRYMAKING, festivity, fun, fun and games, frolics, revelry, jollification, celebration, pleasure, informal partying
-OPPOSITES misery

gaily ► **adverb** ① she skipped gaily along the path MERRILY, cheerfully, cheerily, happily, joyfully, joyously, light-heartedly, blithely, jauntily, gleefully ② gaily painted boats BRIGHTLY, colourfully, brilliantly ③ she plunged gaily into speculation on the stock market HEEDLESSLY, unthinkingly, thoughtlessly, without thinking, carelessly, casually, nonchalantly, airily, breezily, lightly

gain ► **verb** ① he gained a scholarship to the college OBTAIN, get, secure, acquire, come by, procure, attain, achieve, earn, win, capture, clinch, pick up, carry off, reap, informal land, net, bag, scoop, wangle, swing, walk away/off with ② they stood to gain from the deal PROFIT, make money, reap benefits, benefit, do well out of, informal make a killing, milk ③ she had gained weight PUT ON, increase in ④ the others were gaining on us CATCH UP WITH/ON, catch someone up, catch, close in on, near ⑤ we gained the ridge REACH, arrive at, get to, come to, make, attain, set foot on, informal hit
-OPPOSITES lose

► **noun** ① his gain from the deal PROFIT, advantage, benefit, reward, percentage, takings, yield, return, winnings, receipts, proceeds, dividend, interest, informal pickings, cut, take, rake-off. ② slice of the cake, *Brit* informal whack ③ a price gain of 75 per cent. INCREASE, rise, increment, augmentation, addition
-OPPOSITES loss, decrease

■ **gain time** PLAY FOR TIME, stall, procrastinate, delay, temporize, hold back, hang back, hang fire, dally, drag one's feet

gainful ► **adjective** PROFITABLE, paid, well paid, remunerative, lucrative, moneymaking, rewarding, fruitful, worthwhile, useful, productive, constructive, beneficial, advantageous, valuable

gainsay ► **verb** (formal) DENY, dispute, disagree with, argue with, dissent from, contradict, repudiate, challenge, oppose, contest, counter, controvert, refute, rebut; formal confute
-OPPOSITES confirm

gait ► **noun** WALK, step, stride, pace, tread, way of walking, bearing, carriage, *Brit* deportment, formal comportment.

gala ► **noun** the annual summer gala FÊTE, fair, festival, carnival, pageant, jubilee, jamboree, party, garden party, celebration; festivities

► **adjective** a gala occasion. FESTIVE, celebratory, merry, joyous, joyful; diverting, entertaining, enjoyable, spectacular.

galaxy ► **noun** ① a distant galaxy: STAR SYSTEM, solar system, constellation, stars. See list. ② a galaxy of the rock world's biggest stars: HOST,

multitude, array, gathering, assemblage, assembly, throng, crowd, company, flock, group

Galaxies

Andromeda Galaxy
Black-eye Galaxy
Cartwheel Galaxy
Helix Galaxy
Large Magellanic Cloud
or Nubecular Major
Milky Way Galaxy
Pinwheel Galaxy

Small Magellanic Cloud
or Nubecular Minor
Sombrero Galaxy
Spindle Galaxy
Sunflower Galaxy
Triangulum Galaxy
Whirlpool Galaxy

gale ▶ **noun** ① a howling gale STRONG WIND, high wind, hurricane, tornado, cyclone, whirlwind, storm, squall, tempest, typhoon, *N Amer* wind-storm, *informal* burster, buster ② gales of laughter PEAL, howl, hoot, shriek, scream, roar, outburst, burst, fit, paroxysm, explosion

gall¹ ▶ **noun** ① she had the gall to ask for money EFFRONTERY, impudence, impertinence, cheek, cheekiness, insolence, audacity, temerity, presumption, cockiness, nerve, shamelessness, disrespect, bad manners, *informal* brass neck, face, chutzpah, *Brit informal* sauce, *N Amer informal* sass ② scholarly gall was poured on this work BITTERNESS, resentment, rancour, bile, spleen, malice, spite, spitefulness, malignity, venom, vitriol, poison

gall² ▶ **noun** ① this was a gall that she frequently had to endure IRRITATION, irritant, annoyance, vexation, nuisance, provocation, bother, torment, plague, thorn in one's side/flesh, *informal* aggravation, pain, pain in the neck, bore, headache, hassle, *N Amer informal* pain in the butt ② a bay horse with a gall on its side SORE, ulcer, ulceration, abrasion, scrape, scratch, graze, chafe

▶ **verb** ① it galled him to have to sit in silence IRRITATE, annoy, vex, anger, infuriate, exasperate, irk, pique, nettle, put out, displease, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, make someone's hackles rise, *Brit* rub up the wrong way, *informal* aggravate, peeve, miff, rile, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get/put someone's back up, get someone's dander up, drive mad/crazy, drive round the bend/twist, drive up the wall, *Brit informal* wind up, nark, get on someone's wick, give someone the hump, *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off, rankle, *informal, dated* give someone the pip ② the straps galled their shoulders CHAFE, abrade, rub (against), rub raw, scrape, graze, skin, scratch, rasp, bark

gallant ▶ **adjective** ① his gallant countrymen BRAVE, courageous, valiant, valorous, bold, plucky, daring, fearless, intrepid, heroic, lion-hearted, stout-hearted, doughty, mettlesome, death-or-glory, dauntless, undaunted, unflinching, unafraid, *informal* gutsy, spunky. ② her gallant companion: CHIVALROUS, gentlemanly, honourable, courteous, polite, mannerly, attentive, respectful, gracious, considerate, thoughtful –OPPOSITES cowardly, discourteous.

▶ **noun** (*archaic*) ① a young gallant in red and white silks MAN ABOUT TOWN, ladies' man, man of the world, dandy, fop; *informal* ladykiller; *informal, dated* gay dog, blade, swell, blood, *archaic* coxcomb. ② her amorous gallant: SUITOR, wooer, admirer; sweetheart, lover, love, beloved, boy-

friend, young man, *poetic/literary* swain, *dated* beau

gallantry ▶ **noun** ① he received medals for gallantry BRAVERY, courage, courageousness, valour, pluck, pluckiness, nerve, daring, boldness, fearlessness, dauntlessness, intrepidity, heroism, stout-heartedness, mettle, grit, *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* moxie ② she acknowledged his selfless gallantry CHIVALRY, chivalrousness, gentlemanliness, courtesy, courteousness, politeness, good manners, attentiveness, graciousness, respectfulness, respect, considerateness

gallery ▶ **noun** ① the National Gallery ART GALLERY, museum, exhibition room, display room ② they sat up in the gallery BALCONY, circle, upper circle, *informal* gods ③ a long gallery with doors along each side PASSAGE, passageway, corridor, walkway, arcade

galling ▶ **adjective** ANNOYING, irritating, vexing, vexatious, infuriating, maddening, irksome, provoking, exasperating, trying, tiresome, troublesome, bothersome, displeasing, disagreeable, *informal* aggravating

gallivant ▶ **verb** (*informal*) FLIT, jaunt, run, roam, wander, travel, rove, *informal* gad

gallop ▶ **verb** Paul galloped across the clearing RUSH, race, run, sprint, bolt, dart, dash, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, streak, *informal* tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip, hotfoot it, leg it, *Brit informal* bomb, go like the clappers, *N Amer informal* barrel –OPPOSITES amble

gallows ▶ **plural noun** ① the wooden gallows GIBBET, scaffold, gallows tree, Tyburn tree ② they were condemned to the gallows HANGING, being hanged, the noose, the rope, the gibbet, the scaffold, execution, *informal* the drop

galore ▶ **adjective** APLENTY, in abundance, in profusion, in great quantities, in large numbers, by the dozen, to spare, everywhere, all over (the place), *informal* a gogo, by the truckload, *Brit informal* by the shedload

galvanize ▶ **verb** JOLT, shock, startle, impel, stir, spur, prod, urge, motivate, stimulate, electrify, excite, rouse, arouse, awaken, invigorate, fire, animate, vitalize, energize, exhilarate, thrill, dynamize, inspire, *N Amer* light a fire under, *informal* give someone a shot in the arm

gambit ▶ **noun** STRATAGEM, scheme, plan, tactic, manoeuvre, move, course/line of action, device, machination, ruse, trick, ploy, *Brit informal* wheeze, wangle

gamble ▶ **verb** ① he started to gamble more often BET, place/lay a bet on something, stake money on something, back the horses, game; *informal* play the ponies, *Brit informal* punt, have a flutter ② investors are gambling that the pound will fall TAKE A CHANCE, take a risk, *N Amer* take a flier; *informal* stick one's neck out, go out on a limb, *Brit informal* chance one's arm.

▶ **noun** ① his grandfather enjoyed a gamble BET, wager, speculation, game of chance; *Brit informal* flutter, punt ② I took a gamble and it paid off RISK, chance, hazard, leap in the dark; pig in a poke, pot luck.

gambol ▶ **verb** FROLIC, frisk, cavort, caper, skip, dance, romp, prance, leap, hop, jump, spring, bound, bounce; play; *dated* sport.



game ▶ noun ① *the children invented a new game* PASTIME, diversion, entertainment, amusement, distraction, divertissement, recreation, sport, activity See list. ② *the club haven't lost a game all season.* MATCH, contest, fixture, tie, tournament, cup tie, final, cup final, play-off ③ *we were only playing a game on him.* PRACTICAL JOKE, prank, jest, trick, hoax, informal lark ④ *he's in the banking game.* BUSINESS, profession, occupation, trade, industry, line, line of work/business, informal racket ⑤ *I spoiled his little game.* SCHEME, plot, ploy, stratagem, strategy, gambit, cunning plan, tactics, trick, device, manoeuvre, wile, dodge, ruse, machination, contrivance, subterfuge, informal scam, Brit informal wheeze, archaic shift ⑥ *he hunted game in Africa.* WILD ANIMALS, wild fowl, big game See list

▶ adjective ① *they weren't game enough to join in.* BRAVE, courageous, plucky, bold, daring, intrepid, valiant, stout-hearted, mettlesome, fearless, dauntless, undaunted, unflinching, informal gutsy, spunky. ② *I need a bit of help—are you game?* WILLING, prepared, ready, disposed, of a mind, eager, keen, enthusiastic

▶ verb *they were drinking and gaming all evening.* GAMBLE, bet, place/lay bets

Games

See also BALL GAME, BOARD GAME, CARD, SPORT.

Aunt Sally	keno
bagatelle	liar dice
bingo	mah-jong
Botticelli	matador
British bulldog	MUD
bumble-puppy	mumblety-peg
charades	nim
chicken	pachinko
chuck-a-luck	Pac-Man (trademark)
computer game	paintball
consequences	panel game
crambo	parlour game
craps	pinball
crown and anchor	pitch-and-toss
darts	poker dice
deck quoits	pool
deck tennis	quoits
diabolo	roulette
dice	round game
dodgeball	shove-halfpenny
dominoes	shovelboard
dreidel	spillikins
ducks and drakes	spin the bottle
dumb crambo	Subbuteo (trademark)
dungeons and dragons	swy
fan-tan	table football
fantasy football	thimbleleg
livestones	tiddlywinks
forfeits	tipcat
frisbee (trademark)	trapball
hazard	treasure hunt
housey-housey	Trivial Pursuit
jacks	(trademark)
jackstraws	twenty questions
jukskai	tug of war
kabaddi	two-up

gamin, gamine ▶ noun (dated) URCHIN, raga-muffin, waif, stray; derogatory guttersnipe; archaic mudlark, street Arab.

Children's Games

battleships	murder in the dark
blind man's buff	musical bumps
catch	musical chairs
cat's cradle	noughts and crosses
conkers	pass the parcel
cops and robbers	pat-a-cake
Chinese whispers	peekaboo
follow-my-leader	peever
grandmother's	piggy in the middle
footsteps	Poohsticks
hangman	postman's knock
hide-and-seek	prisoner's base
hoopla	ring-a-ring o' roses
hopscotch	sardines
hunt the slipper	Simon Says
I spy	statues
it	tag
King of the Castle	taw
leapfrog	tick-tack-toe
lotto	tig
marbles	tok-tokkie

Game Birds

black grouse	hazel grouse	ringneck
bobwhite	moorfowl	pheasant
capercaillie	partridge	sage grouse
duck	peafowl	turkey
francolin	pheasant	waterfowl
golden	ptarmigan	wildfowl
pheasant	quail	willow
goose	red grouse	grouse
grouse	ruffed	woodcock
guinea-fowl	grouse	woodgrouse

gamut ▶ noun RANGE, spectrum, span, scope, sweep, compass, area, breadth, reach, extent, catalogue, scale, variety

gang ▶ noun ① *a gang of teenagers* BAND, group, crowd, pack, horde, throng, mob, herd, swarm, troop, cluster, company, gathering, informal posse, bunch, gaggle, load ② (informal) *John was one of our gang.* CIRCLE, social circle, social set, group, clique, in-crowd, coterie, lot, ring, informal crew ③ *a gang of workmen* CREW, team, group, squad, shift, detachment, unit.

▶ verb *they all ganged up to put me down.* CONSPIRE, cooperate, work together, act together, combine, join forces, team up, get together, unite, ally.

gangling, gangly ▶ adjective LANKY, rangy, tall, thin, skinny, spindly, stringy, bony, angular, scrawny, spare, awkward, uncoordinated, ungainly, gawky, inelegant, graceless, ungraceful, dated spindle-shanked.

—OPPOSITES squat

gangster ▶ noun HOODLUM, gang member, racketeer, robber, ruffian, thug, villain, law-breaker, criminal; gunman, terrorist; Mafioso, informal mobster, tough, crook, hit man; N Amer informal hood; dated desperado. See list.

gaol ▶ noun (Brit dated). See JAIL.

gaoler ▶ noun (Brit dated). See JAILER.

gap ▶ noun ① *a gap in the shutters.* OPENING, aperture, space, breach, chink, slit, slot, vent, crack, crevice, cranny, cavity, hole, orifice,

Gangsters

Al Capone (American, of Italian descent)
 Frank Costello (Italian)
 Vito Genovese (Italian)
 Sam Giancana (American, of Italian descent)
 John Gotti (American)
 Reggie Kray (English)
 Ronnie Kray (English)
 Meyer Lansky (Russian, of Polish descent)
 Lucky Luciano (Italian)
 George 'Bugs' Moran (American)
 Dion O'Banion (American)
 Dutch Schultz (American)
 Bugsy Siegel (American)

interstice, perforation, break, fracture, rift, rent, fissure, cleft, divide ② a gap between meetings PAUSE, intermission, interval, interlude, break, breathing space, breather, respite, hiatus, *N Amer* recess. ③ a gap in our records OMISION, blank, lacuna, void, vacuity ④ the gap between rich and poor CHASM, gulf, rift, split, separation, breach, contrast, difference, disparity, divergence, imbalance

gape ▶ **verb** ① she gaped at him in astonishment STARE, stare open-mouthed, stare in wonder, goggle, gaze, ogle, *informal* rubberneck, *Brit informal* gawk, gawp ② a leather jerkin which gaped at every seam OPEN WIDE, open up, yawn, part, split

gaping ▶ **adjective** a gaping hole CAVERNOUS, yawning, wide, broad, vast, huge, enormous, immense, extensive

garb ▶ **noun** men and women in riding garb CLOTHES, clothing, garments, attire, dress, costume, outfit, wear, uniform, livery, regalia, *informal* gear, get-up, togs, rig-out, duds, *Brit informal* clobber, *formal* apparel, *archaic* raiment, habiliment, vestments.

▶ **verb** both men were garbed in black DRESS, clothe, attire, fit out, turn out, deck (out), kit out, costume, robe, *informal* get up, *archaic* apparel

garbage (*N Amer*) ▶ **noun** ① the garbage is taken to landfill sites RUBBISH, refuse, waste, detritus, litter, junk, scrap, scraps, scourings, leftovers, remains, slops, *N Amer* trash, *Austral/NZ* mullock. ② most of what he says is garbage RUBBISH, nonsense, balderdash, claptrap, twaddle, blather; dross; *informal* hogwash, baloney, tripe, bilge, bull, bunk, poppycock, rot, bosh, piffle, dreck, *Brit informal* tosh, codswallop, cobblers, stuff and nonsense, *informal*, dated tommyrot, bunkum

garble ▶ **verb** MIX UP, muddle, jumble, confuse, obscure, distort, misstate, misquote, misreport, misrepresent, mistranslate, misinterpret, misconstrue, twist

garden ▶ **noun** cottage garden, flower garden, rock garden, walled garden, knot garden; vegetable garden, kitchen garden, potager, (gardens) park, estate, grounds.

—RELATED TERMS horticultural.

■ lead someone up the garden path (*informal*) DECEIVE, mislead, delude, hoodwink, dupe, trick, entrap, beguile, take in, fool, pull the wool over someone's eyes, gull; *informal* con, pull a fast one on, string along, take for a ride, put one over on.

gargantuan ▶ **adjective** HUGE, enormous, vast, gigantic, very big, giant, massive, colossal, mammoth, immense, mighty, monumental, mountainous, titanic, towering, tremendous, elephantine, king-size(d), prodigious, *informal* mega, monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo, *Brit informal* whacking, ginormous.

—OPPOSITES tiny

garish ▶ **adjective** GAUDY, lurid, loud, over-bright, harsh, glaring, violent, showy, glittering, brassy, brash, tasteless, in bad taste, vulgar, unattractive, bilious, *informal* flash, flashy, tacky

—OPPOSITES drab.

garland ▶ **noun** a garland of flowers FESTOON, lei, wreath, ring, circle, swag, coronet, crown, coronal, chaplet, fillet

▶ **verb** gardens garlanded with coloured lights FESTOON, wreath, swathe, hang, adorn, ornament, embellish, decorate, deck, trim, dress, bedeck, array, *poetic/literary* bedizen, caparison

garment ▶ **noun** ITEM OF CLOTHING, article of clothing, (garments) clothes, clothing, dress, garb, outfit, costume, attire, *informal* get-up, rig-out, gear, togs, duds, *N Amer informal* threads, *formal* apparel

garner ▶ **verb** Edward garnered ideas from his travels GATHER, collect, accumulate, amass, get together, assemble

▶ **noun** (*archaic*) the malt went into a garner GRANARY, silo, storehouse, store, storeroom, depository

garnish ▶ **verb** garnish the dish with chopped parsley DECORATE, adorn, ornament, trim, dress, embellish, enhance, grace, beautify, prettify, add the finishing touch to

▶ **noun** keep a few sprigs for a garnish DECORATION, adornment, trim, trimming, ornament, ornamentation, embellishment, enhancement, finishing touch, *Cookery* chiffonade

garret ▶ **noun** ATTIC, loft, roof space, cock loft, mansard

garrison ▶ **noun** ① the English garrison had been burned alive TROOPS, militia, soldiers, forces, armed force, military detachment, unit, platoon, brigade, squadron, battalion, corps. ② forces from three garrisons. FORTRESS, fort, fortification, stronghold, citadel, camp, encampment, cantonment, command post, base, station, barracks

▶ **verb** ① French infantry garrisoned the town. DEFEND, guard, protect, barricade, shield, secure, man, occupy. ② troops were garrisoned in various regions STATION, post, put on duty, deploy, assign, install, base, site, place, position, billet

garrulity ▶ **noun** TALKATIVENESS, garrulousness, loquacity, loquaciousness, volubility, verbosity, verboseness, long-windedness, wordiness, chattiness, effusiveness, *informal* the gift of the gab; *Brit informal* wittering, rare logorrhoea.

garrulous ▶ **adjective** ① a garrulous old man TALKATIVE, loquacious, voluble, verbose, chatty, chattering, gossipy, effusive, expansive, forthcoming, conversational, communicative, *informal* mouthy, gabby, gassy, windy, having the gift of the gab, having kissed the Blarney Stone; *Brit informal* able to talk the hind legs off a donkey. ② his garrulous reminiscences: LONG-WINDED, wordy, verbose, prolix, long, lengthy, rambling, wandering, maundering, meandering, di-

gressive, diffuse, discursive, gossipy, chatty, informal windy, gassy

—OPPOSITES taciturn, concise

gas ► noun. See list

—RELATED TERMS gaseous

Gases

See also POISON.

acetylene	lewisite
afterdamp	liquefied natural gas (LNG)
ammonia	liquefied petroleum gas (LPG)
argon	marsh gas
arsine	methane
biogas	mustard gas
blister gas	natural gas
butadiene	neon
butane	nerve gas
Calor gas (trademark)	nitrogen
carbon dioxide	nitrogen dioxide
carbon monoxide	nitrous oxide
chlorine	oil gas
chlorofluorocarbon (CFC)	oxygen
coal gas	ozone
compressed natural gas (CNG)	phosgene
CS gas	phosphine
cyanogen	producer gas
cyclopropane	propane
diazomethane	propylene
diborane	radon
ethane	sarin
ethylene	silane
fluorine	soman
formaldehyde	steam
greenhouse gas	sulphur dioxide
halon	tabun
hellum	tail gas
hydrogen	tear gas
isobutane	tetrafluoroethylene
ketene	town gas
krypton	vinyl chloride
laughing gas	water gas
	xenon

gash ► noun a gash on his forehead LACERATION, cut, wound, injury, slash, tear, incision, slit, split, rip, rent, scratch, scrape, graze, abrasion, *Medicine* lesion

► verb he gashed his hand on some broken glass. LACERATE, cut (open), wound, injure, hurt, slash, tear, gouge, puncture, slit, split, rend, scratch, scrape, graze, abrade

gasp ► verb ① I gasped in surprise CATCH ONE'S BREATH, draw in one's breath, gulp, exclaim, cry (out). ② he collapsed on the ground, gasping PANT, puff, puff and pant, puff and blow, wheeze, breathe hard, choke, fight for breath

► noun a gasp of dismay: DRAWING-IN OF BREATH, gulp, exclamation, cry; dated ejaculation.

gastric ► adjective gastric pain: STOMACH, intestinal, enteric, duodenal, coeliac, abdominal, ventral.

gate ► noun ① heavy wooden gates BARRIER, wicket gate, lychgate, five-barred gate, turnstile; *Brit.* kissing gate. ② she went through the gate: GATEWAY, doorway, entrance, exit, egress, opening; door, portal, *N. Amer.* entryway

gather ► verb ① we gathered in the hotel lobby CONGREGATE, assemble, meet, collect, come/get together, convene, muster, rally, converge, cluster together, crowd, mass, flock together, *formal* foregather ② he gathered his family together SUMMON, call together, bring together, assemble, convene, rally, round up, muster, marshal ③ knick-knacks she had gathered over the years COLLECT, accumulate, amass, garner, accrue, store, stockpile, hoard, put by/away, lay by/in, *informal* stash away, squirrel away ④ they gathered corn from the fields HARVEST, reap, crop, pick, pluck, collect ⑤ the show soon gathered a fanatical following ATTRACT, draw, pull, pull in, collect, pick up ⑥ I gather he's a keen footballer UNDERSTAND, be given to understand, believe, be led to believe, think, conclude, deduce, infer, assume, take it, surmise, fancy, hear, hear tell, learn, discover ⑦ he gathered her to his chest CLASP, clutch, pull, embrace, enfold, hold, hug, cuddle, squeeze, *poetic/literary* embosom, *archaic* strain ⑧ his tunic was gathered at the waist PLEAT, shirt, pucker, tuck, fold, ruffle
—OPPOSITES disperse

gathering ► noun ① she rose to address the gathering ASSEMBLY, meeting, convention, rally, turnout, congress, convocation, conclave, council, synod, forum, congregation, audience, crowd, group, throng, mass, multitude, *informal* get-together, *formal* concourse ② the gathering of data for a future book COLLECTING, collection, garnering, amassing, accumulation, accrual, cumulation, building up

gauche ► adjective AWKWARD, gawky, inelegant, graceless, ungraceful, ungainly, maladroit, inept, lacking in social grace(s), unsophisticated, uncultured, uncultivated, unrefined, raw, inexperienced, unworldly
—OPPOSITES elegant, sophisticated

gaudy ► adjective GARISH, lurid, loud, over-bright, glaring, harsh, violent, showy, glittering, brassy, ostentatious, tasteless, in bad taste, vulgar, unattractive, bilious, *informal* flash, flashy, tacky
—OPPOSITES drab, tasteful

gauge ► noun ① the temperature gauge: MEASURING DEVICE, measuring instrument, meter, measure, indicator, dial, scale, display ② exports are an important gauge of economic activity MEASURE, indicator, barometer, point of reference, guide, guideline, touchstone, yardstick, benchmark, criterion, test, litmus test ③ guitar strings of a different gauge SIZE, diameter, thickness, width, breadth, measure, capacity, magnitude, bore, calibre

► verb ① astronomers can gauge the star's intrinsic brightness: MEASURE, calculate, compute, work out, determine, ascertain, count, weigh, quantify, put a figure on. ② it is difficult to gauge how effective the ban was ASSESS, evaluate, determine, estimate, form an opinion of, appraise, weigh up, get the measure of, judge, guess; *informal* guesstimate, size up.

gaunt ► adjective ① a gaunt, greying man: HAG GARD, drawn, thin, lean, skinny, spindly, spare, bony, angular, raw-boned, pinched, hollow-cheeked, scrawny, scraggy, as thin as a rake, cadaverous, skeletal, emaciated, skin and bone, wasted, withered; *informal* like a bag of bones, dated spindle-shanked; *archaic* starveling. ② the gaunt ruin of Pendragon Castle: BLEAK, stark, deso-

late, bare, gloomy, dismal, sombre, grim, stern, harsh, forbidding, uninviting, cheerless
 —OPPOSITES plump

gauzy ▶ **adjective** TRANSLUCENT, transparent, sheer, see-through, fine, delicate, flimsy, filmy, gossamer-like, diaphanous, chiffony, wispy, floaty, thin, light, insubstantial
 —OPPOSITES opaque, thick

gawk ▶ **verb** (informal) GAPE, goggle, gaze, ogle, stare, stare open-mouthed, informal rubberneck, *Brit informal gawp*

gawky ▶ **adjective** AWKWARD, ungainly, gangling, gauche, maladroit, clumsy, inelegant, uncoordinated, graceless, ungraceful, unsophisticated, unconfident
 —OPPOSITES graceful

gay ▶ **adjective** ① *gay men and women* HOMOSEXUAL, lesbian, informal queer, camp, pink, swinging the other way, homo, dykey, *Brit informal bent, poofy* ② (dated) *her children all looked chubby and gay* CHEERFUL, cheery, merry, jolly, light-hearted, carefree, jovial, glad, happy, in good/high spirits, joyful, elated, exuberant, animated, lively, sprightly, vivacious, buoyant, bouncy, bubbly, perky, effervescent, playful, informal chirpy ③ (dated) *they were having a gay old time* JOLLY, merry, hilarious, amusing, uproarious, rollicking, entertaining, enjoyable, convivial, festive ④ (dated) *gay checked curtains* BRIGHT, brightly coloured, vivid, brilliant, vibrant, richly coloured, many-coloured, multicoloured, flamboyant, showy, gaudy
 —OPPOSITES heterosexual, gloomy

▶ **noun** in *Denmark gays can marry in church* HOMOSEXUAL, lesbian, informal queer, homo, queen, friend of Dorothy, pansy, nancy, dyke, les, lezzy, butch, femme, *Brit informal poof, ponce, woofier*

gaze ▶ **verb** *he gazed at her* STARE, look fixedly, gape, goggle, eye, look, study, scrutinize, take a good look, ogle, leer, informal gawk, rubberneck, *Brit informal gawp, N Amer informal eyeball*

▶ **noun** *his piercing gaze* STARE, fixed look, gape, regard, inspection, scrutiny

gazebo ▶ **noun** SUMMER HOUSE, pavilion, belvedere, arbour, bower

gazette ▶ **noun** NEWSPAPER, paper, journal, periodical, organ, news-sheet, newsletter, bulletin, informal rag

gear ▶ **noun** (informal) ① *his fishing gear* EQUIPMENT, apparatus, paraphernalia, articles, appliances, impedimenta, tools, utensils, implements, instruments, gadgets, stuff, things, kit, rig, tackle, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, trappings, appurtenances, accoutrements, regalia; *Brit informal clobber, gubbins, odds and sods, archaic equipage* ② *I'll go back to my hotel and pick up my gear*: BELONGINGS, possessions, effects, personal effects, property, paraphernalia, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, bags, baggage; *Law chattels, informal things, stuff, kit; Brit informal clobber* ③ *the best designer gear*: CLOTHES, clothing, garments, outfits, attire, garb, dress, wear; informal togs, duds, get-up; *Brit informal clobber, kit; N Amer informal threads; formal apparel*

gel, Jell ▶ **verb** ① *leave the mixture to gel*: SET, stiffen, solidify, thicken, harden; cake, congeal, coagulate, clot. ② *things started to gel very quickly*

TAKE SHAPE, fall into place, come together, take form, work out, crystallize

gelatinous ▶ **adjective** JELLY-LIKE, glutinous, viscous, viscid, mucilaginous, ropy, sticky, gluey, gummy, slimy, informal gooey, gunky

geld ▶ **verb** CASTRATE, neuter, desex, fix, *N Amer & Austral alter, Brit informal doctor*

gelid ▶ **adjective** FROZEN, freezing, icy, glacial, frosty, wintry, snowy, arctic, polar, Siberian

gem ▶ **noun** ① *rubies and other gems* JEWEL, precious stone, semi-precious stone, stone, solitaire, brilliant, cabochon, archaic bijou *See list* ② *the gem of the collection* BEST, finest, pride, prize, treasure, flower, pearl, the jewel in the crown, pick, choice, cream, the crème de la crème, elite, acme, informal one in a million, the bee's knees

Gems

See also MINERALS, ROCKS.

agate	corundum	onyx
alexandrite	diamond	opal
almandine	emerald	rhodolite
amber	fire opal	ruby
amethyst	garnet	sapphire
aquamarine	girasol	sardonyx
beryl	greenstone	smoky
bloodstone	jacinth	quartz
carngorm	jade	sunstone
carbuncle	jasper	tanzanite
carnelian	lapis lazuli	topaz
cat's-eye	marcasite	tourmaline
chalcedony	moonstone	turquoise
chrysolite	morganite	zircon
chrysoprase	moss agate	

genealogy ▶ **noun** LINEAGE, line (of descent), family tree, bloodline, pedigree, ancestry, extraction, heritage, parentage, birth, family, dynasty, house, stock, blood, roots

general ▶ **adjective** ① *this is suitable for general use* WIDESPREAD, common, extensive, universal, wide, popular, public, mainstream, established, conventional, traditional, orthodox, accepted ② *a general pay increase* COMPREHENSIVE, overall, across the board, blanket, umbrella, mass, wholesale, sweeping, broad-ranging, inclusive, company-wide, universal, global, worldwide, nationwide ③ *general knowledge* MISCELLANEOUS, mixed, assorted, diversified, composite, heterogeneous ④ *the general practice* USUAL, customary, habitual, traditional, normal, conventional, typical, standard, regular, familiar, accepted, prevailing, routine, run-of-the-mill, established, everyday, ordinary, common ⑤ *a general description* BROAD, imprecise, inexact, rough, loose, approximate, unspecific, vague, woolly, indefinite, *N Amer informal ballpark*
 —OPPOSITES restricted, localized, specialist, exceptional, detailed

▶ **noun**. *See list at SOLDIER*

generality ▶ **noun** ① *the debate has moved on from generalities*: GENERALIZATION, general statement, general principle, sweeping statement; abstraction, extrapolation. ② *the generality of this principle*. UNIVERSALITY, comprehensiveness, all-inclusiveness, broadness. ③ *the generality of people are kind*. MAJORITY, greater part/number,

best/better part, bulk, mass, preponderance, predominance, most

—OPPOSITES specific, minority

generally ► **adverb** ① *summers were generally hot* NORMALLY, in general, as a rule, by and large, more often than not, almost always, mainly, mostly, for the most part, predominantly, on the whole, usually, habitually, customarily, typically, ordinarily, commonly ② *France was moving generally to the left* OVERALL, in general terms, generally speaking, all in all, broadly, on average, basically, effectively ③ *the method was generally accepted* WIDELY, commonly, extensively, universally, popularly

generate ► **verb** ① *moves to generate extra business* CAUSE, give rise to, lead to, result in, bring about, create, make, produce, engender, spawn, precipitate, prompt, provoke, trigger, spark off, stir up, induce, promote, foster ② *the male most likely to generate offspring* PRO CREATE, breed, father, sire, spawn, create, produce, have, *poetic/literary* beget, *archaic* engender

generation ► **noun** ① *people of the same generation* AGE, age group, peer group ② *generations ago* AGES, years, aeons, a long time, an eternity, *informal* donkey's years, *Brit informal* yonks ③ *the next generation of computers* CROP, batch, wave, range ④ *the generation of novel ideas* CREATION, production, initiation, origination, inception, inspiration ⑤ *human generation* PRO CREATION, reproduction, breeding, creation

generic ► **adjective** ① *a generic term for two separate offences* GENERAL, common, collective, non-specific, inclusive, all-encompassing, comprehensive, broad, blanket, umbrella ② *generic drugs are cheaper than branded ones* UNBRANDED, non-proprietary
—OPPOSITES specific

generosity ► **noun** ① *the generosity of our host* LIBERALITY, lavishness, magnanimity, munificence, open-handedness, free-handedness, unselfishness, kindness, benevolence, altruism, charity, big-heartedness, goodness, *poetic/literary* bounteousness ② *the generosity of the food portions* ABUNDANCE, plentifulness, copiousness, lavishness, liberality, largeness

generous ► **adjective** ① *she is generous with money* LIBERAL, lavish, magnanimous, munificent, giving, open-handed, free-handed, bountiful, unselfish, ungrudging, free, indulgent, prodigal, *poetic/literary* bounteous ② *it was generous of them to offer* MAGNANIMOUS, kind, benevolent, altruistic, charitable, noble, big-hearted, honourable, good, unselfish, self-sacrificing ③ *a generous amount of fabric* LAVISH, plentiful, copious, ample, liberal, large, great, abundant, profuse, bumper, opulent, prolific, *informal* a gogo, galore
—OPPOSITES mean, selfish, meagre.

genesis ► **noun** ① *the hatred had its genesis in something dark* ORIGIN, source, root, beginning, start ② *the genesis of neurosis* FORMATION, development, evolution, emergence, inception, origination, creation, formulation, propagation.

genial ► **adjective** FRIENDLY, affable, cordial, amiable, warm, easy-going, approachable, sympathetic; good-natured, good-humoured, cheerful; neighbourly, hospitable, companionable, comradely, sociable, convivial, outgoing, gre-

garious, *informal* chummy, pally; *Brit informal* matey

—OPPOSITES unfriendly

genitals ► **plural noun** PRIVATE PARTS, genitalia, sexual organs, reproductive organs, pudenda, crotch, groin, *informal* naughty bits, privates, *euphemistic* nether regions

genius ► **noun** ① *the world knew of his genius* BRILLIANCE, intelligence, intellect, ability, cleverness, brains, erudition, wisdom, fine mind, artistry, flair ② *he has a genius for organization* TALENT, gift, flair, aptitude, facility, knack, bent, ability, expertise, capacity, faculty, strength, forte, brilliance, skill, artistry ③ *he is a genius* BRILLIANT PERSON, gifted person, mastermind, Einstein, intellectual, great intellect, brain, prodigy, *informal* egghead, bright spark, *Brit informal* brainbox, clever clogs, *N Amer informal* brainiac, rocket scientist
—OPPOSITES stupidity, dunce

genocide ► **noun** MASS MURDER, mass homicide, massacre, annihilation, extermination, elimination, liquidation, eradication, decimation, butchery, bloodletting; pogrom, ethnic cleansing, holocaust

genre ► **noun** CATEGORY, class, classification, group, set, list, type, sort, kind, variety, style, model, school, stamp, cast, ilk

genteel ► **adjective** REFINED, respectable, decorous, mannerly, well mannered, courteous, polite, proper, correct, seemly, well bred, cultured, sophisticated, ladylike, gentlemanly, dignified, gracious, affected, *Brit informal* posh
—OPPOSITES uncouth

gentility ► **noun** SOCIAL SUPERIORITY, respectability, punctiliousness, decorum, good manners, politeness, civility, courtesy, correctness, refinement, distinction, breeding, sophistication, graciousness, affectation, ostentation

gentle ► **adjective** ① *his manner was gentle* KIND, tender, sympathetic, considerate, understanding, compassionate, benevolent, good-natured, humane, lenient, merciful, clement, mild, placid, serene, sweet-tempered ② *a gentle breeze* LIGHT, soft ③ *a gentle slope* GRADUAL, slight, easy ④ (*archaic*) *a woman of gentle birth* See NOBLE adjective sense 1
—OPPOSITES brutal, strong, steep, low

gentleman ► **noun** MAN, nobleman, *honnête homme*, *informal* gent, *archaic* cavalier

gentlemanly ► **adjective** CHIVALROUS, gallant, honourable, noble, courteous, civil, mannerly, polite, gracious, considerate, thoughtful, well bred, cultivated, cultured, refined, suave, urbane
—OPPOSITES rude

gentry ► **noun** UPPER CLASSES, privileged classes, elite, high society, *haut monde*, smart set, establishment; *informal* upper crust, top drawer; *Brit informal* nobs, toffs.

genuine ► **adjective** ① *a genuine Picasso*: AUTHENTIC, real, actual, original, bona fide, true, veritable, attested, undisputed; *informal* pukka, the real McCoy, the real thing, kosher; *Austral./NZ informal* dinkum ② *a very genuine person*: SINCERE, honest, truthful, straightforward, direct, frank, candid, open, artless, natural, unaffected; *informal* straight, upfront, on the level; *N. Amer. informal* on the up and up.

—OPPOSITES bogus, insincere.

genus ► **noun** ① (Biology) a large genus of plants subdivision, division, group, subfamily ② a new genus of music TYPE, sort, kind, genre, style, variety, category, class, breed, brand, family, stamp, cast, ilk

geography ► **noun**. See list

Branches of Geography

biogeography	hydrology
cartography	hypsography
climatology	meteorology
cultural geography	oceanography
demography	oceanology
economic geography	orography
geology	physical geography
geomorphology	political geography
geopolitics	seismology
glaciology	social geography
historical geography	topography
human geography	volcanology

germ ► **noun** ① this detergent kills germs MICROBE, micro-organism, bacillus, bacterium, virus, informal bug ② a fertilized germ EMBRYO, bud, seed, spore, ovule; egg, ovum ③ the germ of an idea START, beginning(s), seed, embryo, bud, root, rudiment; origin, source, potential; core, nucleus, kernel, essence

germane ► **adjective** RELEVANT, pertinent, applicable, apposite, material, apropos, to the point, appropriate, apt, fitting, suitable, connected, related, akin, formal ad rem
—OPPOSITES irrelevant

Germany ► **noun**. See list

—RELATED TERMS Teutonic, Germano-

States (Länder) of Germany

STATE (LAND)	CAPITAL
Baden-Württemberg	Stuttgart
Bavaria	Munich
Berlin	—
Brandenburg	Potsdam
Bremen	Bremen
Hamburg	Hamburg
Hessen	Wiesbaden
Lower Saxony	Hanover
Mecklenburg-West Pomerania	Schwerin
North Rhine-Westphalia	Düsseldorf
Rhineland-Palatinate	Mainz
Saarland	Saarbrücken
Saxony	Dresden
Saxony-Anhalt	Magdeburg
Schleswig-Holstein	Kiel
Thuringia	Erfurt

germinate ► **verb** ① the grain is allowed to germinate: SPROUT, shoot (up), bud, develop, grow, spring up; dated vegetate. ② the idea began to germinate: DEVELOP, take root, grow, emerge, evolve, mature, expand, advance, progress.

gestation ► **noun** ① a gestation of thirty days: PREGNANCY, incubation, development, maturation. ② the law underwent a period of gestation DEVELOPMENT, evolution, formation, emergence, origination.

gesticulate ► **verb** GESTURE, signal, motion, wave, sign.

gesticulation ► **noun** GESTURING, gesture, hand movement, signals, signs; wave, indication; body language

gesture ► **noun** ① a gesture of surrender SIGNAL, sign, motion, indication, gesticulation ② a symbolic gesture ACTION, act, deed, move

► **verb** he gestured to her SIGNAL, motion, gesticulate, wave, indicate, give a sign

get ► **verb** ① where did you get that hat? ACQUIRE, obtain, come by, receive, gain, earn, win, come into, take possession of, be given, buy, purchase, procure, secure; gather, collect, pick up, hook, net, land, achieve, attain, informal get one's hands on, get one's mitts on, get hold of, grab, bag, score ② I got your letter RECEIVE, be sent, be in receipt of, be given. ③ your tea's getting cold. BECOME, grow, turn, go ④ get the children from school FETCH, collect, go for, call for, pick up, bring, deliver, convey, ferry, transport ⑤ the chairman gets £650,000 a year EARN, be paid, take home, bring in, make, receive, collect, gross, informal pocket, bank, rake in, net, bag ⑥ have the police got their man? APPREHEND, catch, arrest, capture, seize, take prisoner, take into custody, detain, put in jail, put behind bars, imprison, incarcerate, informal collar, grab, nab, nail, run in, pinch, bust, pick up, pull in, do, feel someone's collar, Brit informal nick ⑦ I got a taxi TRAVEL BY/ON/IN, take, catch, use ⑧ she got flu SUCCUMB TO, develop, go/come down with, sicken for, fall victim to, be struck down with, be afflicted by/with; become infected with, catch, contract, fall ill with, be taken ill with, Brit go down with, informal take ill with, N Amer informal take sick with ⑨ I got a pain in my arm EXPERIENCE, suffer, be afflicted with, sustain, feel, have ⑩ I got him on the radio CONTACT, get in touch with, communicate with, make contact with, reach, phone, call, radio, speak to, talk to, Brit get on to, informal get hold of ⑪ I didn't get what he said HEAR, discern, distinguish, make out, perceive, follow, take in ⑫ I don't get the joke UNDERSTAND, comprehend, grasp, see, fathom, follow, perceive, apprehend, unravel, decipher, informal get the drift of, catch on to, latch on to, figure out; Brit informal twig, suss ⑬ we got there early ARRIVE, reach, come, make it, turn up, appear, come on the scene, approach, enter, present oneself, come along, materialize, show one's face, informal show (up), roll in/up, blow in ⑭ we got her to go PERSUADE, induce, prevail on, influence; wheedle into, talk into, cajole into ⑮ I'd like to get to meet him CONTRIVE, arrange, find a way, manage, succeed in, organize; informal work it, fix it. ⑯ I'll get supper PREPARE, get ready, cook, make, assemble, muster, concoct, informal fix, rustle up; Brit informal knock up ⑰ (informal) I'll get him for that: TAKE REVENGE ON, exact/wreak revenge on, get one's revenge on, avenge oneself on, take vengeance on, get even with, pay back, get back at, exact retribution on, give someone their just deserts, Brit informal get one's own back on. ⑱ He scratched his head 'You've got me there' BAFLE, nonplus, perplex, puzzle, bewilder, mystify, bemuse, confuse, confound; informal flummox, faze, stump, beat, fox; N Amer informal discombobulate. ⑲ what gets me is how neurotic she is: ANNOY, irritate, exasperate, anger, irk, vex, provoke, incense, in-

furnate, madden, try someone's patience, ruffle someone's feathers, *informal* aggravate, peeve, miff, rile, get to, needle, hack off, get someone's back up, get on someone's nerves, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, drive mad, make someone see red, *Bnt informal* wind up, nark, get someone's wick, *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off

—OPPOSITES give, send, take, leave

■ **get about** MOVE ABOUT, move around, travel

■ **get something across** COMMUNICATE, get over, impart, convey, transmit, make clear, express

■ **get ahead** PROSPER, flourish, thrive, do well, succeed, make it, advance, get on in the world, go up in the world, make good, become rich, *informal* go places, get somewhere, make the big time

■ **get along** ① *does he get along with his family?* BE FRIENDLY, be compatible, get on, agree, see eye to eye, concur, be in accord, be on the same wavelength, *informal* hit it off ② *he was getting along well at school* FARE, manage, progress, advance, get on, get by, do, cope, succeed

■ **get around** TRAVEL, circulate, socialize, do the rounds

■ **get at** ① *it's difficult to get at the pipes* ACCESS, get to, reach, touch ② *he had been got at by enemy agents* CORRUPT, suborn, influence, bribe, buy off, pay off, *informal* fix, square, *Bnt informal* nobble ③ *(informal) what are you getting at?* IMPLY, suggest, intimate, insinuate, hint, mean, drive at, allude to ④ *(Bnt informal) I don't like being got at* CRITICIZE, pick on, find fault with, nag, bully, victimize, persecute, discriminate against

■ **get away** ESCAPE, run away/off, break out, break free, break loose, bolt, flee, take flight, make off, take off, decamp, abscond, make a run for it, slip away, sneak away, *informal* cut and run, skedaddle, do a disappearing act, scarper, leg it, *Bnt informal* do a bunk, do a runner

■ **get away with** ESCAPE BLAME FOR, escape punishment for

■ **get back** RETURN, come home, come back

■ **get something back** RETRIEVE, regain, win back, recover, recoup, reclaim, repossess, recapture, redeem, find (again), trace

■ **get back at** TAKE REVENGE ON, exact/wreak revenge on, avenge oneself on, take vengeance on, get even with, pay back, retaliate on/against, exact retribution on, give someone their just deserts, *Bnt informal* get one's own back on

■ **get someone down** DEPRESS, sadden, make unhappy, make gloomy, dispirit, dishearten, demoralize, discourage, crush, weigh down, oppress; upset, distress; *informal* give someone the blues, make someone fed up

■ **get by** MANAGE, cope, survive, exist, subsist, muddle through/along, scrape by, make ends meet, make do, keep the wolf from the door, *informal* make out

■ **get off** ① *Sally got off the bus*: ALIGHT (FROM), step off, dismount (from), descend (from), disembark (from), leave, exit ② *(informal) he was arrested but got off*: ESCAPE PUNISHMENT, be acquitted, be absolved, be cleared, be exonerated

■ **get on** ① *we got on the train*. BOARD, enter, step aboard, climb on, mount, ascend, catch; *informal* hop on, jump on ② *how are you getting*

on? FARE, manage, progress, get along, do, cope, get by, survive, muddle through/along, succeed, prosper, *informal* make out. ③ *he got on with his job* CONTINUE, proceed, go ahead, carry on, go on, press on, persist, persevere, keep at, *informal* stick with/at ④ *we don't get on* See GET ALONG sense 1

■ **get out** ① *the prisoners got out* See GET AWAY ② *the news got out* BECOME KNOWN, become common knowledge, come to light, emerge, transpire, come out, be uncovered, be revealed, be divulged, be disclosed, be reported, be released, leak out

■ **get out of** EVADE, dodge, shirk, avoid, escape, sidestep, *informal* duck (out of), wriggle out of, cop out of, *Austral /NZ informal* duck-shove

■ **get over** ① *I have just got over flu* RECOVER FROM, recuperate from, get better after, shrug off, survive ② *we tried to get over this problem* OVERCOME, surmount, get the better of, master, get round, find an/the answer to, get a grip on, deal with, cope with, sort out, take care of, crack, rise above, *informal* lick

■ **get something over**. See GET SOMETHING ACROSS

■ **get round someone** CAJOLE, persuade, wheedle, coax, prevail on, win over, bring round, sway, beguile, charm, inveigle, influence, woo, *informal* sweet-talk, soft-soap, butter up, twist someone's arm

■ **get together** ① *get together the best writers* COLLECT, gather, assemble, bring together, rally, muster, marshal, congregate, convene, amass, *formal* convoke ② *we must get together soon* MEET (UP), rendezvous, see each other, socialize

■ **get up** GET OUT OF BED, rise, stir, rouse oneself, *informal* surface, *formal* arise

■ **get someone up** (*informal*) DRESS, clothe, attire, garb, fit out, turn out, deck (out), trick out/up, costume, array, robe, *informal* doll up, *archaic* apparel

getaway ► noun ESCAPE, breakout, bolt for freedom, flight, disappearance, vanishing act, *Bnt informal* flit

get-together ► noun PARTY, meeting, gathering, social event, *informal* do, bash; *Bnt informal* rave-up, knees-up, jolly, bunfight, beano

get-up ► noun (*informal*) OUTFIT, clothes, costume, ensemble, suit, clothing, dress, attire, garments, garb, *informal* gear, togs, duds, *Bnt informal* clobber, rig-out, *N Amer informal* threads, *formal* apparel

get-up-and-go ► noun (*informal*) DRIVE, initiative, enterprise, enthusiasm, eagerness, ambition, motivation, dynamism, energy, gusto, vigour, vitality, verve, fire, fervour, zeal, commitment, spirit; *informal* gumption, oomph, vim, pep

—OPPOSITES apathy.

ghastly ► adjective ① *a ghastly stabbing*: TERRIBLE, frightful, horrible, grim, awful, dire; frightening, terrifying, horrifying, alarming, distressing, shocking, appalling, harrowing, dreadful, horrendous, monstrous, gruesome, grisly. ② *(informal) a ghastly building*: UNPLEASANT, objectionable, disagreeable, distasteful, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, detestable, insufferable, vile; *informal* horrible, horrid. ③ *the patient feels ghastly*: ILL, unwell, peaky, poorly; sick, queasy, nauseous, *Bnt* off colour; *informal* rough,



lousy, rotten, terrible, awful, dreadful, *Bnt informal* grotty, ropy, *Scottish informal* peely-wally, *Austral/NZ informal* crook ① a ghastly pallor PALE, white, pallid, pasty, wan, bloodless, peaky, ashen, grey, waxy, blanched, drained, pinched, green, sickly, *informal* like death warmed up

—OPPOSITES pleasant, charming, fine, healthy

ghost ▶ noun ① his ghost haunts the crypt SPECTRE, phantom, wraith, spirit, presence, apparition, *informal* spook ② the ghost of a smile TRACE, hint, suggestion, impression, suspicion, tinge, glimmer, semblance, shadow, whisper

ghostly ▶ adjective SPECTRAL, ghostlike, phantom, wraithlike, unearthly, unnatural, supernatural, insubstantial, shadowy, eerie, weird, uncanny, frightening, spine-chilling, hair-raising, blood-curdling, terrifying, chilling, sinister, *informal* creepy, scary, spooky, *poetic/literary* phantasmal, phantasmic

ghoulish ▶ adjective MACABRE, grisly, gruesome, grotesque, ghastly, unhealthy, horrible, unwholesome

giant ▶ noun the forest giant had died COLOSSUS, man mountain, behemoth, Brobdingnagian, mammoth, monster, *informal* jumbo See list

—OPPOSITES dwarf

▶ adjective a giant vacuum cleaner HUGE, colossal, massive, enormous, gigantic, very big, mammoth, vast, immense, monumental, mountainous, titanic, towering, elephantine, king-size(d), gargantuan, Brobdingnagian, substantial, hefty, *informal* mega, monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo, hulking, bumper, *Bnt informal* ginormous

—OPPOSITES miniature

Giants

Antaeus	Fasolt	Mimas
Atlas	Gargantua	Orion
Blunderbore	Gog	Pantagruel
Briareus	Goliath	Polyphemus
Cyclops	Jotun	Ymir
Enceladus	King Kong	
Fafner	Magog	

gibber ▶ verb PRATTLE, babble, ramble, drivel, jabber, gabble, burble, twitter, flannel, mutter, mumble, *informal* yammer, blabber, jibber-jabber, blather, blether, *Bnt informal* witter, chunter

gibberish ▶ noun NONSENSE, rubbish, balderdash, blather, blether, *informal* drivel, gobbledegook, mumbo-jumbo, tripe, hogwash, baloney, bulge, bosh, bull, bunk, guff, eyewash, piffle, twaddle, poppycock, *Bnt informal* cobbles, codswallop, double Dutch, tosh, cack; *N Amer informal* garbage, blathers, applesauce.

gibe ▶ noun & verb. See JIBE

giddiness ▶ noun DIZZINESS, light-headedness; faintness, unsteadiness, shakiness, wobbliness, *informal* wooziness, legs like jelly

giddy ▶ adjective ① she felt giddy DIZZY, light-headed, faint, weak, vertiginous, unsteady, shaky, wobbly, reeling; *informal* woozy. ② she was young and giddy: FLIGHTY, silly, frivolous, skittish, irresponsible, flippant, whimsical, capricious; feather-brained, scatty, thoughtless, heedless, carefree; *informal* dippy; *N Amer informal* ditzy.

—OPPOSITES steady, sensible

gift ▶ noun ① he gave the staff a gift PRESENT, handout, donation, offering, bestowal, bonus, award, endowment, tip, gratuity, baksheesh, largesse, *informal* prezzie, freebie, perk, *formal* benefaction ② a gift for melody TALENT, flair, aptitude, facility, knack, bent, ability, expertise, capacity, capability, faculty, endowment, strength, genius, brilliance, skill, artistry

▶ verb he gifted a composition to the orchestra PRESENT, give, bestow, confer, donate, endow, award, accord, grant, hand over, make over

gifted ▶ adjective TALENTED, skilful, skilled, accomplished, expert, consummate, masterly, first-rate, able, apt, adept, proficient, intelligent, clever, bright, brilliant, precocious, *informal* crack, top-notch, ace

—OPPOSITES inept

gigantic ▶ adjective HUGE, enormous, vast, extensive, very big, very large, giant, massive, colossal, mammoth, immense, monumental, mountainous, titanic, towering, elephantine, king-size(d), gargantuan, *informal* mega, monster, whopping, humongous, jumbo, hulking, bumper, *Bnt informal* ginormous

—OPPOSITES tiny

giggle ▶ verb he giggled at the picture TITTER, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, chuckle, chortle, laugh

▶ noun she suppressed a giggle TITTER, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, chuckle, chortle, laugh

gigolo ▶ noun PLAYBOY, (male) escort, admirer, lover, *informal* fancy man, *Bnt informal* toy boy

gild ▶ verb ① a gilded weathercock COVER WITH GOLD, paint gold ② he tends to gild the truth ELABORATE, embellish, embroider, camouflage, disguise, dress up, colour, exaggerate, expand on, *informal* jazz up

gimcrack ▶ adjective SHODDY, jerry-built, flimsy, insubstantial, thrown together, makeshift, inferior, poor-quality, second-rate, cheap, cheapjack, tawdry, kitschy, trashy, *informal* tacky, junky, rubbishy

gimmick ▶ noun PUBLICITY DEVICE, stunt, contrivance, scheme, stratagem, ploy, *informal* shtick

gingerly ▶ adverb CAUTIOUSLY, carefully, with care, warily, charily, circumspectly, delicately, heedfully, watchfully, vigilantly, attentively, hesitantly, timidly

—OPPOSITES recklessly

gird ▶ verb (*poetic/literary*) ① Sir Hector girded on his sword FASTEN, belt, bind, tie ② the island was girded by rocks SURROUND, enclose, encircle, circle, encompass, border, bound, edge, skirt, fringe; close in, confine. ③ they girded themselves for war PREPARE, get ready, gear up, nerve, steel, galvanize, brace, fortify, *informal* psych oneself up

girdle ▶ noun ① a diamond-studded girdle. BELT, sash, cummerbund, waistband, strap, band, girth, cord. ② her stockings were held up by her girdle: CORSET, corselet, foundation garment, panty girdle; truss.

▶ verb a garden girdled the house SURROUND, enclose, encircle, circle, encompass, circumscribe, border, bound, skirt, edge; *poetic/literary* gird

girl ▶ noun ① a five-year-old girl: FEMALE CHILD, daughter; schoolgirl; *Scottish & N English* lass, las-



sie, derogatory chit See also CHILD ② a tall dark girl. YOUNG WOMAN, young lady, muss, made-moiselle, Scottish lass, lassie, Irish colleen; informal chick, girlie, filly, *Brit* informal bird, bint, *N Amer* informal gal, broad, dame, jane, babe, *Austral/NZ* informal sheila, poetic/literary maid, damsel, archaic wench ③ his girl left him See GIRLFRIEND

girlfriend ► noun SWEETHEART, lover, partner, significant other, girl, woman, fiancée, informal steady; *Brit* informal bird, *N Amer* informal squeeze, dated lady (friend), lady-love, betrothed, archaic leman

girlish ► adjective GIRLY, youthful, childlike, childish, immature, feminine

girth ► noun ① a tree ten feet in girth CIRCUMFERENCE, perimeter; width, breadth ② he tied the towel around his girth STOMACH, midriff, middle, abdomen, belly, gut, informal tummy, tum ③ a horse's girth. *N Amer* cinch.

gist ► noun ESSENCE, substance, central theme, heart of the matter, nub, kernel, marrow, meat, burden, crux, thrust, drift, sense, meaning, significance, import, informal nutty-gritty

give ► verb ① he gave them £2000 PRESENT WITH, provide with, supply with, furnish with, let someone have, hand (over), offer, proffer, award, grant, bestow, accord, confer, make over, donate, contribute, put up ② can I give him a message? CONVEY, pass on, impart, communicate, transmit; send, deliver, relay, tell ③ a baby given into their care ENTRUST, commit, consign, assign, formal commend ④ he gave his life for them SACRIFICE, give up, relinquish, devote, dedicate ⑤ he gave her time to think ALLOW, permit, grant, accord, offer ⑥ this leaflet gives our opening times SHOW, display, set out, indicate, detail, list ⑦ they gave no further trouble CAUSE, make, create, occasion ⑧ garlic gives flavour PRODUCE, yield, afford, impart, lend ⑨ he gave a drinks party ORGANIZE, arrange, lay on, throw, host, hold, have, provide ⑩ Dominic gave a bow PERFORM, execute, make, do ⑪ she gave a shout UTTER, let out, emit, produce, make ⑫ he gave Harry a beating: ADMINISTER, deliver, deal, inflict, impose ⑬ the door gave: GIVE WAY, cave in, collapse, break, fall apart; bend, buckle
-OPPOSITES receive, take

► noun (informal) there isn't enough give in the jacket. ELASTICITY, flexibility, stretch, stretchiness, slack, play

■ **give someone away** BETRAY, inform on, informal split on, rat on, peach on, do the dirty on, blow the whistle on, sell down the river; *Brit* informal grass on, shop; *N Amer* informal rat out, finger; *Austral/NZ* informal dob on, *English Law* turn Queen's/King's evidence.

■ **give something away** REVEAL, disclose, divulge, let slip, leak, let out.

■ **give in** CAPITULATE, concede defeat, admit defeat, give up, surrender, yield, submit, back down, give way, defer, relent, throw in the towel/sponge.

■ **give something off/out** EMIT, produce, send out, throw out; discharge, release, exude, vent

■ **give out** RUN OUT, be used up, be consumed, be exhausted, be depleted; fail, flag; dry up.

■ **give something out** DISTRIBUTE, issue, hand out, pass round, dispense; dole out, dish out, mete out; allocate, allot, share out.

■ **give up.** See GIVE IN.

■ **give something up** STOP, cease, discontinue, desist from, abstain from, cut out, renounce, forgo; resign from, stand down from, informal quit, kick, swear off, leave off, pack in, lay off, *Brit* informal jack in.

give and take ► noun COMPROMISE, concession, cooperation, reciprocity, teamwork, interplay.

given ► adjective ① a given number of years. SPECIFIED, stated, designated, set, particular, specific, prescribed, agreed, appointed, pre-arranged, predetermined ② she was given to fits of temper PRONE, liable, inclined, disposed, predisposed, apt, likely
-OPPOSITES unspecified

► preposition given the issue's complexity, a summary is difficult CONSIDERING, in view of, bearing in mind, in the light of, assuming

► noun his aggression is taken as a given ESTABLISHED FACT, reality, certainty.

giver ► noun DONOR, contributor, donator, benefactor, benefactress, provider, supporter, backer, patron, sponsor, subscriber

glacial ► adjective ① glacial conditions FREEZING, cold, icy, ice-cold, sub-zero, frozen, gelid, wintry, arctic, polar, Siberian, bitter, biting, raw, chill ② Polly's tone was glacial UNFRIENDLY, hostile, unwelcoming, frosty, icy, cold, chilly
-OPPOSITES tropical, hot, friendly

glad ► adjective ① I'm really glad you're coming PLEASED, happy, delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, cock-a-hoop, elated, gleeful; gratified, grateful, thankful; informal tickled pink, over the moon, *Brit* informal chuffed; *N English* informal made up; *Austral* informal wrapped ② I'd be glad to help WILLING, eager, happy, pleased, delighted, ready, prepared ③ glad tidings PLEASING, welcome, happy, joyful, cheering, heartening, gratifying; poetic/literary gladsome
-OPPOSITES dismayed, reluctant, distressing.

gladden ► verb DELIGHT, please, make happy, elate; cheer (up), hearten, buoy up, give someone a lift, uplift, gratify; informal give someone a kick, tickle someone pink, buck up
-OPPOSITES sadden.

gladly ► adverb WITH PLEASURE, happily, cheerfully; willingly, readily, eagerly, freely, ungrudgingly; archaic fain, lief.

glamorous ► adjective ① a glamorous woman: BEAUTIFUL, attractive, lovely, bewitching, enchanting, beguiling; elegant, chic, stylish, fashionable; charming, charismatic, appealing, alluring, seductive; informal classy, glam. ② a glamorous lifestyle: EXCITING, thrilling, stimulating; dazzling, glittering, glossy, colourful, exotic; informal ritzy, glitzy, jet-setting.
-OPPOSITES dowdy, dull.

glamour ► noun ① she had undeniable glamour BEAUTY, allure, attractiveness; elegance, chic, style; charisma, charm, magnetism, desirability. ② the glamour of show business: ALLURE, attraction, fascination, charm, magic, romance, mystique, exoticism, spell; excitement, thrill; glitter, the bright lights; informal glitz, glam.

glance ► verb ① Rachel glanced at him: LOOK BRIEFLY, look quickly, peek, peep; glimpse; Scottish keek; informal have a gander; *Brit* informal take a dekkko, have a shufti, have a butcher's, *Austral/NZ* informal squiz. ② I glanced through the report: READ QUICKLY, scan, skim, leaf, flick, flip,

thumb, browse, dip into ① *a bullet glanced off the ice* **RICOCHET**, rebound, be deflected, bounce; graze, clip ② *sunlight glanced off her hair* **REFLECT**, flash, gleam, glint, glitter, glusten, glimmer, shimmer.

► **noun** *a glance at his watch* **PEEK**, peep, brief look, quick look, glimpse, *Scottish* keek, *informal* gander, *Bnt informal* dekkko, shufti, butcher's, *Austral/NZ informal* squiz, geek

■ **at first glance** **ON THE FACE OF IT**, on the surface, at first sight, to the casual eye, to all appearances, apparently, seemingly, outwardly, superficially, it would seem, it appears, as far as one can see/tell, by all accounts

gland ► **noun**. See list

—RELATED TERMS glandular, adeno-

Human Glands

adrenal gland	melibonian gland
apocrine gland	ovary
Bartholin's gland	parathyroid gland
Brunner's gland	pancreas
buccal gland	parotid gland
corpus luteum	pineal gland
Cowper's gland	pituitary gland
ductless gland	preputial gland
eccrine gland	prostate gland
endocrine gland	salivary gland
exocrine gland	sebaceous gland
gastric gland	sublingual gland
Islets of Langerhans	submandibular/ submaxillary gland
lacrimal gland	sweat gland
Lieberkühn's gland	testis
liver	thyroid gland
mammary gland	

glare ► **verb** ① *she glared at him* **SCOWL**, glower, stare angrily, look daggers, frown, lour, give someone a black look, look threateningly; *informal* give someone a dirty look ② *the sun glared out of the sky* **BLAZE**, beam, shine brightly, be dazzling, be blinding

► **noun** ① *a cold glare* **SCOWL**, glower, angry stare, frown, black look, threatening look, *informal* dirty look. ② *the harsh glare of the lights* **BLAZE**, dazzle, shine, beam, radiance, brilliance, luminescence

glaring ► **adjective** ① *glaring lights* **DAZZLING**, blinding, blazing, strong, bright, harsh. ② *a glaring omission* **OBLIVIOUS**, conspicuous, unmistakable, inescapable, unmissable, striking; flagrant, blatant, outrageous, gross, overt, patent, transparent, manifest, *informal* standing/sticking out like a sore thumb.

—OPPOSITES soft, minor.

glass ► **noun** ① *a glass of water*: **TUMBLER**, drinking vessel, flute, schooner, balloon, goblet, chalice ② (*Bnt*) *she looked in the glass* **MIRROR**, looking glass

—RELATED TERMS vitreous.

glasses ► **plural noun** **SPECTACLES**, eyewear, *N Amer* eyeglasses; *informal* specs.

glasshouse ► **noun** **GREENHOUSE**, hothouse, conservatory.

glassy ► **adjective** ① *the glassy surface of the lake*: **SMOOTH**, mirror-like, gleaming, shiny, glossy, polished, vitreous; slippery, icy; clear, transparent, translucent; calm, still, flat ② *a glassy stare*: **EXPRESSIONLESS**, glazed, blank, vacant,

fixed, motionless; emotionless, impassive, lifeless, wooden, vacuous.

—OPPOSITES rough, expressive.

glaze ► **verb** ① *the pots are glazed when dry* **VAR NISH**, enamel, lacquer, japan, shellac, paint; gloss ② *pastry glazed with caramel*: **COVER**, coat; ice, frost ③ *his eyes glazed over*: **BECOME GLASSY**, go blank, mist over, film over

► **noun** ① *pottery with a blue glaze* **VARNISH**, enamel, lacquer, finish, coating; lustre, shine, gloss ② *a cake with an apricot glaze* **COATING**, topping, icing, frosting.

gleam ► **verb** **SHINE**, glimmer, glint, glitter, shimmer, sparkle, twinkle, flicker, wink, glisten, flash, *poetic/literary* glister

► **noun** ① *a gleam of light* **GLIMMER**, glint, shimmer, twinkle, sparkle, flicker, flash, beam, ray, shaft ② *the gleam of brass* **SHINE**, lustre, gloss, sheen, glint, glitter, glimmer, sparkle, brilliance, radiance, glow, *poetic/literary* glister ③ *a gleam of hope* **GLIMMER**, flicker, ray, spark, trace, suggestion, hint, sign

glean ► **verb** **OBTAIN**, get, take, draw, derive, extract, cull, garner, gather; learn, find out

glee ► **noun** **DELIGHT**, pleasure, happiness, joy, gladness, elation, euphoria, amusement, mirth, merriment, excitement, gaiety, exuberance; triumph, jubilation, relish, satisfaction, gratification

—OPPOSITES disappointment

gleeful ► **adjective** **DELIGHTED**, pleased, joyful, happy, glad, overjoyed, elated, euphoric, amused, mirthful, merry, exuberant, cock-a-hoop, jubilant, *informal* over the moon.

glib ► **adjective** **SLICK**, pat, plausible, smooth-talking, fast-talking, silver-tongued, smooth, urbane, having kissed the Blarney Stone, disingenuous, insincere, facile, shallow, superficial, flippant, *informal* flip, sweet-talking

—OPPOSITES sincere

glide ► **verb** ① *a gondola glided past*: **SLIDE**, slip, sail, float, drift, flow; coast, freewheel, roll, skim, skate ② *seagulls gliding over the waves* **SOAR**, wheel, plane, fly ③ *he glided out of the door* **SLIP**, steal, slink

glimmer ► **verb** *moonlight glimmered on the lawn*. **GLEAM**, shine, glint, flicker, shimmer, glisten, glow, twinkle, sparkle, glitter, wink, flash, *poetic/literary* glister

► **noun** ① *a glimmer of light*: **GLEAM**, glint, flicker, shimmer, glow, twinkle, sparkle, flash, ray ② *a glimmer of hope*: **GLEAM**, flicker, ray, trace, sign, suggestion, hint.

glimpse ► **noun** *a glimpse of her face* **BRIEF LOOK**, quick look, glance, peek, peep, sight, sighting.

► **verb** *he glimpsed a figure* **CATCH SIGHT OF**, notice, discern, spot, spy, sight, pick out, make out, *Bnt informal* clock; *poetic/literary* espy, descry

glint ► **verb** *the diamond glinted* **SHINE**, gleam, catch the light, glitter, sparkle, twinkle, wink, glimmer, shimmer, glisten, flash; *poetic/literary* glister

► **noun** *the glint of the silver*: **GLITTER**, gleam, sparkle, twinkle, glimmer, flash.

glister ► **verb** **SHINE**, sparkle, twinkle, glint, glitter, glimmer, shimmer, wink, flash; *poetic/literary* glister

glitter ► **verb** *crystal glittered in the candlelight*: **SHINE**, sparkle, twinkle, glint, gleam, shimmer,



glimmer, wink, flash, catch the light, *poetic/literary* glister

► **noun** ① the glitter of light on the water SPARKLE, twinkle, glint, gleam, shimmer, glimmer, flicker, flash, brilliance, luminescence ② the glitter of show business GLAMOUR, excitement, thrills, attraction, appeal, dazzle, *informal* razzle-dazzle, razzmatazz, glitz, ritziness

gloat ► **verb** DELIGHT, relish, take great pleasure, revel, rejoice, glory, exult, triumph, crow, boast, brag, be smug, congratulate oneself, preen oneself, pat oneself on the back, rub one's hands together, *informal* rub it in

global ► **adjective** ① the global economy WORLD WIDE, international, world, intercontinental ② a global view of the problem COMPREHENSIVE, overall, general, all-inclusive, all-encompassing, encyclopedic, universal, blanket, broad, far-reaching, extensive, sweeping

globe ► **noun** ① every corner of the globe WORLD, earth, planet ② the sun is a globe SPHERE, orb, ball, spheroid, round

globular ► **adjective** SPHERICAL, spheric, spheroidal, round, globe-shaped, ball-shaped, orb-shaped, rounded, bulbous

globule ► **noun** DROPLET, drop, bead, tear, ball, bubble, pearl, *informal* blob, glob

gloom ► **noun** ① she peered into the gloom DARKNESS, dark, dimness, blackness, murkiness, shadows, shade, dusk, twilight, gloaming ② his gloom deepened DESPONDENCY, depression, dejection, downheartedness, melancholy, melancholia, unhappiness, sadness, glumness, gloominess, misery, sorrow, woe, wretchedness, despair, pessimism, hopelessness, *informal* the blues, the dumps
-OPPOSITES light, happiness

gloomy ► **adjective** ① a gloomy room DARK, shadowy, sunless, dim, sombre, dingy, dismal, dreary, murky, unwelcoming, cheerless, comfortless, funereal, *poetic/literary* Stygian ② Joanna looked gloomy DESPONDENT, downcast, downhearted, dejected, dispirited, disheartened, discouraged, demoralized, crestfallen, depressed, desolate, low, sad, unhappy, glum, melancholy, miserable, fed up, woebegone, mournful, forlorn, morose, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps ③ gloomy forecasts about the economy PESSIMISTIC, depressing, downbeat, disheartening, disappointing, unfavourable, bleak, bad, black, sombre, grim, cheerless, hopeless.
-OPPOSITES bright, cheerful, optimistic

glorify ► **verb** ① they gather to glorify God PRAISE, extol, exalt, worship, revere, reverence, venerate, pay homage to, honour, adore, thank, give thanks to, *formal* laud, *archaic* magnify ② a poem to glorify the memory of the dead ENNOBLE, exalt, elevate, dignify, enhance, augment, promote, praise, celebrate, honour, extol, lionize, acclaim, applaud, hail, glamorize, idealize, romanticize, enshrine, immortalize; *formal* laud
-OPPOSITES dishonour

glorious ► **adjective** ① a glorious victory ILLUSTRIOUS, celebrated, famous, acclaimed, distinguished, honoured; outstanding, great, magnificent, noble, triumphant ② glorious views: WONDERFUL, marvellous, magnificent, superb, sublime, spectacular, lovely, fine, delightful; *informal* super, great, stunning, fantastic, terrific,

tremendous, sensational, heavenly, divine, gorgeous, fabulous, fab, awesome, ace, *informal*, dated capital, spiffing; *Brit informal* smashing, *poetic/literary* wondrous, beauteous
-OPPOSITES undistinguished, horrid

glory ► **noun** ① a sport that won him glory RE NOWN, fame, prestige, honour, distinction, kudos, eminence, acclaim, praise, bouquets, celebrity, recognition, reputation ② glory be to God PRAISE, worship, adoration, veneration, honour, reverence, exaltation, extolment, homage, thanksgiving, thanks ③ a house restored to its former glory MAGNIFICENCE, splendour, resplendence, grandeur, majesty, greatness, nobility, opulence, beauty, elegance ④ the glories of Vermont WONDER, beauty, delight, marvel, phenomenon, sight, spectacle
-OPPOSITES shame, obscurity, modesty

► **verb** we gloried in our independence TAKE PLEASURE IN, revel in, rejoice in, delight in, relish, savour, congratulate oneself on, be proud of, boast about, *informal* get a kick out of, get a thrill out of

gloss¹ ► **noun** ① the gloss of her hair SHINE, sheen, lustre, gleam, patina, brilliance, shimmer ② beneath the gloss of success FACADE, veneer, surface, show, camouflage, disguise, mask, smokescreen, window dressing

► **verb** ① she glossed her lips MAKE GLOSSY, shine, glaze, polish, burnish ② he tried to gloss over his problems CONCEAL, cover up, hide, disguise, mask, veil, shrug off, brush aside, play down, minimize, understate, make light of, *informal* brush under the carpet

gloss² ► **noun** glosses in the margin EXPLANATION, interpretation, exegesis, explication, elucidation, annotation, note, footnote, commentary, comment, translation, *historical* scholium

► **verb** difficult words are glossed in a footnote EXPLAIN, interpret, explicate, elucidate, annotate, translate, paraphrase

glossy ► **adjective** ① a glossy wooden floor SHINY, gleaming, lustrous, brilliant, shimmering, glistening, satiny, sheeny, smooth, glassy, polished, lacquered, glazed ② a glossy magazine EXPENSIVE, high-quality, stylish, fashionable, glamorous, attractive, artistic, *Brit* upmarket, coffee-table, *informal* classy, ritzy, glitzy
-OPPOSITES dull, cheap.

glove ► **noun** MITTEN, mitt, gauntlet

glow ► **verb** ① lights glowed from the windows SHINE, radiate, gleam, glimmer, flicker, flare, luminesce ② a fire glowed in the hearth RADIATE HEAT, smoulder, burn ③ she glowed with embarrassment FLUSH, blush, redden, colour (up), go pink, go scarlet, burn ④ she glowed with pride TINGLE, thrill, beam

► **noun** ① the glow of the fire. RADIANCE, light, shine, gleam, glimmer, incandescence, luminescence, warmth, heat. ② a glow spread over her face FLUSH, blush, rosiness, pinkness, redness, high colour, bloom, radiance ③ a warm glow deep inside her: HAPPINESS, contentment, pleasure, satisfaction.
-OPPOSITES pallor.

glower ► **verb** she glowered at him: SCOWL, glare, look daggers, frown, lour, give a someone black look; *informal* give someone a dirty look.

► **noun** the glower on his face: SCOWL, glare, frown, black look; *informal* dirty look.

glowing ▶ **adjective** ① *glowing coals* BRIGHT, shining, radiant, glimmering, flickering, twinkling, incandescent, luminous, luminescent, lit (up), lighted, illuminated, ablaze, aglow, smouldering ② *his glowing cheeks* ROSY, pink, red, flushed, blushing, radiant, blooming, ruddy, florid, hot, burning ③ *glowing colours* VIVID, vibrant, bright, brilliant, rich, intense, strong, radiant, warm ④ *a glowing report* COMPLIMENTARY, favourable, enthusiastic, commendatory, admiring, lionizing, rapturous, rhapsodic, adulatory, fulsome, *informal* rave

glue ▶ **noun** a tube of glue ADHESIVE, fixative, gum, paste, cement, epoxy (resin), size, *N Amer* mucilage, *N Amer* informal stickum

▶ **verb** ① *the planks were glued together* STICK, gum, paste, affix, fix, cement ② (*informal*) *she was glued to the television* BE RIVETED TO, be gripped by, be hypnotized by, be mesmerized by

glum ▶ **adjective** GLOOMY, downcast, downhearted, dejected, despondent, crestfallen, disheartened, depressed, desolate, unhappy, doleful, melancholy, miserable, woebegone, mournful, forlorn, in the doldrums, morose, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, led up

—OPPOSITES cheerful

glut ▶ **noun** a glut of cars SURPLUS, excess, surfeit, superfluity, overabundance, superabundance, oversupply, plethora

—OPPOSITES dearth

▶ **verb** *the factories are glutted* CRAM FULL, overflow, overload, oversupply, saturate, flood, inundate, deluge, swamp, *informal* stuff

glutinous ▶ **adjective** STICKY, viscous, viscid, tacky, gluey, gummy, treacly, adhesive, *informal* gooeey, gloopy, cloggy, *N Amer* informal gloppy

glutton ▶ **noun** GOURMAND, overeater, big eater, gorger, gobbler, *informal* (greedy) pig, gannet, greedy guts, gutbucket, guzzler

gluttonous ▶ **adjective** GREEDY, gourmandizing, voracious, insatiable, wolfish, *informal* pig-gish, piggy

gluttony ▶ **noun** GREED, greediness, overeating, gourmandism, gourmandizing, voracity, insatiability, *informal* piggishness

gnarled ▶ **adjective** ① *a gnarled tree trunk* KNOBBLY, knotty, knotted, gnarly, lumpy, bumpy, nodular, twisted, bent, crooked, distorted, contorted ② *gnarled hands* TWISTED, bent, misshapen, arthritic, rough, wrinkled, wizened

gnash ▶ **verb** GRIND, grate, rasp, grit

gnaw ▶ **verb** ① *the dog gnawed at a bone* CHEW, champ, chomp, bite, munch, crunch, nibble, worry ② *the pressures are gnawing away their independence* ERODE, wear away, wear down, eat away (at), consume, devour. ③ *the doubts gnawed at her* NAG, plague, torment, torture, trouble, distress, worry, haunt, oppress, burden, hang over, bother, fret, niggle.

go ▶ **verb** ① *he's gone into town* MOVE, proceed, make one's way, advance, progress, pass; walk, travel, journey, *poetic/literary* betake oneself ② *the road goes to London*: EXTEND, stretch, reach, lead ③ *the money will go to charity*: BE GIVEN, be donated, be granted, be presented, be awarded, be devoted, be handed (over) ④ *it's time to go* LEAVE, depart, take oneself off, go away, withdraw, absent oneself, make an exit, exit; set off, start out, get under way, be on one's way,

decamp, retreat, retire, make off, clear out, run off/away, flee, *Brit* make a move, *informal* make tracks, push off, beat it, take off, skedaddle, scam, split, scoot, *Brit* *informal* sling one's hook.

⑤ *three years went past* PASS, elapse, slip by/past, roll by/past, tick away, fly by/past ⑥ *a golden age that has gone for good* DISAPPEAR, vanish, be no more, be over, run its course, fade away, finish, end, cease ⑦ *all our money had gone*: BE USED UP, be spent, be exhausted, be consumed, be drained, be depleted ⑧ *I'd like to see my grandchildren before I go* DIE, pass away, pass on, lose one's life, expire, breathe one's last, perish, go to meet one's maker, *informal* give up the ghost, kick the bucket, croak, buy it, turn up one's toes, *Brit* *informal* snuff it, pop one's clogs, *N Amer* *informal* bite the big one, buy the farm, *archaic* decess, depart this life ⑨ *the bridge went suddenly* COLLAPSE, give way, fall down, cave in, crumble, disintegrate ⑩ *his hair had gone grey* BECOME, get, turn, grow ⑪ *he heard the bell go* MAKE A SOUND, sound, reverberate, resound, ring, chime, peal, toll, clang ⑫ *everything went well* TURN OUT, work out, develop, come out, result, end (up), *informal* pan out ⑬ *those colours don't go* MATCH, be harmonious, harmonize, blend, be suited, be complementary, coordinate, be compatible ⑭ *my car won't go* FUNCTION, work, run, operate ⑮ *where does the cutlery go?* BELONG, be kept, be found, be located, be situated ⑯ *this all goes to prove my point* CONTRIBUTE, help, serve, incline, tend

—OPPOSITES arrive, come, return, clash

▶ **noun** (*informal*) ① *his second go* ATTEMPT, try, effort, bid, endeavour, *informal* shot, stab, crack, bash, whirl, whack, *formal* essay ② *he has plenty of go in him* ENERGY, vigour, vitality, life, liveliness, spirit, verve, enthusiasm, zest, vibrancy, sparkle, stamina, dynamism, drive, push, determination, *informal* pep, punch, oomph, get-up-and-go

■ **go about** SET ABOUT, begin, embark on, start, commence, address oneself to, get down to, get to work on, get going on, undertake, approach, tackle, attack, *informal* get cracking on/with

■ **go along with** AGREE TO/WITH, fall in with, comply with, cooperate with, acquiesce in, assent to, follow, submit to, yield to, defer to

■ **go away**. See GO verb sense 4

■ **go back on** RENEGE ON, break, fail to honour, default on, repudiate, retract, do an about-face, *informal* cop out (of), rat on

■ **go by** we have to go by his decision OBEY, abide by, comply with, keep to, conform to, follow, heed, defer to, respect

■ **go down** ① *the ship went down* SINK, founder, go under ② *interest rates are going down* DECREASE, get lower, fall, drop, decline, plummet, plunge, slump ③ (*informal*) *they went down in the first leg* LOSE, be beaten, be defeated, come to grief ④ *his name will go down in history* BE REMEMBERED, be recorded, be commemorated, be immortalized

■ **go down with** (*Brit*) FALL ILL WITH, get, develop, contract, pick up, succumb to, fall victim to, be struck down with, become infected with

■ **go far** BE SUCCESSFUL, succeed, be a success, do well, get on, get somewhere, get ahead, make good; *informal* make a name for oneself, make one's mark

■ **go for** ① I went for the tuna CHOOSE, pick, opt for, select, plump for, decide on ② the man went for her ATTACK, assault, hit, strike, beat up, assail, set upon, rush at, lash out at, informal lay into, rough up, *Brit informal* have a go at, duff up, *N Amer informal* beat up on ③ he goes for older women BE ATTRACTED TO, like, fancy, prefer, favour, choose, informal have a thing about

■ **go in for** TAKE PART IN, participate in, engage in, get involved in, join in, enter into, undertake, practise, pursue, espouse, adopt, embrace

■ **go into** INVESTIGATE, examine, enquire into, look into, research, probe, explore, delve into, consider, review, analyse

■ **go off** ① the bomb went off EXPLODE, detonate, blow up ② (Brit) the milk's gone off GO BAD, go stale, go sour, turn, spoil, go rancid, decompose, go mouldy

■ **go on** ① the lecture went on for hours LAST, continue, carry on, run on, proceed, endure, persist, take ② she went on about the sea TALK AT LENGTH, ramble, rattle on, chatter, prattle, gabble, blether, blather, twitter, informal gab, yak, yabber, yatter, *Brit informal* witter, rabbit, natter, waffle, chunter, *N Amer informal* run off at the mouth ③ I'm not sure what went on HAPPEN, take place, occur, transpire, *N Amer informal* go down, poetic/literary come to pass, betide, archaic hap

■ **go out** ① the lights went out BE TURNED OFF, be extinguished, stop burning ② he's going out with Kate SEE, take out, be someone's boyfriend/girlfriend, be involved with, informal date, go steady with, go with, *N Amer informal*, dated step out with, dated court, woo

■ **go over** ① go over the figures EXAMINE, study, scrutinize, inspect, look at/over, scan, check, analyse, appraise, review ② we are going over our lines REHEARSE, practise, read through, run through

■ **go round** ① the wheels were going round SPIN, revolve, turn, rotate, whirl ② a nasty rumour going round BE SPREAD, be circulated, be put about, circulate, pass round, be broadcast

■ **go through** ① the terrible things she has gone through UNDERGO, experience, face, suffer, be subjected to, live through, endure, brave, bear, tolerate, withstand, put up with, cope with, weather ② he went through hundreds of pounds SPEND, use up, run through, get through, expend, deplete, waste, squander, fritter away ③ he went through Susie's bag SEARCH, look, hunt, rummage, rifle, informal frisk ④ I have to go through the report EXAMINE, study, scrutinize, inspect, look over, scan, check, analyse, appraise, review ⑤ the deal has gone through BE COMPLETED, be concluded, be brought off, be approved, be signed, be rubber-stamped

■ **go under** GO BANKRUPT, cease trading, go into receivership, go into liquidation, become insolvent, be liquidated, be wound up, be shut (down); fail, informal go broke, go to the wall, go belly up, fold

■ **go without** ① I went without breakfast ABSTAIN FROM, refrain from, forgo, do without, deny oneself ② the children did not go without BE DEPRIVED, be in want, go short, go hungry, be in need

goad ► noun ① he applied his goad to the cows. PROD, spike, staff, crook, rod. ② a goad to political change: STIMULUS, incentive, encouragement, inducement, filip, spur, prod, prompt; motive,

motivation

► verb we were goaded into action PROVOKE, spur, prod, egg on, hound, badger, incite, rouse, stir, move, stimulate, motivate, prompt, induce, encourage, urge, inspire, impel, pressure, pressurize, dragoon

go-ahead (informal) ► noun they gave the go-ahead for the scheme PERMISSION, consent, leave, licence, dispensation, warrant, clearance, authorization, assent, agreement, approval, endorsement, sanction, blessing, the nod, informal the thumbs up, the OK, the green light

► adjective go-ahead companies ENTERPRISING, resourceful, innovative, ingenious, original, creative, progressive, pioneering, modern, forward-looking, enlightened, enthusiastic, ambitious, entrepreneurial, high-powered, bold, daring, audacious, adventurous, dynamic, informal go-getting

goal ► noun OBJECTIVE, aim, end, target, design, intention, intent, plan, purpose, (holy) grail, ambition, aspiration, wish, dream, desire, hope

goat ► noun ① a herd of goats billy (goat), nanny (goat), kid See list ② (Brit informal) she's always playing the goat See FOOL noun sense 1 ③ be careful of that old goat LECHER, libertine, womanizer, seducer, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario, Romeo, pervert, debauchee, rake, informal lech, dirty old man, ladykiller

—RELATED TERMS caprine

Goats

BREEDS

Anglo-Nubian
Angora
Apulian
Bagot
Chamois Coloured
Dutch White
French Alpine
Golden Guernsey
Grisons Striped
Kashmiri
Murcian
Nubian
Saanen
Somali
Soviet Mohair
Syrian Mountain
Telemark

Toggenburg
Valais Blackneck

WILD GOATS

bezoar
ibex
markhor
Spanish ibex
tahr
tur

GOAT-ANTELOPES

chamois
goral
mountain goat
musk ox
serow
takin

gobble ► verb GUZZLE, bolt, gulp, devour, wolf, cram, gorge (oneself) on, informal tuck into, put away, demolish, polish off, shovel down, stuff one's face (with), pig oneself (on), *Brit informal* scoff, gollop, shift; *N Amer informal* scarf (down/up)

gobbledegook ► noun (informal) GIBBERISH, claptrap, nonsense, rubbish, balderdash, mumbo-jumbo, blather, blether, *N Amer* garbage; informal drivel, tripe, hogwash, baloney, bilge, bosh, bull, bunk, guff, eyewash, piffle, twaddle, poppycock, phooey, hooley, *Brit informal* cobblers, codswallop, double Dutch, tosh, *N Amer informal* bushwa, applesauce.

go-between ► noun INTERMEDIARY, middleman, agent, broker, liaison, linkman, contact; negotiator, interceder, intercessor, mediator.

Gods and Goddesses

GREEK

Aeolus
Aphrodite
Apollo
Ares
Artemis
Asclepius
Athena/Athena
Bacchus
Boreas
Cronus/Kronos
Cybele
Demeter
Dionysus
Eos
Eros
Gaia
Hades
Hebe
Hecate
Helios
Hephaestus
Hera
Hermes
Hestia
Hyperion
Hypnos
Iris
Leto
Nemesis
Nereus
Nike
Oceanus
Pan
Persephone
Pluto
Pollux
Pontus
Poseidon
Priapus
Proteus
Rhea
Selene
Silenus
Tethys
Thanatos
Themis
Uranus
Zeus

ROMAN

Aesculapius
Aurora
Bellona
Ceres
Cupid
Diana
Faunus
Flora
Janus
Juno
Jupiter
Juventas
Mala
Mars
Mercury
Minerva
Morpheus
Mors

Neptune
Ops
Pomona
Priapus
Proserpina
Quirinus
Saturn
Sol
Somnus
Terminus
Venus
Vesta
Vulcan

NORSE

Aegir
Aesir, the
Alcis
Balder
Bragl
Eir
Frey
Freya
Frigga
Gerda
Gullveig
Heimdall
Hel
Hermod
Hödur
Hoenir
Idun
Lofri
Loki
Mimir
Nehalennia
Nerthus
Njörd
Norns
Odin
Sif
Skuld
Thor
Tyr
Ull
Urd
Vanir, the
Verdandi
Vidar

CELTIC

Áine
Ana/Anu
Bébin
Belenus
Bendigeidfran
Boand/Boanna
Borvo
Brân Llyr
Brânwen
Brigit
Caturix
Cernunnos
Clíodna/Cliona
Dagda, the
Danu/Dana
Dian Cécht
Dôn
Dorinn

Eochaid
Epona
Ériu
Esus
Fódla
Gobniu
Llyr
Ludd/Nudd
Lug Lámfhota
Macha
Manannan
Maponos
Morrigan
Nechtan
Nuadu/Nuada
Airgetlám
Ogmios
Pwyll
Rhiannon
Succellus
Taranis
Teutates
Tuatha Dé Danann

EGYPTIAN

Ament
Amun
Anhur
Anquet
Anubis
Aplis
Apopis
Aten
Atum
Bastet
Behdety
Bes
Buto
Geb
Hapi
Harakhtes
Harmakhis
Harokeris
Harsaphes
Harsiesis
Hathor
Heket
Horus
Imhotep
Isis
Khenty-Imentiu
Khonsu
Khepera
Khnum
Maat
Mertseger
Meskhent
Min
Mont
Mut
Nefertum
Nehheh
Nekhibet
Nephthys
Nun
Nut
Opet
Osiris
Ptah

Ra
Renenet
Renpet
Sati
Sebek
Seker
Sekhmet
Selket
Serapis
Sesheta
Seth
Shai
Shu
Taueret
Tefnut
Thoth
Upuaut

MIDDLE EASTERN

Adad
Anu
Ashur
Astarte/Ashtoreth
Attis
Baal
Baalat
Bellili
Cybele
Ea
Enlil
Ishtar
Marduk
Mot
Ninurta
Shamash
Sin

HINDU

Aditi
Agni
Bhairavi
Brahma
Devi
Durga
Ganesh
Hanuman
Indra
Jagannatha/
Juggernaut
Kali
Kama
Kartikēya
Krishna
Lakshmi
Maruts, the
Mitra
Parvati
Prajapati
Puchan
Radha
Rama
Rudra
Sakti
Sarasvati
Savitar
Shiva/Siva
Skanda
Soma
Surya

Tvashtar
Uma
Ushas
Varuna
Vata
Vishnu
Yama

AZTEC

Camaxtli
Chalchiuhtlicue
Chicomecoatl
Cihuacoatl
Coatlícue
Huitzilopochtli
Meztli
Mictlanichuati
Mictlantecuhitli
Quetzalcoatl
Tenochtitlan
Tezcatlipoca
Tlahuizcalpante-
cuhitli
Tlaloc
Tlazolteotl
Tonatiuh
Tzintéotl
Xilonen
Xiuhtecuhtli
Xochipili
Xochiquetzal
Xolotl
Yacatecuhtli

MAYAN

Acat
Akua
Bacab
Backlum-Chaam
Chin
Cukulcan
Echua
Hapikern
Hunab Ku
Itzamna
Ixazaluoh
Kinebaban
Nohochacyum
Usukun
Uyitzin
Xamaniqlinquin
Yantho
Yuncemil

INCA

Apu-Punchau
Catequil
Chasca
Choun
Cuycha
Inti
Mama-Cocha
Mama-Cuna
Mama-Quilla
Manco-Capac
Nina
Pachacamac
Pachamama
Viracocha

goblin ► noun HOBGOBLIN, gnome, dwarf, troll, imp, elf, brownie, fairy, pixie, leprechaun

god ► noun ① a gift from God THE LORD, the Almighty, the Creator, the Maker, the Godhead, Allah, Jehovah, Yahweh, (God) the Father, (God) the Son, the Holy Ghost/Spirit, the Holy Trinity See list ② sacrifices to appease the gods DEITY, goddess, divine being, celestial being, divinity, immortal, avatar See list ③ wooden gods IDOL, graven image, icon, totem, talisman, fetish, juju

—RELATED TERMS divine, theo-

Names for God



Adonai
Allah
the Almighty
Alpha and Omega
the Ancient of Days
the Creator
the Deity
the Divine
Elohim
the Eternal
the Father
the Father, Son, and
Holy Ghost
the First Cause
God Almighty
the Godhead

the Holy Ghost
the Holy Spirit
the Holy Trinity
Jah
Jehovah
the King of Kings
the Lord
the Lord of Lords
the Maker
Our Father
the Prime Mover
Shaddai
the Supreme Being
the Trinity
Yahweh

godforsaken ► adjective WRETCHED, miserable, dreary, dismal, depressing, grim, cheerless, bleak, desolate, gloomy, deserted, neglected, isolated, remote, backward, *Brit informal* grotty

—OPPOSITES charming

godless ► adjective ① a godless society ATHEISTIC, unbelieving, agnostic, sceptical, heretical, faithless, irreligious, ungodly, unholy, impious, profane, infidel, heathen, idolatrous, pagan, satanic, devilish ② godless pleasures IMMORAL, wicked, sinful, wrong, evil, bad, iniquitous, corrupt, irreligious, sacrilegious, profane, blasphemous, impious, depraved, degenerate, debauched, perverted, decadent, impure

—OPPOSITES religious, virtuous

godlike ► adjective DIVINE, godly, superhuman; angelic, seraphic, spiritual, heavenly, celestial, sacred, holy, saintly

godly ► adjective RELIGIOUS, devout, pious, reverent, believing, God-fearing, saintly, holy, prayerful, churchgoing.

—OPPOSITES irreligious

godsend ► noun BOON, blessing, bonus, plus, benefit, advantage, help, aid, asset, stroke of luck, *informal* perk; *formal* perquisite.

—OPPOSITES curse

goggle ► verb STARE, gape, gaze, ogle; *informal* gawk, rubberneck; *Brit informal* gawp.

going-over ► noun (*informal*) ① his work was subjected to a going-over: EXAMINATION, inspection, investigation, probe, check-up; assessment, review, analysis, appraisal, critique; *informal* once-over ② the flat needs a going-over: CLEAN, dust, mop, scrub; *informal* vacuum, once-over ③ the thugs gave him a going-over BEATING, thrashing, thumping, pummelling, battering, pelting, as-

sault, attack, *informal* doing-over, belting, bashing, pasting, walloping, clobbering, hiding.

goings-on ► plural noun EVENTS, happenings, affairs, business, mischief, misbehaviour, misconduct, funny business, *informal* monkey business, hanky-panky, shenanigans, *Brit informal* jiggery-pokery, carry-on, *N Amer informal* monkeyshines

gold ► noun she won the gold GOLD MEDAL, first prize

—RELATED TERMS auric, aurous

golden ► adjective ① her golden hair BLOND(E), yellow, fair, flaxen, tow-coloured ② a golden time SUCCESSFUL, prosperous, flourishing, thriving, favourable, providential, lucky, fortunate, happy, joyful, glorious ③ a golden opportunity EXCELLENT, fine, superb, splendid, special, unique, favourable, opportune, promising, bright, full of promise, advantageous, profitable, valuable, providential ④ the golden girl of tennis FAVOURITE, favoured, popular, admired, beloved, pet, acclaimed, applauded, praised, brilliant, consummate, gifted, *Brit informal* blue-eyed, *formal* lauded

—OPPOSITES dark, unhappy

golf ► noun See list

Golfing Terms

ace	fade	midiron
addressing	fairway	niblick
the ball	flagstick	nineteenth
albatross	follow-	hole
backswing	through	par
best ball	fore!	pin
birdie	forecaddie	pitch
bisque	foursome	pitch and putt
bogey	green	putt
borrow	green fee	putter
brassie	handicap	putting green
bunker	hazard	recovery shot
bye	hole	rough
caddie	hole-in-one	round
chip (shot)	hook	sand iron
club	hosel	sand wedge
divot	iron	scratch
dormy	jigger	shank
double	lay up	slice
bogey	leader board	stroke
double eagle	lie	stroke play
downswing	links	tee
drive	loft	trap
driver	lofter	upswing
driving iron	mashie	wedge
eagle	match play	wood

gone ► adjective ① I wasn't gone long AWAY, absent, off, out; missing, unavailable. ② those days are gone: PAST, over (and done with), no more, done, finished, ended; forgotten, dead and buried. ③ the milk's all gone: USED UP, consumed, finished, spent, depleted; at an end. ④ an aunt of mine, long since gone: DEAD, expired, departed, no more, passed on/away; late, lost, lamented; perished, fallen; defunct, extinct; *informal* six feet under, pushing up daisies; *formal* deceased, euphemistic with God, asleep, at peace.

—OPPOSITES present, here, alive.

goo ► noun (*informal*) STICKY SUBSTANCE, OOZE,

sludge, muck, *informal* gunk, crud, gloop, *Brit informal* gunge; *N Amer informal* glop

good ▶ **adjective** ① *a good product* FINE, superior, quality, excellent, superb, outstanding, magnificent, exceptional, marvellous, wonderful, first-rate, first-class, sterling, satisfactory, acceptable, up to scratch, up to standard, not bad, all right, *informal* great, OK, A1, ace, terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, top-notch, class, awesome, wicked, *informal, dated* capital, *Brit informal* smashing, brilliant, brill, *Austral informal* beaut, bonzer, *Brit informal, dated* spiffing, top hole ② *a good person* VIRTUOUS, righteous, upright, upstanding, moral, ethical, high-minded, principled, exemplary, law-abiding, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless, unimpeachable, honourable, scrupulous, reputable, decent, respectable, noble, trustworthy, meritorious, praiseworthy, admirable, whiter than white, saintly, saintlike, angelic, *informal* squeaky clean ③ *the children are good at school* WELL BEHAVED, obedient, dutiful, polite, courteous, respectful, deferential, compliant ④ *a good thing to do* RIGHT, correct, proper, decorous, seemly, appropriate, fitting, apt, suitable, convenient, expedient, favourable, opportune, felicitous, timely ⑤ *a good driver* CAPABLE, able, proficient, adept, adroit, accomplished, skilful, skilled, talented, masterly, expert, *informal* great, mean, wicked, nifty, ace, *N Amer informal* crackerjack ⑥ *a good friend* CLOSE, intimate, dear, bosom, special, best, firm, valued, treasured, loving, devoted, loyal, faithful, constant, reliable, dependable, trustworthy, trusty, true, unfailing, staunch ⑦ *the dogs are in good condition* HEALTHY, fine, sound, tip-top, hale and hearty, fit, robust, sturdy, strong, vigorous ⑧ *a good time was had by all* ENJOYABLE, pleasant, agreeable, pleasurable, delightful, great, nice, lovely, amusing, diverting, jolly, merry, lively, *informal* super, fantastic, fabulous, fab, terrific, grand, *Brit informal* brilliant, brill, smashing, *N Amer informal* peachy, ducky, *Austral/NZ informal* beaut, bonzer ⑨ *it was good of you to come* KIND, kind-hearted, good-hearted, generous, charitable, magnanimous, gracious, altruistic, unselfish, selfless ⑩ *a good time to call* CONVENIENT, suitable, appropriate, fitting, fit, opportune, timely, favourable, advantageous, expedient, felicitous, happy, providential ⑪ *milk is good for you* WHOLESOME, healthy, healthful, nourishing, nutritious, nutritional, beneficial, salubrious ⑫ *are these eggs good?* EDIBLE, safe to eat, fit for human consumption, fresh, wholesome, consumable; *formal* comestible ⑬ *good food* DELICIOUS, tasty, mouth-watering, appetizing, flavoursome, flavourful, delectable, toothsome, palatable, succulent, luscious; *informal* scrumptious, delish, scrummy, yummy; *Brit informal* moreish; *N Amer informal* finger-licking, nummy ⑭ *a good reason* VALID, genuine, authentic, legitimate, sound, bona fide; convincing, persuasive, telling, potent, cogent, compelling ⑮ *we waited a good hour* WHOLE, full, entire, complete, solid ⑯ *a good number of them* CONSIDERABLE, sizeable, substantial, appreciable, significant; goodly, fair, reasonable; plentiful, abundant, great, large, generous; *informal* tidy ⑰ *wear your good clothes* BEST, smart, smartest, finest, nicest; special, party, Sunday, formal, dressy ⑱ *good weather*: FINE, fair, dry; bright, clear, sunny, cloudless; calm, windless; warm,

mild, balmy, clement, pleasant, nice

—OPPOSITES bad, wicked, naughty, poor, terrible, inconvenient, small, scruffy

▶ **noun** ① *Issues of good and evil* VIRTUE, righteousness, goodness, morality, integrity, rectitude, honesty, truth, honour, probity, propriety, worthiness, merit, blamelessness, purity ② *it's all for your good* BENEFIT, advantage, profit, gain, interest, welfare, well-being, enjoyment, comfort, ease, convenience, help, aid, assistance, service, behalf

—OPPOSITES wickedness, disadvantage

▶ **exclamation** *good, that's settled* FINE, very well, all right, right, right then, yes, agreed, *informal* okay, OK, okey-dokey, roger, *Brit informal* righto, righty-ho

■ **for good** *those days are gone for good* FOREVER, permanently, for always, (for) evermore, for ever and ever, for eternity, until hell freezes over, never to return, *N Amer* forevermore, *informal* for keeps, until doomsday, until the cows come home, *archaic* for aye

■ **in good part** *she took the joke in good part* GOOD-NATUREDLY, good-humouredly, without offence, amicably, favourably, tolerantly, indulgently, cheerfully, well

■ **make good** SUCCEED, be successful, be a success, do well, get ahead, reach the top, prosper, flourish, thrive, *informal* make it, make the grade, make a name for oneself, make one's mark, get somewhere, arrive

■ **make something good** ① *he promised to make good any damage* REPAIR, mend, fix, put right, see to, restore, remedy, rectify ② *they made good their escape* EFFECT, conduct, perform, implement, execute, carry out, achieve, accomplish, succeed in, realize, attain, engineer, bring about, bring off ③ *he will make good his promise* FULFIL, carry out, implement, discharge, honour, redeem, keep, observe, abide by, comply with, stick to, heed, follow, be bound by, live up to, stand by, adhere to

goodbye ▶ **exclamation** FAREWELL, adieu, au revoir, ciao, auf Wiedersehen, adios, *Austral/NZ* hooray, *informal* bye, bye-bye, so long, see you (later), later(s), *Brit informal* cheers, cheerio, ta-ta, *N English informal* ta-ra, *informal, dated* toodle-oo, toodle-pip

good-for-nothing ▶ **adjective** *a good-for-nothing layabout* USELESS, worthless, incompetent, inefficient, inept, ne'er-do-well, lazy, idle, slothful, indolent, shiftless, *informal* no-good, lousy

—OPPOSITES worthy

▶ **noun** *lazy good-for-nothings* NE'ER-DO-WELL, layabout, do-nothing, idler, loafer, lounge, sluggard, shirker, *informal* waster, slacker, lazybones, couch potato, *Brit informal* skiver.

good-humoured ▶ **adjective** GENIAL, affable, cordial, friendly, amiable, easy-going, approachable, good-natured, cheerful, cheery, companionable, comradely, sociable, convivial, company-loving, *informal* chummy, pally, *Brit informal* matey, *N Amer informal* clubby

—OPPOSITES grumpy

good-looking ▶ **adjective** ATTRACTIVE, beautiful, pretty, handsome, lovely, stunning, striking, arresting, gorgeous, prepossessing, fetching, captivating, bewitching, beguiling, engaging, charming, enchanting, appealing, delightful; sexy, seductive, alluring, tantalizing,

irresistible, ravishing, desirable, *Scottish & N English* bonny, *informal* fanciable, tasty, hot, easy on the eye, drop-dead gorgeous, *Brit informal* fit, *N Amer informal* cute, foxy, *Austral/NZ informal* spunky, *poetic/literary* beauteous, *archaic* comely, fair

—OPPOSITES ugly.

goodly ► **adjective** LARGE, largish, sizeable, substantial, considerable, respectable, significant, decent, generous, handsome, *informal* tidy, serious

—OPPOSITES paltry

good-natured ► **adjective** WARM-HEARTED, friendly, amiable, neighbourly, benevolent, kind, kind-hearted, generous, unselfish, considerate, thoughtful, obliging, helpful, supportive, charitable; understanding, sympathetic, easy-going, accommodating, *Brit informal* decent

—OPPOSITES malicious

goodness ► **noun** ① he had some goodness in him: VIRTUE, good, righteousness, morality, integrity, rectitude, honesty, truth, truthfulness, honour, probity; propriety, decency, respectability, nobility, worthiness, worth, merit, trustworthiness, blamelessness, purity ② God's goodness towards us: KINDNESS, kindness, tender-heartedness, humanity, mildness, benevolence, graciousness; tenderness, warmth, affection, love, goodwill; sympathy, compassion, care, concern, understanding, tolerance, generosity, charity, leniency, clemency, magnanimity ③ slow cooking retains the food's goodness NUTRITIONAL VALUE, nutrients, wholesomeness, nourishment

goods ► **plural noun** ① he dispatched the goods MERCHANDISE, wares, stock, commodities, produce, products, articles, imports, exports. ② the dead man's goods. PROPERTY, possessions, effects, chattels, valuables, *informal* things, stuff, junk, gear, kit, bits and pieces, *Brit informal* clobber ③ (Brit) most goods went by train FREIGHT, cargo, load, consignment, delivery, shipment.

good-tempered ► **adjective** EQUABLE, even-tempered, imperturbable, unruffled, unflustered, untroubled, well balanced, easy-going, mellow, mild, calm, relaxed, cool, at ease, placid, stable, level-headed, cheerful, upbeat, *informal* unflappable, laid-back

—OPPOSITES moody

goodwill ► **noun** BENEVOLENCE, compassion, goodness, kindness, consideration, charity, co-operation, collaboration, friendliness, amity, thoughtfulness, decency, sympathy, understanding, neighbourliness.

—OPPOSITES hostility.

goody-goody ► **adjective** (informal) SELF-RIGHTEOUS, sanctimonious, pious, prim and proper, strait-laced, prudish, priggish, puritanical, moralistic, *informal* starchy, square

goosey ► **adjective** (informal) ① a goosey mess: sticky, viscous, viscid; gluey, tacky, gummy, treacly, syrupy; *Brit* claggy; *informal* gloopy, gungy, icky; *N Amer informal* gloppy ② a goosey film: SENTIMENTAL, mawkish, cloying, sickly, saccharine, sugary, syrupy; slushy, sloppy, mushy, romantic; *Brit* twee; *informal* schmaltzy, lovey-dovey, cheesy, corny, sick-making; *Brit informal* soppy; *N Amer informal* cornball, sappy.

goose ► **noun** gander, gosling. See list at FOWL

gore¹ ► **noun** the film's gratuitous gore. BLOOD, bloodiness, bloodshed, slaughter, carnage, butchery

gore² ► **verb** he was gored by a bull PIERCE, stab, stick, impale, spear, horn

gorge ► **noun** the river runs through a gorge RAVINE, canyon, gully, defile, couloir, chasm, gulf, *N English* clough, gill, *N Amer* gulch, coulee

► **verb** ① they gorged themselves on cakes STUFF, cram, fill, glut, satiate, overindulge, overfill, *informal* pig ② vultures gorged on the flesh DEVOUR, guzzle, gobble, gulp (down), wolf, *informal* tuck into, demolish, polish off, scoff (down), down, stuff one's face (with), *Brit informal* gollop, *N Amer informal* scarf (down/up)

gorgeous ► **adjective** ① a gorgeous girl GOOD-LOOKING, attractive, beautiful, pretty, handsome, lovely, stunning, striking, arresting, prepossessing, fetching, captivating, bewitching, charming, enchanting, appealing, delightful, sexy, seductive, alluring, tantalizing, irresistible, ravishing, desirable, *Scottish & N English* bonny, *informal* fanciable, tasty, hot, easy on the eye, drop-dead gorgeous, *Brit informal* fit, *N Amer informal* cute, foxy, *Austral/NZ informal* spunky, *poetic/literary* beauteous, *archaic* comely, fair ② a gorgeous view SPECTACULAR, splendid, superb, wonderful, grand, impressive, awe-inspiring, awesome, amazing, stunning, breathtaking, incredible, *informal* sensational, fabulous, fantastic ③ gorgeous uniforms RESPLENDENT, magnificent, sumptuous, luxurious, elegant, opulent, dazzling, brilliant ④ (informal) gorgeous weather EXCELLENT, marvellous, superb, very good, first-rate, first-class, wonderful, magnificent, splendid, *informal* great, glorious, terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, ace, *Brit informal* smashing, brilliant, brill, *Austral/NZ informal* bonzer

—OPPOSITES ugly, drab, terrible

gory ► **adjective** ① a gory ritual slaughter GRISLY, gruesome, violent, bloody, brutal, savage, ghastly, frightful, horrid, fearful, hideous, macabre, horrible, horrific, shocking, appalling, monstrous, unspeakable; *informal* blood-and-guts, sick-making ② gory pieces of flesh BLOODY, bloodstained, bloodsoaked

gospel ► **noun** ① the Gospel was spread by missionaries CHRISTIAN TEACHING, Christian doctrine, Christ's teaching; the word of God, the New Testament ② don't treat this as gospel THE TRUTH; fact, actual fact, reality, actuality, factuality, the case, a certainty. ③ his gospel of non-violence DOCTRINE, dogma, teaching, principle, ethic, creed, credo, ideology, ideal, belief, tenet, canon

gossamer ► **noun** her dress swirled like gossamer COBWEBS; silk, gauze, chiffon.

► **adjective** a gossamer veil. GAUZY, gossamery, fine, diaphanous, delicate, filmy, floaty, chiffony, cobwebby, wispy, thin, light, insubstantial, flimsy, translucent, transparent, see-through, sheer.

gossip ► **noun** ① tell me all the gossip TITTLE-TATTLE, tattle, rumour(s), whispers, canards, titbits; scandal, hearsay; *informal* dirt, buzz; *Brit informal* goss; *N Amer informal* scuttlebutt ② they went for a gossip: CHAT, talk, conversation, chatter, heart-to-heart, tête-à-tête, blether, blather; discussion, dialogue; *informal* chit-chat, jaw, gas, confab, goss; *Brit informal* natter, chinwag; *N Amer informal* gabfest; *Austral/NZ informal* yarn; for-



mal confabulation ③ she's such a gossip SCANDAL MONGER, gossipmonger, tattler, busybody, muckraker

► **verb** ① she gossiped about his wife SPREAD RUMOURS, spread gossip, tittle-tattle, tattle, talk, whisper, tell tales, informal dish the dirt ② people sat around gossiping. CHAT, talk, converse, speak to each other, discuss things, informal gas, chew the fat, chew the rag, jaw, yak, yap, Brit informal natter, chinwag; N Amer informal shoot the breeze, shoot the bull, formal confabulate

gouge ► **verb** SCOOP OUT, hollow out, excavate, cut (out), dig (out), scrape (out), scratch (out)

gourmand ► **noun** GLUTTON, overeater, big eater, gobbler, gorger, informal (greedy) pig, gan-net, greedy guts, gutbucket, guzzler

gourmet ► **noun** GASTRONOME, epicure, epicurean, connoisseur; informal foodie

govern ► **verb** ① he governs the province RULE, preside over, reign over, control, be in charge of, command, lead, dominate, run, head, administer, manage, regulate, oversee, supervise, informal be in the driving seat ② the rules governing social behaviour DETERMINE, decide, control, regulate, direct, rule, dictate, shape, affect, influence, sway, act on, mould, modify, impact on

governess ► **noun** TUTOR, instructress, duenna, teacher

government ► **noun** ① the government announced cuts ADMINISTRATION, executive, regime, authority, powers that be, directorate, council, leadership, cabinet, ministry, informal top brass See lists here and at LEGISLATIVE, POLITICS ② they help him in the government of the country RULE, running, leadership, control, administration, regulation, management, supervision

Types and Systems of Government

autocracy	by an absolute ruler
bureaucracy	by state officials
constitutionalism	according to a constitution
democracy	by elected representatives
despotism	by a despot
diarchy	by two independent authorities
dictatorship	by a dictator
fascism	by a right-wing, nationalistic regime
federalism	according to federal principles
gynarchy	by women
heptarchy	by seven rulers
hierocracy	by priests
imperialism	by an emperor or empire
meritocracy	by people of proven ability
monarchy	by a monarch
monocracy	by one person
ochlocracy	by the populace or mob
octarchy	by eight people
oligarchy	by a small group of people
plutocracy	by the rich
theocracy	by priests representing a deity
timocracy	by property owners
totalitarianism	by an absolute ruler or regime
stratocracy	by the army
synarchy	by two or more people or groups
tyranny	by a tyrant

governor ► **noun** LEADER, ruler, chief, head, premier, president, viceroy, chancellor; administrator, principal, director, chairman/woman, chair, superintendent, commissioner, controller, informal boss

gown ► **noun** DRESS, frock, shift, robe

grab ► **verb** ① Dot grabbed his arm SEIZE, grasp, snatch, take hold of, grip, clasp, clutch, take ② (informal) I'll grab another drink OBTAIN, acquire, get, buy, purchase, procure, secure, snap up; gather, collect, achieve, attain, informal get one's hands on, get one's mitts on, get hold of, bag, score, nab

► **noun** she made a grab for his gun LUNGE, snatch

■ **up for grabs** (informal) AVAILABLE, obtainable, to be had, for the taking, for sale, on the market, informal for the asking, on tap, gettable

grace ► **noun** ① the grace of a ballerina ELEGANCE, poise, gracefulness, finesse, suppleness, agility, nimbleness, light-footedness ② he had the grace to look sheepish COURTESY, decency, (good) manners, politeness, decorum, respect, tact ③ he fell from grace FAVOUR, approval, approbation, acceptance, esteem, regard, respect, goodwill ④ he lived there by grace of the king FAVOUR, goodwill, generosity, kindness, indulgence, formal benefaction ⑤ they have five days' grace to decide DEFERMENT, deferral, postponement, suspension, adjournment, delay, pause; respite, stay, moratorium, reprieve ⑥ say grace PRAYER OF THANKS, thanksgiving, blessing, benediction ⑦ the three Graces See list

—OPPOSITES inelegance, effrontery, disfavour

► **verb** ① the occasion was graced by the prince DIGNIFY, distinguish, honour, favour, enhance, ennoble, glorify, elevate, aggrandize, upgrade ② a mosaic graced the floor ADORN, embellish, decorate, ornament, enhance, beautify, prettify, enrich, bedeck

The Three Graces

Aglaiā

Thalia

Euphrosyne

graceful ► **adjective** ELEGANT, fluid, fluent, natural, neat, agile, supple, nimble, light-footed

graceless ► **adjective** GAUCHE, maladroit, inept, awkward, unsure, unpolished, unsophisticated, uncultured, unrefined; clumsy, ungainly, ungraceful, inelegant, uncoordinated, gawky, gangling, bumbling, tactless, thoughtless, inconsiderate, informal cack-handed, ham-handed, ham-fisted

gracious ► **adjective** ① a gracious hostess COURTEOUS, polite, civil, chivalrous, well mannered, mannerly, decorous, tactful, diplomatic, kind, benevolent, considerate, thoughtful, obliging, accommodating, indulgent, magnanimous, friendly, amiable, cordial, hospitable. ② gracious colonial buildings. ELEGANT, stylish, tasteful, graceful, comfortable, luxurious, sumptuous, opulent, grand, high-class; informal swanky, plush. ③ God's gracious intervention MERCIFUL, compassionate, kind, forgiving, lenient, clement, forbearing, humane, tender-hearted, sympathetic; indulgent, generous, magnanimous, benign, benevolent.

—OPPOSITES rude, crude, cruel.

gradation ► **noun** ① a gradation of ability RANGE, scale, spectrum, compass, span, pro-

gression, hierarchy, ladder, pecking order
 ② each pay band has a number of gradations
 LEVEL, grade, rank, position, status, stage,
 standard, echelon, rung, step, notch, class, stratum, group, grouping, set

grade ▶ **noun** ① hotels within the same grade CAT-EGORY, set, class, classification, grouping, group, bracket ② his job is of the lowest grade RANK, level, echelon, standing, position, class, status, order, step, rung, stratum, tier ③ (N Amer) the best grades in the school MARK, score, assessment, evaluation, appraisal ④ (N Amer) the fifth grade YEAR, form, class

▶ **verb** ① eggs are graded by size CLASSIFY, class, categorize, bracket, sort, group, arrange, pigeonhole, rank, evaluate, rate, value ② (N Amer) the essays have been graded ASSESS, mark, score, judge, evaluate, appraise ③ the colours grade into one another PASS, shade, merge, blend

■ **make the grade** (informal) COME UP TO STAND-ARD, come up to scratch, qualify, pass, pass muster, measure up, succeed, win through, informal be up to snuff, cut it, cut the mustard

gradient ▶ **noun** ① a steep gradient SLOPE, incline, hill, rise, ramp, bank, acclivity, declivity, N Amer grade ② the gradient of the line STEEPNESS, angle, slant, slope, inclination

gradual ▶ **adjective** ① a gradual transition SLOW, measured, unhurried, cautious, piecemeal, step-by-step, little-by-little, bit-by-bit, progressive, continuous, systematic, steady ② a gradual slope GENTLE, moderate, slight, easy
 -OPPOSITES abrupt, steep

gradually ▶ **adverb** SLOWLY, slowly but surely, cautiously, gently, gingerly, piecemeal, little by little, bit by bit, inch by inch, by degrees, progressively, systematically, regularly, steadily

graduate ▶ **verb** ① he wants to teach when he graduates QUALIFY, pass one's exams, get one's degree, complete one's studies ② she wants to graduate to serious drama PROGRESS, advance, move up ③ a proposal to graduate income tax: RANK, grade, order, group, classify, categorize ④ a thermometer graduated in Fahrenheit CALIBRATE, mark off, measure out, grade

graft¹ ▶ **noun** ① grafts may die from lack of water SCION, cutting, shoot, offshoot, bud, sprout, sprig ② a skin graft TRANSPLANT, implant

▶ **verb** ① graft a bud onto the stem AFFIX, join, insert, splice. ② tissue is grafted on to the cornea TRANSPLANT, implant ③ a mansion grafted on to a farmhouse ATTACH, add, join.

graft² (Bnt informal) ▶ **noun** hard graft See WORK noun sense 1.

▶ **verb** they often graft for each other See WORK verb sense 1.

graft³ ▶ **noun** (informal) sweeping measures to curb official graft: CORRUPTION, bribery, subornation, dishonesty, deceit, fraud, unlawful practices, illegal means; N. Amer payola, informal palm-greasing, hush money, kickbacks, crookedness, sharp practices.
 -OPPOSITES honesty.

grain ▶ **noun** ① the local farmers grow grain CEREAL, cereal crops. See list at CEREAL. ② a grain of corn: KERNEL, seed, grist. ③ grains of sand: GRANULE, particle, speck, mote, mite; bit, piece; scrap, crumb, fragment, morsel. ④ a grain of truth. TRACE, hint, tinge, suggestion, shadow,

bit, soupçon, scintilla, ounce, iota, jot, whit, scrap, shred, informal smidgen, smidge, tad
 ⑤ the grain of the timber TEXTURE, surface, finish, weave, pattern

grammar ▶ **noun** SYNTAX, rules of language, morphology, linguistics See list

grammatical ▶ **adjective** ① the grammatical structure of a sentence SYNTACTIC, morphological, linguistic. ② a grammatical sentence WELL-FORMED, correct, proper, acceptable, allowable

grand ▶ **adjective** ① a grand hotel MAGNIFICENT, imposing, impressive, awe-inspiring, splendid, resplendent, majestic, monumental, palatial, stately, large, luxurious, sumptuous, lavish, opulent, Bnt upmarket, N Amer upscale, informal fancy, posh, plush, classy, swanky, Bnt informal swish ② a grand scheme AMBITIOUS, bold, epic, big, extravagant ③ a grand old lady AUGUST, distinguished, illustrious, eminent, esteemed, honoured, venerable, dignified, respectable, pre-eminent, prominent, notable, renowned, celebrated, famous; aristocratic, noble, regal, blue-blooded, high-born, patrician, informal upper-crust, Bnt informal posh, upmarket ④ a grand total of £2,000 COMPLETE, comprehensive, all-inclusive, inclusive, final ⑤ the grand staircase MAIN, principal, central, prime, biggest, largest ⑥ (informal) you're doing a grand job EXCELLENT, very good, marvellous, splendid, first-class, first-rate, wonderful, outstanding, sterling, fine, informal superb, terrific, great, super, ace, Bnt informal smashing, brilliant, brill
 -OPPOSITES inferior, humble, minor, poor

▶ **noun** (informal) a cheque for ten grand THOUSAND POUNDS/DOLLARS, informal thou, K, N Amer informal G, gee

grandeur ▶ **noun** SPLENDOUR, magnificence, impressiveness, glory, resplendence, majesty, greatness, stateliness, pomp, ceremony

grandfather ▶ **noun** ① his grandfather lives here informal grandad, grandpa, gramps, grampy, granddaddy ② the grandfather of modern liberalism FOUNDER, inventor, originator, creator, initiator, father, founding father, pioneer ③ our Victorian grandfathers: FOREFATHER, forebear, ancestor, progenitor, antecedent

▶ **verb** (N Amer informal) some smokers have been grandfathered EXEMPT, excuse, free, exclude, grant immunity, spare, absolve, informal let off (the hook)

grandiloquent ▶ **adjective** POMPOUS, bombastic, magniloquent, pretentious, ostentatious, high-flown, rotund, florid, flowery; overwrought, overblown, overdone, informal highfalutin, purple
 -OPPOSITES understated.

grandiose ▶ **adjective** ① the court's grandiose facade MAGNIFICENT, impressive, grand, imposing, awe-inspiring, splendid, resplendent, majestic, glorious, elaborate, palatial, stately, luxurious, opulent; informal plush, swanky, flash ② a grandiose plan: AMBITIOUS, bold, overambitious, extravagant, high-flown, flamboyant; informal over the top, OTT.
 -OPPOSITES humble, modest.

grandmother ▶ **noun** informal grandma, granny, gran, nan, nanna.

grant ▶ **verb** ① he granted them leave of absence. ALLOW, accord, permit, afford, vouchsafe. ② he granted them £20,000. GIVE, award, bestow on,

confer on, present with, provide with, endow with, supply with ❸ *I grant that the difference is not absolute* ADMIT, accept, concede, yield, allow, appreciate, recognize, acknowledge, confess, agree

—OPPOSITES refuse, deny

► **noun** a grant from the council ENDOWMENT, subvention, award, donation, bursary, allowance, subsidy, contribution, handout, allocation, gift; scholarship

granular ► **adjective** POWDER, powdered, powdery, grainy, granulated, gritty

granulated ► **adjective** POWDERED, crushed, crumbed, ground, minced, grated, pulverized

granule ► **noun** GRAIN, particle, fragment, bit, crumb, morsel, mote, speck

graph ► **noun** use graphs to analyse your data CHART, diagram, histogram, bar chart, pie chart, scatter diagram

► **verb** we graphed the new prices PLOT, trace, draw up, delineate

graphic ► **adjective** ❶ a graphic representation of language VISUAL, symbolic, pictorial, illustrative, diagrammatic, drawn, written ❷ a graphic account VIVID, explicit, expressive, detailed, uninhibited, powerful, colourful, rich, lurid, shocking, realistic, descriptive, illustrative, telling, effective

—OPPOSITES vague

► **noun** (Computing) this printer's good enough for graphics PICTURE, illustration, image, diagram, graph, chart

grapple ► **verb** ❶ the policemen grappled with him WRESTLE, struggle, tussle, brawl, fight, scuffle, battle ❷ he grappled his prey SEIZE, grab, catch (hold of), take hold of, grasp ❸ she is grappling with the problems of exile TACKLE, confront, face, deal with, cope with, get to grips with, apply oneself to, devote oneself to

grasp ► **verb** ❶ she grasped his hands GRIP, clutch, clasp, hold, clench, catch, seize, grab, snatch, latch on to ❷ everybody grasped the important points UNDERSTAND, comprehend, follow, take in, perceive, see, apprehend, assimilate, absorb, *informal* get, catch on to, figure out, get one's head around, take on board, *Brit informal* twig, suss (out) ❸ he grasped the opportunity TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, act on, seize, leap at, snatch, jump at, pounce on

—OPPOSITES release, overlook

► **noun** ❶ his grasp on her hand GRIP, hold; clutch, clasp, clench ❷ his domineering mother's grasp CONTROL, power, clutches, command, domination, rule, tyranny ❸ a prize lay within their grasp REACH, scope, power, limits, range, sights ❹ your grasp of history UNDERSTANDING, comprehension, perception, apprehension, awareness, grip, knowledge, mastery, command.

grasping ► **adjective** AVARICIOUS, acquisitive, greedy, rapacious, mercenary, materialistic, mean, miserly, parsimonious, niggardly, hoarding, selfish, possessive, close; *informal* tight-fisted, tight, stingy, money-grubbing, *N Amer informal* cheap, grabby.

grass ► **noun** ❶ he sat down on the grass: TURF, sod; lawn, green. See list ❷ (*informal*) they smoked grass. See CANNABIS. ❸ (*Brit informal*) few clubs were without a grass: INFORMER, mole, stool pigeon; *informal* snitch, snout, whistle-blower, rat; *Brit. infor-*

mal supergrass, nark, *N Amer informal* fink, stoolie

► **verb** ❶ the hill is completely grassed GRASS OVER, turf ❷ (*Brit informal*) he grassed on the robbers IN FORM, tell, give away, betray, sell out, *informal* split, blow the whistle, rat, peach, squeal, do the dirty, stitch up, sell down the river, *Brit informal* shop, *N Amer informal* finger, *Austral / NZ informal* dob, pimp

Grasses, Sedges, and Rushes

bamboo	fiorin	reed
barley	flowering	reed grass
beach grass	rush	reed mace
beard grass	fog	rice
bent	foxtail	rooigrass
Bermuda	gama grass	rush
grass	hair grass	rye
bluegrass	hare's-tail	ryegrass
bristle grass	grass	sawgrass
brome	Indian corn	sedge
broomcorn	job's tears	sheep's
buffalo grass	kangaroo	fescue
bulrush	grass	small-reed
bunch grass	klkuyu grass	sorghum
button grass	lemon grass	sour grass
canary grass	lyme grass	spartina
carex	maize	spear grass
cat's-tail	marram	spelt
grass	grass	spinfex
cheat grass	meadow	squirrel-tail
China grass	fescue	grass
chufa	meadow	star grass
clubrush	grass	sugar cane
cocksfoot	melick	switchgrass
cogon	millet	sword grass
cordgrass	miro	teff
corn	moor grass	teosinte
cotton grass	oat	timothy grass
couch grass	oat grass	tussock
crabgrass	orchard	grass
cutgrass	grass	twitch grass
cutting grass	palmarosa	umbrella plant
danthonia	pampas	vernal grass
darnel	grass	wheat
deergass	panic grass	wild oat
dogstall	papyrus	wild rice
dropseed	paspalum	wire grass
durra	pearl millet	witch grass
elephant	quack grass	woodrush
grass	quaking	Yorkshire
esparto	grass	fog
feather grass	quitch grass	zoysia
fescue	sazor glass	
finger grass	redtop	

grate ► **verb** ❶ she grated the cheese SHRED, pulverize, mince, grind, granulate, crush, crumble ❷ her bones grated together GRIND, rub, rasp, scrape, jar, grit, creak ❸ the tune grates slightly: IRRITATE, set someone's teeth on edge, jar, annoy, nettle, chafe, fret; *informal* aggravate, get on someone's nerves, get under someone's skin, get someone's goat

grateful ► **adjective** THANKFUL, appreciative, indebted, obliged, obligated, in your debt, beholden

gratification ► **noun** SATISFACTION, fulfilment, indulgence, relief, appeasement; pleasure, enjoyment, relish.

gratify ▶ **verb** ① it gratified him to be seen with her: PLEASE, gladden, make happy, delight, make someone feel good, satisfy, informal tickle pink, give someone a kick, buck up ② he gratified his desires: SATISFY, fulfil, indulge, comply with, pander to, cater to, give in to, satiate, feed, accommodate
—OPPOSITES displease, frustrate

grating¹ ▶ **adjective** ① the chair made a grating noise SCRAPING, scratching, grinding, rasping, jarring ② a grating voice: HARSH, raucous, strident, piercing, shrill, screechy, discordant, cacophonous, hoarse, rough, gravelly ③ it's written in grating language IRRITATING, annoying, infuriating, irksome, maddening, displeasing, tiresome, jarring, discordant, inharmonious, unsuitable, inappropriate, informal aggravating
—OPPOSITES harmonious, pleasing, appropriate

grating² ▶ **noun** a strong iron grating GRID, grate, grille, lattice, trellis, mesh

gratis ▶ **adverb** FREE (OF CHARGE), without charge, for nothing, at no cost, gratuitously, informal on the house, for free

gratitude ▶ **noun** GRATEFULNESS, thankfulness, thanks, appreciation, indebtedness, recognition, acknowledgement, credit

gratuitous ▶ **adjective** ① gratuitous violence UNJUSTIFIED, uncalled for, unwarranted, unprovoked, undue, indefensible, unjustifiable, needless, unnecessary, inessential, unmerited, groundless, senseless, wanton, indiscriminate, excessive, immoderate, inordinate, inappropriate ② they offer gratuitous advice FREE, gratis, complimentary, voluntary, unpaid, free of charge, for nothing, Law pro bono (publico), informal for free, on the house, Brit informal buck-shee
—OPPOSITES necessary, paid.

gratuity ▶ **noun** (formal) TIP, pourboire, bak-sheesh, gift, present, donation, reward, hand-out, bonus, extra, informal perk, formal perquisite

grave¹ ▶ **noun** she left flowers at his grave BURYING PLACE, tomb, sepulchre, vault, burial chamber, mausoleum, crypt, last resting place

grave² ▶ **adjective** ① a grave matter SERIOUS, important, weighty, profound, significant, momentous, critical, acute, urgent, pressing, dire, terrible, awful, dreadful, formal exigent ② Jackie looked grave. SOLEMN, serious, sober, unsmiling, grim, sombre, severe, stern, dour
—OPPOSITES trivial, cheerful

gravel ▶ **noun** SHINGLE, grit, pebbles, stones.

gravelly ▶ **adjective** ① a gravelly beach SHINGLY, pebbly, stony, gritty ② his gravelly voice HUSKY, gruff, throaty, deep, croaky, rasping, grating, harsh, rough

gravestone ▶ **noun** HEADSTONE, tombstone, stone, monument, memorial.

graveyard ▶ **noun** CEMETERY, churchyard, burial ground, necropolis, informal boneyard, historical potter's field, archaic God's acre

gravitas ▶ **noun** DIGNITY, seriousness, solemnity, gravity, sobriety
—OPPOSITES frivolity.

gravitate ▶ **verb** MOVE, head, drift, be drawn, be attracted; tend, lean, incline

gravity ▶ **noun** ① the gravity of the situation: SERIOUSNESS, importance, significance, weight, consequence, magnitude; acuteness, urgency,

exigence, awfulness, dreadfulness, formal moment ② the gravity of his demeanour SOLEMNITY, seriousness, sombreness, sobriety, soberness, severity, grimness, humourlessness, dourness, gloominess

graze¹ ▶ **verb** the deer grazed FEED, eat, crop, nibble, browse

graze² ▶ **verb** ① he grazed his knuckles on the box SCRAPE, abrade, skin, scratch, chafe, bark, scuff, rasp, cut, nick ② his shot grazed the far post TOUCH, brush, shave, skim, kiss, scrape, clip, glance off

▶ **noun** grazes on the skin SCRATCH, scrape, abrasion, cut, Medicine trauma

grease ▶ **noun** ① axle grease LUBRICANT, lubrication, unguent, informal lube ② the kitchen was filmed with grease FAT, oil, cooking oil, animal fat, lard, suet ③ his hair was smothered with grease OIL, cream, lotion, gel, trademark Brylcreem

▶ **verb** grease a baking dish LUBRICATE, oil, smear with oil

greasy ▶ **adjective** ① a greasy supper FATTY, oily, buttery, oleaginous, formal pinguid ② greasy hair OILY ③ the pitch was very greasy SLIPPERY, slick, slimy, slithery, oily, informal slippery, skiddy ④ a greasy little man INGRATIATING, obsequious, sycophantic, fawning, toadying, grovelling, effusive, gushing, gushy, unctuous, oily, informal smarmy, slimy, bootlicking, sucky
—OPPOSITES lean, dry

great ▶ **adjective** ① they showed great interest CONSIDERABLE, substantial, significant, appreciable, special, serious, exceptional, extraordinary ② a great expanse of water LARGE, big, extensive, expansive, broad, wide, sizeable, ample, vast, immense, huge, enormous, massive, informal humongous, whopping, Brit informal ginormous ③ a great big house VERY, extremely, exceedingly, exceptionally, especially, really, informal dirty ④ you great fool! ABSOLUTE, total, utter, out-and-out, downright, thoroughgoing, complete, perfect, positive, prize, sheer, arrant, unqualified, consummate, veritable, informal thundering, Brit informal right, proper ⑤ great writers PROMINENT, eminent, important, distinguished, illustrious, celebrated, honoured, acclaimed, admired, esteemed, revered, renowned, notable, famous, famed, well known, leading, top, major, principal, first-rate, matchless, peerless, star ⑥ the country is now a great power. POWERFUL, dominant, influential, strong, potent, formidable, redoubtable, leading, important, foremost, major, chief, principal ⑦ a great castle MAGNIFICENT, imposing, impressive, awe-inspiring, grand, splendid, majestic, sumptuous, resplendent. ⑧ a great sportsman: EXPERT, skilful, skilled, adept, accomplished, talented, fine, masterly, master, brilliant, virtuoso, marvellous, outstanding, first class, superb; informal crack, ace, A1, class ⑨ a great fan of rugby ENTHUSIASTIC, eager, keen, zealous, devoted, ardent, fanatical, passionate, dedicated, committed ⑩ we had a great time: ENJOYABLE, delightful, lovely, pleasant, congenial; exciting, thrilling, excellent, marvellous, wonderful, fine, splendid, very good; informal terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, super, grand, cool, Brit informal smashing, brilliant, brill, Austral./NZ informal bonzer, beaut; Brit informal, dated spiffing; N. Amer informal, dated swell.

—OPPOSITES little, small, minor, modest, poor, unenthusiastic, bad

greatly ► **adverb** VERY MUCH, considerably, substantially, appreciably, significantly, markedly, sizeably, seriously, materially, profoundly, enormously, vastly, immensely, tremendously, mightily, abundantly, extremely, exceedingly, *informal* plenty, majorly
—OPPOSITES slightly

greatness ► **noun** ① *a woman destined for greatness* EMINENCE, distinction, illustriousness, repute, high standing, importance, significance, celebrity, fame, prominence, renown ② *his greatness as a writer* BRILLIANCE, genius, prowess, talent, expertise, mastery, artistry, virtuosity, skill, proficiency, flair, finesse, calibre, distinction

greed, greediness ► **noun** ① *human greed* AVARICE, cupidity, acquisitiveness, covetousness, rapacity, materialism, mercenariness, Mammonism, *informal* money-grubbing, money-grabbing ② *her mouth watered with greed* GLUTTONY, hunger, voracity, insatiability, gourmandism, intemperance, overeating, self-indulgence, *informal* piggishness ③ *their greed for power* DESIRE, appetite, hunger, thirst, craving, longing, yearning, hankering, avidity, eagerness, *informal* yen, itch
—OPPOSITES generosity, temperance, indifference

greedy ► **adjective** ① *a greedy eater* GLUTTONOUS, ravenous, voracious, intemperate, self-indulgent, insatiable, wolfish, *informal* piggish, piggy ② *a greedy millionaire* AVARICIOUS, acquisitive, covetous, grasping, materialistic, mercenary, possessive, *informal* money-grubbing, money-grabbing, *N Amer informal* grabby ③ *she is greedy for a title* EAGER, avid, hungry, craving, longing, yearning, hankering, impatient, anxious, *informal* dying, itching, gagging

green ► **adjective** ① *a green scarf* viridescent, olive green, pea green, emerald green, lime green, bottle green, Lincoln green, sea green, eau de Nil, *poetic/literary* virent, glaucous ② *a green island* VERDANT, grassy, leafy, verdurous ③ *he promotes Green issues* ENVIRONMENTAL, ecological, conservation, eco- ④ *a green alternative to diesel* ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY, non-polluting, ozone-friendly ⑤ *green bananas* UNRIPE, immature ⑥ *green timber* UNSEASONED, not aged, unfinished, pliable, supple ⑦ *green bacon* RAW, fresh, unsmoked, uncured ⑧ *the new lieutenant was very green* INEXPERIENCED, unversed, callow, immature, new, raw, unseasoned, untried, inexperienced, unqualified, ignorant, simple, unsophisticated, unpolished, naive, innocent, ingenuous, credulous, gullible, unworldly; *informal* wet behind the ears, born yesterday ⑨ *he went green* PALE, wan, pallid, ashen, ashen-faced, pasty, pasty-faced, grey, whitish, washed out, whey-faced, waxen, waxy, blanched, drained, pinched, sallow; sickly, nauseous, ill, sick, unhealthy.
—OPPOSITES barren, dry, cured, experienced, ruddy.

► **noun** ① *a canopy of green over the road*: FOLIAGE, greenery, plants, leaves, leafage, vegetation ② *a village green*: LAWN, common, grassy area, sward. ③ *they had roast beef and greens*: VEGETABLES, leaf vegetables, *informal* veg, veggies. ④ *Greens are against multinationals*: ENVIRONMEN-

TALIST, conservationist, preservationist, nature-lover, eco-activist.

greenery ► **noun** FOLIAGE, vegetation, plants, green, leaves, leafage, undergrowth, plant life, flora, herbage, verdure

greenhorn ► **noun** (*N Amer informal*) See NOVICE sense 1

greenhouse ► **noun** HOTHOUSE, glasshouse, conservatory

greet ► **verb** ① *she greeted Hank cheerily* SAY HELLO TO, address, salute, hail, halloo, welcome, meet, receive ② *the decision was greeted with outrage* RECEIVE, acknowledge, respond to, react to, take

greeting ► **noun** ① *he shouted a greeting* HELLO, salute, salutation, address, welcome, acknowledgement ② *birthday greetings* BEST WISHES, good wishes, congratulations, felicitations, compliments, regards, respects
—OPPOSITES farewell

gregarious ► **adjective** ① *he was fun-loving and gregarious* SOCIABLE, company-loving, convivial, companionable, outgoing, friendly, affable, amiable, genial, warm, comradely, clubbable, *Scottish* couthy, *informal* chummy, pally, *Brit informal* matey ② *gregarious fish* SOCIAL, living in groups
—OPPOSITES unsociable

grey ► **adjective** ① *a grey suit* silvery, silver-grey, gunmetal, slate, charcoal, smoky ② *his grey hair* WHITE, silver, hoary ③ *a grey day* CLOUDY, overcast, dull, sunless, gloomy, dreary, dismal, sombre, bleak, murky ④ *her face looked grey* ASHEN, wan, pale, pasty, pallid, colourless, bloodless, white, waxen, sickly, peaky, drained, drawn, deathly ⑤ *the grey daily routine* CHARACTERLESS, colourless, nondescript, unremarkable, insipid, jejune, flat, bland, dry, stale, dull, uninteresting, boring, tedious, monotonous ⑥ *a grey area* AMBIGUOUS, doubtful, unclear, uncertain, indefinite, open to question, debatable ⑦ *the grey economy* UNOFFICIAL, informal, irregular, back-door
—OPPOSITES sunny, ruddy, lively, certain

► **verb** *the population greyed* AGE, grow old, mature

grid ► **noun** ① *a metal grid* GRATING, mesh, grille, gauze, lattice ② *the grid of streets* NET WORK, matrix, reticulation

grief ► **noun** ① *he was overcome with grief* SORROW, misery, sadness, anguish, pain, distress, heartache, heartbreak, agony, torment, affliction, suffering, woe, desolation, dejection, despair, mourning, mournfulness, bereavement, lamentation, *poetic/literary* dolour, dole. ② (*informal*) *the police gave me loads of grief* TROUBLE, annoyance, bother, irritation, vexation, harassment, *informal* aggravation, aggro, hassle.
—OPPOSITES joy

■ **come to grief** FAIL, meet with disaster, miscarry, go wrong, go awry, fall through, fall flat, founder, come to nothing, come to naught, *informal* come unstuck, come a cropper, flop, go phut, *Brit informal* go pear-shaped

grief-stricken ► **adjective** SORROWFUL, sorrowing, miserable, sad, heartbroken, broken-hearted, anguished, pained, distressed, tormented, suffering, woeful, doleful, desolate, despairing, devastated, upset, inconsolable, wretched, mourning, grieving, mournful, be-



reaved, lamenting, *poetic/literary* dolorous, heart-sick

—OPPOSITES joyful

grievance ► **noun** ① *social and economic grievances* INJUSTICE, wrong, injury, ill, unfairness, affront, insult, indignity ② *students voiced their grievances* COMPLAINT, criticism, objection, grumble, grouse, ill feeling, bad feeling, resentment, bitterness, pique, *informal* gripe, whinge, moan, grouch, niggle, beef, bone to pick

grieve ► **verb** ① *she grieved for her father* MOURN, lament, sorrow, be sorrowful, cry, sob, weep, shed tears, keen, weep and wail, beat one's breast ② *it grieved me to leave her* SADDEN, upset, distress, pain, hurt, wound, break someone's heart, make someone's heart bleed —OPPOSITES rejoice, please

grievous (*formal*) ► **adjective** ① *his death was a grievous blow* SERIOUS, severe, grave, bad, critical, dreadful, terrible, awful, crushing, calamitous, painful, agonizing, traumatic, wounding, damaging, injurious, sharp, acute ② *a grievous sin* HEINOUS, grave, deplorable, shocking, appalling, atrocious, gross, dreadful, egregious, iniquitous —OPPOSITES slight, trivial

grim ► **adjective** ① *his grim expression* STERN, forbidding, uninviting, unsmiling, dour, formidable, harsh, steely, flinty, stony; cross, churlish, crabbed, surly, sour, ill-tempered, fierce, ferocious, threatening, menacing, implacable, ruthless, merciless ② *grim humour* BLACK, dark, mirthless, bleak, cynical ③ *the asylum holds some grim secrets* DREADFUL, dire, ghastly, horrible, horrendous, horrid, terrible, awful, appalling, frightful, shocking, unspeakable, grisly, gruesome, hideous, macabre, depressing, distressing, upsetting, worrying, unpleasant ④ *a grim little hovel* BLEAK, dreary, dismal, dingy, wretched, miserable, depressing, cheerless, comfortless, joyless, gloomy, uninviting, *informal* God-awful ⑤ *grim determination* RESOLUTE, determined, firm, decided, steadfast, dead set, obstinate, stubborn, obdurate, unyielding, intractable, uncompromising, unshakeable, unrelenting, relentless, dogged, tenacious —OPPOSITES amiable, pleasant

grimace ► **noun** *his mouth twisted into a grimace* SCOWL, frown, sneer; face

► **verb** *Nina grimaced at Joe* SCOWL, frown, sneer, glower, lour, make a face, make faces, pull a face, *Brit* grin —OPPOSITES smile.

grime ► **noun** *her skirt was smeared with grime* DIRT, smut, soot, dust, mud, filth, mire, *informal* smuck, yuck, crud, *Brit* *informal* grot, gunge

► **verb** *concrete grimed by diesel exhaust* BLACKEN, dirty, stain, soil, *poetic/literary* begrime, besmirch

grimy ► **adjective** DIRTY, grubby, mucky, soiled, stained, smeared, filthy, smutty, sooty, dusty, muddy, *informal* yucky, cruddy, *Brit* *informal* manky, grotty, gungy, *Austral/NZ* scungy, *poetic/literary* besmirched, begrimed. —OPPOSITES clean

grin ► **verb** *he grinned at her*: SMILE, smile broadly, beam, smile from ear to ear, grin like a Cheshire cat; smirk; *informal* be all smiles.

► **noun** *a silly grin*: SMILE, broad smile, smirk. —OPPOSITES frown, scowl

grind ► **verb** ① *the sandstone is ground into powder* CRUSH, pound, pulverize, mill, granulate, crumble, smash, press, *technical* triturate, comminute, *archaic* levigate, bray ② *a knife being ground on a wheel* SHARPEN, whet, hone, file, strop, smooth, polish, sand, sandpaper ③ *one tectonic plate grinds against another* RUB, grate, scrape, rasp

► **noun** *the daily grind* DRUDGERY, toil, hard work, labour, donkey work, exertion, chores, slog, *informal* fag, sweat, *poetic/literary* travail

■ **grind away** LABOUR, toil, work hard, slave (away), work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan, work like a dog, *informal* slog, plug away, beaver away, work one's socks off, *Brit* *informal* graft, *poetic/literary* travail, *archaic* drudge

■ **grind someone down** OPPRESS, crush, persecute, tyrannize, ill-treat, maltreat

grip ► **verb** ① *she gripped the edge of the table* GRASP, clutch, hold, clasp, take hold of, clench, grab, seize, cling to, squeeze, press ② *Harry was gripped by a sneezing fit* AFFLICT, affect, take over, beset, rack, convulse ③ *we were gripped by the drama* ENGROSS, enthral, absorb, rivet, spellbind, hold spellbound, bewitch, fascinate, hold, mesmerize, enrapture, interest —OPPOSITES release

► **noun** ① *a tight grip* GRASP, hold ② *the wheels lost their grip on the road* TRACTION, purchase, friction, adhesion, resistance ③ *he was in the grip of an obsession* CONTROL, power, hold, stranglehold, clutches, command, mastery, influence ④ *I had a pretty good grip on the situation*. UNDERSTANDING, comprehension, grasp, perception, awareness, apprehension, conception, *formal* cognizance ⑤ *a leather grip* TRAVELLING BAG, bag, holdall, overnight bag, flight bag, kitbag, Gladstone bag

■ **come/get to grips with** DEAL WITH, cope with, handle, grasp, grasp the nettle of, tackle, undertake, take on, grapple with, face, face up to, confront

gripe (*informal*) ► **verb** *he's always griping about something* COMPLAIN, grumble, grouse, protest, whine, bleat; *informal* moan, bellyache, beef, bitch, whinge, *Brit* *informal* chunter, *N Amer* *informal* kvetch

► **noun** *employees' gripes* COMPLAINT, grumble, grouse, grievance, objection, cavil, quibble, niggle, *informal* moan, beef, whinge, *N Amer* *informal* kvetch

gripping ► **adjective** ENGROSSING, enthralling, absorbing, riveting, captivating, spellbinding, bewitching, fascinating, compulsive, compelling, mesmerizing, thrilling, exciting, action-packed, dramatic, stimulating; *informal* unput-downable, page-turning —OPPOSITES boring

grisly ► **adjective** GRUESOME, ghastly, frightful, horrid, horrifying, fearful, hideous, macabre, spine-chilling, horrible, horrendous, grim, awful, dire, dreadful, terrible, horrific, shocking, appalling, abominable, loathsome, abhorrent, odious, monstrous, unspeakable, disgusting, repulsive, repugnant, revolting, repellent, sickening; *informal* sick-making, gross, *archaic* disgusting

gristly ► **adjective** STRINGY, sinewy, fibrous, tough, leathery, chewy.

grit ► **noun** ① *the grit from the paths*. GRAVEL, pebbles, stones, shingle, sand; dust, dirt. ② *the true*

grit of a seasoned campaigner **COURAGE**, bravery, pluck, mettle, backbone, spirit, strength of character, strength of will, moral fibre, steel, nerve, fortitude, toughness, hardiness, resolve, resolution, determination, tenacity, perseverance, endurance; *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle

► **verb** Gina gritted her teeth **CLENCH**, clamp together, shut tightly, grind, gnash

gritty ► **adjective** ① a gritty floor **SANDY**, gravelly, pebbly, stony, powdery, dusty ② a gritty performance **COURAGEOUS**, brave, plucky, mettlesome, stout-hearted, valiant, bold, spirited, intrepid, tough, determined, resolute, purposeful, dogged, tenacious, *informal* gutsy, spunky

grizzle ► **verb** (*Brit informal*) cry, whimper, mewl, snivel, sob, wail, *Scottish* greet

grizzled ► **adjective** **GREY**, greying, silver, silvery, snowy, white, salt-and-pepper, grey-haired, hoary

groan ► **verb** ① she groaned and rubbed her stomach **MOAN**, whimper, cry, call out ② they were groaning about the management **COMPLAIN**, grumble, grouse, *informal* moan, niggle, beef, bellyache, bitch, whinge, gripe ③ the old wooden door groaned **CREAK**, squeak, grate, rasp

► **noun** ① a groan of anguish **MOAN**, cry, whimper ② their moans and groans **COMPLAINT**, grumble, grouse, objection, protest, grievance, *informal* grouch, moan, beef, whinge, *informal* gripe ③ the groan of the elevator **CREAKING**, creak, squeak, grating, grinding

groggy ► **adjective** **DAZED**, muzzy, stupefied, in a stupor, befuddled, fuddled, disoriented, disorientated, dizzy, punch-drunk, shaky, unsteady, wobbly, weak, faint, *informal* dopey, woozy, not with it

groin ► **noun** **CROTCH**, crutch, genitals
—RELATED TERMS inguinal.

groom ► **verb** ① she groomed her pony **CURRY**, brush, comb, clean, rub down ② his dark hair was carefully groomed **BRUSH**, comb, arrange, do, tidy, spruce up, smarten up, preen, primp, *informal* fix ③ they were groomed for stardom **PREPARE**, prime, ready, condition, tailor, coach, train, instruct, drill, teach, school

► **noun** ① a groom took his horse **STABLE HAND**, stableman, stable lad, stable boy, stable girl, historical querry ② the bride and groom **BRIDE GROOM**, newly-married man, newly-wed

groove ► **noun** **FURROW**, channel, trench, trough, canal, gouge, hollow, indentation, rut, gutter, cutting, cut, fissure, *Carpentry* rebate

grooved ► **adjective** **FURROWED**, fluted, corrugated, ribbed, ridged

grope ► **verb** ① she groped for her glasses **FUMBLE**, scrabble, fish, ferret, rummage, feel, search, hunt, *Brit informal* rootle. ② (*informal*) one of the men started groping her **FONDLE**, touch; *informal* paw, maul, feel up, touch up.

gross ► **adjective** ① the man was pale and gross **OBESE**, corpulent, overweight, fat, big, large, fleshy, flabby, portly, bloated; *informal* porky, pudgy, tubby, blubbery, roly-poly, *Brit informal* podgy, fussy ② men of gross natures **BOORISH**, coarse, vulgar, loutish, oafish, thuggish, brutish, philistine, uncouth, crass, common, unrefined, unsophisticated, uncultured, uncultivated; *informal* cloddish; *Brit informal* yobbish ③ (*informal*) the place smelled gross **DISGUSTING**, re-

pellent, repulsive, abhorrent, loathsome, foul, nasty, obnoxious, unpalatable, sickening, nauseating, stomach-churning, *N Amer* vomitous, *informal* yucky, icky, sick-making, gut-churning, *archaic* disgusting ④ a gross distortion of the truth **FLAGRANT**, blatant, glaring, obvious, overt, naked, barefaced, shameless, brazen, audacious, brass-necked, undisguised, unconcealed, patent, transparent, manifest, palpable, out-and-out, utter, complete ⑤ their gross income **TOTAL**, whole, entire, complete, full, overall, combined, aggregate, before deductions, before tax

—OPPOSITES slender, refined, pleasant, net

► **verb** he grosses over a million dollars a month **EARN**, make, bring in, take, get, receive, collect, *informal* rake in

grotesque ► **adjective** ① a grotesque creature **MALFORMED**, deformed, misshapen, misproportioned, distorted, twisted, gnarled, mangled, mutilated, ugly, unsightly, monstrous, hideous, freakish, unnatural, abnormal, strange, odd, peculiar, *informal* weird, freaky ② grotesque mismanagement of funds **OUTRAGEOUS**, monstrous, shocking, appalling, preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous, farcical, unbelievable, incredible
—OPPOSITES normal

grotto ► **noun** **CAVE**, cavern, hollow, pothole, underground chamber

grouch (*informal*) ► **noun** an ill-mannered grouch **GRUMBLER**, complainer, moaner, *informal* grump, sourpuss, crosspatch, whinger, *Brit informal* misery, bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* sore-head, kvetch

► **verb** there's not a lot to grouch about **GRUMBLE**, complain, grouse, whine, bleat, carp, cavil, *informal* moan, whinge, gripe, beef, bellyache, bitch, sound off, *Brit informal* chunter, *N Amer informal* kvetch

grouchy ► **adjective** **GRUMPY**, cross, irritable, bad-tempered, crotchety, crabby, crabbed, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, testy, testy, huffy, snappish, waspish, prickly, *informal* snappy, *Brit informal* narky, ratty, like a bear with a sore head, whingy, *N Amer informal* cranky, sore-headed, *informal*, dated miffy

ground ► **noun** ① she collapsed on the ground **FLOOR**, earth, terra firma, flooring, *informal* deck ② the soggy ground **EARTH**, soil, dirt, clay, loam, turf, clod, sod, land, terrain ③ the team's home ground **STADIUM**, pitch, field, arena, track; *N Amer* bowl, *Brit informal* park ④ the mansion's grounds **ESTATE**, gardens, lawns, park, parkland, land, acres, property, surroundings, holding, territory, *archaic* demesne ⑤ grounds for dismissal **REASON**, cause, basis, base, foundation, justification, rationale, argument, premise, occasion, excuse, pretext, motive, motivation ⑥ coffee grounds **SEDIMENT**, precipitate, settlements, dregs, lees, deposit, residue, *archaic* grouts

► **verb** ① the boat grounded on a mud bank **RUN AGROUND**, run ashore, beach, land. ② an assertion grounded on results of several studies **BASE**, found, establish, root, build, construct, form ③ they were grounded in classics and history. **INSTRUCT**, coach, teach, tutor, educate, school, train, drill, prime, prepare, familiarize with, acquaint with.

groundless ► **adjective** **BASELESS**, without basis, without foundation, ill-founded, unfounded, unsupported, uncorroborated, un-



proven, empty, idle, unsubstantiated, unwarranted, unjustified, unjustifiable, without cause, without reason, without justification, unreasonable, irrational, illogical, misguided

groundwork ▶ **noun** PRELIMINARY WORK, preliminaries, preparations, spadework, legwork, donkey work, planning, arrangements, organization, homework, basics, essentials, fundamentals, underpinning, foundation

group ▶ **noun** ① *the exhibits were divided into three distinct groups* CATEGORY, class, classification, grouping, set, lot, batch, bracket, type, sort, kind, variety, family, species, genus, breed, grade, grading, rank, status ② *a group of tourists* CROWD, party, body, band, company, gathering, congregation, assembly, collection, cluster, flock, pack, troop, gang, *informal bunch* ③ *a coup attempt by a group within the parliament* FAC TION, division, section, clique, coterie, circle, set, ring, camp, bloc, caucus, cabal, fringe movement, splinter group ④ *the women's group* ASSOCIATION, club, society, league, guild, circle, union ⑤ *a small group of trees* CLUSTER, knot, collection, mass, clump ⑥ *a local folk group* BAND, ensemble, act, *informal line-up*, combo, outfit

▶ **verb** ① *patients were grouped according to their symptoms* CATEGORIZE, classify, class, catalogue, sort, bracket, pigeonhole, grade, rate, rank ② *wooden chairs were grouped round the table* PLACE, arrange, assemble, organize, range, line up, dispose ③ *the two parties grouped together* UNITE, join together/up, team up, join forces, get together, ally, form an alliance, affiliate, combine, collaborate, work together, pull together, cooperate

grouse ▶ **verb** *she grouched about the food* GRUM-BLE, complain, protest, whine, bleat, carp, cavil, make a fuss, *informal moan*, bellyache, gripe, beef, bitch, grouch, whinge, sound off, *Brit informal chunter*, create, *N Amer informal kvetch*

▶ **noun** *our biggest grouse was about the noise* GRUM-BLE, complaint, grievance, objection, cavil, quibble, *informal moan*, beef, gripe, grouch

grove ▶ **noun** COPSE, wood, thicket, coppice, orchard, plantation; *Brit spinney*, *archaic hurst*, holt

grovel ▶ **verb** ① *George grovelled at his feet* PROSTRATE ONESELF, lie, kneel, cringe ② *she was not going to grovel to him* BE OBSEQUIOUS, fawn on, kowtow, bow and scrape, toady, truckle, abase oneself, humble oneself, curry favour with, flatter, dance attendance on, make up to, play up to, ingratiate oneself with; *informal crawl*, creep, suck up to, lick someone's boots

grow ▶ **verb** ① *the boys had grown* GET BIGGER, get taller, get larger, increase in size ② *sales and profits continue to grow*: INCREASE, swell, multiply, snowball, mushroom, balloon, build u mount up, pile up; *informal skyrocket* ③ *flowers grew among the rocks*: SPROUT, germinate, shoot up, spring up, develop, bud, burst forth, bloom, flourish, thrive, run riot ④ *he grew vegetables*: CULTIVATE, produce, propagate, raise, rear, nurture, tend; farm ⑤ *the family business grew* EXPAND, extend, develop, progress, make progress; flourish, thrive, burgeon, prosper, succeed, boom. ⑥ *the fable grew from an ancient Indian source*: ORIGINATE, stem, spring, arise,

emerge, issue, develop, evolve. ⑦ *Leonora grew bored*. BECOME, get, turn, begin to feel
-OPPOSITES shrink, decline

growl ▶ **verb** SNARL, bark, yap, bay

grown-up ▶ **noun** *she wanted to be treated like a grown-up*. ADULT, (grown) woman, (grown) man, mature woman, mature man
-OPPOSITES child

▶ **adjective** *she has two grown-up daughters* ADULT, mature, of age, fully grown, full-grown, fully developed

growth ▶ **noun** ① *population growth* INCREASE, expansion, augmentation, proliferation, multiplication, enlargement, mushrooming, snowballing, rise, escalation, build-up ② *the growth of plants* DEVELOPMENT, maturation, growing, germination, sprouting, blooming ③ *the marked growth of local enterprises*. EXPANSION, extension, development, progress, advance, advancement, headway, spread, rise, success, boom, upturn, upswing ④ *a growth on his jaw*: TUMOUR, malignancy, cancer, lump, excrescence, outgrowth, swelling, nodule, cyst, polyp
-OPPOSITES decrease, decline

grub ▶ **noun** ① *a small black grub*: LARVA; maggot, caterpillar ② (*informal*) *pub grub* See FOOD sense 1

▶ **verb** ① *kids grubbing around in the dirt* DIG, poke, scratch ② *they grubbed up the old trees* DIG UP, unearth, uproot, root up/out, pull up/out, tear out ③ *he began grubbing about in the bin* RUM MAGE, search, hunt, delve, dig, scabble, ferret, root, rifle, fish, poke, *Brit informal rootle*, *Austral / NZ informal fossick* through

grubby ▶ **adjective** DIRTY, grimy, filthy, mucky, unwashed, stained, soiled, smeared, spotted, muddy, dusty, sooty, unhygienic, insanitary, *informal cruddy*, yucky, *Brit informal manky*, grotty, gungy, *poetic/literary befouled*, begrimed
-OPPOSITES clean

grudge ▶ **noun** *a former employee with a grudge* GRIEVANCE, resentment, bitterness, rancour, pique, umbrage, dissatisfaction, disgruntlement, bad feelings, hard feelings, ill feelings, ill will, animosity, antipathy, antagonism, enmity, animus, *informal a chip on one's shoulder*

▶ **verb** ① *he grudged the time that the meetings involved* BEGRUDGE, resent, feel aggrieved about, be resentful of, mind, object to, take exception to ② *I don't grudge you your success* ENVY, begrudge, resent, be jealous of, be envious of, be resentful of.

grudging ▶ **adjective** RELUCTANT, unwilling, forced, half-hearted, unenthusiastic, hesitant; begrudging, resentful
-OPPOSITES eager.

gruelling ▶ **adjective** EXHAUSTING, tiring, fatiguing, wearying, taxing, draining, debilitating; demanding, exacting, difficult, hard, arduous, strenuous, laborious, back-breaking, harsh, severe, stiff, punishing, crippling; *informal killing*, murderous, hellish; *Brit informal knacker*

gruesome ▶ **adjective** GRISLY, ghastly, frightful, horrid, horrifying, hideous, horrible, horrendous, grim, awful, dire, dreadful, terrible, horrific, shocking, appalling, disgusting, repulsive, repugnant, revolting, repellent, sickening; loathsome, abhorrent, odious, monstrous, unspeakable; *informal sick*, sick-making, gross; *archaic disgusting*.

—OPPOSITES pleasant.

gruff ▶ **adjective** ① *a gruff reply | his gruff exterior* ABRUPT, brusque, curt, short, blunt, bluff, non-sense; laconic, taciturn; surly, churlish, grumpy, crotchety, crabby, crabbed, cross, bad-tempered, short-tempered, ill-natured, crusty, tetchy, bearish, ungracious, unceremonious, *informal* grouchy. ② *a gruff voice* ROUGH, guttural, throaty, gravelly, husky, croaking, rasping, raspy, growly, hoarse, harsh, low, thick
—OPPOSITES friendly, soft.

grumble ▶ **verb** *they grumbled about the disruption* COMPLAIN, grouse, whine, mutter, bleat, carp, cavil, protest, make a fuss, *informal* moan, bellyache, beef, gripe, bitch, grouch, whinge, sound off, *Brit informal* chunter, create, *N English informal* mutther, *N Amer informal* kvetch

▶ **noun** *his customers' grumbles* COMPLAINT, grouse, grievance, protest, cavil, quibble, criticism, *informal* grouch, moan, whinge, beef, bitch, gripe

grumpy ▶ **adjective** BAD-TEMPERED, crabby, ill-tempered, short-tempered, crotchety, tetchy, testy, crabbed, waspish, prickly, touchy, irritable, irascible, crusty, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, bearish, surly, ill-natured, churlish, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, disagreeable, pettish; *informal* grouchy, snappy, snappish, *Brit informal* shirty, stropky, narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery, soreheaded, *informal, dated* miffy
—OPPOSITES good-humoured

guarantee ▶ **noun** ① *all repairs have a one-year guarantee* WARRANTY, warrant ② *a guarantee that the hospital will stay open* PROMISE, assurance, word (of honour), pledge, vow, oath, bond, commitment, covenant ③ *banks usually demand a personal guarantee for loans* COLLATERAL, security, surety, guaranty, earnest.

▶ **verb** ① *he agreed to guarantee the loan* UNDERWRITE, put up collateral for ② *can you guarantee he wasn't involved?* PROMISE, swear, swear to the fact, pledge, vow, undertake, give one's word, give an assurance, give an undertaking, take an oath, cross one's heart (and hope to die), *archaic* plight

guard ▶ **verb** ① *infantry guarded the barricaded bridge* PROTECT, stand guard over, watch over, keep an eye on, cover, patrol, police, defend, shield, safeguard, keep safe, secure ② *the prisoners were guarded by armed men* KEEP UNDER SURVEILLANCE, keep under guard, keep watch over, mind. ③ *forest wardens must guard against poachers* BEWARE OF, keep watch for, be alert to, keep an eye out for, be on the alert/lookout for

▶ **noun** ① *border guards*. SENTRY, sentinel, security guard, nightwatchman, protector, defender, guardian; lookout, watch; garrison; *archaic* watchman ② *her prison guard*: WARDEN, warden, keeper; jailer; *informal* screw; *archaic* turnkey ③ *he let his guard slip and they escaped*: VIGILANCE, vigil, watch, surveillance, watchfulness, caution, heed, attention, care, wariness. ④ *a metal guard*: SAFETY GUARD, safety device, protective device, shield, screen, fender; bumper, buffer

■ **off (one's) guard** UNPREPARED, unready, inattentive, unwary, with one's defences down, cold, unsuspecting; *informal* napping, asleep at the wheel, on the hop.

■ **on one's guard** VIGILANT, alert, on the alert, wary, watchful, cautious, careful, heedful,

chary, circumspect, on the lookout, on the qui vive, on one's toes, prepared, ready, wide awake, attentive, observant, keeping one's eyes peeled, *informal* keeping a weather eye out.

guarded ▶ **adjective** CAUTIOUS, careful, circumspect, wary, chary, on one's guard, reluctant, non-committal, reticent, restrained, reserved, *informal* cagey

guardian ▶ **noun** PROTECTOR, defender, preserver, custodian, warden, guard, keeper, conservator, curator, caretaker, steward, trustee

—RELATED TERMS tutelary

guerrilla ▶ **noun** FREEDOM FIGHTER, irregular, member of the resistance, partisan, rebel, radical, revolutionary, revolutionist; terrorist

guess ▶ **verb** ① *he guessed she was about 40* ESTIMATE, hazard a guess, reckon, gauge, judge, calculate, hypothesize, postulate, predict, speculate, conjecture, surmise, *informal* guesstimate ② *(informal) I guess I owe you an apology* SUPPOSE, think, imagine, expect, suspect, dare say; *informal* reckon, figure

▶ **noun** *my guess was right* HYPOTHESIS, theory, prediction, postulation, conjecture, surmise, estimate, belief, opinion, reckoning, judgement, supposition, speculation, suspicion, impression, feeling, *informal* guesstimate

guesstwork ▶ **noun** GUESSING, conjecture, surmise, supposition, assumptions, presumptions, speculation, hypothesizing, theorizing, prediction, approximations, rough calculations, hunches, *informal* guesstimates

guest ▶ **noun** ① *I have two guests coming to dinner*. VISITOR, caller, company, *archaic* visitant ② *hotel guests* RESIDENT, boarder, lodger, paying guest, PG, patron, client, *N Amer* roomer
—OPPOSITES host

guest house ▶ **noun** BOARDING HOUSE, bed and breakfast, B&B, hotel, pension, pensione

guff ▶ **noun** (*informal*) See NONSENSE sense 1

guffaw ▶ **verb** ROAR WITH LAUGHTER, laugh heartily/loudly, roar, bellow, cackle, *informal* laugh like a drain

guidance ▶ **noun** ① *she looked to her father for guidance* ADVICE, counsel, direction, instruction, enlightenment, information, recommendations, suggestions, tips, hints, pointers, guidelines ② *work continued under the guidance of a project supervisor* DIRECTION, control, leadership, management, supervision, superintendence, charge, handling, conduct, running, overseeing.

guide ▶ **noun** ① *our guide took us back to the hotel* ESCORT, attendant, courier, cicerone, dragoman, usher, chaperone. ② *he is my inspiration and my guide* ADVISER, mentor, counsellor, guru ③ *the light acted as a guide for shipping*: POINTER, marker, indicator, signpost, mark, landmark, guiding light, sign, signal, beacon. ④ *the techniques outlined are meant as a guide*: MODEL, pattern, blueprint, template, example, exemplar; standard, touchstone, measure, benchmark, yardstick, gauge. ⑤ *a pocket guide of Paris*: GUIDEBOOK, travelogue, vade mecum; companion, handbook, directory, A to Z; *informal* bible.

▶ **verb** ① *he guided her to her seat*. LEAD, lead the way, conduct, show, show someone the way, usher, shepherd, direct, steer, pilot, escort, accompany, attend; see, take, help, assist ② *the*



chairman must *guide* the meeting **DIRECT**, steer, control, manage, command, lead, conduct, run, be in charge of, have control of, govern, preside over, superintend, supervise, oversee, handle, regulate ③ *he was always there to guide me* **ADVISE**, counsel, give advice to, direct, give direction to

guidebook ▶ **noun** **GUIDE**, travel guide, travelogue, vade mecum, companion, handbook, directory, A to Z, *informal* bible

guideline ▶ **noun** **RECOMMENDATION**, instruction, direction, suggestion, advice, regulation, rule, principle, guiding principle, standard, criterion, measure, gauge, yardstick, benchmark, touchstone, procedure, parameter

guild ▶ **noun** **ASSOCIATION**, society, union, league, organization, company, cooperative, fellowship, club, order, lodge, brotherhood, fraternity, sisterhood, sorority

guile ▶ **noun** **CUNNING**, craftiness, craft, artfulness, art, artifice, wiliness, slyness, deviousness, wiles, ploys, schemes, stratagems, manoeuvres, subterfuges, tricks, ruses, deception, deceit, duplicity, underhandedness, double-dealing, trickery

—OPPOSITES honesty

guileless ▶ **adjective** **ARTLESS**, ingenuous, naive, open, genuine, natural, simple, childlike, innocent, unsophisticated, unworldly, unsuspecting, trustful, trusting, honest, truthful, sincere, straightforward

—OPPOSITES scheming

guilt ▶ **noun** ① *the proof of his guilt* **CULPABILITY**, guiltiness, blameworthiness, wrongdoing, wrong, criminality, misconduct, sin ② *a terrible feeling of guilt* **SELF-REPROACH**, self-condemnation, shame, a guilty conscience, pangs of conscience, remorse, remorsefulness, regret, contrition, contriteness, compunction

—OPPOSITES innocence

guiltless ▶ **adjective** **INNOCENT**, blameless, not to blame, without fault, above reproach, above suspicion, in the clear, unimpeachable, irreproachable, faultless, sinless, spotless, immaculate, unsullied, uncorrupted, undefiled, untainted, unblemished, untarnished, impeccable, *informal* squeaky clean, whiter than white, as pure as the driven snow

—OPPOSITES guilty

guilty ▶ **adjective** ① *the guilty party* **CULPABLE**, to blame, at fault, in the wrong, blameworthy, responsible, erring, errant, delinquent, offending, sinful, criminal, *archaic* peccant ② *I still feel guilty about it* **ASHAMED**, guilt-ridden, conscience-stricken, remorseful, sorry, contrite, repentant, penitent, regretful, rueful, abashed, shamefaced, sheepish, hangdog, in sackcloth and ashes

—OPPOSITES innocent, unrepentant

guise ▶ **noun** ① *the god appeared in the guise of a swan* **LIKENESS**, outward appearance, appearance, semblance, form, shape, image; disguise ② *additional sums paid under the guise of consultancy fees* **PRETENCE**, disguise, front, facade, cover, blind, screen, smokescreen

gulf ▶ **noun** ① *our ship sailed into the gulf* **INLET**, bay, creek, bight, cove, fjord, estuary, sound, arm of the sea; *Scottish* firth, frith ② *the ice gave way and a gulf widened slowly* **HOLE**, crevasse, fissure, cleft, split, rift, pit, cavity, chasm, abyss,

void, ravine, gorge, canyon, gully ③ *a growing gulf between rich and poor* **DIVIDE**, division, separation, gap, breach, rift, split, chasm, abyss, difference, contrast, polarity

gull ▶ **verb** **HOODWINK**, fool, dupe, deceive, delude, hoax, trick, mislead, lead on, take in, swindle, cheat, double-cross; *informal* pull the wool over someone's eyes, pull a fast one on, put one over on, sell a pup to, bamboozle, con, do, *N Amer informal* sucker, snooker, *Austral informal* pull a swift on, *poetic/literary* cozen

gullet ▶ **noun** **OESOPHAGUS**, throat, maw, pharynx, crop, craw, *archaic* throttle, gorge

gullible ▶ **adjective** **CREDULOUS**, naive, over-trusting, over-trustful, easily deceived, easily taken in, exploitable, dupable, impressionable, unsuspecting, unsuspecting, unwary, ingenuous, innocent, inexperienced, unworldly, green, *informal* wet behind the ears, born yesterday

—OPPOSITES suspicious

gully ▶ **noun** ① *a steep icy gully* **RAVINE**, canyon, gorge, pass, defile, couloir, *S English* chine, *N English* clough, gill, *N Amer* gulch, coulee ② *water runs from the drainpipe into a gully* **CHANNEL**, conduit, trench, ditch, drain, culvert, cut, gutter

gulp ▶ **verb** ① *she gulped her juice* **SWALLOW**, quaff, swill down, down, *informal* swig, knock back ② *he gulped down the rest of his meal* **GOB BLE**, guzzle, devour, bolt, wolf, cram, stuff, *informal* put away, demolish, polish off, shovel down, *Brit informal* scoff ③ *Jenny gulped back her tears* **CHOK** BACK, fight back, hold back/in, suppress, stifle, smother

—OPPOSITES sip

▶ **noun** a gulp of cold beer **MOUTHFUL**, swallow, draught, *informal* swig

gum ▶ **noun** *photographs stuck down with gum* **GLUE**, adhesive, fixative, paste, epoxy resin, *N Amer* mucilage

▶ **verb** *the receipts were gummed into a book* **STICK**, glue, paste, fix, affix, attach, fasten

■ **gum something up** **CLOG (UP)**, choke (up), stop up, plug, obstruct, *informal* bung up, *Brit informal* gunge up, *technical* occlude

gummy ▶ **adjective** **STICKY**, tacky, gluey, adhesive, resinous, viscous, viscid, glutinous, mucilaginous, *informal* gooey

gumption ▶ **noun** (*informal*) **INITIATIVE**, resourcefulness, enterprise, ingenuity, imagination, astuteness, shrewdness, acumen, sense, common sense, wit, mother wit, native wit, practicality, spirit, backbone, pluck, mettle, nerve, courage, *informal* get-up-and-go, spunk, oomph, nous, savvy, horse sense, *N Amer informal* smarts

gun ▶ **noun** **FIREARM**, pistol, revolver, rifle, shotgun, automatic, handgun, machine gun, weapon, *informal* shooter; *N Amer. informal* piece, shooting iron. See list

gunfire ▶ **noun** **GUNSHOTS**, shots, shooting, firing, sniping; artillery fire, strafing, shelling

gunman ▶ **noun** **ARMED ROBBER**, gangster, terrorist, sniper, gunfighter; assassin, murderer, killer; *informal* hit man, hired gun, gunslinger, mobster; *N Amer informal* shootist, hood.

gurggle ▶ **verb** *the water swirled and gurgled*: **BABBLE**, burble, tinkle, bubble, ripple, murmur,

Guns

air gun/pistol/rifle	magazine rifle
AK-47	matchlock
anti-aircraft gun	Mausser (trademark)
anti-tank gun	Maxim gun
Armamite (trademark)	mine-thrower
arquebus	mortar
artillery	musket
assault gun	muzzle-loader
automatic	Oerlikon (trademark)
bazooka	Owen (gun)
Big Bertha	Parabellum (trademark)
blunderbuss	pepperbox
Bofors gun	pistol
breech-loader	pistolet
Bren (gun)	pom-pom
Brown Bess	pump-action shotgun
Browning	pump gun
burp gun	rail gun
cannon	repeating rifle
carbine	revolver
carronade	rifle
chain gun	Saturday night special
chassepot	sawn-off shotgun
Colt (trademark)	Schmeisser
derringer	self-loader
double-barrelled gun	self-loading rifle (SLR)
duelling pistol	semi-automatic
elephant gun	shotgun
Enfield rifle	sidearm
express rifle	siege gun
falconet	six-shooter
field gun	small arms
firelock	Smith & Wesson
flintlock	(trademark)
forty-five	smooth-bore
fowling piece	Springfield (rifle)
fusil	starting pistol
Garand (rifle)	Sten gun
Gatling (gun)	Steyr
hackbut	sub-machine gun
handgun	swivel-gun
harpoon gun	thirty-eight
horse pistol	Thompson
Hotchkiss (gun)	sub-machine gun
howitzer	tommy gun
Kalashnikov	trench mortar
Lee-Enfield (rifle)	Uzi
Lewis gun	Very pistol
Luger (US trademark)	Vickers (gun)
M-1 (rifle/carbine)	Walther
M-16 (rifle)	Webley (trademark)
M-60 (machine gun)	Winchester (trademark)
machine gun	zip gun

purl, splash, poetic/literary plash

► **noun** the gurgle of a small brook **BABBLING**, tinkling, bubbling, rippling, trickling, murmur, murmuring, purling, splashing, poetic/literary plashing

guru ► **noun** ① a Hindu guru and mystic **SPIRITUAL TEACHER**, teacher, tutor, sage, mentor, spiritual leader, leader, master; *Hinduism* swami, Maharishi. ② a management guru **EXPERT**, authority, pundit, leading light, master, specialist, informal whizz.

—**OPPOSITES** disciple

gush ► **verb** ① water gushed through the weir **SURGE**, burst, spout, spurt, jet, stream, rush, pour, spill, well out, cascade, flood; flow, run,

issue, *Brit informal* sloosh. ② everyone gushed about the script **ENTHUSE**, rave, be enthusiastic, be effusive, rhapsodize, go into raptures, wax lyrical, praise to the skies, *informal* go mad/wild/crazy, go over the top, *N Amer informal* ballyhoo. ► **noun** a gush of water **SURGE**, stream, spurt, jet, spout, outpouring, outflow, burst, rush, cascade, flood, torrent, technical efflux.

gushing, gushy ► **adjective** **EFFUSIVE**, enthusiastic, over-enthusiastic, unrestrained, extravagant, fulsome, lavish, rhapsodic, lyrical, *informal* over the top, **OTT**, laid on with a trowel
—**OPPOSITES** restrained

gust ► **noun** ① a sudden gust of wind **FLURRY**, blast, puff, blow, rush, squall. ② gusts of laughter **OUTBURST**, burst, eruption, fit, paroxysm, gale, peal, howl, hoot, shriek, roar

► **verb** wind gusted around the chimneys **BLOW**, bluster, flurry, roar

gusto ► **noun** **ENTHUSIASM**, relish, appetite, enjoyment, delight, glee, pleasure, satisfaction, appreciation, liking, zest, zeal, fervour, verve, keenness, avidity
—**OPPOSITES** apathy, distaste

gusty ► **adjective** **BLUSTERY**, windy, breezy, squally, stormy, tempestuous, wild, turbulent, *informal* blowy
—**OPPOSITES** calm

gut ► **noun** ① he had an ache in his gut **STOMACH**, belly, abdomen, solar plexus, intestines, bowels, *informal* tummy, tum, insides, innards. ② fish heads and guts **ENTRAILS**, intestines, viscera, offal, *informal* insides, innards, *Brit archaic* numbers. ③ (*informal*) Nicola had the guts to say what she felt **COURAGE**, bravery, backbone, nerve, pluck, spirit, boldness, audacity, daring, grit, fearlessness, toughness, determination, *informal* spunk, *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* moxie

—**RELATED TERMS** visceral, enteric

► **adjective** (*informal*) a gut feeling **INSTINCTIVE**, instinctual, intuitive, deep-seated, knee-jerk, automatic, involuntary, spontaneous, unthinking

► **verb** ① clean, scale, and gut the sardines **REMOVE THE GUTS FROM**, disembowel, draw, *formal* eviscerate. ② the church was gutted by fire **DEVASTATE**, destroy, demolish, wipe out, lay waste, ravage, consume, ruin, wreck

gutless ► **adjective** (*informal*) See **COWARDLY**

gutsy ► **adjective** (*informal*) **BRAVE**, courageous, plucky, bold, daring, fearless, adventurous, audacious, valiant, intrepid, heroic, lionhearted, undaunted, unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, indomitable, doughty, stout-hearted, spirited, determined, resolute, death-or-glory, *informal* spunky, ballsy, have-a-go

gutter ► **noun** **DRAIN**, sluice, sluiceway, culvert, spillway, sewer, channel, conduit, pipe, trough, trench, ditch, furrow, cut

guttersnipe ► **noun** (*derogatory*) **URCHIN**, ragamuffin, waif, stray; dated gamin, archaic mud-lark, street Arab

guttural ► **adjective** **THROATY**, husky, gruff, gravelly, growly, growling, croaky, croaking, harsh, rough, rasping, raspy, deep, low, thick.

guy ► **noun** (*informal*) he's a handsome guy **MAN**, fellow, gentleman, youth, boy, *informal* lad, fella, geezer, gent, *Brit informal* chap, bloke, *N Amer informal* dude, hombre, *Brit informal, dated* cove



Gymnastic Events

asymmetric bars	pommel horse
beam	rhythmic gymnastics
floor exercises	rings
high bar	side horse vault
horse vault	sports aerobics
parallel bars	trampolining

► **verb** *she guyed him about his weight* MAKE FUN OF, poke fun at, laugh at, mock, ridicule, jeer at, scoff at, satirize, lampoon, *informal* send up, take the mickey out of, *N Amer informal* goof on

guzzle ► **verb** ① *he guzzled his burger* GOBBLE, bolt, wolf, devour, *informal* tuck into, put away,

pack away, demolish, polish off, stuff one's face with, pig oneself on, shovel down, *Brit informal* scoff, shift, *N Amer informal* snarf down/up, scarf down/up ② *she guzzled down the orange juice* GULP DOWN, swallow, quaff, down, swill; *informal* knock back, swig, slug down

gymnastics ► **noun**. See list

gypsy, gipsy ► **noun** ROMANY, Rom, chal, gitano, gitana, tzigane, traveller, nomad, rover, roamer, wanderer, *dialect* didicoi, *Brit derogatory* tinker

gyrate ► **verb** ROTATE, revolve, wheel, turn round, whirl, circle, pirouette, twirl, swirl, spin, swivel



Hh

habit ▶ **noun** ① it was his habit to go for a run every morning **CUSTOM**, practice, routine, pattern, convention, way, norm, tradition, matter of course, rule, usage, *formal* wont ② her many irritating habits **MANNERISM**, way, quirk, foible, trick, trait, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, singularity, oddity, eccentricity, feature, tendency, propensity, inclination, bent, proclivity, disposition, predisposition ③ a scientific habit of mind **DISPOSITION**, temperament, character, nature, make-up, constitution, frame of mind, bent ④ (*informal*) his cocaine habit **ADDICTION**, dependence, dependency, craving, fixation, compulsion, obsession, weakness; *informal* monkey on one's back, *N Amer informal* jones ⑤ a monk's habit **GARMENTS**, dress, garb, clothes, clothing, attire, outfit, costume, *informal* gear, *formal* apparel

■ **in the habit of** **ACCUSTOMED TO**, used to, given to, inclined to, *poetic/literary* wont to

habitable ▶ **adjective** **FIT TO LIVE IN**, inhabitable, fit to occupy, in good repair, liveable-in, *formal* tenable

habitat ▶ **noun** **NATURAL ENVIRONMENT**, natural surroundings, home, domain, haunt, *formal* habitation

habitation ▶ **noun** ① a house fit for human habitation **OCCUPANCY**, occupation, residence, residency, living in, tenancy, *archaic* inhabitancy ② (*formal*) his main habitation **RESIDENCE**, place of residence, house, home, seat, lodging place, billet, quarters, living quarters, rooms, accommodation, *informal* pad, digs, *formal* dwelling, dwelling place, abode, domicile See lists at **ANIMAL**, **HOME**

habitual ▶ **adjective** ① her father's habitual complaints **CONSTANT**, persistent, continual, continuous, perpetual, non-stop, recurrent, repeated, frequent, interminable, incessant, ceaseless, endless, never-ending, *informal* eternal ② habitual drinkers **INVETERATE**, confirmed, compulsive, obsessive, incorrigible, hardened, ingrained, dyed-in-the-wool, chronic, regular, addicted, *informal* pathological ③ his habitual secretiveness **CUSTOMARY**, accustomed, regular, usual, normal, set, fixed, established, routine, common, ordinary, familiar, traditional, typical, general, characteristic, standard, time-honoured, *poetic/literary* wonted

—**OPPOSITES** occasional, unaccustomed

habituate ▶ **verb** **ACCUSTOM**, make used, familiarize, adapt, adjust, attune, acclimatize, acculturate, condition; inure, harden; *N Amer* acclimate

habitué ▶ **noun** **FREQUENT VISITOR**, regular visitor/customer/client, familiar face, regular, patron, frequenter, haunter.

hack¹ ▶ **verb** I hacked the padlock off: cut, chop, hew, lop, saw, slash.

■ **hack it** (*informal*) **COPE**, manage, get on/by, carry on, come through, muddle along/through; stand it, tolerate it, bear it, endure it, put up with it; *informal* handle it, abide it, stick it; *Brit informal* be doing with it

■ **hack someone off** (*informal*) See **ANNOY**

hack² ▶ **noun** ① a tabloid hack: **JOURNALIST**, reporter, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, writer, Grub Street writer; *informal* journo, scribbler, hackette, *archaic* penny-a-liner ② office hacks **DRUDGE**, menial, menial worker, factotum, *informal* gofer, *Brit informal* dogsbody, skivvy ③ a riding-school hack **HORSE**, pony, *informal* nag, *N Amer informal* plug, *Austral/NZ informal* moke

hackle

■ **make someone's hackles rise** **ANNOY**, irritate, exasperate, anger, incense, infuriate, irk, nettle, vex, put out, provoke, gall, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers, rankle with, *Brit* rub up the wrong way, *informal* aggravate, peeve, needle, rile, make someone see red, make someone's blood boil, hack off, get someone's back up, get someone's goat, get up someone's nose, get someone's dander up, bug, miff, *Brit informal* wind up, nark, get on someone's wick, *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off, burn up, *informal*, *dated* give someone the pip

hackneyed ▶ **adjective** **OVERUSED**, overdone, overworked, worn out, time-worn, platitudinous, vapid, stale, tired, threadbare, trite, banal, hack, clichéd, hoary, commonplace, common, ordinary, stock, conventional, stereotyped, predictable, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninspired, prosaic, dull, boring, pedestrian, run-of-the-mill, routine, *informal* old hat, corny, played out

—**OPPOSITES** original

Hades ▶ **noun**. See **HELL** sense 1

haft ▶ **noun** **HANDLE**, shaft, hilt, butt, stock, grip, handgrip, helve, shank

hag ▶ **noun** **CRONE**, old woman, gorgon, *informal* witch, crow, cow, old bag, old boot, *archaic* bel-dam

haggard ▶ **adjective** **DRAWN**, tired, exhausted, drained, careworn, unwell, unhealthy, spent, washed out, rundown, gaunt, pinched, peaked, peaky, hollow-cheeked, hollow-eyed, thin, emaciated, wasted, cadaverous, pale, wan, grey, ashen

—**OPPOSITES** healthy

haggle ▶ **verb** **BARTER**, bargain, negotiate, dicker, quibble, wrangle, beat someone down, drive a hard bargain, *archaic* chaffer

hail¹ ▶ **verb** ① a friend hailed him from the upper deck **CALL OUT TO**, shout to, halloo, address, greet, say hello to, salute. ② he hailed a cab **FLAG DOWN**, wave down, signal to ③ critics hailed the film as a masterpiece **ACCLAIM**, praise, applaud, rave about, extol, eulogize, hymn, lionize, sing the praises of, make much of, glorify, cheer, salute, toast; *N Amer informal* ballyhoo, *black English* big up, *formal* laud ④ Rick hails from Australia. **COME FROM**, be from, be a native of, have one's roots in

hail² ▶ **noun** a hail of bullets: **BARRAGE**, volley, shower, rain, torrent, burst, stream, storm, avalanche, onslaught; bombardment, cannon-

ade, battery, blast, salvo, *historical* broadside
► verb tons of dust hailed down on us **BEAT**, shower, rain, fall, pour, pelt, pepper, batter, bombard, assail

hair-fellow-well-met ► **adjective** CONVIVIAL, sociable, outgoing, gregarious, companionable, friendly, genial, affable, amiable, congenial, agreeable, good-humoured, extrovert, uninhibited, *Scottish* couthy; *informal* backslapping, chummy, pally, clubbable, clubby, buddy-buddy, *Brit informal* matey
—OPPOSITES unsociable

hair ► **noun** ① her thick black hair **HEAD OF HAIR**, shock of hair, mane, mop, locks, tresses, curls, ringlets ② I like your hair **HAIRSTYLE**, haircut, cut, coiffure, *informal* hairdo, do, coif See list ③ a dog with short, blue-grey hair **FUR**, wool, coat, fleece, pelt, mane

—RELATED TERMS tricho-

■ a hair's breadth **THE NARROWEST OF MARGINS**, a narrow margin, the skin of one's teeth, a split second, a nose, *informal* a whisker

■ let one's hair down (*informal*) **ENJOY ONESELF**, have a good time, have fun, make merry, let oneself go, *informal* have a ball, whoop it up, paint the town red, live it up, have a whale of a time, let it all hang out

■ make someone's hair stand on end **HORRIFY**, shock, appal, scandalize, stun, make someone's blood run cold, *informal* make someone's hair curl

■ split hairs **QUIBBLE**, cavil, carp, niggles, chop logic, *informal* nit-pick, *archaic* pettifog

Hairstyles

Afro	dreadlocks	perm
beehive	Eton crop	plait
big hair	feathercut	pigtail
bob	flat-top	ponytail
bouffant	French plait	pompadour
braids	French	quiff
bun	pleat/roll	razor cut
bunches	marcel wave	ringlets
buzz cut	Mohican	shingle
chignon	mullet	short back
comrows	number one,	and sides
crew cut	two, etc.	topknot
crop	pageboy	

hairdo ► **noun** (*informal*). See **HAIRSTYLE**

hairdresser ► **noun** **HAIRSTYLIST**, stylist, coiffeur, coiffeuse; barber, *informal* crimper

hairless ► **adjective** **BALD**, bald-headed, shaven, shaved, shorn, clean-shaven, beardless, smooth, smooth-faced, depilated, tonsured, *informal* baldy; *technical* glabrous, *archaic* bald-pated
—OPPOSITES hairy

hairpiece ► **noun** **WIG**, toupee, perwig, merkin; *informal* rug

hair-raising ► **adjective** **TERRIFYING**, frightening, petrifying, alarming, chilling, horrifying, shocking, spine-chilling, blood-curdling, fearsome, nightmarish, eerie, sinister, weird, ghostly, unearthly; *Scottish* eldritch, *informal* hairy, spooky, scary, creepy.

hair-splitting ► **adjective** **PEDANTIC**, pettifogging; quibbling, niggling, cavilling, carping, critical, overcritical, hypercritical; *informal* nit-

picking, pernickety, picky, *N Amer informal* pernickety

hairstyle ► **noun** **HAIRCUT**, cut, style, hair, coiffure, *informal* hairdo, do, coif See list

hairy ► **adjective** ① animals with hairy coats **SHAGGY**, bushy, long-haired, woolly, furry, fleecy, fuzzy, *Botany & Zoology* pilose ② his hairy face **BEARDED**, bewhiskered, moustachioed; unshaven, stubbly, bristly, *formal* hirsute ③ (*informal*) a hairy situation **RISKY**, dangerous, perilous, hazardous, touch-and-go, tricky, ticklish, difficult, awkward, *informal* dicey, sticky, *Brit informal* dodgy

halcyon ► **adjective** **HAPPY**, golden, idyllic, palmy, carefree, blissful, joyful, joyous, contented, flourishing, thriving, prosperous, successful, serene, calm, tranquil, peaceful

hale ► **adjective** **HEALTHY**, fit, fighting fit, well, in good health, bursting with health, in fine fettle, as fit as a fiddle/flea, strong, robust, vigorous, hardy, sturdy, hearty, lusty, able-bodied, *informal* in the pink, as right as rain
—OPPOSITES unwell

half ► **adjective** a half grapefruit **HALVED**, divided in two

—OPPOSITES whole

► **adverb** ① half-cooked chicken **PARTIALLY**, partly, incompletely, inadequately, insufficiently, in part, part, slightly ② I'm half inclined to believe you **TO A CERTAIN EXTENT/DEGREE**, to some extent/degree, (up) to a point, in part, partly, in some measure
—OPPOSITES fully

half-baked ► **adjective** ① half-baked theories **ILL-CONCEIVED**, hare-brained, ill-judged, impractical, unrealistic, unworkable, ridiculous, absurd, *informal* crazy, crackpot, cock-eyed ② her half-baked young nephew **FOOLISH**, stupid, silly, idiotic, simple-minded, feeble-minded, empty-headed, feather-brained, feather-headed, brainless, witless, unintelligent, ignorant, *informal* dim, dopey, dumb, gormless, thick, half-witted, dim-witted, birdbrained, *Brit informal* daft, divvy, dozy
—OPPOSITES sensible

half-hearted ► **adjective** **UNENTHUSIASTIC**, cool, lukewarm, tepid, apathetic, indifferent, uninterested, unconcerned, languid, listless, perfunctory, cursory, superficial, desultory, feeble, lacklustre
—OPPOSITES enthusiastic

halfway ► **adjective** the halfway point **MIDWAY**, middle, mid, central, centre, intermediate, *Anatomy* medial, mesial

► **adverb** ① he stopped halfway down the passage **MIDWAY**, in the middle, in the centre, part of the way, part-way ② he seemed halfway friendly: **TO SOME EXTENT/DEGREE**, in some measure, relatively, comparatively, moderately, somewhat, (up) to a point, just about, almost, nearly
■ meet someone halfway **COMPROMISE**, come to terms, reach an agreement, make a deal, make concessions, find the middle ground, strike a balance, give and take

halfwit ► **noun** (*informal*). See **FOOL** noun sense 1.

half-witted ► **adjective** (*informal*). See **STUPID** senses 1, 2.

hall ► **noun** ① hang your coat in the hall: **ENTRANCE** **HALL**, hallway, entry, entrance, lobby, foyer, vestibule, atrium, concourse; passageway, pas-

sage, corridor, *N Amer* entryway ② the village hall ASSEMBLY ROOM, meeting room, chamber, auditorium, concert hall, theatre

hallmark ▶ noun ① the hallmark on silver. ASSAY MARK, official mark, stamp of authenticity ② the tiny bubbles are the hallmark of fine champagnes MARK, distinctive feature, characteristic, sign, sure sign, telltale sign, badge, stamp, trademark, indication, indicator

halloo ▶ verb CALL OUT, shout, cry out, yell, bawl, bellow, roar, whoop, hail, greet, *informal* holler, yoo-hoo, cooee

hallowed ▶ adjective HOLY, sacred, consecrated, sanctified, blessed, revered, venerated, honoured, sacrosanct, worshipped, divine, inviolable

hallucinate ▶ verb HAVE HALLUCINATIONS, see things, be delirious, fantasize, *informal* trip, see pink elephants

hallucination ▶ noun DELUSION, illusion, fragment of the imagination, vision, apparition, mirage, chimera, fantasy, (hallucinations) delirium, phantasmagoria, *informal* trip, pink elephants

halo ▶ noun RING OF LIGHT, nimbus, aureole, glory, crown of light, corona, *technical* halation, *rare* gloriole

halt ▶ verb ① Len halted and turned round STOP, come to a halt, come to a stop, come to a standstill, pull up, draw up ② a further strike has halted production STOP, bring to a stop, put a stop to, bring to an end, put an end to, terminate, end, wind up, suspend, break off, arrest, impede, check, curb, stem, staunch, block, stall, hold back, *informal* pull the plug on, put the kibosh on

—OPPOSITES start, continue

▶ noun ① the car drew to a halt STOP, standstill ② a halt in production STOPPAGE, stopping, discontinuation, break, suspension, pause, interval, interruption, hiatus, cessation, termination, close, end

halter ▶ noun HARNESS, head collar, bridle, *N Amer* headstall

halting ▶ adjective ① a halting conversation | halting English HESITANT, faltering, hesitating, stumpling, stammering, stuttering, broken, imperfect. ② his halting gait UNSTEADY, awkward, faltering, stumbling, limping, hobbling

—OPPOSITES fluent

ham-fisted ▶ adjective CLUMSY, bungling, incompetent, amateurish, inept, unskilful, inept, maladroit, gauche, awkward, inefficient, bumbling, useless, *informal* cack-handed, ham-handed; *Brit informal* all fingers and thumbs

—OPPOSITES expert

hammer ▶ noun a hammer and chisel: mallet, beetle, gavel, sledgehammer

▶ verb ① the alloy is hammered into a circular shape BEAT, forge, shape, form, mould, fashion, make. ② Sally hammered at the door: BATTER, pummel, beat, bang, pound, strike, hit, knock on, thump on; cudgel, bludgeon, club, *informal* bash, wallop, clobber, whack, thwack ③ they hammered away at their non-smoking campaign. WORK HARD, labour, slog away, plod away, grind away, slave away, work like a Trojan, work like a dog, keep one's nose to the grindstone; persist with, persevere with, press on with; *informal* stick at, peg away, beaver away, plug away,

work one's socks off, soldier on, *Brit informal* graft away ④ anti-racism had been hammered into her DRUM, instil, inculcate, knock, drive, din, drive home to, impress upon, ingrain ⑤ (*informal*) he got hammered for an honest mistake See CHASTISE sense 1 ⑥ (*informal*) we've hammered them twice this season See TROUCE

■ hammer something out THRASH OUT, work out, agree on, sort out, decide on, bring about, effect, produce, broker, negotiate, reach an agreement on

hamper¹ ▶ noun a picnic hamper BASKET, panier, wickerwork basket, box, container, holder

hamper² ▶ verb the search was hampered by fog HINDER, obstruct, impede, inhibit, retard, baulk, thwart, foil, curb, delay, set back, slow down, hold up, interfere with, restrict, constrain, trammel, block, check, curtail, frustrate, cramp, bridle, handicap, cripple, hamstring, shackle, fetter, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works of, *N Amer* bork, throw a monkey wrench in the works of, *informal* stymie

—OPPOSITES help

hamstring ▶ verb ① cattle were killed or hamstrung CRIPPLE, lame, disable, incapacitate ② manufacturing companies were hamstrung by the economic chaos HANDICAP, constrain, restrict, cripple, shackle, fetter, encumber, block, frustrate, hamper, hinder, obstruct, impede, trammel, straitjacket, inhibit, baulk, thwart, foil, *informal* stymie, *N Amer informal* bork

—OPPOSITES help

hand ▶ noun ① big, strong hands palm, fist, *informal* paw, mitt, duke, hook, meat hook, Zoology manus ② the clock's second hand POINTER, indicator, needle, arrow, marker ③ the frontier posts remained in government hands CONTROL, power, charge, authority, command, responsibility, guardianship, management, care, supervision, jurisdiction, possession, keeping, custody, clutches, grasp, thrall, disposal, *informal* say-so ④ let me give you a hand HELP, a helping hand, assistance, aid, support, succour, relief, a good turn, a favour ⑤ (*informal*) his fans gave him a big hand ROUND OF APPLAUSE, clap, handclap, ovation, standing ovation, applause, handclapping ⑥ a document written in his own hand HANDWRITING, writing, script, calligraphy ⑦ a factory hand WORKER, factory worker, manual worker, unskilled worker, blue-collar worker, workman, labourer, operative, hired hand, roustabout, *N Amer* peon, *Austral/NZ* rouseabout

—RELATED TERMS manual

▶ verb ① he handed each man a glass PASS, give, reach, let someone have, throw, toss, present to, *informal* chuck, bung ② he handed him into a carriage ASSIST, help, give someone a hand, guide.

■ at hand ① keep the manual close at hand READILY AVAILABLE, available, handy, to hand, within reach, accessible, close (by), near, nearby, at the ready, at one's fingertips, at one's disposal, convenient, *informal* get-at-able ② the time for starting the campaign is at hand IMMINENT, approaching, coming, about to happen, on the horizon; impending

■ hand something down PASS ON, pass down; bequeath, will, leave, make over, give, gift, transfer, *Law* demise, devise

■ **hand in glove** IN CLOSE COLLABORATION, in close association, in close cooperation, very closely, in partnership, in league, in collusion, *informal* in cahoots

■ **hand something on** GIVE, pass, hand, transfer, grant, cede, surrender, relinquish, yield, part with, let go of; bequeath, will, leave.

■ **hand something out** DISTRIBUTE, hand round, give out/round, pass out/round, share out, dole out, dish out, deal out, mete out, issue, dispense, allocate, allot, apportion, disburse, circulate, disseminate

■ **hand something over** YIELD, give, give up, pass, grant, entrust, surrender, relinquish, cede, turn over, deliver up, forfeit, sacrifice

■ **hands down** EASILY, effortlessly, with ease, with no trouble, without effort, *informal* by a mile, no sweat

■ **to hand** READILY AVAILABLE, available, handy, at hand, within reach, accessible, ready, close (by), near, nearby, at the ready, at one's fingertips, at one's disposal, convenient; *informal* get-at-able

■ **try one's hand** MAKE AN ATTEMPT, attempt, try, try out, give something a try, *informal* have a go, have a stab, have a shot, have a bash, give something a whirl, *formal* essay

handbag ► noun BAG, shoulder bag, clutch bag, evening bag, pochette, *N Amer* purse, pocketbook; *historical* reticule

handbill ► noun NOTICE, advertisement, flyer, leaflet, circular, handout, pamphlet, brochure, *N Amer* dodger, *informal* ad, *Brit* *informal* advert

handbook ► noun MANUAL, instructions, instruction manual, ABC, A to Z, almanac, companion, directory, compendium, guide, guidebook, vade mecum

handcuff ► verb MANACLE, shackle, fetter, restrain, clap/put someone in irons, *informal* cuff

handcuffs ► plural noun MANACLES, shackles, irons, fetters, bonds, restraints, *informal* cuffs, bracelets, *archaic* darbies, gyves

handful ► noun ① a handful of British firms: A FEW, a small number, a small amount, a small quantity, one or two, some, not many, a scattering, a trickle ② (*informal*) the child is a real handful' NUISANCE, problem, bother, irritant, thorn in someone's flesh/side, *informal* pest, headache, pain, pain in the neck/backside, *Scottish* *informal* nyaff, skelf, *N Amer* *informal* pain in the butt

handgun ► noun PISTOL, revolver, gun, side arm, six-shooter, thirty-eight, derringer, *N Amer* *informal* piece, shooting iron, Saturday night special, rod; *trademark* Colt

handicap ► noun ① a visual handicap: DISABILITY, physical/mental abnormality, defect, impairment, affliction, deficiency. ② a handicap to the competitiveness of the industry IMPEDIMENT, hindrance, obstacle, barrier, bar, obstruction, encumbrance, constraint, restriction, check, block, curb, disadvantage, drawback, stumbling block, difficulty, shortcoming, limitation; ball and chain, albatross, millstone round someone's neck; *poetic/literary* trammel.

—OPPOSITES benefit, advantage.

► verb lack of funding handicapped the research: HAMPER, impede, hinder, impair, hamstring; restrict, check, obstruct, block, curb, bridle, hold

back, constrain, trammel, limit, encumber, *informal* stymie, *N Amer* *informal* bork.

—OPPOSITES help

handicapped ► adjective DISABLED, incapacitated, disadvantaged; infirm, invalid, *euphemistic* physically challenged, differently abled

handicraft ► noun CRAFT, handiwork, craftwork, craftsmanship, workmanship, artisan-ship, art, skill

handiwork ► noun jewellery which is the handiwork of Chinese smiths' CREATION, product, work, achievement, handicraft, craft, craftwork

handkerchief ► noun pocket handkerchief, tissue, paper handkerchief, *trademark* Kleenex, *informal* hanky, nose rag, snot rag; *poetic/literary* kerchief

handle ► verb ① the equipment must be handled with care HOLD, pick up, grasp, grip, lift, feel, touch, finger, *informal* paw ② a car which is easy to handle CONTROL, drive, steer, operate, manoeuvre, manipulate ③ she handled the job formidably DEAL WITH, manage, tackle, take care of, take charge of, attend to, see to, sort out, apply oneself to, take in hand ④ the advertising company that is handling the account ADMINISTER, manage, control, conduct, direct, guide, supervise, oversee, be in charge of, take care of, look after ⑤ the traders handled goods manufactured in the Rhineland. TRADE IN, deal in, buy, sell, supply, peddle, traffic in, purvey, hawk, tout, market ► noun the knife's handle HAFT, shank, stock, shaft, grip, handgrip, hilt, helve, butt, knob

hand-me-down ► adjective SECOND-HAND, used, nearly new, handed-down, passed-on, cast-off, worn, old, pre-owned, *Brit* *informal* reach-me-down

—OPPOSITES new

handout ► noun ① she existed on handouts CHARITY, aid, benefit, financial support, donations, subsidies; *historical* alms ② a xeroxed handout LEAFLET, pamphlet, brochure, handbill, flyer, notice, circular, mailshot

hand-picked ► adjective SPECIALLY CHOSEN, selected, invited, select, elite, choice

handsome ► adjective ① a handsome man GOOD-LOOKING, attractive, personable, striking, *informal* hunky, dishy, tasty, fanciable; *Brit* *informal* fit; *N Amer* *informal* cute, *Austral/NZ* *informal* spunky ② a handsome woman of 30 STRIKING, imposing, prepossessing, elegant, stately, dignified, statuesque, good-looking, attractive, personable. ③ a handsome profit: SUBSTANTIAL, considerable, sizeable, princely, large, big, ample, bumper; *informal* tidy, whopping, not to be sneezed at; *Brit* *informal* whacking, ginormous.

—OPPOSITES ugly, meagre.

handwriting ► noun WRITING, script, hand, pen; penmanship, calligraphy, chirography; *informal* scrawl, scribble.

handy ► adjective ① a handy reference tool: USEFUL, convenient, practical, easy-to-use, well-designed, user-friendly, user-oriented, helpful, functional, serviceable. ② keep your credit card handy: READILY AVAILABLE, available, at hand, to hand, near at hand, within reach, accessible, ready, close (by), near, nearby, at the ready, at one's fingertips; *informal* get-at-able. ③ he's handy with a needle: SKILFUL, skilled, dexterous, deft, nimble-fingered, adroit, able, adept, proficient, capable; good with one's hands; *informal* nifty.

—OPPOSITES inconvenient, inept.

handyman ► noun ODD-JOB MAN, odd-jobber, factotum, jack of all trades, man of all work, DIY'er, informal Mr Fixit

hang ► verb ① lights hung from the trees. BE SUSPENDED, hang down, be pendent, dangle, swing, sway, archaic depend. ② hang your pictures at eye level PUT UP, fix, attach, affix, fasten, post, display, suspend, pin up, nail up ③ the room was hung with streamers DECORATE, adorn, drape, festoon, deck out, trick out, bedeck, array, garland, swathe, cover, ornament, poetic/literary bedizen. ④ he was hanged for murder HANG BY THE NECK, send to the gallows, informal string up ⑤ a pall of smoke hung over the city HOVER, float, drift, be suspended ⑥ the threat of budget cuts is hanging over us BE IMMINENT, threaten, be close, be impending, impend, loom, be on the horizon.

■ hang about (Brit informal) See HANG AROUND

■ hang around/round (informal) ① they spent their time hanging around in bars LOITER, linger, wait around, waste time, kill time, mark time, while away the/one's time, kick/cool one's heels, twiddle one's thumbs, frequent, be a regular visitor to, haunt, informal hang out in ② hang about, what's this? See HANG ON sense 4 ③ she's hanging around with a bunch of hippies AS SOCIATE, mix, keep company, socialize, fraternize, consort, rub shoulders, N Amer rub elbows, informal hang out, run around, knock about/around, be thuck, hobnob

■ hang fire DELAY, hang back, hold back, hold on, stall, pause, procrastinate, vacillate, adopt Fabian tactics, informal hang about/around, sit tight, hold one's horses

■ hang on ① he hung on to her coat HOLD ON, hold fast, grip, clutch, grasp, hold tightly, cling ② her future hung on his decision DEPEND ON, be dependent on, turn on, hinge on, rest on, be contingent on, be determined by, be decided by ③ I'll hang on as long as I can PERSEVERE, hold out, hold on, go on, carry on, keep on, keep going, keep at it, continue, persist, stay with it, struggle on, plod on, plough on, informal soldier on, stick at it, stick it out, hang in there. ④ (informal) hang on, let me think WAIT, wait a minute, hold on, stop, hold the line, informal hold your horses, sit tight, Brit informal hang about

hangdog ► adjective SHAMEFACED, sheepish, abashed, ashamed, guilty-looking, abject, cowed, dejected, downcast, crestfallen, woe-begone, disconsolate

—OPPOSITES unabashed

hanger-on ► noun FOLLOWER, flunkey, toady, camp follower, sycophant, parasite, leech, henchman, minion, lackey, vassal, dependant, retainer, acolyte, N Amer cohort; informal groupie, sponger, freeloader, passenger, sidekick.

hanging ► noun silk wall hangings. DRAPE, curtain; drapery.

► adjective hanging fronds of honeysuckle: PENDENT, dangling, trailing, tumbling, suspended.

hang-out ► noun HAUNT, stamping ground, favourite spot, meeting place, territory; den, refuge, retreat; N Amer. stomping ground.

hang-up ► noun NEUROSIS, phobia, preoccupation, fixation, obsession, idée fixe; inhibition, mental block, psychological block, block, diffi-

culty; informal complex, thing, bee in one's bonnet.

hank ► noun COIL, skein, length, roll, loop, twist, piece, lock, ringlet, curl

hanker ► verb YEARN, long, crave, desire, wish, want, hunger, thirst, lust, ache, pant, be eager, be desperate, be eating one's heart out, fancy, pine for, have one's heart set on, informal be dying, have a yen, itch

hankering ► noun LONGING, yearning, craving, desire, wish, hunger, thirst, urge, ache, lust, appetite, fancy, informal yen, itch, archaic appetency

—OPPOSITES aversion

hanky-panky ► noun (informal) GOINGS-ON, funny business, mischief, misbehaviour, misconduct, chicanery, dishonesty, deception, deceit, trickery, intrigue, skulduggery, subterfuge, machinations, infidelity, unfaithfulness, adultery, informal monkey business, shenanigans, carryings-on, Brit informal jiggery-pokery

haphazard ► adjective RANDOM, unplanned, unsystematic, unmethodical, disorganized, disorderly, irregular, indiscriminate, chaotic, hit-and-miss, arbitrary, aimless, careless, casual, slapdash, slipshod, chance, accidental, informal higgledy-piggledy

—OPPOSITES methodical

hapless ► adjective UNFORTUNATE, unlucky, luckless, out of luck, ill-starred, ill-fated, jinxed, cursed, doomed, unhappy, forlorn, wretched, miserable, woe-begone, informal down on one's luck, poetic/literary star-crossed

—OPPOSITES lucky

happen ► verb ① remember what happened last time he was here OCCUR, take place, come about, ensue, result, transpire, materialize, arise, crop up, come up, present itself, supervene, N Amer informal go down, formal eventuate, poetic/literary come to pass, betide, archaic hap ② I wonder what happened to Susie? BECOME OF, poetic/literary befall, betide ③ they happened to be in London CHANCE, have the good/bad luck. ④ he happened on a linnet's nest DISCOVER, find, find by chance, come across, chance on, stumble on, hit on

happening ► noun bizarre happenings OCCUR RENCE, event, incident, proceeding, affair, circumstance, phenomenon, episode, experience, occasion, development, eventuality

► adjective (informal) a happening nightclub FASHIONABLE, modern, popular, new, latest, up to date, up to the minute, in fashion, in vogue, le dernier cri, informal trendy, funky, hot, cool, with it, hip, in, big, now, groovy, N Amer informal kicky, tony

—OPPOSITES old-fashioned

happily ► adverb ① he smiled happily CONTENTEDLY, cheerfully, cheerily, merrily, delightedly, joyfully, joyously, gaily, gleefully ② I will happily do as you ask. GLADLY, willingly, readily, freely, cheerfully, ungrudgingly, with pleasure, archaic fain. ③ happily, we are living in enlightened times FORTUNATELY, luckily, thankfully, mercifully, by good luck, by good fortune, as luck would have it; thank goodness, thank God, thank heavens, thank the stars.

happiness ► noun PLEASURE, contentment, satisfaction, cheerfulness, merriment, gaiety, joy, joyfulness, joviality, jollity, glee, delight, good spirits, light-heartedness, well-being, en-



joyment, exuberance, exhilaration, elation, ecstasy, jubilation, rapture, bliss, blissfulness, euphoria, transports of delight

happy ▶ **adjective** ① *Melissa looked happy and excited* CHEERFUL, cheery, merry, joyful, jovial, jolly, jocular, gleeful, carefree, untroubled, delighted, smiling, beaming, grinning, in good spirits, in a good mood, light-hearted, pleased, contented, content, satisfied, gratified, buoyant, radiant, sunny, joyous, beautiful, thrilled, elated, exhilarated, ecstatic, blissful, euphoric, overjoyed, exultant, rapturous, in seventh heaven, on cloud nine, walking on air, jumping for joy, cock-a-hoop, jubilant, *informal* chirpy, over the moon, on top of the world, as happy as a sandboy, tickled pink, like a dog with two tails, as pleased as Punch, on a high, *Brit informal* chuffed, as happy as Larry, *N English informal* made up, *N Amer informal* as happy as a clam, *Austral informal* wrapped, *poetic/literary* blithe, *formal* jocund, *dated* gay ② *we will be happy to advise you* GLAD, pleased, delighted, willing, ready, disposed ③ *a happy coincidence* FORTUNATE, lucky, favourable, advantageous, opportune, timely, well-timed, convenient
-OPPOSITES sad, unwilling, unfortunate

happy-go-lucky ▶ **adjective** EASY-GOING, carefree, casual, free and easy, devil-may-care, blithe, nonchalant, insouciant, blasé, unconcerned, untroubled, unworried, light-hearted, *informal* laid-back
-OPPOSITES anxious

harangue ▶ **noun** a ten-minute *harangue* TIRADE, diatribe, lecture, polemic, rant, fulmination, broadside, attack, onslaught, criticism, condemnation, censure, admonition, declamation, speech, *informal* blast, *poetic/literary* philippic

▶ **verb** *he harangued his erstwhile colleagues* RANT AT, hold forth to, lecture, shout at, berate, criticize, attack, *informal* earbash, sound off at, mouth off at

harass ▶ **verb** ① *council tenants who harass their neighbours* PERSECUTE, intimidate, hound, harry, plague, torment, bedevil, pressurize, pester, bother, worry, disturb, trouble, provoke, stress, *informal* hassle, bug, give someone a hard time; *N English informal* mither, *N Amer informal* devil, ride ② *they were sent to harass the enemy flanks* HARRY, attack, beleaguer, set upon, assail

harassed ▶ **adjective** STRESSED, strained, worn out, hard-pressed, careworn, worried, troubled, beleaguered, under pressure, at the end of one's tether; *N Amer* at the end of one's rope, *informal* hassled
-OPPOSITES carefree

harassment ▶ **noun** PERSECUTION, intimidation, pressure, pressurization, force, coercion, *informal* hassle

harbinger ▶ **noun** HERALD, sign, indication, signal, portent, omen, augury, forewarning, presage; forerunner, precursor, messenger, *poetic/literary* foretoken.

harbour ▶ **noun** ① *a picturesque harbour* PORT, dock, haven, marina, mooring, moorage, anchorage, harbourage, waterfront ② *a safe harbour for me*: REFUGE, haven, safe haven, shelter, sanctuary, retreat, place of safety, port in a storm.

▶ **verb** ① *he is harbouring a dangerous criminal*: SHEL-

TER, conceal, hide, shield, protect, give sanctuary to, take in, put up, accommodate, house ② *Rose had harboured a grudge against him*. BEAR, nurse, nurture, cherish, entertain, foster, hold on to, cling to

hard ▶ **adjective** ① *hard ground* FIRM, solid, rigid, stiff, resistant, unbreakable, inflexible, impenetrable, unyielding, solidified, hardened, compact, compacted, dense, close-packed, compressed, steely, tough, strong, stony, rock-like, flinty, as hard as iron, as hard as stone, frozen, *poetic/literary* adamant ② *hard physical work* ARDUOUS, strenuous, tiring, fatiguing, exhausting, wearying, back-breaking, gruelling, heavy, laborious, difficult, taxing, exacting, testing, challenging, demanding, punishing, tough, formidable, onerous, rigorous, uphill, Herculean, *informal* murderous, killing, hellish, *Brit informal* knacker, *formal* exigent, archaic toilsome ③ *hard workers* DILIGENT, hard-working, industrious, sedulous, assiduous, conscientious, energetic, keen, enthusiastic, zealous, earnest, persevering, persistent, unflagging, untiring, indefatigable, studious ④ *a hard problem* DIFFICULT, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, bewildering, mystifying, knotty, thorny, problematic, complicated, complex, intricate, involved, insoluble, unfathomable, impenetrable, incomprehensible, unanswerable ⑤ *times are hard* HARSH, grim, difficult, bad, bleak, dire, tough, austere, unpleasant, uncomfortable, straitened, spartan, dark, distressing, painful, awful ⑥ *a hard taskmaster* STRICT, harsh, firm, severe, stern, tough, rigorous, demanding, exacting, callous, unkind, unsympathetic, cold, heartless, hard-hearted, unfeeling, intransigent, unbending, uncompromising, inflexible, implacable, stubborn, obdurate, unyielding, unrelenting, unsparing, grim, ruthless, merciless, pitiless, cruel, standing no nonsense, ruling with a rod of iron ⑦ *a hard winter* BITTERLY COLD, cold, bitter, harsh, severe, bleak, freezing, icy, icy-cold, arctic ⑧ *a hard blow* FORCEFUL, heavy, strong, sharp, smart, violent, powerful, vigorous, mighty, hefty, tremendous ⑨ *hard facts* RELIABLE, definite, true, confirmed, substantiated, undeniable, indisputable, unquestionable, verifiable ⑩ *hard liquor* ALCOHOLIC, strong, intoxicating, potent, *formal* spirituous ⑪ *hard drugs* ADDICTIVE, habit-forming, strong, harmful

-OPPOSITES soft, easy, lazy, gentle

▶ **adverb** ① *George pushed her hard* FORCEFULLY, forcibly, roughly, powerfully, strongly, heavily, sharply, vigorously, energetically, with all one's might, with might and main ② *they worked hard* DILIGENTLY, industriously, assiduously, conscientiously, sedulously, busily, enthusiastically, energetically, doggedly, steadily, *informal* like mad, like crazy, *Brit informal* like billy-o ③ *this prosperity has been hard won* WITH DIFFICULTY, with effort, after a struggle, painfully, laboriously ④ *her death hit him hard*: SEVERELY, badly, acutely, deeply, keenly, seriously, profoundly, gravely; *formal* grievously ⑤ *it was raining hard* HEAVILY, strongly, in torrents, in sheets, cats and dogs, steadily. ⑥ *my mother looked hard at me*. CLOSELY, attentively, intently, critically, carefully, keenly, searchingly, earnestly, sharply.

■ **hard and fast** DEFINITE, fixed, set, strict, rigid, binding, clear-cut, cast-iron; inflexible,

immutable, unchangeable, incontestable

■ **hard by** CLOSE TO, right by, beside, near (to), nearby, not far from, a stone's throw from, on the doorstep of, *informal* within spitting distance of, (a hop, skip, and jump away from)

■ **hard feelings** RESENTMENT, animosity, ill feeling, ill will, bitterness, bad blood, resentfulness, rancour, malice, acrimony, antagonism, antipathy, animus, friction, anger, hostility, hate, hatred

■ **hard up** (*informal*) POOR, short of money, badly off, impoverished, impecunious, in reduced circumstances, unable to make ends meet, penniless, destitute, poverty-stricken, *informal* broke, strapped (for cash), *Brit informal* skint

hardbitten ▶ **adjective** HARDENED, tough, cynical, unsentimental, hard-headed, case-hardened, as hard as nails, *informal* hard-nosed, hard-boiled
-OPPOSITES sentimental

hard-boiled ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) a hard-boiled undercover agent See **HARDBITTEN**

hard-core ▶ **adjective** DIEHARD, staunch, dedicated, committed, steadfast, dyed-in-the-wool, long-standing, hard-line, extreme, entrenched, radical, intransigent, uncompromising, rigid, *informal* deep-dyed

harden ▶ **verb** ① this glue will harden in four hours SOLIDIFY, set, congeal, clot, coagulate, stiffen, thicken, cake, inspissate, freeze, crystallize, ossify, petrify ② their suffering had hardened them TOUGHEN, desensitize, inure, case-harden, harden someone's heart; deaden, numb, be numb, anaesthetize, brutalize
-OPPOSITES liquefy, soften

hardened ▶ **adjective** ① he was hardened to the violence he had seen INURED, desensitized, deadened, accustomed, habituated, acclimatized, used ② a hardened criminal INVETERATE, seasoned, habitual, chronic, compulsive, confirmed, dyed-in-the-wool, incorrigible, incurable, irredeemable, unregenerate ③ the silos are hardened against air attack STRENGTHENED, fortified, reinforced, toughened

hard-headed ▶ **adjective** UNSENTIMENTAL, practical, pragmatic, businesslike, realistic, sensible, rational, clear-thinking, cool-headed, down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, no-nonsense, with one's/both feet on the ground, tough, hardbitten, shrewd, astute, sharp, sharp-witted, *informal* hard-nosed, hard-boiled.
-OPPOSITES idealistic

hard-hearted ▶ **adjective** UNFEELING, heartless, cold, hard, callous, unsympathetic, uncaring, unloving, unconcerned, indifferent, unmoved, unkind, uncharitable, unemotional, cold-hearted, cold-blooded, mean-spirited, stony-hearted, having a heart of stone, as hard as nails, cruel.
-OPPOSITES compassionate

hard-hitting ▶ **adjective** UNCOMPROMISING, blunt, forthright, frank, honest, direct, tough, critical, unsparing, strongly worded, straight-talking, pulling no punches, not mincing one's words, not beating about the bush.

hardihood ▶ **noun** BRAVERY, courage, pluck, valour, intrepidity, nerve, daring, fearlessness, audacity, boldness, dauntlessness, stout-heartedness, heroism; backbone, grit, spine,

spirit, mettle, *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle; *N Amer informal* moxie

-OPPOSITES timidity

hardiness ▶ **noun** ROBUSTNESS, strength, toughness, ruggedness, sturdiness, resilience, stamina, vigour, healthiness, good health
-OPPOSITES frailty

hard-line ▶ **adjective** UNCOMPROMISING, strict, extreme, tough, diehard, inflexible, intransigent, intractable, unyielding, single-minded, not giving an inch
-OPPOSITES moderate

hardly ▶ **adverb** we hardly know each other SCARCELY, barely, only just, slightly

hard-nosed ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) TOUGH-MINDED, unsentimental, no-nonsense, hard-headed, hardbitten, pragmatic, realistic, down-to-earth, practical, rational, shrewd, astute, businesslike, *informal* hard-boiled
-OPPOSITES sentimental

hard-pressed ▶ **adjective** ① the hard-pressed infantry UNDER ATTACK, hotly pursued, harried ② the hard-pressed construction industry in DIFFICULTIES, under pressure, troubled, beleaguered, harassed, with one's back to/against the wall, in a tight corner, in a tight spot, between a rock and a hard place, overburdened, overworked, overloaded, rushed off one's feet, *informal* pushed, up against it

hardship ▶ **noun** PRIVATION, deprivation, destitution, poverty, austerity, penury, want, need, neediness, impecuniousness, misfortune, distress, suffering, affliction, trouble, pain, misery, wretchedness, tribulation, adversity, trials, trials and tribulations, dire straits, poetic/literary travails
-OPPOSITES prosperity, ease

hardware ▶ **noun** EQUIPMENT, apparatus, gear, paraphernalia, tackle, kit, machinery, tools, articles, implements, instruments, appliances

hard-wearing ▶ **adjective** DURABLE, strong, tough, resilient, lasting, long-lasting, made to last, stout, well made, rugged, heavy-duty
-OPPOSITES flimsy

hard-working ▶ **adjective** DILIGENT, industrious, conscientious, assiduous, sedulous, painstaking, persevering, unflagging, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, studious, keen, enthusiastic, zealous, busy, with one's shoulder to the wheel, with one's nose to the grindstone
-OPPOSITES lazy

hardy ▶ **adjective**, ROBUST, healthy, fit, strong, sturdy, tough, rugged, hearty, lusty, vigorous, hale and hearty, fit as a fiddle, fighting fit, in fine fettle, in good health, in good condition, *Brit* in rude health, *dated* stalwart
-OPPOSITES delicate

hare ▶ **noun**. See list at **RABBIT**

hare-brained ▶ **adjective** ① a hare-brained scheme: ILL-JUDGED, rash, foolish, foolhardy, reckless, madcap, wild, silly, stupid, ridiculous, absurd, idiotic, asinine, imprudent, impracticable, unworkable, unrealistic, unconsidered, half-baked, ill-thought-out, ill-advised, ill-conceived; *informal* crackpot, crackbrained, cock-eyed, crazy, *Brit informal* daft, barmy. ② a hare-brained young girl: FOOLISH, silly, idiotic, unintelligent, empty-headed, scatterbrained, feather-brained, birdbrained, pea-brained,



brainless, giddy, *informal* dippy, dizzy, dopey, dotty, airheaded

—OPPOSITES sensible, intelligent

harem ▶ noun SERAGLIO, zenana, *historical* gynaeceum

hark ▶ verb (*poetic/literary*) hark, I hear a warning note LISTEN, lend an ear, pay attention, attend, mark, *archaic* hearken, give ear

■ **hark back to** RECALL, call/bring to mind, evoke, put one in mind of

harlequin ▶ noun JESTER, joker, merry andrew

▶ **adjective** a harlequin pattern MULTICOLOURED, many-coloured, colourful, particoloured, varicoloured, many-hued, rainbow, variegated, jazzy, kaleidoscopic, psychedelic, polychromatic, chequered, *archaic* motley.

harlot ▶ noun (*archaic*) PROSTITUTE, whore, fille de joie, call girl, promiscuous woman, slut, *informal* tart, pro, member of the oldest profession; *Brit informal* scrubber, slag, slapper, *N Amer informal* hooker, hustler, tramp, roundheel, *dated* streetwalker, hussy, woman of the streets, woman of the night, scarlet woman, loose woman, fallen woman, cocotte, wanton, *archaic* strumpet, courtesan, trollop, doxy, drab, trull

harm ▶ noun ① the voltage is not sufficient to cause harm INJURY, hurt, pain, trauma, damage, impairment, mischief ② I can't see any harm in it EVIL, wrong, ill, wickedness, iniquity, sin —OPPOSITES benefit

▶ **verb** ① he's never harmed anybody in his life INJURE, hurt, wound, lay a finger on, maltreat, mistreat, misuse, ill-treat, ill-use, abuse, molest ② this could harm his World Cup prospects DAMAGE, spoil, mar, do mischief to, impair

harmful ▶ **adjective** DAMAGING, injurious, detrimental, dangerous, deleterious, unfavourable, negative, disadvantageous, unhealthy, unwholesome, hurtful, baleful, destructive, noxious, hazardous, poisonous, toxic, deadly, lethal, bad, evil, malign, malignant, malevolent, corrupting, subversive, pernicious —OPPOSITES beneficial

harmless ▶ **adjective** ① a harmless substance SAFE, innocuous, benign, gentle, mild, wholesome, non-toxic, non-poisonous, non-irritant, non-addictive ② he seems harmless enough IN OFFENSIVE, innocuous, unobjectionable, unexceptionable —OPPOSITES dangerous

harmonious ▶ **adjective** ① harmonious music TUNEFUL, melodious, melodic, sweet-sounding, mellifluous, dulcet, lyrical, euphonious, euphonic, harmonic, polyphonic, *informal* easy on the ear. ② their harmonious relationship FRIENDLY amicable, cordial, amiable, congenial, easy, peaceful, peaceable, cooperative, compatible, sympathetic, united, attuned, in harmony, in rapport, in tune, in accord, of one mind, seeing eye to eye ③ a harmonious blend of traditional and modern; CONGRUOUS, coordinated, balanced, in proportion, compatible, well matched, well balanced. —OPPOSITES discordant, hostile, incongruous.

harmonize ▶ **verb** ① colours which harmonize in a pleasing way; COORDINATE, go together, match, blend, mix, balance, tone in, be compatible, be harmonious, suit each other, set each other off. ② the need to harmonize tax laws across Europe:

COORDINATE, systematize, correlate, integrate, synchronize, make consistent, bring in line, bring in tune

—OPPOSITES clash

harmony ▶ noun ① musical harmony EUPHONY, polyphony, tunefulness, melodiousness, mellifluousness ② the harmony of the whole structure BALANCE, symmetry, congruity, consonance, coordination, compatibility ③ the villagers live together in harmony ACCORD, agreement, peace, peacefulness, amity, amicability, friendship, fellowship cooperation, understanding, consensus, unity, sympathy, rapport, like-mindedness, unison, union, concert, oneness, synthesis, formal concord

—OPPOSITES dissonance, disagreement

harness ▶ noun a horse's harness TACK, tackle, equipment, trappings, yoke, *archaic* equipage See list

▶ **verb** ① he harnessed his horse HITCH UP, put in harness, yoke, couple ② attempts to harness solar energy CONTROL, exploit, utilize, use, employ, make use of, put to use, channel, mobilize, apply, capitalize on

Parts of a Horse's Harness or Tack

backband	cinch	head collar
bearing rein	collar	headstall
bellyband	crupper	martingale
bit	curb bit	pelham
blinders	double bit	reins
blinkers	double	saddle
breastband	bridle	saddlepad
breast collar	eggbutt	snaffle (bit)
breastplate	snaffle	surcingle
breeching	frontlet	throatlatch
bridle	girth	traces
bridoon	hackamore	Weymouth bit
cavesson	halter	
cheekpiece	hames	

harp ▶ noun See list at STRING

■ **harp on about** KEEP ON ABOUT, go on about, keep talking about, dwell on, make an issue of, labour the point

harpoon ▶ noun SPEAR, trident, dart, barb, gaff, leister

harridan ▶ noun SHREW, termagant, virago, harpy, vixen, nag, hag, crone, dragon, ogress, fishwife, hellcat, she-devil, gorgon, martinet, tartar, *informal* old bag, old bat, old cow, bitch, battleaxe, witch, *archaic* scold.

harried ▶ **adjective** HARASSED, beleaguered, flustered, agitated, bothered, vexed, beset, plagued, *informal* hassled, up against it

harrow ▶ **verb** DISTRESS, trouble, bother, afflict, grieve, torment, pain, hurt, mortify —OPPOSITES comfort.

harrowing ▶ **adjective** DISTRESSING, distressful, traumatic, upsetting; shocking, disturbing, painful, haunting, appalling, horrifying

harry ▶ **verb** ① they harried the retreating enemy ATTACK, assail, assault; charge, rush, strike, set upon; bombard, shell, strafe. ② the government was harried by a new lobby: HARASS, hound, pressurize, bedevil, torment, pester, bother, worry, badger, nag, plague; *informal* hassle, bug, lean

on, give someone a hard time, get on someone's back

harsh ▶ **adjective** ① *a harsh voice* GRATING, jarring, rasping, strident, raucous, brassy, discordant, unharmonious, unmelodious, screeching, shrill, rough, coarse, hoarse, gruff, croaky ② *harsh colours* GLARING, bright, dazzling, loud, garish, gaudy, lurid, bold ③ *his harsh rule over them* CRUEL, savage, barbarous, despotic, dictatorial, tyrannical, tyrannous, ruthless, merciless, pitiless, relentless, unmerciful, severe, strict, intolerant, illiberal, hard-hearted, heartless, unkind, inhuman, inhumane ④ *they took harsh measures to end the crisis* SEVERE, stringent, firm, stiff, hard, stern, rigorous, grim, uncom promising, punitive, cruel, brutal ⑤ *harsh words* RUDE, discourteous, uncivil, impolite, unfriendly, sharp, bitter, abusive, unkind, disparaging, abrupt, brusque, curt, gruff, short, surly, offhand ⑥ *harsh conditions* AUSTERE, grim, spartan, hard, comfortless, inhospitable, stark, bleak, desolate ⑦ *a harsh winter* HARD, severe, cold, bitter, bleak, freezing, icy, arctic, polar, Siberian ⑧ *harsh cream cleaners* ABRASIVE, strong, caustic, coarse, rough
-OPPOSITES soft, subdued, kind, friendly, comfortable, balmy, mild

harum-scarum ▶ **adjective** RECKLESS, impetuous, impulsive, imprudent, rash, wild, daredevil, madcap, hot-headed, hare-brained, foolhardy, incautious, careless, heedless, informal devil-may-care, poetic/literary temerarious
-OPPOSITES cautious

harvest ▶ **noun** ① *we all helped with the harvest* HARVESTING, reaping, picking, collecting, formal ingathering ② *a poor harvest* YIELD, crop, vintage, fruits, produce ③ *the experiment yielded a meagre harvest* RETURN, result, fruits, product, output, effect, consequence

▶ **verb** ① *he harvested the wheat* GATHER (IN), bring in, reap, pick, collect, formal ingather ② *he harvested many honours* ACQUIRE, obtain, gain, get, earn, accumulate, amass, gather, collect, informal land, net, bag, scoop

hash¹ ▶ **noun** *a whole hash of excuses* MIXTURE, assortment, variety, array, mix, miscellany, selection, medley, mishmash, hotchpotch, ragbag, gallimaufry, pot-pourri, *N Amer* hodgepodge

■ **make a hash of** (informal) BUNGLE, fluff, mess up, make a mess of, mismanage, mishandle, ruin, wreck, informal botch, muff, muck up, foul up, screw up, blow, *Brit informal* make a pig's ear of, cock up, *N Amer informal* flub

hash² ▶ **noun** (informal) *she smokes a lot of hash* See CANNABIS

hassle (informal) ▶ **noun** ① *parking is such a hassle* INCONVENIENCE, bother, nuisance, problem, trouble, struggle, difficulty, annoyance, irritation, thorn in one's flesh/side, fuss, informal aggravation, aggro, stress, headache, pain (in the neck) ② (*N Amer*) *she got into a hassle with that guy* See QUARREL **noun**

▶ **verb** *they were hassling him to pay up* HARASS, pester, nag, keep on at, badger, hound, harry, chivvy, bother, torment, plague, informal bug, give someone a hard time, get on someone's back, breathe down someone's neck; *N. English informal* mither.

hassled ▶ **adjective** (informal) HARASSED, agitated, stressed (out), harried, frayed, flustered; beleaguered, hounded, plagued, bothered, beset, tor-

mented, under pressure, hot and bothered, informal up against it

-OPPOSITES calm

haste ▶ **noun** *working with feverish haste* SPEED, hastiness, hurriedness, swiftness, rapidity, quickness, briskness, formal expedition

-OPPOSITES delay

■ **in haste** QUICKLY, rapidly, fast, speedily, with urgency, in a rush, in a hurry

hasten ▶ **verb** ① *we hastened back home* HURRY, rush, dash, race, fly, shoot, scurry, scramble, dart, bolt, sprint, run, gallop, go fast, go quickly, go like lightning, go hell for leather, informal tear, hare, pelt, scoot, zip, zoom, belt, hotfoot it, leg it, *Brit informal* bomb, bucket, *N Amer informal* hightail, barrel, dated make haste ② *chemicals can hasten ageing* SPEED UP, accelerate, quicken, precipitate, advance, hurry on, step up, spur on, facilitate, aid, assist, boost
-OPPOSITES dawdle, delay

hastily ▶ **adverb** ① *Meg retreated hastily* QUICKLY, hurriedly, fast, swiftly, rapidly, speedily, briskly, without delay, post-haste, with all speed, as fast as possible, at breakneck speed, at a run, hotfoot, on the double; informal double quick, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), nippily, like (greased) lightning, like the wind, like a scalded cat, like a bat out of hell, *Brit informal* at a rate of knots, like the clappers, *N Amer informal* lickety-split ② *an agreement was hastily drawn up* HURRIEDLY, speedily, quickly, on the spur of the moment, prematurely

hasty ▶ **adjective** ① *hasty steps* QUICK, hurried, fast, swift, rapid, speedy, brisk, poetic/literary fleet ② *hasty decisions* RASH, impetuous, impulsive, reckless, precipitate, spur-of-the-moment, premature, unconsidered, unthinking, poetic/literary temerarious

-OPPOSITES slow, considered

hat ▶ **noun** *Brit informal* titter See list

hatch ▶ **verb** ① *the duck hatched her eggs* INCUBATE, brood, sit on ② *the plot that you hatched up last night* DEVISE, conceive, concoct, brew, invent, plan, design, formulate, think up, dream up, informal cook up

hatchet ▶ **noun** AXE, cleaver, mattock, tomahawk, *Brit* chopper

hate ▶ **verb** ① *they hate each other* LOATHE, detest, despise, dislike, abhor, execrate, be repelled by, be unable to bear/stand, find intolerable, recoil from, shrink from, formal abominate, archaic disrelish ② *I hate to bother you* BE SORRY, be reluctant, be loath, be unwilling, be disinclined, regret, dislike
-OPPOSITES love

▶ **noun** ① *feelings of hate* HATRED, loathing, detestation, dislike, distaste, abhorrence, abomination, execration, aversion, hostility, enmity, animosity, antipathy, revulsion, disgust, contempt, odium; archaic disrelish ② *his pet hate is filling in forms* BUGBEAR, bane, bête noire, bogey, aversion, thorn in one's flesh/side; *N Amer* bugaboo.

-OPPOSITES love

hateful ▶ **adjective** DETESTABLE, horrible, horrid, unpleasant, awful, nasty, disagreeable, despicable, objectionable, insufferable, revolting, loathsome, abhorrent, abominable, execrable, odious, disgusting, distasteful, obnoxious, of-



Hats and Headgear

babushka	Dutch cap	rebozo
balacava	fedora	sailor hat
balmoral	fez	shako
baseball cap	flat cap	shapka
beanie	forage cap	shovel hat
bearskin	garrison cap	skimmer
beaver hat	gibus hat	skullcap
beret	gimme cap	slouch hat
billycock	glengarry	snap-brim hat
biretta	hard hat	snood
boater	headband	sola topi
bobble hat	headscarf	sombrero
bonnet	helmet	sou'wester
Borsalino	high hat	Stetson (US trademark)
bowler hat	homburg	stocking cap
busby	hood	stovepipe hat
calash	jester's cap	sun hat
cap	jockey cap	sun helmet
caubeen	juliet cap	taj
chapeau	Kangol	tam
chapeau-bras	(trademark)	tammy
chaplet	keffiyeh	tam-o'shanter
cheese-cutter	kepi	tarboosh
cap	leghorn hat	ten-gallon hat
cirdet	lum hat	teral
cloche	mantilla	tiara
cloth cap	mitre	tignon
cocked hat	mob cap	top hat
coif	mortar board	topi
coolie hat	mutch	topper
coonskin hat	opera hat	toque
coronet	panama	tricorn
cowl	peaked cap	trilby
cockscorn	petasus	tuque
crash helmet	Phrygian	turban
crown	bonnet	veil
deerstalker	picture hat	watch cap
derby	pillbox	wideawake
diadem	pixie hat	wimple
Dolly Varden	poke bonnet	wreath
hat	pork-pie hat	yarmulke
dundee's cap	puggaree	

fensive, vile, heinous, informal ghastly, *Brit informal* beastly, God-awful
 -OPPOSITES delightful.

hatred ► *noun* LOATHING, hate, detestation, dislike, distaste, abhorrence, abomination, execration; aversion, hostility, ill will, ill feeling, enmity, animosity, antipathy, revulsion, disgust, contempt, odium, *archaic* disrelish

haughtiness ► *noun* ARROGANCE, conceit, pride, hubris, hauteur, vanity, self-importance, pomposity, condescension, disdain, contempt, snobbishness, snobbery, superciliousness, *informal* snootiness.
 -OPPOSITES modesty.

haughty ► *adjective* PROUD, arrogant, vain, conceited, snobbish, superior, self-important, pompous, supercilious, condescending, patronizing, scornful, contemptuous, disdainful, full of oneself, above oneself, *informal* stuck-up, snooty, hoity-toity, uppity, uppish, big-headed, high and mighty, la-di-da, *Brit informal* toffee-nosed, *N Amer informal* chesty.
 -OPPOSITES humble.

haul ► *verb* ① she hauled the basket along. DRAG, pull, tug, heave, lug, hump, draw, tow; *informal*

yank ② a contract to haul coal: TRANSPORT, convey, carry, ship, ferry, move, shift

► *noun* the thieves abandoned their haul BOOTY, loot, plunder, spoils, stolen goods, ill-gotten gains, *informal* swag, boodle

haunches ► *plural noun* RUMP, hindquarters, rear (end), seat, buttocks, thighs, *derrière*, *Brit* bottom, *Anatomy* nates; *informal* behind, backside, *Brit informal* bum, botty, *N Amer informal* butt, fanny, tush, *heinie*, *humorous* fundament, posterior

haunt ► *verb* ① a ghost haunts this house APPEAR IN, materialize in, visit ② he haunts street markets FREQUENT, patronize, visit regularly, loiter in, linger in, *informal* hang out in ③ the sight haunted me for years TORMENT, disturb, trouble, worry, plague, burden, beset, beleaguer, prey on, weigh on, gnaw at, nag at, weigh heavily on, obsess, *informal* bug

► *noun* a favourite haunt of artists HANG-OUT, stamping ground, meeting place, territory, domain, resort, retreat, spot, *N Amer* stomping ground, *Brit informal* patch

haunted ► *adjective* ① a haunted house POSSESSED, cursed, ghostly, eerie, *informal* spooky, scary ② his haunted eyes TORMENTED, anguished, troubled, tortured, worried, disturbed

haunting ► *adjective* EVOCATIVE, emotive, affecting, moving, touching, stirring, powerful, poignant, nostalgic, wistful, memorable, unforgettable, indelible

hauteur ► *noun* HAUGHTINESS, superciliousness, arrogance, pride, conceit, snobbery, snobbishness, superiority, self-importance, disdain, condescension, airs and graces, *informal* snootiness, uppishness, *Brit informal* side.

have ► *verb* ① he had a new car POSSESS, own, be in possession of, be the owner of, be blessed with, boast, enjoy; keep, retain, hold, occupy ② the flat has five rooms COMPRISE, consist of, contain, include, incorporate, be composed of, be made up of, encompass, *formal* comprehend ③ they had tea together EAT, consume, devour, partake of, drink, imbibe, quaff, *informal* demolish, dispose of, put away, get outside of, scoff (down), sink, knock back, *N Amer informal* scarf (down/up) ④ she had a letter from Mark RECEIVE, get, be given, be sent, obtain, acquire, come by, take receipt of. ⑤ we've decided to have a party ORGANIZE, arrange, hold, give, host, throw, put on, lay on, set up, fix up ⑥ she's going to have a baby GIVE BIRTH TO, bear, be delivered of, bring into the world; *informal* drop, *archaic* be brought to bed of, beget ⑦ we are having guests for dinner ENTERTAIN, be host to, cater for, receive; invite round/over, ask round/over, wine and dine, accommodate, put up. ⑧ he had trouble finding the restaurant: EXPERIENCE, encounter, face, meet, find, run into, go through, undergo. ⑨ I have a headache: BE SUFFERING FROM, be afflicted by, be affected by, be troubled with, *informal* be a martyr to. ⑩ I had a good time: EXPERIENCE; enjoy. ⑪ many of them have doubts: HARBOUR, entertain, feel, nurse, nurture, sustain, maintain. ⑫ he had little patience. MANIFEST, show, display, exhibit, demonstrate. ⑬ he had them throw Chris out: MAKE, ask to, request to, get to, tell to, require to, induce to, prevail upon someone to; order to, command to, direct to, force to. ⑭ I can't have you insulting me: TOLERATE, endure, bear, stomach,

support, accept, put up with, go along with, take, countenance, permit to, allow to, *informal* stand, abide, *Brit informal* stick, be doing with, *formal* brook ⑮ I have to get up at six MUST, be obliged to, be required to, be compelled to, be forced to, be bound to ⑯ (*informal*) I'd been had TRICK, fool, deceive, cheat, dupe, take in, hood-wink, swindle, *informal* do, con, diddle, rip off, shaft, *N Amer informal* sucker, snooker
-OPPOSITES send, give, visit

■ **have done with** HAVE FINISHED WITH, be done with, be through with, want no more to do with, have given up, have turned one's back on, have washed one's hands of, have no more truck with

■ **have had it** (*informal*) ① they admit that they've had it HAVE NO CHANCE, have no hope, have failed, be finished, be defeated, have lost, *informal* have flopped, have come a cropper ② if you tell anyone, you've had it BE IN TROUBLE, be in for a scolding, *informal* be for the high jump, be in hot water, be in (deep) shtook, *Brit informal* be for it

■ **have nothing on someone** (*informal*) HAVE NO EVIDENCE AGAINST, know nothing bad about, know nothing incriminating about

■ **have someone on** (*Brit informal*) PLAY A TRICK ON, play a joke on, joke with, trick, tease, rag, make a monkey (out) of, pull someone's leg, *informal* kid, rib, take for a ride, lead up the garden path, *Brit informal* wind up, *N Amer informal* put on

■ **have something on** ① she had a blue dress on BE WEARING, be dressed in, be clothed in, be attired in, be decked out in, be robed in ② (*Brit*) I have got a lot on at the moment BE COMMITTED TO, have arranged, have planned, have organized, have fixed up, have on the agenda

haven ▶ **noun** ① they stopped in a small haven ANCHORAGE, harbour, harboursage, port, moorage, mooring, road, roadstead, cove, inlet, bay ② a safe haven REFUGE, retreat, shelter, sanctuary, asylum, port in a storm, oasis, sanctum

haversack ▶ **noun** KNAPSACK, rucksack, backpack, pack

havoc ▶ **noun** ① the hurricane caused havoc DEVASTATION, destruction, damage, desolation, ruination, ruin, disaster, catastrophe ② hyperactive children create havoc DISORDER, chaos, disruption, mayhem, bedlam, pandemonium, turmoil, tumult, uproar, commotion, furore, *N Amer* a three-ring circus, *informal* hullabaloo

hawk ▶ **verb** PEDDLE, sell, tout, vend, trade in, traffic in, push, *Brit informal* flog

hawker ▶ **noun** PEDLAR, trader, seller, dealer, purveyor, vendor, huckster, travelling salesman; *Brit* barrow boy, tout, *informal* pusher

hawk-eyed ▶ **adjective** VIGILANT, observant, alert, sharp-eyed, keen-eyed, eagle-eyed, on the alert, on the lookout, with one's eyes skinned/peeled; *informal* beady-eyed, not missing a trick, on the ball.

-OPPOSITES inattentive

hay ▶ **noun** FORAGE, dried grass, herbage, silage, fodder, straw.

■ **make hay while the sun shines** make the most of an opportunity, take advantage of something, strike while the iron is hot, seize the day, carpe diem.

haywire ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) OUT OF CONTROL, erratic, faulty, malfunctioning, out of order, chaotic, confused, disorganized, disordered, topsy-turvy, *informal* on the blink, *Brit informal* up the spout, shambolic.

hazard ▶ **noun** ① the hazards of radiation DANGER, risk, peril, threat, menace, problem, pitfall ② (*poetic/literary*) the laws of hazard CHANCE, probability, fortuity, luck, fate, destiny, fortune, providence

▶ **verb** ① he hazarded a guess VENTURE, advance, put forward, volunteer, conjecture, speculate, surmise, *formal* opine ② it's too risky to hazard money on RISK, jeopardize, gamble, stake, bet, chance, endanger, imperil

hazardous ▶ **adjective** RISKY, dangerous, unsafe, perilous, precarious, fraught with danger, unpredictable, uncertain, chancy, high-risk, insecure, touch-and-go, *informal* dicey, hairy, *Brit informal* dodgy

-OPPOSITES safe, certain

haze ▶ **noun** ① a thick haze on the sea MIST, fog, cloud, smoke, vapour, steam ② a haze of euphoria BLUR, daze, confusion, muddle, befuddlement

hazy ▶ **adjective** ① a hazy day MISTY, foggy, cloudy, overcast, smoggy, murky ② hazy memories VAGUE, indistinct, unclear, faint, dim, nebulous, shadowy, blurred, fuzzy, confused

head ▶ **noun** ① her head hit the wall skull, cranium, crown, *informal* nut, noodle, noggin, dome, *Brit informal* bonce, *informal* doted conk, noddle ② he had to use his head BRAIN(S), brainpower, intellect, intelligence, wit(s), wisdom, mind, sense, reasoning, common sense, *informal* nous, savvy, grey matter, *Brit informal* loaf, *N Amer informal* smarts ③ she had a good head for business APTITUDE, faculty, talent, gift, capacity, ability, mind, brain ④ the head of the church LEADER, chief, controller, governor, superintendent, headman, commander, captain, director, manager, principal, president, premier, *informal* boss, boss man, kingpin, top dog, Mr Big, skipper, numero uno, head honcho, *Brit informal* gaffer, guv'nor, *N Amer informal* sachem, big kahuna ⑤ the head of the queue FRONT, beginning, start, fore, forefront, top ⑥ the head of the river SOURCE, origin, well head, headspring, headwater, *poetic/literary* wellspring ⑦ beer with a head FROTH, foam, bubbles, spume, fizz, effervescence, suds

-OPPOSITES back, mouth

▶ **adjective** the head water CHIEF, principal, leading, main, first, prime, premier, top, highest, supreme, top-ranking, *N Amer* ranking; *informal* top-notch.

-OPPOSITES subordinate.

▶ **verb** ① the procession was headed by the mayor LEAD, be at the front of; be first, lead the way ② a team headed by a line manager COMMAND, control, lead, run, manage, direct, supervise, superintend, oversee, preside over, rule, govern, captain, *informal* be the boss of. ③ he was heading for the exit MOVE TOWARDS, make for, aim for, go in the direction of, be bound for, make a beeline for; set out for, start out for

■ **at the head of** IN CHARGE OF, controlling, commanding, leading, managing, running, directing, supervising, overseeing; at the wheel of, at the helm of.



■ **come to a head** REACH A CRISIS, come to a climax, reach a critical point, reach a crossroads; *informal* come to the crunch

■ **go to someone's head** ① *the wine has gone to my head* INTOXICATE, befuddle, make drunk, *informal* make woozy, *formal* inebriate ② *her victory went to her head* MAKE CONCEITED, make someone full of themselves, turn someone's head, puff someone up.

■ **head someone/something off** ① *he went to head off the cars* INTERCEPT, divert, deflect, redirect, re-route, draw away, turn away ② *they headed off a row* FORESTALL, avert, ward off, fend off, stave off, hold off, nip in the bud, keep at bay, prevent, avoid, stop

■ **keep one's head** KEEP/STAY CALM, keep one's self-control, maintain one's composure, *informal* keep one's cool, keep one's shirt on

■ **lose one's head** LOSE CONTROL, lose one's composure, lose one's equilibrium, go to pieces, panic, get flustered, get confused, get hysterical, *informal* lose one's cool, freak out, crack up, *Brit informal* go into a (flat) spin, throw a wobbly

headache ► **noun** ① *I've got a headache* PAIN IN THE HEAD, sore head, migraine, neuralgia, *informal* head ② *(informal) their behaviour was a headache for Mr Jones* NUISANCE, trouble, problem, bother, bugbear, pest, worry, inconvenience, vexation, irritant, thorn in one's flesh, *informal* aggravation, hassle, pain (in the neck), bind

head case ► **noun** (*informal*) MANIAC, lunatic, madman, madwoman, *informal* loony, nut, nut-case, fruitcake, crank, crackpot, *Brit informal* nutter, *N Amer informal* screwball, crazy, kook, wacko, *N Amer & Austral /NZ informal* dingbat

head first ► **adjective & adverb** ① *she dived head first into the water*: HEADLONG, on one's head ② *don't plunge head first into a relationship* WITH OUT THINKING, without forethought, precipitously, impetuously, rashly, recklessly, heedlessly, hastily, headlong
-OPPOSITES cautiously

headgear ► **noun**. See list at HAT

heading ► **noun** ① *chapter headings* TITLE, caption, legend, subtitle, sub-heading, rubric, headline ② *this topic falls under four main headings*: CATEGORY, division, classification, class, section, group, grouping, subject, topic

headland ► **noun** CAPE, promontory, point, head, foreland, peninsula, ness, bluff, *Scottish* mull

headlong ► **adverb** ① *he fell headlong into the tent*: HEAD FIRST, on one's head ② *she rushed headlong to join the craze* WITHOUT THINKING, without forethought, precipitously, impetuously, rashly, recklessly, carelessly, heedlessly, hastily
-OPPOSITES cautiously

► **adjective** a headlong dash. BREAKNECK, whirlwind, reckless, precipitate, precipitous, hasty, careless, heedless
-OPPOSITES cautious

headman ► **noun** CHIEF, chieftain, leader, head, ruler, overlord, master, commander, lord, potentate; *N Amer* sachem.
-OPPOSITES underling.

head-on ► **adjective** ① *a head-on collision* DIRECT, front-to-front ② *a head-on confrontation*: DIRECT, face to face, eyeball to eyeball, personal.

headquarters ► **plural noun** HEAD OFFICE, main office, HQ, base, nerve centre, mission control, command post

headstone ► **noun** GRAVESTONE, tombstone, stone, monument, memorial

headstrong ► **adjective** WILFUL, strong-willed, stubborn, obstinate, unyielding, obdurate, contrary, perverse, wayward, unruly, *formal* refractory
-OPPOSITES tractable

head teacher ► **noun** HEAD, headmaster, headmistress, principal, director, president, governor; *Brit* master

headway

■ **make headway** MAKE PROGRESS, progress, make strides, gain ground, advance, proceed, move, get ahead, come along, take shape

heady ► **adjective** ① *heady wine*: POTENT, intoxicating, strong, alcoholic, vinous, *formal* spirituous ② *the heady days of my youth* EXHILARATING, exciting, thrilling, stimulating, invigorating, electrifying, rousing, *informal* mind-blowing.
-OPPOSITES boring

heal ► **verb** ① *he heals sick people* MAKE BETTER, make well, cure, treat, restore to health ② *his knee had healed*: GET BETTER, get well, be cured, recover, mend, improve. ③ *time will heal the pain of grief* ALLEVIATE, ease, assuage, palliate, relieve, help, lessen, mitigate, attenuate, allay ④ *we tried to heal the rift*: PUT RIGHT, set right, repair, remedy, resolve, correct, settle, conciliate, reconcile, harmonize; *informal* patch up
-OPPOSITES aggravate, worsen

healing ► **adjective** CURATIVE, therapeutic, medicinal, remedial, corrective, reparative, restorative, tonic, health-giving, healthful, beneficial
-OPPOSITES harmful

health ► **noun** ① *he was restored to health* WELL-BEING, healthiness, fitness, good condition, good shape, fine fettle, strength, vigour ② *bad health forced him to retire*: PHYSICAL STATE, physical shape, condition, constitution
-OPPOSITES illness

healthful ► **adjective** HEALTHY, health-giving, beneficial, good for one, salubrious, wholesome, nourishing, nutritious
-OPPOSITES unhealthy

healthy ► **adjective** ① *a healthy baby* WELL, in good health, fine, fit, in good trim, in good shape, in fine fettle, in tip-top condition, blooming, thriving, hardy, robust, strong, vigorous, fighting fit, fit as a fiddle, the picture of health, *Brit* in rude health, *informal* OK, in the pink, right as rain ② *a healthy diet*. HEALTH-GIVING, healthful, good for one; wholesome, nutritious, nourishing; beneficial, salubrious
-OPPOSITES ill, unwholesome

heap ► **noun** ① *a heap of boxes*: PILE, stack, mound, mountain, mass, quantity, load, lot, jumble, collection, accumulation, assemblage, store, hoard. ② *(informal) we have heaps of room*: A LOT, a fair amount, much, plenty, a good deal, a great deal, an abundance, a wealth, a profusion, (a great) many, a large number, numerous, scores; *informal* hundreds, thousands, millions, a load, loads, loads, a pile, piles, oodles, stacks, lots, masses, scads, reams, wads, pots, oceans, miles, tons, zillions; *Brit informal* a shedload, lashings.

► **verb** she heaped logs on the fire **PILE** (UP), stack (up), make a mound of, assemble, collect

■ **heap something on/upon** they heaped praise on her **SHOWER** ON, lavish on, load on, bestow on, confer on, give, grant, vouchsafe, favour with

hear ► **verb** ① she can't hear **PERCEIVE** SOUND, have hearing ② she could hear men's voices **PERCEIVE**, make out, discern, catch, get, apprehend, overhear ③ they heard that I had moved **BE INFORMED**, be told, find out, discover, learn, gather, glean, ascertain, get word, get wind ④ a jury heard the case **TRY**, judge, adjudicate (on), adjudge, pass judgement on

hearing ► **noun** ① acute hearing **ABILITY** TO HEAR, auditory perception, sense of hearing, aural faculty ② she moved out of hearing **EAR SHOT**, hearing distance, hearing range, auditory range ③ I had a fair hearing **CHANCE** TO SPEAK, opportunity to be heard, interview, audience ④ he gave evidence at the hearing **TRIAL**, court case, inquiry, inquest, tribunal, investigation, inquisition

—RELATED TERMS acoustic, auditory, aural

hearsay ► **noun** RUMOUR, gossip, tittle-tattle, tattle, idle talk, stories, tales, on dit, *informal* the grapevine, *Brit informal* goss, *N Amer informal* scuttlebutt

heart ► **noun** ① his heart stopped beating *informal* ticker See list ② he poured out his heart **EMOTIONS**, feelings, sentiments, soul, mind, bosom, breast, love, affection, passion ③ he has no heart **COMPASSION**, sympathy, humanity, feeling(s), fellow feeling, brotherly love, tenderness, empathy, understanding, kindness, goodwill ④ they may lose heart **ENTHUSIASM**, keenness, eagerness, spirit, determination, resolve, purpose, courage, nerve, will power, fortitude, *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle ⑤ the heart of the city **CENTRE**, middle, hub, core, nucleus, eye, bosom ⑥ the heart of the matter **ESSENCE**, crux, core, nub, root, gist, meat, marrow, pith, substance, kernel, *informal* nitty-gritty

—RELATED TERMS cardiac, coronary

—OPPOSITES edge

■ **after one's own heart** LIKE-MINDED, of the same mind, kindred, compatible, congenial, sharing one's tastes, on the same wavelength

■ **at heart** DEEP DOWN, basically, fundamentally, essentially, in essence, intrinsically, really, actually, truly, in fact, *informal* when you get right down to it

■ **(off) by heart** FROM MEMORY, off pat, by rote, word for word, verbatim, parrot-fashion, word-perfect

■ **do one's heart good** CHEER (UP), please, gladden, make one happy, delight, hearten, gratify, make one feel good, give one a lift, *informal* give someone a buzz, tickle someone pink, buck up

■ **eat one's heart out** PINE, long, ache, brood, mope, fret, sigh, sorrow, yearn, agonize, grieve, mourn, lament

■ **from the (bottom of one's) heart** SINCERELY, earnestly, fervently, passionately, truly, genuinely, heartily, with all sincerity

■ **give/lose one's heart to** FALL IN LOVE WITH, be smitten by; *informal* fall for, fall head over heels for, be swept off one's feet by, develop a crush on

■ **have a change of heart** CHANGE ONE'S MIND, change one's tune, have second thoughts, have a rethink, think again, think twice; *informal* get cold feet

■ **have a heart** BE COMPASSIONATE, be kind, be merciful, be lenient, be sympathetic, be considerate, have mercy

■ **heart and soul** WHOLEHEARTEDLY, enthusiastically, eagerly, zealously, absolutely, completely, entirely, fully, utterly, to the hilt, one hundred per cent

■ **take heart** BE ENCOURAGED, be heartened, be comforted, cheer up, brighten up, perk up, liven up, revive; *informal* buck up

■ **with one's heart in one's mouth** IN ALARM, in fear, fearfully, apprehensively, on edge, with trepidation, in suspense, in a cold sweat, with bated breath, on tenterhooks, *informal* with butterflies in one's stomach, in a state, in a stew, in a sweat, *Brit informal* having kittens, *N Amer informal* in a twit

Parts of the Heart

aortic valve
atrium
epicardium
mitral valve
myocardium
pericardium
pulmonary artery
pulmonary vein

semilunar valve
sino-atrial node
tricuspid valve
upper chamber
vena cava
ventricle
ventricular septum

heartache ► **noun** ANGUISH, grief, suffering, distress, unhappiness, misery, sorrow, sadness, heartbreak, pain, hurt, agony, angst, despondency, despair, woe, desolation

—OPPOSITES happiness

heartbreak ► **noun**. See HEARTACHE

heartbreaking ► **adjective** DISTRESSING, upsetting, disturbing, heart-rending, sad, tragic, painful, traumatic, agonizing, harrowing, pitiful, poignant, plaintive, moving, tear-jerking

—OPPOSITES comforting

heartbroken ► **adjective** ANGUISHED, devastated, broken-hearted, heavy-hearted, grieving, grief-stricken, inconsolable, crushed, shattered, desolate, despairing; upset, distressed, miserable, sorrowful, sad, downcast, disconsolate, crestfallen, despondent, *informal* choked, down in the mouth, down in the dumps, cu: up

heartburn ► **noun** INDIGESTION, dyspepsia, pyrosis

hearten ► **verb** CHEER (UP), encourage, raise someone's spirits, boost, buoy up, perk up, ginger up, inspire, uplift, elate, comfort, reassure, *informal* buck up, pep up

heartfelt ► **adjective** SINCERE, genuine, from the heart, earnest, profound, deep, wholehearted, ardent, fervent, passionate, enthusiastic, eager, honest, bona fide

—OPPOSITES insincere

heartily ► **adverb** ① we heartily welcome the changes **WHOLEHEARTEDLY**, sincerely, genuinely, warmly, profoundly, with all one's heart, eagerly, enthusiastically, earnestly, ardently ② they were heartily sick of her **VERY**, extremely, thoroughly, completely, absolutely, really, exceedingly, immensely, most, downright; *N*

Amer quite, *informal* right, seriously, *Brit informal* jolly, dead, well, *N Amer informal* real, mighty

heartless ▶ **adjective** UNFEELING, unsympathetic, unkind, uncaring, unconcerned, insensitive, inconsiderate, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, cold-hearted, mean-spirited, cold, callous, cruel, merciless, pitiless, inhuman
—OPPOSITES compassionate

heart-rending ▶ **adjective** DISTRESSING, upsetting, disturbing, heartbreaking, sad, tragic, painful, traumatic, harrowing, pitiful, poignant, plaintive, moving, tear-jerking

heartsick ▶ **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) DESPONDENT, dejected, depressed, desolate, downcast, forlorn, unhappy, sad, upset, miserable, wretched, woebegone, inconsolable, grieving, grief-stricken, heavy-hearted, broken-hearted
—OPPOSITES happy

heart-throb ▶ **noun** (*informal*) IDOL, pin-up, star, superstar, hero, *informal* dreamboat

heart-to-heart ▶ **adjective** a heart-to-heart chat INTIMATE, personal, man-to-man, woman-to-woman, candid, honest, truthful, sincere

▶ **noun** they had a long heart-to-heart PRIVATE CONVERSATION, tête-à-tête, one-to-one, head-to-head, chat, talk, word, *informal* confab, *Brit informal* natter, chinwag

heart-warming ▶ **adjective** TOUCHING, moving, heartening, stirring, uplifting, pleasing, cheering, gladdening, encouraging, gratifying
—OPPOSITES distressing

hearty ▶ **adjective** ① a hearty character EXUBERANT, jovial, ebullient, cheerful, uninhibited, effusive, lively, loud, animated, vivacious, energetic, spirited, dynamic, enthusiastic, eager, warm, cordial, friendly, affable, amiable, good natured ② hearty congratulations WHOLEHEARTED, heartfelt, sincere, genuine, real, true, earnest, fervent, ardent, enthusiastic ③ a hearty woman of sixty-five ROBUST, healthy, hardy, fit, flourishing, blooming, fighting fit, fit as a fiddle, vigorous, sturdy, strong, *Brit* in rude health, *informal* full of vim ④ a hearty meal SUBSTANTIAL, large, ample, sizeable, filling, generous, square, solid, healthy
—OPPOSITES introverted, half-hearted, frail, light

heat ▶ **noun** ① a plant sensitive to heat WARMTH, hotness, warmth, high temperature, hot weather, warm weather, sultriness, mugginess, humidity, heatwave, hot spell ② he took the heat out of the dispute PASSION, intensity, vehemence, warmth, fervour, fervency, ardency, enthusiasm, excitement, agitation, anger, fury
—RELATED TERMS thermal
—OPPOSITES cold, apathy

▶ **verb** ① the food was heated WARM (UP), heat up, make hot, make warm, reheat, cook, *Brit informal* hot up ② the pipes expand as they heat up BECOME HOT, become warm, get hotter, get warmer, increase in temperature, *Brit informal* hot up ③ he calmed down as quickly as he had heated up BECOME IMPASSIONED, become excited, become animated, get angry, become enraged
—OPPOSITES cool

heated ▶ **adjective** ① a heated swimming pool MADE WARM, made hot, warmed up, reheated, hot, piping hot ② a heated argument: VEHEMENT, passionate, impassioned, animated, spirited, 'lively', intense, fiery, angry, bitter, furious,

fierce, stormy, tempestuous ③ Robert grew heated as he spoke of the risks EXCITED, animated, inflamed, worked up, wound up, keyed up, *informal* het up, in a state

heater ▶ **noun** RADIATOR, convector, fire, brazier, warmer

heath ▶ **noun** MOOR, heathland, moorland, scrub, common land

heathen ▶ **noun** ① bringing Christianity to the heathens PAGAN, infidel, idolater, idolatress, unbeliever, non-believer, disbeliever, atheist, agnostic, sceptic, heretic, *archaic* paynum ② heathens who spoil good whisky with ice PHILISTINE, boor, oaf, ignoramus, lout, vulgarian, plebeian, *informal* pleb, peasant, yahoo, oik
—OPPOSITES believer

▶ **adjective** a heathen practice PAGAN, infidel, idolatrous, heathenish, unbelieving, non-believing, atheistic, agnostic, heretical, faithless, godless, irreligious, ungodly, unholy, barbarian, barbarous, uncivilized, uncultured, primitive, ignorant, philistine

heave ▶ **verb** ① she heaved the sofa backwards HAUL, pull, lug, drag, draw, tug, heft, *informal* hump, yank ② (*informal*) she heaved a brick at him THROW, fling, cast, toss, hurl, lob, pitch, *informal* chuck, sling; *Brit informal* bung, *N English & Austral informal* hoy, *NZ informal* bish ③ he heaved a sigh of relief LET OUT, breathe, give, sigh, emit, utter ④ the sea heaved RISE AND FALL, roll, swell, surge, churn, seethe, swirl ⑤ she heaved into the sink RETCH, gag, vomit, bring up, cough up, *Brit* be sick, *N Amer* get sick, *informal* throw up, puke, chunder, chuck up, hurl, spew, *Brit informal* sick up, *Scottish informal* boke, *N Amer informal* barf, upchuck

heaven ▶ **noun** ① the good will have a place in heaven PARADISE, nirvana, Zion, the hereafter, the next world, the next life, the afterworld, Elysium, the Elysian Fields, Valhalla, *poetic/literary* the empyrean ② a good book is my idea of heaven BLISS, ecstasy, rapture, contentment, happiness, delight, joy, seventh heaven, paradise, Utopia, nirvana ③ (*poetic/literary*) he observed the heavens THE SKY, the skies, the upper atmosphere, the stratosphere, *poetic/literary* the firmament, the vault of heaven, the blue, the (wide) blue yonder, the welkin, the empyrean, the azure, the upper regions, the sphere
—RELATED TERMS celestial
—OPPOSITES hell, misery

■ in seventh heaven ECSTATIC, euphoric, thrilled, elated, delighted, overjoyed, on cloud nine, walking on air, jubilant, rapturous, jumping for joy, transported, delirious, blissful, *informal* over the moon, on top of the world, on a high, tickled pink, as pleased as Punch, cock-a-hoop, as happy as a sandboy; *Brit informal* as happy as Larry, *N Amer informal* as happy as a clam, *Austral informal* wrapped

■ move heaven and earth TRY ONE'S HARDEST, do one's best, do one's utmost, do all one can, give one's all, spare no effort, put oneself out, strive, exert oneself, work hard, *informal* bend over backwards, do one's damndest, go all out, bust a gut

heavenly ▶ **adjective** ① heavenly choirs: DIVINE, holy, celestial; angelic, seraphic, cherubic; *poetic/literary* empyrean. ② heavenly constellations: CELESTIAL, cosmic, stellar; planetary; extraterrestrial, superterrestrial. ③ (*informal*) a heavenly

morning DELIGHTFUL, wonderful, glorious, perfect, excellent, sublime, idyllic, first-class, first-rate, blissful, pleasurable, enjoyable, exquisite, beautiful, lovely, gorgeous, enchanting, *informal* divine, super, great, fantastic, fabulous, terrific –OPPOSITES mortal, infernal, terrestrial, dreadful

heaven-sent ► **adjective** AUSPICIOUS, providential, propitious, felicitous, opportune, golden, favourable, advantageous, serendipitous, lucky, happy, good, fortunate
–OPPOSITES inopportune

heavily ► **adverb** ① *Dad walked heavily* LABORIOUSLY, slowly, ponderously, woodenly, stiffly, with difficulty, painfully, awkwardly, clumsily ② *we were heavily defeated* DECISIVELY, conclusively, roundly, soundly, utterly, completely, thoroughly ③ *he drank heavily* EXCESSIVELY, to excess, immoderately, copiously, inordinately, intemperately, a great deal, too much, overmuch ④ *the area is heavily planted with trees* DENSELY, closely, thickly ⑤ *I became heavily involved* DEEPLY, very, extremely, greatly, exceedingly, tremendously, profoundly, *informal* terribly, seriously, *Brit informal* jolly, ever so
–OPPOSITES easily, narrowly, moderately

heavy ► **adjective** ① *a heavy box* WEIGHTY, hefty, substantial, ponderous, solid, dense, leaden, burdensome, *informal* hulking, weighing a ton ② *a heavy man* OVERWEIGHT, fat, obese, corpulent, large, bulky, stout, stocky, portly, plump, paunchy, fleshy, *informal* hulking, tubby, beefy, porky, *Brit informal* podgy ③ *a heavy blow to the head* FORCEFUL, hard, strong, violent, powerful, vigorous, mighty, hefty, sharp, smart, severe ④ *a gardener did the heavy work for me* ARDUOUS, hard, physical, laborious, difficult, strenuous, demanding, tough, onerous, back-breaking, gruelling, *archaic* toilsome ⑤ *a heavy burden of responsibility* ONEROUS, burdensome, demanding, challenging, difficult, formidable, weighty, worrisome, stressful, trying, crushing, oppressive ⑥ *heavy fog* DENSE, thick, soupy, murky, impenetrable ⑦ *a heavy sky* OVERCAST, cloudy, clouded, grey, dull, gloomy, murky, dark, black, stormy, leaden, louring ⑧ *heavy rain* TORRENTIAL, relentless, copious, teeming, severe ⑨ *heavy soil* CLAY, clayey, muddy, sticky, wet, *Brit* claggy, *informal* cloggy ⑩ *a heavy fine* SIZEABLE, hefty, substantial, colossal, big, considerable, stiff, *informal* tidy, whopping, steep, astronomical ⑪ *heavy seas* TEMPESTUOUS, turbulent, rough, wild, stormy, choppy, squally ⑫ *heavy fighting* INTENSE, fierce, vigorous, relentless, all-out, severe, serious ⑬ *a heavy drinker* IMMODERATE, excessive, intemperate, overindulgent, unrestrained, uncontrolled ⑭ *a heavy meal* SUBSTANTIAL, filling, hearty, large, big, ample, sizeable, generous, square, solid ⑮ *their diet is heavy on vegetables* ABOUNDING IN, abundant in, lavish with, profuse with, unstinting with, using a lot of. ⑯ *he felt heavy and very tired*: LETHARGIC, listless, sluggish, torpid, languid, apathetic ⑰ *a heavy heart* SAD, sorrowful, melancholy, gloomy, downcast, downhearted, heartbroken, dejected, disconsolate, demoralized, despondent, depressed, crestfallen, desolate, down, *informal* blue; *poetic/literary* dolorous. ⑱ *these poems are rather heavy* TEDIOUS, difficult, dull, dry, serious, heavy going, dreary, boring, turgid, uninteresting; *informal* deadly. ⑲ *branches heavy with blossoms*

LADEN, loaded, covered, filled, groaning, bursting, teeming, abounding ⑳ *a heavy crop* BOUNTIFUL, plentiful, abundant, large, bumper, rich, copious, considerable, sizeable, profuse, *informal* whopping, *poetic/literary* plenteous ㉑ *he has heavy features* COARSE, rough, rough-hewn, unrefined, rugged, craggy
–OPPOSITES light, thin, gentle, easy, bright, friable, small, calm, moderate, energetic, cheerful, meagre, delicate

heavy-handed ► **adjective** ① *they are heavy-handed with the equipment* CLUMSY, awkward, maladroit, unhandy, inept, unskilful, *informal* ham-handed, ham-fisted, cack-handed, *Brit informal* all (fingers and) thumbs ② *heavy-handed policing* INSENSITIVE, oppressive, overbearing, high-handed, harsh, stern, severe, tyrannical, despotic, ruthless, merciless, tactless, undiplomatic, inept
–OPPOSITES dexterous, sensitive

heavy-hearted ► **adjective** MELANCHOLY, sad, sorrowful, mournful, gloomy, depressed, desolate, despondent, dejected, downhearted, downcast, crestfallen, disconsolate, glum, miserable, wretched, dismal, morose, woeful, woe-begone, doleful, unhappy, *informal* down in the dumps, down in the mouth, blue, *poetic/literary* dolorous
–OPPOSITES cheerful

heckle ► **verb** JEER, taunt, jibe at, shout down, boo, hiss, harass, *Brit & Austral/NZ* barrack, *informal* give someone a hard time
–OPPOSITES cheer

hectic ► **adjective** FRANTIC, frenetic, frenzied, feverish, manic, busy, active, fast and furious, lively, brisk, bustling, buzzing
–OPPOSITES leisurely

hector ► **verb** BULLY, intimidate, browbeat, harass, torment, plague, coerce, pressurize, strong-arm, threaten, menace, *informal* bulldoze, *N Amer informal* bullyrag

hedge ► **noun** ① *high hedges* HEDGEROW, bushes, fence, windbreak, *Brit* quickset ② *an excellent hedge against a fall in sterling* SAFEGUARD, protection, shield, screen, guard, buffer, cushion, insurance, security ③ *his analysis is full of hedges* EQUIVOCATION, evasion, fudge, quibble, qualification, temporizing, uncertainty, prevarication, vagueness

► **verb** ① *fields hedged with hawthorn* SURROUND, enclose, encircle, ring, border, edge, bound ② *she was hedged in by her education* CONFINE, restrict, limit, hinder, obstruct, impede, constrain, trap, hem in ③ *he hedged at every new question* PREVARICATE, equivocate, vacillate, quibble, hesitate, stall, dodge the issue, be non-committal, be evasive, be vague, beat about the bush, pussyfoot around, mince one's words, *Brit* hum and haw, *informal* sit on the fence, duck the question ④ *the company hedged its position on the market* SAFEGUARD, protect, shield, guard, cushion, cover, insure

hedonism ► **noun** SELF-INDULGENCE, pleasure-seeking, self-gratification, lotus-eating, sybaritism, intemperance, immoderation, extravagance, luxury, high living
–OPPOSITES self-restraint.

hedonist ► **noun** SYBARITE, sensualist, voluptuary, pleasure-seeker, bon viveur, bon vivant, epicure, gastronome



-OPPOSITES ascetic

hedonistic ▶ **adjective** SELF-INDULGENT, pleasure-seeking, sybaritic, lotus-eating, epicurean, unrestrained, intemperate, immoderate, extravagant, decadent

heed ▶ **verb** heed the warnings PAY ATTENTION TO, take notice of, take note of, pay heed to, attend to, listen to, bear in mind, be mindful of, mind, mark, consider, take into account, follow, obey, adhere to, abide by, observe, take to heart, be alert to

-OPPOSITES disregard

▶ **noun** he paid no heed ATTENTION, notice, note, regard, consideration, thought, care

heedful ▶ **adjective** ATTENTIVE, careful, mindful, cautious, prudent, circumspect, alert, aware, wary, chary, watchful, vigilant, on guard, on the alert

heedless ▶ **adjective** UNMINDFUL, taking no notice, paying no heed, unheeding, disregarding, neglectful, oblivious, inattentive, blind, deaf, incautious, imprudent, rash, reckless, foolhardy, improvident, unwary

heel ▶ **noun** ① shoes with low heels heel piece, wedge, stiletto ② the heel of a loaf TAIL END, end, crust, remnant, remainder, remains ③ (informal, dated) you're such a heel SCOUNDREL, rogue, rascal, reprobate, miscreant, informal beast, rat, louse, swine, snake, scumbag, stinker, *Brit informal, dated* rotter, bounder, blighter, *dated* cad, blackguard

■ **take to one's heels** RUN AWAY, run off, make a run for it, take flight, take off, make a break for it, flee, make one's getaway, escape, informal beat it, clear off, vamoose, skedaddle, split, cut and run, leg it, hotfoot it, show a clean pair of heels, scam, *Brit informal* do a runner, scarp, do a bunk, *N Amer informal* light out, bug out, *Austral informal* shoot through

heel ▶ **verb** the ship heeled to starboard LEAN OVER, list, careen, tilt, tip, incline, keel over

heft ▶ **verb** LIFT (UP), raise (up), heave, hoist, haul, carry, lug, informal cart, hump, tote

hefty ▶ **adjective** ① a hefty young man BURLY, heavy, sturdy, strapping, bulky, brawny, husky, strong, muscular, large, big, solid, well built, portly, stout, informal hulking, hunky, beefy ② a hefty kick POWERFUL, violent, hard, forceful, heavy, mighty ③ hefty loads of timber HEAVY, weighty, bulky, big, large, substantial, massive, ponderous; unwieldy, cumbersome, burdensome, informal hulking ④ a hefty fine SUBSTANTIAL, sizeable, considerable, stiff, extortionate, large, excessive, informal steep, astronomical, whopping

-OPPOSITES slight, feeble, light, small

hegemony ▶ **noun** LEADERSHIP, dominance, dominion, supremacy, authority, mastery, control, power, sway, rule, sovereignty

height ▶ **noun** ① the height of the wall HIGHNESS, tallness, extent upwards, vertical measurement, elevation, stature, altitude ② the mountain heights SUMMIT, top, peak, crest, crown, tip, cap, pinnacle, apex, brow, ridge. ③ the height of their fame HIGHEST POINT, crowning moment, peak, acme, zenith, apogee, pinnacle, climax, high water mark ④ the height of bad manners: EPITOME, acme, zenith, quintessence, very limit; ultimate, utmost. ⑤ he is terrified of heights HIGH PLACES, high ground, precipices, cliffs

-OPPOSITES width, nadir

heighten ▶ **verb** ① the roof had to be heightened MAKE HIGHER, raise, lift (up), elevate ② her pleasure was heightened by guilt INTENSIFY, increase, enhance, add to, augment, boost, strengthen, deepen, magnify, amplify, reinforce

-OPPOSITES lower, reduce

heinous ▶ **adjective** ODIOS, wicked, evil, atrocious, monstrous, abominable, detestable, contemptible, reprehensible, despicable, egregious, horrific, terrible, awful, abhorrent, loathsome, hideous, unspeakable, execrable, iniquitous, villainous, beyond the pale

-OPPOSITES admirable

heir, heiress ▶ **noun** SUCCESSOR, next in line, inheritor, beneficiary, legatee; descendant, scion, Law devisee, English Law coparcener, Scottish Law hentor

helix ▶ **noun** SPIRAL, coil, corkscrew, curl, twist, gyre, whorl, convolution

hell ▶ **noun** ① they feared h-ll THE NETHERWORLD, the Inferno, the infernal regions, the abyss, eternal damnation, perdition, hellfire, fire and brimstone, Hades, Acheron, Gehenna, Tophet, Sheol, poetic/literary the pit ② he made her life hell A MISERY, torture, agony, a torment, a nightmare, an ordeal, anguish, wretchedness, woe

-RELATED TERMS infernal

-OPPOSITES heaven, paradise

■ **give someone hell** (informal) ① when I found out I gave him hell REPRIMAND SEVERELY, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove, scold, berate, remonstrate with, reprehend, take to task, lambaste, read someone the Riot Act, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals, informal tell off, dress down, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, let someone have it, bawl out, come down hard on, lay into, blast, *Brit informal* tick off, have a go at, carpet, give someone a rollicking, give someone a mouthful, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, *N Amer informal* chew out; formal castigate ② she gave me hell when I was her junior HARASS, hound, plague, harry, bother, trouble, bully, intimidate, pick on, victimize, terrorize, informal hassle, give someone a hard time

■ **hell for leather** VERY FAST, very quickly, rapidly, speedily, swiftly, hurriedly, at full tilt, at full pelt, headlong, hotfoot, post-haste, helter-skelter, at the speed of light, at breakneck speed, informal like a bat out of hell, like the wind, like greased lightning, like a bomb, *Brit informal* like the clappers, at a rate of knots; *N Amer informal* lickety-split

■ **raise hell** (informal) ① they were hollering and raising hell CAUSE A DISTURBANCE, cause a commotion, be noisy, run riot, run wild, go on the rampage, be out of control; informal raise the roof ② he raised hell with the planners REMONSTRATE, expostulate, be angry, be furious, argue, informal kick up a fuss, kick up a stink

hell-bent ▶ **adjective** INTENT, bent, determined, (dead) set, insistent, fixed, resolved; single-minded, fixated.

-OPPOSITES half-hearted

hellish ▶ **adjective** ① the hellish face of Death: INFERNAL, Hadean; diabolical, fiendish, satanic, demonic; evil, wicked. ② (informal) a hellish week HORRIBLE, rotten, awful, terrible, dreadful, ghastly, horrid, vile, foul, appalling, atrocious,

horrendous, frightful, difficult, unpleasant, nasty, disagreeable, stressful, taxing, tough, hard, frustrating, fraught, traumatic, gruelling, informal murderous, lousy, *Brit informal* beastly; *N Amer informal* hellacious

—OPPOSITES angelic, wonderful

► **adverb** (*Brit informal*) *it's hellish hard work* EXTREMELY, very, exceedingly, exceptionally, tremendously, immensely, intensely, unusually, decidedly, particularly, really, truly, mightily, most, so, *N English* right, informal terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, majorly, seriously, ultra, oh-so, damn, damned, *Brit informal* ever so, well, bloody, dead, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful, informal, dated devilish, archaic exceeding

—OPPOSITES moderately

helm ► **noun** *he took the helm* TILLER, wheel, steering gear, rudder

■ **at the helm** IN CHARGE, in command, in control, responsible, in authority, at the wheel, in the driving seat, in the saddle, informal holding the reins, running the show, calling the shots

help ► **verb** ① *can you help me please?* ASSIST, aid, lend a (helping) hand to, give assistance to, come to the aid of, be of service to, be of use to, do someone a favour, do someone a service, do someone a good turn, bail someone out, come to the rescue, give someone a leg up, rally round, pitch in, informal get someone out of a tight spot, save someone's bacon, save someone's skin ② *this credit card helps cancer research* SUPPORT, contribute to, give money to, donate to, promote, boost, back, further the interests of, *N Amer informal* bankroll ③ *sore throats are helped by lozenges* RELIEVE, soothe, ease, alleviate, make better, improve, assuage, lessen, remedy, cure, heal

—OPPOSITES hinder, impede, worsen

► **noun** ① *this could be of help to you* ASSISTANCE, aid, a helping hand, support, succour, advice, guidance, benefit, use, advantage, service, comfort, informal a shot in the arm ② *he sought help for his eczema* RELIEF, alleviation, improvement, assuagement, healing, a remedy, a cure, a restorative ③ *they treated the help badly* DOMESTIC WORKER, domestic servant, cleaner, cleaning lady, home help, maid, housemaid, hired help, helper, *Brit informal* daily (woman), skivvy, Mrs Mop, *Brit dated* charwoman, charlady, char

■ **cannot help** *he could not help laughing* BE UNABLE TO STOP, be unable to refrain from, be unable to keep from

■ **help oneself** TO STEAL, take, appropriate, 'borrow', 'liberate', pocket, purloin, commandeer, informal swipe, nab, filch, snaffle, walk off with, run off with, *Brit informal* nick, pinch, whip, knock off

helper ► **noun** ASSISTANT, aide, helpmate, helpmeet, deputy, auxiliary, second, right-hand man/woman, attendant, acolyte, co-worker, workmate, teammate, associate, colleague, partner; informal sidekick

helpful ► **adjective** ① *the staff are helpful* OBLIGING, eager to please, kind, accommodating, supportive, cooperative, sympathetic, neighbourly, charitable. ② *we found your comments helpful* USEFUL, of use, beneficial, valuable, profitable, fruitful, advantageous, worthwhile, constructive; informative, instructive. ③ *a helpful new tool* HANDY, useful, convenient, prac-

tical, easy-to-use, functional, serviceable, informal neat, nifty

—OPPOSITES unsympathetic, useless, inconvenient

helping ► **noun** PORTION, serving, piece, slice, share, ration, allocation, informal dollop

helpless ► **adjective** DEPENDENT, incapable, powerless, impotent, weak, defenceless, vulnerable, exposed, unprotected, open to attack, paralysed, disabled

—OPPOSITES independent

helpmate, helpmeet ► **noun** HELPER, assistant, attendant, supporter, friend, companion, spouse, partner, mate, husband, wife

helter-skelter ► **adverb** *they ran helter-skelter down the hill* HEADLONG, pell-mell, hotfoot, post-haste, hastily, hurriedly, at full pelt, at full tilt, hell for leather, recklessly, precipitately, heedlessly, wildly, informal like a bat out of hell, like the wind, like greased lightning, like a bomb, *Brit informal* like the clappers, at a rate of knots, *N Amer informal* lickety-split

► **adjective** *a helter-skelter collection of houses* DISORDERED, disorderly, chaotic, muddled, jumbled, untidy, haphazard, disorganized, topsyturvy, informal higgledy-piggledy, *Brit informal* shambolic

—OPPOSITES orderly

hem ► **noun** *the hem of her dress* EDGE, edging, border, trim, trimming

► **verb** *Nan taught me to hem skirts* EDGE, trim

■ **hem someone/something in** ① *a bay hemmed in by pine trees* SURROUND, edge, encircle, circle, ring, enclose, skirt, fringe, encompass ② *we were hemmed in by the rules* RESTRICT, confine, trap, hedge in, fence in, constrain, restrain, limit, curb, check

he-man ► **noun** (informal) MUSCLEMAN, strongman, macho man, iron man, Hercules, Samson, Tarzan, informal hunk, tough guy, beefcake, bruiser

—OPPOSITES wimp

hen ► **noun** See list at FOWL

hence ► **adverb** CONSEQUENTLY, as a consequence, for this reason, therefore, ergo, thus, so, accordingly, as a result, because of that, that being so

henceforth, henceforward ► **adverb** FROM NOW ON, as of now, in (the) future, hence, subsequently, from this day on, from this day forth, formal hereafter

henchman ► **noun** RIGHT-HAND MAN, assistant, aide, helper, underling, minion, man Friday, lackey, flunkie, stooge, bodyguard, minder, informal sidekick, crony, heavy

henpecked ► **adjective** BROWBEATEN, downtrodden, bullied, dominated, subjugated, oppressed, intimidated, meek, timid, cringing, informal under someone's thumb, led by the nose

—OPPOSITES domineering

herald ► **noun** ① (historical) *a herald announced the armistice* MESSENGER, courier, proclaimer, announcer, crier ② *the first herald of spring* HAR BINGER, sign, indicator, indication, signal, prelude, portent, omen, forerunner, precursor; poetic/literary foretoken

► **verb** ① *shouts heralded their approach* PROCLAIM, announce, broadcast, publicize, declare, trumpet, blazon, advertise ② *the speech heralded a*



policy change SIGNAL, indicate, announce, spell, presage, augur, portend, promise, foretell, usher in, pave the way for, be a harbinger of, poetic/literary foretold, betoken

heraldry ▶ noun See list

Heraldic Terms

achievement	debruisse	pale
addorsed	device	pall
affronté	dexter	pallet
annulet	dimidiate	paly
argent	diminutive	party
armed	displayed	passant
armiger	dormant	patonce
aversant	ecartelé	per
azure	embattled	pheon
bar	embowed	pile
barrulet	engrailed	potent
barry	entire	proper
baton	erased	purpure
bearing	ermine	quadrate
bend	ermineois	quartered
bendlet	escallop	quartering
bend sinister	etoile	raguly
bezant	fess	rampant
billet	fess point	rayonné
blazon	field	regardant
bloody hand	fimbriated	reversed
bonnet	fitché	rising
bordure	fleur-de-lys	roundel
brisure	flory	rustre
caboshed	fret	sable
cabré	fusil	sallient
cadency	gorged	saltire
canting arms	guardant	sanguine
canton	gules	sejant
Catherine wheel	gyron	semé
chapeau	haurient	shield
chaplet	honour point	sinister
charge	impaled	slipped
chevron	inescutcheon	statant
chief	invected	subordinary
cinqfoil	issuant	sun in splendour
coat armour	langued	supporter
coat of arms	lined	tenné
cockatrice	lodged	tierced
cognizance	mantling	tincture
compartment	martlet	torse
compony	mascle	tressure
coney	moline	trippant
cordon	mullet	unguled
cottise	mural crown	vair
couchant	naïant	vert
coupé	naissant	voided
courant	nebuli	volant
coward	nombril	vuln
crescent	nowd	wavy
crest	or	wyvern
dancetté	ordinary	
	orie	

herb ▶ noun. See list

Herculean ▶ adjective ① a Herculean task. ARDUOUS, gruelling, laborious, back-breaking, onerous, strenuous, difficult, formidable, hard, tough, huge, massive, uphill, demanding, exhausting, taxing, archaic toilsome ② his Herculean build. STRONG, muscular, muscly, powerful, robust, solid, strapping, brawny, burly; informal hunky, beefy, hulking

Herbs

See also SPICE.

angelica	dittany	pot-herb
anise	fennel	rosemary
basil	hyssop	rue
bay leaf	lavender	saffron
bergamot	lemon balm	sage
borage	lemon grass	savory
camomile	lemon mint	sorrel
chervil	lovage	spearmint
chicory	marjoram	sweet cicely
chives	mint	tarragon
comfrey	oregano	thyme
coriander	parsley	vervain
dill	peppermint	yerba buena

—OPPOSITES easy, puny

herd ▶ noun ① a herd of cows drove, flock, pack, fold, group, collection ② a herd of actors CROWD, group, bunch, horde, mob, host, pack, multitude, throng, swarm, company ③ they consider themselves above the herd THE COMMON PEOPLE, the masses, the rank and file, the crowd, the commonality, the commonalty, the plebeians, the hoi polloi, the mob, the proletariat, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed, informal the proles, the plebs

▶ verb ① we herded the sheep into the pen DRIVE, shepherd, guide, round up, gather, collect ② we all herded into the room CROWD, pack, flock, cluster, huddle ③ they herd reindeer TEND, look after, keep, watch (over), mind, guard

herdsman, herdsman ▶ noun STOCK MAN, herder, drover, cattleman, cowherd, cowhand, cowman, cowboy, rancher, shepherd, N Amer iancho, N Amer informal cowpuncher, cowpoke, archaic herd

here ▶ adverb ① they lived here AT/IN THIS PLACE, at/in this spot, at/in this location ② I am here now PRESENT, in attendance, attending, at hand, available ③ come here tomorrow TO THIS PLACE, to this spot, to this location, over here, nearer, closer, poetic/literary hither ④ here is your opportunity NOW, at this moment, at this point (in time), at this juncture, at this stage

—OPPOSITES absent

■ here and there ① clumps of heather here and there IN VARIOUS PLACES, in different places, at random ② they darted here and there HITHER AND THITHER, around, about, to and fro, back and forth, in all directions

hereafter ▶ adverb (formal) nothing I say hereafter is intended to offend FROM NOW ON, after this, as of now, from this moment forth, from this day forth, from this day forward, subsequently, in (the) future, hence, henceforth, henceforward, formal hereinafter.

▶ noun our preparation for the hereafter LIFE AFTER DEATH, the afterlife, the afterworld, the next world; eternity, heaven, paradise

hereditary ▶ adjective ① a hereditary right, INHERITED; bequeathed, willed, handed-down, passed-down, passed-on, transferred, ancestral, family, familial ② a hereditary disease. GENETIC, genetical, congenital, inborn, inherited, inbred, innate, in the family, in the blood, in the genes.

heredity ► **noun** CONGENITAL TRAITS, genetic make-up, genes, ancestry, descent, extraction, parentage

heresy ► **noun** DISSENSION, dissent, nonconformity, heterodoxy, unorthodoxy, apostasy, blasphemy, freethinking, agnosticism, atheism, non-belief, idolatry, paganism

heretic ► **noun** DISSENTER, nonconformist, apostate, freethinker, iconoclast, agnostic, atheist, non-believer, unbeliever, idolater, idolatress, pagan, heathen, *archaic* paynim
—OPPOSITES conformist, believer

heritage ► **noun** ① *they stole his heritage* INHERITANCE, birthright, patrimony, legacy, bequest, *Law*, dated hereditament ② *Europe's cultural heritage* TRADITION, history, past, background, culture, customs ③ *his Greek heritage* ANCESTRY, lineage, descent, extraction, parentage, roots, background, heredity

hermaphrodite ► **noun** ANDROGYNE, intersex, epicene, *Biology* bisexual, gynandromorph
► **adjective** *hermaphrodite creatures* ANDROGYNOUS, intersex, hermaphroditic, hermaphroditical, epicene, *Biology* bisexual, gynandrous, gynandromorphic

hermetic ► **adjective** AIRTIGHT, tight, sealed, watertight, waterproof

hermit ► **noun** RECLUSE, solitary, loner, ascetic, *historical* anchorite, anchoress, *archaic* eremite

hermitage ► **noun** RETREAT, refuge, hideaway, hideout, shelter, *informal* hidey-hole

hero ► **noun** ① *a war hero* BRAVE MAN, man of courage, man of the hour, lionheart, warrior, champion, victor, conqueror ② *a football hero* STAR, superstar, megastar, idol, celebrity, luminary, ideal, paragon, shining example, favourite, darling, *informal* celeb ③ *the hero of the film* MALE PROTAGONIST, principal male character/role, starring role, star part, male lead, lead (actor), leading man
—OPPOSITES coward, loser, villain

heroic ► **adjective** ① *heroic rescuers* BRAVE, courageous, valiant, valorous, lionhearted, intrepid, bold, fearless, daring, audacious, unafraid, undaunted, dauntless, doughty, plucky, stout-hearted, mettlesome, gallant, chivalrous, noble, *informal* gutsy, spunky ② *obelisks on a heroic scale* PRODIGIOUS, grand, enormous, huge, massive, titanic, colossal, monumental, epic, *informal* mega

heroine ► **noun** ① *she's a heroine—she saved my baby* BRAVE WOMAN, hero, woman of courage, woman of the hour, victor, winner, conqueror ② *the literary heroine of Moscow* STAR, superstar, megastar, idol, celebrity, luminary, ideal, paragon, shining example, favourite, darling, *informal* celeb ③ *the film's heroine* FEMALE PROTAGONIST, principal female character/role, female lead, lead (actress), leading lady, prima donna, diva

heroism ► **noun** BRAVERY, courage, valour, intrepidity, boldness, daring, audacity, fearlessness, dauntlessness, pluck, stout-heartedness, lionheartedness, backbone, spine, grit, spirit, mettle, gallantry, chivalry; *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle; *N Amer informal* moxie

hero-worship ► **noun** IDOLIZATION, adulation, admiration, lionization, idealization, worship, adoration, veneration.

hesitancy ► **noun**. See HESITATION

hesitant ► **adjective** ① *she is hesitant about buying* UNCERTAIN, undecided, unsure, doubtful, dubious, sceptical, tentative, nervous, reluctant, indecisive, irresolute, hesitating, dithering, vacillating, blowing hot and cold, ambivalent, in two minds, *Brit* hawing, humming and hawing, *informal* iffy ② *a hesitant child* LACKING CONFIDENCE, diffident, timid, shy, bashful, insecure

—OPPOSITES certain, decisive, confident

hesitate ► **verb** ① *she hesitated, unsure of what to say* PAUSE, delay, wait, shilly-shally, dither, stall, temporize, be in two minds, be uncertain, be unsure, be doubtful, be indecisive, equivocate, vacillate, waver, blow hot and cold, have second thoughts, *Brit* have1, hum and haw, *informal* dilly-dally ② *don't hesitate to contact me* BE RELUCTANT, be unwilling, be disinclined, scruple, have misgivings about, have qualms about, shrink from, demur from, think twice about, baulk at

hesitation ► **noun** HESITANCY, hesitance, uncertainty, unsureness, doubt, doubtfulness, dubiousness, irresolution, irresoluteness, indecision, indecisiveness, equivocation, vacillation, second thoughts, dithering, stalling, temporization, delay, reluctance, disinclination, unease, ambivalence, *formal* dubiety

heterodox ► **adjective** UNORTHODOX, nonconformist, dissenting, dissident, rebellious, renegade, heretical, blasphemous, apostate, sceptical
—OPPOSITES orthodox

heterogeneous ► **adjective** DIVERSE, varied, varying, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, sundry, disparate, different, differing, unrelated, motley, *poetic/literary* divers
—OPPOSITES homogeneous

heterosexual ► **adjective** *informal* STRAIGHT, hetero, het
—OPPOSITES homosexual, gay

hew ► **verb** CHOP, hack, cut, lop, axe, cleave, fell, carve, shape, fashion, sculpt, model

heyday ► **noun** PRIME, peak, height, pinnacle, acme, zenith, day, time, bloom, prime of life, salad days

hiatus ► **noun** PAUSE, break, gap, lacuna, interval, intermission, interlude, interruption, suspension, lull, respite, time out, *N Amer* recess, *informal* breather, let-up

hibernate ► **verb** LIE DORMANT, lie torpid, sleep, overwinter

hidden ► **adjective** ① *a hidden camera* CONCEALED, secret, invisible, unseen, out of sight, camouflaged, disguised, masked ② *a hidden meaning* OBSCURE, unclear, concealed, indistinct, indefinite, vague, unfathomable, inexplicable, cryptic, mysterious, secret, covert, abstruse, arcane, ulterior, deep, subliminal, coded
—OPPOSITES visible, obvious

hide¹ ► **verb** ① *he hid the money* CONCEAL, secrete, put out of sight, camouflage; lock up, stow away, cache, *informal* stash ② *they hid in an air vent* CONCEAL ONESELF, secrete oneself, hide out, take cover, keep out of sight, lie low, go to ground, go to earth, *informal* hole up, *Brit informal*, dated lie doggo ③ *clouds hid the moon* OBSCURE,

h

block out, blot out, obstruct, cloud, shroud, veil, blanket, envelop, eclipse ④ *he could not hide his dislike* CONCEAL, keep secret, cover up, keep dark, keep quiet about, hush up, bottle up, suppress, disguise, mask, camouflage, *informal* keep under one's hat, keep a/the lid on
-OPPOSITES flaunt, reveal

hide² ► **noun** *the hide should be tanned quickly* SKIN, pelt, coat; leather

hideaway ► **noun** RETREAT, refuge, hiding place, hideout, den, bolt-hole, shelter, sanctuary, sanctum, hermitage, *informal* hidey-hole

hidebound ► **adjective** CONSERVATIVE, reactionary, conventional, orthodox, fundamentalist, diehard, hard-line, dyed-in-the-wool, set in one's ways, narrow-minded, small-minded, intolerant, uncompromising, rigid, prejudiced, bigoted, *Brit* blimpish
-OPPOSITES liberal

hideous ► **adjective** ① *a hideous smile* UGLY, repulsive, repellent, unsightly, revolting, gruesome, grotesque, monstrous, ghastly, reptilian, *informal* as ugly as sin. ② *hideous cases of torture* HORRIFIC, terrible, appalling, awful, dreadful, frightful, horrible, horrendous, horrifying, shocking, sickening, gruesome, ghastly, unspeakable, abhorrent, monstrous, heinous, abominable, foul, vile, odious, execrable
-OPPOSITES beautiful, pleasant

hideout ► **noun** HIDING PLACE, hideaway, retreat, refuge, shelter, bolt-hole, safe house, sanctuary, sanctum, *informal* hidey-hole

hiding¹ ► **noun** (*informal*) *they gave him a hiding* BEATING, battering, thrashing, thumping, drubbing, pelting, flogging, whipping, caning, birching, *informal* licking, belting, bashing, pasting, wallowing, clobbering, tanning

hiding²
■ *in hiding the fugitive is in hiding* HIDDEN, concealed, lying low, gone to ground, gone to earth, in a safe house, *Brit informal*, dated lying doggo

hiding place ► **noun** HIDEAWAY, hideout, retreat, refuge, shelter, sanctuary, sanctum, bolt-hole, safe house, *informal* hidey-hole

hie ► **verb** (*archaic*). See HURRY verb sense 1

hierarchy ► **noun** PECKING ORDER, ranking, grading, ladder, scale

hieroglyphic ► **noun** ① *hieroglyphics on a stone monument* SYMBOLS, signs, ciphers, code, cryptograms ② *notebooks filled with hieroglyphics* SCRIBBLE, scrawl, illegible writing, shorthand

► **adjective** ① *hieroglyphic brass ornamentation* SYMBOLIC, stylized, emblematic ② *hieroglyphic handwriting* ILLEGIBLE, indecipherable, unreadable, scribbled, scrawled

higgledy-piggledy (*informal*) ► **adjective** *a higgledy-piggledy pile of papers* DISORDERED, disorderly, disorganized, untidy, messy, chaotic, jumbled, muddled, confused, unsystematic, irregular, out of order, in disarray, in a mess, in a muddle, haphazard; *informal* all over the place; *Brit informal* shambolic
-OPPOSITES tidy

► **adverb** *the cars were parked higgledy-piggledy* IN DISORDER, in a muddle, in a jumble, in disarray, untidily, haphazardly, anyhow; *informal* all over the place, topsy-turvy, every which way,

any old how, *Brit informal* all over the shop, *N Amer informal* all over the map, all over the lot.

high ► **adjective** ① *a high mountain* TALL, lofty, towering, elevated, giant, big, multi-storey, high-rise ② *a high position in the government* HIGH-RANKING, high-level, leading, top, top-level, prominent, pre-eminent, foremost, senior, influential, powerful, important, elevated, prime, premier, exalted, *N Amer* ranking, *informal* top-notch. ③ *high principles* HIGH-MINDED, noble, lofty, moral, ethical, honourable, admirable, upright, honest, virtuous, righteous ④ *high prices* INFLATED, excessive, unreasonable, expensive, dear, costly, exorbitant, extortionate, prohibitive, *Brit* over the odds, *informal* steep, stiff, pricey. ⑤ *high standards* EXCELLENT, outstanding, exemplary, exceptional, admirable, fine, good, first-class, first-rate, superior, superlative, superb, impeccable, irreproachable, unimpeachable, perfect, flawless, *informal* A1, top-notch ⑥ *high winds* STRONG, powerful, violent, intense, extreme, forceful, stiff, blustery, gusty, squally, tempestuous, turbulent ⑦ *the high life* LUXURIOUS, lavish, extravagant, grand, opulent, sybaritic, hedonistic, *Brit* upmarket, *N Amer* upscale, *informal* fancy, classy, swanky ⑧ *I have a high opinion of you* FAVOURABLE, good, positive, approving, admiring, complimentary, commendatory, flattering, glowing, adulatory, rapturous ⑨ *a very high note* HIGH-PITCHED, high-frequency, soprano, treble, falsetto, shrill, sharp, piercing, penetrating ⑩ (*informal*) *they are high on drugs* INTOXICATED, inebriated, drugged, stupefied, befuddled, delirious, hallucinating, *informal* high as a kite, stoned, tripping, hyped up, spaced out, wasted, wrecked, off one's head ⑪ *the partridges were high* GAMY, smelly, strong-smelling, stinking, reeking, rank, malodorous, bad, off, rotting, *Brit informal* pongy, niffy, whiffy, *N Amer informal* funky
-OPPOSITES short, lowly, amoral, cheap, low, light, abstemious, unfavourable, deep, sober, fresh

► **noun** *prices were at a rare high* HIGH LEVEL, high point, peak, high water mark, pinnacle, zenith, acme, height
-OPPOSITES low

► **adverb** *a jet flew high overhead* AT GREAT HEIGHT, high up, far up, way up, at altitude, in the air, in the sky, on high, aloft, overhead
-OPPOSITES low

■ **high and dry** DESTITUTE, bereft, helpless, in the lurch, in difficulties, abandoned, stranded, marooned

■ **high and low** EVERYWHERE, all over, all around, far and wide, (here, there, and everywhere), extensively, thoroughly, widely, in every nook and cranny, *informal* all over the place, *Brit informal* all over the shop; *N Amer. informal* all over the map

■ **high and mighty** (*informal*) SELF-IMPORTANT, condescending, patronizing, disdainful, supercilious, superior, snobbish, snobby, haughty, conceited, above oneself; *informal* stuck-up, snooty, hoity-toity, la-di-da, uppity, *Brit informal* toffee-nosed

■ **on a high** (*informal*) ECSTATIC, euphoric, delirious, elated, thrilled, overjoyed, beside oneself, walking on air, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, jumping for joy, in raptures, exultant, jubilant; excited, overexcited; *informal* blessed

out, over the moon, on top of the world,
Austral/NZ informal wrapped

high-born ▶ **adjective** NOBLE, aristocratic, well born, titled, patrician, blue-blooded, upper-class, *informal* upper-crust, top-drawer, *Brit informal* posh, *archaic* gentle

—OPPOSITES lowly

highbrow ▶ **adjective** *his work has a highbrow following* INTELLECTUAL, scholarly, bookish, academic, educated, donnish, bluestocking, sophisticated, erudite, learned, *informal* brainy, egghead

—OPPOSITES lowbrow

▶ **noun** *highbrows who hate pop music* INTELLECTUAL, scholar, academic, bluestocking, bookish person, thinker, *informal* egghead, brain, bookworm, *Brit informal* brainbox, boffin, *N Amer informal* brainiac

high-class ▶ **adjective** SUPERIOR, upper-class, first-rate, excellent, select, elite, choice, premier, top, top-flight, luxurious, de luxe, high-quality, top-quality, *Brit* upmarket, *informal* top-notch, top-drawer, A1, classy, posh

highfalutin ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) See PRETENTIOUS

high-flown ▶ **adjective** GRAND, extravagant, elaborate, flowery, ornate, overblown, overdone, overwrought, grandiloquent, magniloquent, grandiose, inflated, affected, pretentious, turgid, *informal* windy, purple, highfalutin, la-di-da

—OPPOSITES plain

high-handed ▶ **adjective** IMPERIOUS, arbitrary, peremptory, arrogant, haughty, domineering, pushy, overbearing, heavy-handed, lordly, inflexible, rigid, autocratic, authoritarian, dictatorial, tyrannical, *informal* bossy, high and mighty

—OPPOSITES liberal

high jinks ▶ **plural noun** ANTICS, pranks, larks, escapades, stunts, practical jokes, tricks, fun (and games), skylarking, mischief, horseplay, tomfoolery, clowning, *informal* shenanigans, capers, monkey business, *Brit informal* monkey tricks

highland ▶ **noun** UPLANDS, highlands, mountains, hills, heights, moors, upland, tableland, plateau, *Brit* wolds

highlight ▶ **noun** *the highlight of his career* HIGH POINT, high spot, best part, climax, peak, pinnacle, height, acme, zenith, summit, crowning moment, high water mark

—OPPOSITES nadir

▶ **verb** *he has highlighted shortcomings in the plan* SPOTLIGHT, call attention to, focus on, underline, feature, play up, show up, bring out, accentuate, accent, give prominence to, zero in on, stress, emphasize.

highly ▶ **adverb** ① *a highly dangerous substance* VERY, extremely, exceedingly, particularly, most, really, thoroughly, decidedly, distinctly, exceptionally, immensely, inordinately, singularly, extraordinarily, *N English* right, *informal* terrifically, awfully, terribly, majorly, seriously, desperately, mega, ultra, oh-so, damn, damned, *Brit informal* ever so, well, dead, jolly; *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful; *dated* frightfully ② *he was highly regarded* FAVOURABLY, well, appreciatively, admiringly, approvingly, positively, glowingly, enthusiastically.

—OPPOSITES slightly, unfavourably

highly strung ▶ **adjective** NERVOUS, nervy, excitable, temperamental, sensitive, unstable, brittle, on edge, edgy, restless, anxious, tense, stressed, overwrought, neurotic, *informal* uptight, jumpy, twitchy, wired, wound up, het up

—OPPOSITES easy-going

high-minded ▶ **adjective** HIGH-PRINCIPLED, principled, honourable, moral, upright, upstanding, right-minded, noble, good, honest, decent, ethical, righteous, virtuous, worthy, idealistic

—OPPOSITES unprincipled

high-pitched ▶ **adjective** HIGH, high-frequency, shrill, sharp, piping, piercing, soprano, treble, falsetto

—OPPOSITES deep

high-powered ▶ **adjective** DYNAMIC, ambitious, energetic, assertive, enterprising, vigorous, forceful, aggressive, pushy, high-octane, *informal* go-ahead, go-getting, *N Amer informal* go-go

high-pressure ▶ **adjective** FORCEFUL, insistent, persistent, pushy, intensive, high-powered, aggressive, coercive, compelling, thrusting, not taking no for an answer

high-priced ▶ **adjective** EXPENSIVE, costly, dear, overpriced, exorbitant, extortionate, *Brit* over the odds, *informal* pricey, steep, stiff

high-sounding ▶ **adjective** GRAND, high-flown, extravagant, elaborate, flowery, ornate, overblown, overdone, overwrought, grandiloquent, magniloquent, grandiose, inflated, affected, pretentious, turgid, *informal* windy, purple, highfalutin, la-di-da

—OPPOSITES plain

high-speed ▶ **adjective** FAST, quick, rapid, speedy, swift, breakneck, lightning, brisk, express, non-stop, whistle-stop, *informal* nippy, zippy, supersonic, *poetic/literary* fleet

—OPPOSITES slow

high-spirited ▶ **adjective** LIVELY, spirited, full of fun, fun-loving, animated, zestful, bouncy, bubbly, sparkling, vivacious, buoyant, cheerful, joyful, exuberant, ebullient, jaunty, irrepressible, *informal* chirpy, peppy, sparky, bright and breezy, full of beans, *poetic/literary* frolicsome

high spirits ▶ **plural noun** LIVELINESS, vitality, spirit, zest, energy, bounce, sparkle, vivacity, buoyancy, cheerfulness, good humour, joy, joyfulness, exuberance, ebullience, joie de vivre, *informal* pep, zing

highwayman ▶ **noun** (*historical*) BANDIT, robber, outlaw, ruffian, marauder, raider, *historical* footpad, *poetic/literary* brigand

hijack ▶ **verb** COMMANDEER, seize, take over, skyjack; appropriate, expropriate, confiscate, *informal* snatch

hike ▶ **noun** a five-mile hike WALK, trek, tramp, trudge, slog, footslog, march, ramble; *Brit informal* yomp

▶ **verb** *they hiked across the moors* WALK, trek, tramp, trudge, slog, footslog, march; ramble; *informal* hoof it, leg it; *Brit informal* yomp.

■ **hike something up** ① *Roy hiked up his trousers* HITCH UP, pull up, hoist, lift, raise, *informal* yank up ② *they hiked up the price* INCREASE, raise, up, put up, mark up, push up, inflate, *informal* jack up, bump up.

hilarious ▶ **adjective** ① a hilarious story VERY FUNNY, hysterically funny, hysterical, uproarious, riotous, farcical, rib-tickling, humorous, comic, amusing, entertaining, informal side-splitting, priceless, a scream, a hoot ② a hilarious evening AMUSING, entertaining, animated, high-spirited, lively, funny, merry, jolly, mirthful, cheerful, uproarious, boisterous, informal wacky
-OPPOSITES sad, serious

hilarity ▶ **noun** AMUSEMENT, mirth, laughter, merriment, light-heartedness, levity, fun, humour, jocularly, jollity, gaiety, delight, glee, exuberance, high spirits, comedy

hill ▶ **noun** ① the top of the hill HIGH GROUND, prominence, hillock, foothill, hillside, rise, mound, mount, knoll, hummock, tor, tump, fell, pike, mesa, bank, ridge, slope, incline, gradient, (hills) heights, downs; *Scottish & Irish* drum, *Scottish* brae, *Geology* drumlin, *formal* eminence ② a hill of rubbish HEAP, pile, stack, mound, mountain, mass, *Scottish, Irish, & N English* rickle

hillock ▶ **noun** MOUND, small hill, prominence, elevation, rise, knoll, hummock, hump, tump, dune, bank, ridge, *N English* howe, *N Amer* knob, *formal* eminence

hilt ▶ **noun** HANDLE, haft, handgrip, grip, shaft, shank, stock, helve

■ to the hilt COMPLETELY, fully, wholly, totally, entirely, utterly, unreservedly, unconditionally, in every respect, in all respects, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the full, to the maximum extent, all the way, body and soul, heart and soul

hinder ▶ **adjective** BACK, rear, hinder, hindmost, posterior
-OPPOSITES fore, front

hinder ▶ **verb** HAMPER, obstruct, impede, inhibit, retard, baulk, thwart, foil, curb, delay, arrest, interfere with, set back, slow down, hold back, hold up, stop, halt, restrict, restrain, constrain, block, check, curtail, frustrate, cramp, handicap, cripple, hamstring, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works, *informal* stymie
-OPPOSITES facilitate

hindmost ▶ **adjective** FURTHEST BACK, last, rear, rearmost, end, endmost, final, tail
-OPPOSITES leading

hindrance ▶ **noun** IMPEDIMENT, obstacle, barrier, bar, obstruction, handicap, block, hurdle, restraint, restriction, limitation, encumbrance, complication, delay, drawback, setback, difficulty, inconvenience, snag, catch, hitch, fly in the ointment, stumbling block; *Brit* spanner in the works, *informal* hiccup, facer
-OPPOSITES help

hinge ▶ **verb** our future hinges on the election DEPEND, hang, rest, turn, centre, be contingent, be dependent, be conditional, be determined by, be decided by, revolve around

hint ▶ **noun** ① a hint that he would leave CLUE, inkling, suggestion, indication, indicator, sign, signal, pointer, intimation, insinuation, innuendo, mention, whisper ② handy hints about painting TIP, suggestion, pointer, clue, guideline, recommendation, advice, help, *informal* how-to, wrinkle. ③ a hint of mint: TRACE, touch, suspicion, suggestion, dash, soupçon, tinge, modicum, whiff, taste, undertone, *informal*

smidgen, tad

▶ **verb** what are you hinting at? IMPLY, insinuate, intimate, suggest, indicate, signal, allude to, refer to, drive at, mean, *informal* get at

hinterland ▶ **noun** THE BACKWOODS, a backwater, the wilds, the bush, the back of beyond, *Austral/NZ* the outback, the backblocks, the booy, *informal* the sticks, the middle of nowhere, *N Amer informal* the boondocks, the tall timbers

hip ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) See FASHIONABLE

hippy ▶ **noun** FLOWER CHILD, bohemian, dropout, free spirit, nonconformist

hips ▶ **plural noun** PELVIS, hindquarters, haunches, thighs
-RELATED TERMS sciatic

hire ▶ **verb** ① we hired a car RENT, lease, charter ② they hire labour in line with demand EMPLOY, engage, recruit, appoint, take on, sign up, enrol, commission, enlist
-OPPOSITES dismiss

▶ **noun** the hire of the machine RENTAL, rent, hiring, lease, leasing, charter

hire purchase ▶ **noun** INSTALMENT PLAN, deferred payment, HP, credit, finance, easy terms, *Brit informal* the never-never

hirsute ▶ **adjective** (*formal*) HAIRY, shaggy, bushy, hair-covered, woolly, furry, fleecy, fuzzy, bearded, unshaven, bristly

hiss ▶ **verb** ① the escaping gas hissed FIZZ, fizz, whistle, wheeze, rare sibilate ② the audience hissed JEER, catcall, whistle, hoot, scoff, jibe

▶ **noun** ① the hiss of the steam FIZZ, fizzing, whistle, hissing, sibilance, wheeze, rare sibilation ② the speaker received hisses JEER, catcall, whistle, abuse, scoffing, taunting, derision

historian ▶ **noun** CHRONICLER, annalist, archivist, recorder, historiographer, antiquarian, chronologist See list

historic ▶ **adjective** SIGNIFICANT, notable, important, momentous, consequential, memorable, unforgettable, remarkable, famous, famed, celebrated, renowned, landmark, ground-breaking, epoch-making, red-letter, *informal* earth-shattering
-OPPOSITES insignificant

historical ▶ **adjective** ① historical evidence DOCUMENTED, recorded, chronicled, archival, authentic, factual, actual, true ② historical figures PAST, bygone, ancient, old, former, *poetic/literary* of yore
-OPPOSITES contemporary

history ▶ **noun** ① my interest in history THE PAST, former times, historical events, the olden days, the old days, bygone days, yesterday, antiquity, *poetic/literary* days of yore, yesteryear ② a history of the Civil War CHRONICLE, archive, record, report, narrative, account, study, tale, memoir. ③ she gave details of her history BACKGROUND, past, life story, experiences, antecedents

histrionic ▶ **adjective** MELODRAMATIC, theatrical, dramatic, exaggerated, actressy, stagy, showy, affected, artificial, overacted, overdone, *informal* hammy, ham, camp.

histrionics ▶ **plural noun** DRAMATICS, theatricals, theatrics, tantrums, affectation, staginess, artificiality.

hit ▶ **verb** ① she hit her child: STRIKE, slap, smack, cuff, punch, thump, swat; beat, thrash, batter,



Historians

Acton, John (English)
 Adams, Henry (American)
 Anchieta, José de (Portuguese)
 Anna Comnena (Byzantine)
 Arrian (Roman)
 Ban Gu (Chinese)
 Beaglehole, John (New Zealand)
 Bede, St (English)
 Braudel, Fernand (French)
 Carlyle, Thomas (Scottish)
 Cato the Elder (Roman)
 Clarendon, Earl of (English)
 Dio Cassius (Roman)
 Diodorus Siculus (Greek)
 Dionysius of Halcarnassus (Greek)
 Du Cange, Charles (French)
 Einhard (Frankish)
 Froissart, Jean (French)
 Gibbon, Edward (English)
 Gregory of Tours, St (French)
 Guicciardini, Francesco (Italian)
 Guizot, François (French)
 Herodotus (Greek)
 Huizinga, Johan (Dutch)
 Ibn Khaldun (Arabic)

Irving, David (English)
 James, C. L. R. (Trinidadian)
 Josephus, Flavius (Jewish)
 Krochmal, Nachman (Jewish)
 Lamartine, Alphonse de (French)
 Livy (Roman)
 Macaulay, Thomas (English)
 Madariaga y Rojo, Salvador de (Spanish)
 Michelet, Jules (French)
 Mommsen, Theodor (German)
 Namier, Lewis (English)
 Needham, Joseph (English)
 Nennius (Welsh)
 Nevins, Allan (American)
 Niebuhr, Barthold (German)
 Otto of Freising (German)
 Pachymeres, Georgius (Byzantine)
 Parkman, Francis (American)
 Polybius (Greek)
 Prescott, William (American)
 Procopius (Byzantine)
 Renan, Ernest (French)
 Sallust (Roman)
 Saxo Grammaticus (Danish)

Schama, Simon (English)
 Si ma Qian (Chinese)
 Snorri Sturluson (Icelandic)
 Strabo (of Greek descent)
 Stubbs, William (English)
 Suetonius (Roman)
 Tabari, Muhammad Ibn Jarir al- (Arabic)
 Tacitus, Cornelius (Roman)
 Taylor, A. J. P. (English)
 Thiers, Louis Adolphe (French)
 Thucydides (Greek)
 Toynbee, Arnold (English)
 Trevelyan, George Macaulay (English)
 Trevor-Roper, Hugh, Lord Dacre (English)
 Velleius Paterculus (Roman)
 von Ranke, Leopold (German)
 Wedgwood, C. V. (English)
 William of Malmesbury (English)
 William of Tyre (French, b. in Palestine)
 Xenophon (Greek)

belabour, pound, welt, pummel, box someone's ears, whip, flog, cane, *informal* whack, wallop, bash, biff, bop, lam, clout, clip, clobber, sock, swipe, crown, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, tan, lay into, let someone have it, deck, *Brit informal* stick one on, dot, slosh, *N Amer informal* slug, boff, *Austral/NZ informal* dong, *poetic/literary* smite ② *a car hit the barrier* CRASH INTO, run into, smash into, smack into, knock into, bump into, cannon into, plough into, collide with, meet head-on, *N Amer* impact ③ *the tragedy hit her hard* DEVASTATE, affect badly, hurt, harm, leave a mark on, upset, shatter, crush, shock, overwhelm, traumatize, *informal* knock sideways, knock the stuffing out of, *Brit informal* knock for six ④ *(informal) spending will hit £1,800 million* REACH, touch, arrive at, rise to, climb to ⑤ *it hit me that I had forgotten* OCCUR TO, strike, dawn on, come to, enter one's head, cross one's mind, come to mind, spring to mind

► **noun** ① *he received a hit from behind* BLOW, thump, punch, knock, bang, box, cuff, slap, smack, tap, crack, stroke, welt, impact, collision, bump, crash, *informal* whack, thwack, wallop, bash, belt, biff, clout, sock, swipe, clip, *Brit informal* slosh, *N Amer informal* boff, slug, *Austral/NZ* dong ② *a hit at his friend's religion* JIBE, taunt, jeer, sneer, barb, *informal* dig, crack, wise-crack, put-down ③ *he directed many big hits* SUCCESS, box-office success, sell-out, winner, triumph, sensation, best-seller, *informal* smash (hit), knockout, crowd-puller, wow, biggie, *Brit informal* smasher

—OPPOSITES compliment, failure

■ **hit back** RETALIATE, respond, reply, react, counter, defend oneself

■ **hit home** HAVE THE INTENDED EFFECT, strike home, hit the mark, register, be understood, get through, sink in.

■ **hit it off (informal)** GET ON (WELL), get along, be friends, be friendly, be compatible, feel a rapport, see eye to eye, be on the same wave-

length, take to each other, warm to each other, *informal* click, get on like a house on fire

■ **hit on/upon** DISCOVER, come up with, think of, conceive of, dream up, work out, invent, create, devise, design, pioneer, uncover, stumble on, chance on, light on, come upon

■ **hit out at** CRITICIZE, attack, censure, denounce, condemn, lambaste, pillory, rail against, inveigh against, arraign, cast aspersions on, pour scorn on, disparage, denigrate, give a bad press to, run down, *informal* knock, pan, slam, hammer, lay into, pull to pieces, pick holes in, *Brit informal* slag off, slate, rubbish, *N Amer informal* pummel, trash, *formal* excoriate

hitch ► **verb** ① *she hitched the blanket around her* PULL, jerk, hike, lift, raise, *informal* yank ② *Tom hitched the pony to his cart* HARNESS, yoke, couple, fasten, connect, attach, tether ③ *(informal) they hitched to college* HITCH-HIKE, *informal* thumb a lift, hitch a lift

► **noun** *it went without a hitch* PROBLEM, difficulty, snag, setback, hindrance, obstacle, obstruction, complication, impediment, stumbling block, barrier; hold-up, interruption, delay, *informal* headache, glitch, hiccup

hither ► **adverb** *(poetic/literary)* HERE, to this place, to here, over here, near, nearer, close, closer

hitherto ► **adverb** PREVIOUSLY, formerly, earlier, before, beforehand, so far, thus far, to date, as yet, until now, until then, till now, till then, up to now, up to then, *formal* heretofore

hit-or-miss, hit-and-miss ► **adjective** ER RATIC, haphazard, disorganized, undisciplined, unmethodical, uneven, careless, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, casual, cursory, lackadaisical, perfunctory, random, aimless, undirected, indiscriminate, *informal* slap-happy

—OPPOSITES meticulous.

hoard ► **noun** *a secret hoard of gold* CACHE, stockpile, stock, store, collection, supply, reserve, reservoir, fund, accumulation, treasure house, treasure trove, *informal* stash.



► **verb** they hoarded rations STOCKPILE, store (up), stock up on, put aside, put by, lay by, lay up, set aside, stow away, buy up, cache, amass, collect, save, gather, garner, accumulate, squirrel away, put aside for a rainy day, *informal* stash away, salt away
-OPPOSITES squander

hoarse ► **adjective** ROUGH, harsh, croaky, throaty, gruff, husky, guttural, growly, gravelly, grating, rasping
-OPPOSITES mellow, clear

hoary ► **adjective** ① *hoary cobwebs* GREYISH-WHITE, grey, white, silver, silvery, frosty, poetic/literary riny ② *a hoary ancient* GREY-HAIRED, white-haired, silver-haired, grizzled, elderly, aged, old, long in the tooth, *informal* getting on, over the hill ③ *a hoary old adage* TRITE, hackneyed, clichéd, banal, commonplace, predictable, overused, stale, time-worn, tired, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninspired, *informal* old hat, corny; *N Amer informal* cornball
-OPPOSITES young, original

hoax ► **noun** the call was a hoax PRACTICAL JOKE, joke, jest, prank, trick, ruse, deception, fraud, bluff, humbug, confidence trick, *informal* con, spoof, scam

► **verb** the DJ hoaxed his listeners PLAY A (PRACTICAL) JOKE ON, play a prank on, trick, fool, deceive, hoodwink, delude, dupe, take in, lead on, bluff, gull, humbug, *informal* con, kid, have on, pull a fast one on, put one over on, take for a ride, lead up the garden path, *N Amer informal* sucker, snooker

hoaxer ► **noun** (PRACTICAL) JOKER, prankster, trickster, fraudster, hoodwinker, swindler, *informal* spoofer, con man

hobble ► **verb** LIMP, walk with difficulty, move unsteadily, walk haltingly, shamle, totter, dodder, stagger, stumble, Scottish hirple

hobby ► **noun** PASTIME, leisure activity, leisure pursuit, sideline, diversion, avocation, recreation, entertainment, amusement, enthusiasm

hobgoblin ► **noun** GOBLIN, imp, sprite, elf, brownie, pixie, leprechaun, gnome, Scottish kelpie

hobnob ► **verb** (*informal*) ASSOCIATE, mix, fraternize, socialize, keep company, spend time, go around, mingle, consort, rub shoulders, *N Amer* rub elbows, *informal* hang around/round/out, knock about/around, be thick with

hocus-pocus ► **noun** JARGON, mumbo-jumbo, argle-bargle, gibberish, balderdash, claptrap, nonsense, rubbish, twaddle, garbage, *informal* gobbledegook, double Dutch, hokum, *N Amer informal* flapdoodle, *informal*, dated bunkum

hodgepodge ► **noun** (*N Amer*) See HOTCH POTCH.

hog ► **noun** PIG, sow, swine, porker, piglet, boar, *informal* piggy

► **verb** (*informal*) he hogged the limelight MONOPOLIZE, dominate, take over, corner, control
-OPPOSITES share.

hogwash ► **noun** (*informal*) See NONSENSE sense 1

hol polloi ► **noun** THE MASSES, the common people, the populace, the public, the multitude, the rank and file, the lower orders, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians, the proletariat; the mob,

the herd, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed, *informal* the plebs, the proles

hoist ► **verb** we hoisted the mainsail RAISE, lift (up), haul up, heave up, jack up, hike up, winch up, pull up, upraise, uplift, elevate, erect

-OPPOSITES lower

► **noun** a mechanical hoist LIFTING GEAR, crane, winch, block and tackle, pulley, windlass derrick

holty-tolty ► **adjective** (*informal*) SNOBBISH, snobby, haughty, disdainful, conceited, proud, arrogant, supercilious, superior, imperious, above oneself, self-important, *informal* high and mighty, snooty, uppity, uppish, la-di-da, *Bnt informal* toffee-nosed

hold ► **verb** ① she held a suitcase CLASP, clutch, grasp, grip, clench, cling to, hold on to; carry, bear ② I wanted to hold her EMBRACE, hug, clasp, cradle, enfold, squeeze, fold in one's arms. ③ do you hold a driving licence? POSSESS, have, own, bear, carry, have to one's name ④ the branch held my weight SUPPORT, bear, carry, take, keep up, sustain, prop up, shore up ⑤ the police were holding him DETAIN, hold in custody, imprison, lock up, put behind bars, put in prison, put in jail, incarcerate, keep under lock and key, confine, intern, *informal* put away, put inside ⑥ try to hold the audience's attention MAINTAIN, keep, occupy, engross, absorb, interest, captivate, fascinate, enthrall, rivet, engage, catch, capture, arrest ⑦ he held a senior post OCCUPY, have, fill, *informal* hold down ⑧ the tank held 250 gallons TAKE, contain, accommodate, fit, have a capacity of, have room for ⑨ the court held that there was no evidence MAINTAIN, consider, take the view, believe, think, feel, deem, be of the opinion, judge, rule, decide, *informal* reckon, *formal* opine ⑩ let's hope the weather holds PERSIST, continue, carry on, go on, hold out, keep up, last, endure, stay, remain ⑪ the offer still holds BE AVAILABLE, be valid, hold good, stand, apply, remain, exist, be the case, be in force, be in effect ⑫ they held a meeting CONVENE, call, summon, conduct, have, organize, run, *formal* convoke
-OPPOSITES release, lose, end

► **noun** ① she kept a hold on my hand GRIP, grasp, clasp, clutch ② Tom had a hold over his father INFLUENCE, power, control, dominance, authority, leverage, sway, mastery ③ the military tightened their hold on the capital CONTROL, grip, power, stranglehold, dominion, authority

■ **get hold of** (*informal*) ① I just can't get hold of saffron OBTAIN, acquire, get, find, come by, pick up, procure; buy, purchase, *informal* get one's hands on ② I'll try to get hold of Mark CONTACT, get in touch with, communicate with, make contact with, reach, notify; phone, call, speak to, talk to; *Bnt* ring (up), get on to

■ **hold back** HESITATE, pause, stop oneself, desist, forbear

■ **hold someone back** HINDER, hamper, impede, obstruct, check, curb, block, thwart, balk, hamstring, restrain, frustrate, stand in someone's way

■ **hold something back** ① Jane held back the tears: SUPPRESS, fight back, choke back, stifle, smother, subdue, rein in, repress, curb, control, keep a tight rein on; *informal* keep a/the lid on. ② don't hold anything back from me: WITHHOLD, hide, conceal, keep secret, keep hidden, keep

quiet about, hush up, *informal* sit on, keep under one's hat

■ **hold someone/something dear** CHERISH, treasure, prize, appreciate, value highly, care for/about, set great store by, *informal* put on a pedestal

■ **hold someone down** OPPRESS, repress, suppress, subdue, subjugate, keep down, keep under, tyrannize, dominate

■ **hold something down** ① they will hold down inflation KEEP DOWN, keep low, freeze, fix ② (*informal*) she held down two jobs OCCUPY, hold, have, do, fill

■ **hold forth** SPEAK AT LENGTH, talk at length, go on, sound off, declaim, spout, pontificate, orate, preach, sermonize, *informal* speechify, preachify, drone on

■ **hold off** the rain held off STAY AWAY, keep off, not come

■ **hold something off** RESIST, repel, repulse, rebuff, parry, deflect, fend off, stave off, ward off, keep at bay

■ **hold on** ① hold on a minute WAIT (A MINUTE), just a moment, just a second, stay here, stay put, hold the line, *informal* hang on, sit tight, hold your horses, *Brit informal* hang about ② if only they could hold on a while KEEP GOING, persevere, survive, last, continue, struggle on, carry on, go on, hold out, see it through, stay the course, *informal* soldier on, stick at it, hang in there

■ **hold on to** ① he held on to the chair CLUTCH, hold, hang on to, clasp, grasp, grip, cling to ② they can't hold on to their staff RETAIN, keep, hang on to

■ **hold one's own.** See OWN

■ **hold out** ① we held out against the attacks RESIST, withstand, hold off, fight off, fend off, keep off, keep at bay, stand up to, stand firm against ② our supplies will hold out LAST, remain, be extant, continue

■ **hold something out** EXTEND, proffer, offer, present, outstretch, reach out, stretch out, put out

■ **hold something over** POSTPONE, put off, put back, delay, defer, suspend, shelve, hold in abeyance, *N Amer* put over, table, take a rain check on, *informal* put on ice, put on the back burner, put in cold storage, mothball

■ **hold up** the argument doesn't hold up BE CONVINCING, be logical, hold water, bear examination, be sound

■ **hold something up** ① they held up the trophy DISPLAY, hold aloft, exhibit, show (off), flourish, brandish, *informal* flash ② concrete pillars hold up the bridge SUPPORT, hold, bear, carry, take, keep up, prop up, shore up, buttress ③ our flight was held up for hours DELAY, detain, make late, set back, keep back, retard, slow up ④ a lack of cash has held up progress OBSTRUCT, impede, hinder, hamper, inhibit, baulk, thwart, curb, hamstring, frustrate, foul, interfere with, stop, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works of; *informal* stymie ⑤ a raider held up the bank ROB, *informal* stick up, mug

■ **hold water.** See WATER

■ **hold with** APPROVE OF, agree with, be in favour of, endorse, accept, countenance, support, subscribe to, give one's blessing to, take kindly to; *informal* stand for; *Brit informal* be doing with

holder ► noun ① a knife holder: CONTAINER, receptacle, case, casing, cover, covering, housing,

sheath; stand, rest, rack ② a British passport holder BEARER, owner, possessor, keeper, custodian

holdings ► plural noun ASSETS, funds, capital, resources, savings, investments, securities, equities, bonds, stocks and shares, reserves, property, possessions

hold-up ► noun ① I ran into a series of hold-ups DELAY, setback, hitch, snag, difficulty, problem, trouble, traffic jam, tailback, gridlock, *informal* snarl-up, glitch, hiccup ② a bank hold-up (ARMED) ROBBERY, (armed) raid, theft, burglary, mugging, *informal* stick-up, *N Amer informal* heist

hole ► noun ① a hole in the roof OPENING, aperture, gap, space, orifice, vent, chink, breach; crack, leak, rift, rupture, puncture, perforation, cut, split, gash, slit, crevice, fissure ② a hole in the ground PIT, ditch, trench, cavity, crater, depression, hollow, well, borehole, excavation, dugout, cave, cavern, pothole ③ the badger's hole BURROW, lair, den, earth, sett, retreat, shelter ④ there are holes in their argument FLAW, fault, defect, weakness, shortcoming, inconsistency, discrepancy, loophole, error, mistake. ⑤ (*informal*) I was living in a real hole HOVEL, slum, shack, mess, *informal* dump, dive, pigsty, tip ⑥ (*informal*) they steal when they are in a hole PRE DICAMENT, difficult situation, awkward situation, (tight) corner, quandary, dilemma, crisis, emergency, difficulty, trouble, plight, dire straits, *informal* fix, jam, bind, (tight) spot, pickle, sticky situation, hot water, *Brit informal* spot of bother

► verb a fuel tank was holed by the attack PUNCTURE, perforate, pierce, penetrate, rupture, split, rent, lacerate, gash

■ **hole up** ① the bears hole up in winter HIBERNATE, lie dormant ② (*informal*) the snipers holed up in a farmhouse HIDE (OUT), conceal oneself, secrete oneself, shelter, take cover, lie low, go to ground, go to earth, *Brit informal*ated lie doggo

■ **pick holes in** (*informal*) See CRITICIZE

hole-and-corner ► adjective SECRET, secretive, clandestine, covert, furtive, surreptitious, underhand, devious, stealthy, sneaky, backstairs, hugger-mugger, cloak-and-dagger, under-the-counter, *informal* hush-hush

holiday ► noun ① a ten-day holiday VACATION, break, rest, recess, time off, time out, leave, furlough, sabbatical, trip, tour, journey, voyage, *informal* hols, vac, *formal* sojourn. ② the twenty-fourth of May is a holiday PUBLIC HOLIDAY, bank holiday, festival, feast day, fête, fiesta, celebration, anniversary, jubilee, saint's day, holy day See list at FESTIVAL

holler-than-thou ► adjective SANCTIMONIOUS, self-righteous, smug, self-satisfied, priggish, pious, pietistic, Pharisaic; *informal* goody-goody, preachy

—OPPOSITES humble

holler (*informal*) ► verb he hollers when he wants feeding SHOUT, yell, cry (out), vociferate, call (out), roar, bellow, bawl, bark, howl, boom, thunder.

—OPPOSITES whisper

► noun a euphoric holler SHOUT, cry, yell, roar, bellow, bawl, howl; whoop

—OPPOSITES whisper

hollow ► adjective ① each fibre has a hollow core EMPTY, void, unfilled, vacant. ② hollow cheeks:

SUNKEN, deep-set, concave, depressed, indented
 ① a hollow voice DULL, low, flat, toneless, expressionless, muffled, muted ② a hollow victory MEANINGLESS, empty, valueless, worthless, useless, pyrrhic, futile, fruitless, profitless, pointless ③ a hollow promise INSINCERE, hypocritical, feigned, false, sham, deceitful, cynical, spurious, untrue, two-faced, *informal* phoney, pretend
 -OPPOSITES solid, worthwhile, sincere

► **noun** ① a hollow under the tree HOLE, pit, cavity, crater, trough, cave, cavern, depression, indentation, dip, niche, nook, cranny, recess ② the village lay in a hollow VALLEY, vale, dale, *Brit* dene, combe, *N English* clough, *Scottish* glen, strath; *poetic/literary* dell

► **verb** a tunnel hollowed out of a mountain GOUGE, scoop, dig, cut, excavate, channel

■ **beat someone hollow** TROUNCE, defeat utterly, crush, rout, overwhelm, outclass, *informal* hammer, clobber, thrash, drub, lick, paste, crucify, slaughter, massacre, flatten, demolish, destroy, annihilate, walk over, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, *Brit informal* stuff, *N Amer informal* shellac, cream, skunk

holocaust ► **noun** CATAclysm, disaster, catastrophe, destruction, devastation, annihilation, massacre, slaughter, mass murder, carnage, butchery, genocide, ethnic cleansing

holy ► **adjective** ① holy men SAINTLY, godly, saint-like, pious, pietistic, religious, devout, God-fearing, spiritual, righteous, good, virtuous, sinless, pure, canonized, beatified, ordained ② a Jewish holy place SACRED, consecrated, hallowed, sanctified, venerated, revered, divine, religious, blessed, dedicated

-OPPOSITES sinful, irreligious, cursed

homage ► **noun** RESPECT, honour, reverence, worship, admiration, esteem, adulation, acclaim, tribute, acknowledgement, recognition, accolade, panegyric, paean, salute

■ **pay homage to** HONOUR, acclaim, applaud, salute, praise, commend, pay tribute to, take one's hat off to, *formal* laud

home ► **noun** ① they fled their homes RESIDENCE, place of residence, house, flat, apartment, bungalow, cottage, accommodation, property, quarters, lodgings, rooms, a roof over one's head, address, place, *informal* pad, digs, semi, *formal* domicile, abode, dwelling (place), habitation See lists here and at ANIMAL ② I am far from my home HOMELAND, native land, home town, birthplace, roots, fatherland, motherland, mother country, country of origin, the old country ③ a home for the elderly INSTITUTION, nursing home, retirement home, rest home, children's home, hospice, shelter, refuge, retreat, asylum, hostel. ④ the home of fine wines DOMAIN, realm, origin, source, cradle, fount, fountainhead

► **adjective** ① the UK home market DOMESTIC, internal, local, national, interior. ② home produce HOME-MADE, home-grown, local, family
 -OPPOSITES foreign, international

■ **at home** ① I was at home all day IN, in one's house, present, available, indoors, inside, here ② she felt very much at home. AT EASE, comfortable, relaxed, content; in one's element ③ he is at home with mathematics CONFIDENT WITH, conversant with, proficient in; used to, familiar with, au fait with, au courant with, skilled in, experienced in, well versed in; *informal* well up

on ④ she was not at home to friends ENTERTAINING, receiving, playing host to

■ **bring something home to someone** MAKE SOMEONE REALIZE, make someone understand, make someone aware, make something clear to someone, drive home, press home, impress upon someone, draw attention to, focus attention on, underline, highlight, spotlight, emphasize, stress

■ **hit home.** See HIT

■ **home in on** FOCUS ON, concentrate on, zero in on, centre on, fix on, highlight, spotlight, underline, pinpoint, *informal* zoom in on

■ **nothing to write home about** (*informal*) UNEXCEPTIONAL, mediocre, ordinary, commonplace, indifferent, average, middle-of-the-road, run-of-the-mill, tolerable, passable, adequate, fair, *informal* OK, so-so, bog-standard, (plain) vanilla, no great shakes, not so hot, not up to much, *Brit informal* common or garden, *N Amer informal* ordinary

Homes

adobe	frame house	priory
A-frame	gîte	ranch (house)
apartment	grange	rancher
back-to-back	hacienda	rath
barracks	hermitage	rectory
bastide	hogan	rest home
bedsit	homestead	rondavel
bedsitter	hostel	semi-detached
bed-sitting	hotel	house
room	house	shack
bi-level	houseboat	shanty
black house	hovel	side split
blockhouse	hut	single end
bungalow	igloo	skern
cabin	jhuggi	split
caravan	lake dwelling	stately home
castle	lodge	stilted house
chalet	log cabin	studio flat
chateau	longhouse	tenement
condo	maisonette	tent
condominium	manoir	tepee
cottage	manor	terrace
country house	manse	terraced house
crannog	mansion	terramare
dacha	message	town house
deanery	mobile	trailer
detached	home	two-up two-down
house	motel	tree house
donga	mud hut	tupik
duplex	palace	vicarage
farmhouse	parsonage	villa
fibro	penthouse	whare
flat	pled-à-terre	wigwam
flatlet	pile dwelling	yurt
floatel	prefab	

homeland ► **noun** NATIVE LAND, country of origin, home, fatherland, motherland, mother country, land of one's fathers, the old country

homeless ► **adjective** homeless people. OF NO FIXED ABODE, without a roof over one's head, on the streets, vagrant, sleeping rough; destitute, down and out.

► **noun** charities for the homeless. PEOPLE OF NO FIXED ABODE, vagrants, down-and-outs, tramps, vagabonds, itinerants, transients, migrants, derelicts, drifters; *N Amer.* hoboes, *Austral* bagmen,



informal bag ladies, *Brit informal* dossers, *N Amer informal* bums

homely ► **adjective** ① *a homely atmosphere* COSY, homelike, homey, comfortable, snug, welcoming, friendly, congenial, intimate, warm, hospitable, informal, relaxed, pleasant, cheerful, *informal* comfy ② *homely pursuits* UNSOPHISTICATED, everyday, ordinary, domestic, simple, modest, unpretentious, unassuming, homespun, folksy ③ (*N Amer*) *she's rather homely* UNATTRACTIVE, plain, unprepossessing, unlovely, ill-favoured, ugly, *informal* not much to look at, *Brit informal* no oil painting

—OPPOSITES uncomfortable, formal, sophisticated, attractive

homespun ► **adjective** UNSOPHISTICATED, plain, simple, unpolished, unrefined, rustic, folksy, coarse, rough, crude, rudimentary
—OPPOSITES sophisticated

homey ► **adjective** ① *the house is homey yet elegant* COSY, homelike, homely, comfortable, snug, welcoming, informal, relaxed, intimate, warm, pleasant, cheerful, *informal* comfy ② *peasant life was simple and homey* UNSOPHISTICATED, homely, unrefined, unpretentious, plain, simple, modest

—OPPOSITES uncomfortable, formal, sophisticated

homicidal ► **adjective** MURDEROUS, violent, brutal, savage, ferocious, vicious, bloody, bloodthirsty, barbarous, barbaric, deadly, lethal, mortal, death-dealing, *poetic/literary* fell, *archaic* sanguinary

homicide ► **noun** ① *he was charged with homicide* MURDER, killing, slaughter, butchery, massacre, assassination, execution, extermination, patricide, matricide, infanticide, *poetic/literary* slaying ② (*dated*) *a convicted homicide* KILLER, assassin, serial killer, butcher, slaughterer, patricide, matricide, infanticide, *informal* hit man, hired gun, *dated* cut-throat, *poetic/literary* slayer

homily ► **noun** SERMON, lecture, discourse, address, lesson, talk, speech, oration

homogeneous ► **adjective** ① *a homogeneous group* UNIFORM, identical, unvaried, consistent, undistinguishable, alike, similar, (much) the same, all of a piece, *informal* much of a muchness ② *we have to compete with homogeneous products* SIMILAR, comparable, equivalent, like, analogous, corresponding, parallel, matching, related, *formal* cognate

—OPPOSITES different

homogenize ► **verb** MAKE UNIFORM, make similar, unite, integrate, fuse, merge, blend, meld, coalesce, amalgamate, combine

—OPPOSITES diversify

homogenous ► **adjective**. See HOMOGENEOUS

homologous ► **adjective** SIMILAR, comparable, equivalent, like, analogous, corresponding, correspondent, parallel, matching, related, congruent; *formal* cognate

—OPPOSITES different

homosexual ► **adjective** GAY, lesbian; *informal* queer, camp, pink, swinging the other way, homo, dykey; *Brit informal* bent, poofy.

—OPPOSITES heterosexual

► **noun** GAY, lesbian, *informal* queer, homo, queen, friend of Dorothy, pansy, nancy, dyke, les, lezzy, butch, femme; *Brit informal* poof, ponce, woofier.

—OPPOSITES heterosexual

hone ► **verb** SHARPEN, whet, strop, grind, file

—OPPOSITES blunt

honest ► **adjective** ① *an honest man* UPRIGHT, honourable, moral, ethical, principled, righteous, right-minded, respectable, virtuous, good, decent, law-abiding, high-minded, upstanding, incorruptible, truthful, trustworthy, trusty, reliable, conscientious, scrupulous, reputable, *informal* on the level ② *I haven't been honest with you* TRUTHFUL, sincere, candid, frank, open, forthright, straight, straightforward, plain-speaking, matter-of-fact, *informal* upfront ③ *an honest mistake* GENUINE, real, authentic, actual, true, bona fide, legitimate, fair and square, *informal* legit, kosher, on the level, honest-to-goodness

—OPPOSITES unscrupulous, insincere

honestly ► **adverb** ① *he earned the money honestly* FAIRLY, lawfully, legally, legitimately, honourably, decently, ethically, in good faith, by the book, *informal* on the level ② *we honestly believe this is for the best* SINCERELY, genuinely, truthfully, truly, wholeheartedly, really, actually, to be honest, to tell you the truth, to be frank, in all honesty, in all sincerity, *informal* Scout's honour

honesty ► **noun** ① *I can attest to his honesty* INTEGRITY, uprightness, honourableness, honour, morality, morals, ethics, (high) principles, righteousness, right-mindedness, virtue, goodness, probity, high-mindedness, fairness, incorruptibility, truthfulness, trustworthiness, reliability, dependability ② *they spoke with honesty about their fears* SINCERITY, candour, frankness, directness, truthfulness, truth, openness, straightforwardness

honeyed ► **adjective** SWEET, sugary, saccharine, pleasant, flattering, adulatory, unctuous, dulcet, soothing, soft, mellow, mellifluous

—OPPOSITES harsh

honorarium ► **noun** FEE, payment, consideration, allowance, remuneration, pay, expenses, compensation, recompense, reward, *formal* emolument

honorary ► **adjective** ① *an honorary doctorate* TITULAR, nominal, in name only, unofficial, token ② (*Brit*) *an honorary treasurer* UNPAID, unsalaried, voluntary, volunteer, *N Amer* pro bono (publico)

honour ► **noun** ① *a man of honour* INTEGRITY, honesty, uprightness, ethics, morals, morality, (high) principles, righteousness, high-mindedness, virtue, goodness, decency, probity, scrupulousness, worth, fairness, justness, trustworthiness, reliability, dependability ② *a mark of honour* DISTINCTION, privilege, glory, kudos, cachet, prestige, merit, credit, importance, illustriousness, notability, respect, esteem, approbation ③ *our honour is at stake* REPUTATION, (good) name, character, repute, image, kudos, standing, stature, status. ④ *he was welcomed with honour* ACCLAIM, acclamation, applause, accolades, tributes, compliments, salutes, bouquets, homage, praise, glory, reverence, adulation, exaltation ⑤ *she had the honour of meeting the Queen* PRIVILEGE, pleasure, pride, joy, compliment, favour ⑥ *military honours* ACCOLADE, award, reward, prize, decoration, distinction, medal, ribbon, star, laurel; *Military, informal* fruit salad, *Brit informal* gong ⑦ (*dated*) *she died defend-*

ing her honour CHASTITY, virginity, maidenhead, purity, innocence, modesty, *informal* cherry, *archaic* virtue, maidenhood

—OPPOSITES unscrupulousness, shame

► **verb** ① we should honour our parents ESTEEM, respect, admire, defer to, look up to, appreciate, value, cherish; reverence, revere, venerate, worship, *informal* put on a pedestal ② they were honoured at a special ceremony APPLAUD, acclaim, praise, salute, recognize, celebrate, commemorate, commend, hail, lionize, exalt, eulogize, pay homage to, pay tribute to, sing the praises of, *formal* laud ③ he honoured the contract FULFIL, observe, keep, obey, heed, follow, carry out, discharge, implement, execute, effect, keep to, abide by, adhere to, comply with, conform to, be true to, live up to ④ the cheque was not honoured ACCEPT, take, clear, pass, cash, *Brit* encash

—OPPOSITES disgrace, criticize, disobey

honourable ► **adjective** ① an honourable man HONEST, moral, ethical, principled, righteous, right-minded, decent, respectable, virtuous, good, upstanding, upright, worthy, noble, fair, just, truthful, trustworthy, trusty, law-abiding, reliable, reputable, dependable ② an honourable career ILLUSTRIOUS, distinguished, eminent, great, glorious, prestigious, noble, creditable

—OPPOSITES crooked, deplorable

hoodlum ► **noun** HOOLIGAN, thug, lout, delinquent, tearaway, vandal, ruffian, gangster, mobster, criminal, Mafioso, *Austral* larrikin, *informal* tough, bruiser, roughneck, heavy, hit man, *Brit* *informal* yob, yobbo, bovver boy, lager lout, *N Amer* *informal* hood

hoodoo ► **noun** WITCHCRAFT, magic, black magic, sorcery, wizardry, devilry, voodoo, necromancy, *N Amer* mojo

hoodwink ► **verb** DECEIVE, trick, dupe, outwit, fool, delude, cheat, take in, hoax, mislead, lead on, defraud, double-cross, swindle, gull, *informal* con, bamboozle, do, have, sting, gyp, diddle, shaft, rip off, lead up the garden path, pull a fast one on, put one over on, take for a ride, pull the wool over someone's eyes, *N Amer* *informal* sucker, snooker, *Scottish & N English* skelp, *informal* pull a swift one; *poetic/literary* cozen

hoof ► **noun** trotter, foot, *Zoology* ungula

hook ► **noun** ① she hung her jacket on the hook PEG ② the dress has six hooks FASTENER, fastening, catch, clasp, hasp, clip, pin ③ I had a fish on the end of my hook FISH-HOOK, barb, snare ④ a right hook to the chin PUNCH, blow, hit, cuff, thump, smack, *Scottish & N English* skelp, *informal* belt, bop, biff, sock, clout, whack, wallop, slug, *N Amer* *informal* boff.

► **verb** ① they hooked baskets onto the ladder. ATTACH, hitch, fasten, fix, secure, clasp ② he hooked his thumbs in his belt CURL, bend, crook, loop, curve. ③ he hooked a 24 lb pike CATCH, land, net, take, bag, snare, trap

■ **by hook or by crook** BY ANY MEANS, somehow (or other), no matter how, in one way or another, by fair means or foul.

■ **hook, line, and sinker** COMPLETELY, totally, utterly, entirely, wholly, absolutely, through and through, one hundred per cent, (lock, stock, and barrel)

■ **off the hook** (*informal*) OUT OF TROUBLE, in the clear, free; acquitted, cleared, reprieved, exonerated, absolved; *informal* let off.

hooked ► **adjective** ① a hooked nose CURVED, hook-shaped, hook-like, aquiline, angular, bent, *Biology* falcate, falciform, uncinate ② (*informal*) they are hooked on cocaine ADDICTED to, dependent on, *informal* using, *N Amer* *informal* have a jones for ③ (*informal*) he is hooked on crosswords KEEN ON, enthusiastic about, addicted to, obsessed with, fixated on, fanatical about, *informal* mad about, crazy about, wild about, nuts about, *Brit* *informal* potty about

—OPPOSITES straight

hooligan ► **noun** HOODLUM, thug, lout, delinquent, tearaway, vandal, ruffian, troublemaker, *Austral* larrikin, *informal* tough, rough, bruiser, roughneck, *Brit* *informal* yob, yobbo, bovver boy, lager lout, *Scottish* *informal* ned

hoop ► **noun** RING, band, circle, circlet, loop, *technical* annulus

hoot ► **noun** ① the hoot of an owl SCREECH, shriek, call, cry, tu-whit tu-whoo ② the hoot of a horn BEEP, honk, toot, blast, blare ③ hoots of derision SHOUT, yell, cry, howl, shriek, whoop, whistle, boo, hiss, jeer, catcall ④ (*informal*) your mum's a real hoot AMUSING PERSON, character, clown, *informal* scream, laugh, card, case, one, riot, giggle, barrel of laughs, *informal*, *dated* caution

► **verb** ① an owl hooted SCREECH, shriek, cry, call, tu-whit tu-whoo ② a car horn hooted BEEP, honk, toot, blare, blast, sound ③ they hooted in disgust SHOUT, yell, cry, howl, shriek, whistle, boo, hiss, jeer, catcall

■ **give a hoot** (*informal*) CARE, be concerned, mind, be interested, be bothered, get worked up, *informal* give a damn, give a rap, give a monkey's

hop ► **verb** ① he hopped along the road JUMP, bound, spring, bounce, skip, jig, leap, prance, dance, frolic, gambol ② (*informal*) she hopped over the Atlantic GO, dash, travel, *informal* pop, whip, *Brit* *informal* nip

► **noun** ① the rabbit had a hop around JUMP, bound, bounce, prance, leap, spring, gambol ② (*informal*) a short hop by taxi JOURNEY, distance, ride, drive, run, trip, flight ③ (*informal*) come to the hop on Saturday DANCE, social, party, disco, *informal* bash, bop, shindig, do, *Brit* *informal* rave-up, knees-up

■ **on the hop** (*Brit* *informal*) ① he was caught on the hop UNPREPARED, unready, off guard, unaware, by surprise, with one's defences down, *informal* napping, *Brit* *informal* with one's trousers down ② we were always kept on the hop BUSY, occupied, employed, working, at work, on the job, rushed off one's feet, *informal* on the go

hope ► **noun** ① I had high hopes ASPIRATION, desire, wish, expectation, ambition, aim, plan, dream, daydream, pipe dream ② a life filled with hope HOPEFULNESS, optimism, expectation, expectancy, confidence, faith, trust, belief, conviction, assurance, promise.

—OPPOSITES pessimism

► **verb** ① he's hoping for a medal: EXPECT, anticipate, look for, be hopeful of, pin one's hopes on, want; wish for, dream of. ② we're hoping to address the issue: AIM, intend, be looking, have the intention, have in mind, plan, aspire.

hopeful ► **adjective** ① he remained hopeful: OPTIMISTIC, full of hope, confident, positive, buoyant, sanguine, bullish, cheerful; *informal* upbeat ② hopeful signs. PROMISING, encouraging, heart-

ening, reassuring, auspicious, favourable, optimistic, propitious, bright, rosy

hopefully ► **adverb** ① *he rode on hopefully* OPTIMISTICALLY, full of hope, confidently, buoyantly, sanguinely, expectantly ② *hopefully it should finish soon* ALL BEING WELL, if all goes well, God willing, with luck, most likely, probably, conceivably, feasibly, *informal* touch wood, fingers crossed

hopeless ► **adjective** ① *her hopeless appeal* DESPAIRING, desperate, wretched, forlorn, pessimistic, defeatist, resigned, dejected, downhearted, despondent, demoralized ② *a hopeless case* IRREMEDIAL, beyond hope, lost, beyond repair, irreparable, irreversible, past cure, incurable; impossible, no-win, futile, forlorn, unworkable, impracticable, *archaic* bootless ③ *Joseph was hopeless at maths* BAD, poor, awful, terrible, dreadful, appalling, atrocious, inferior, incompetent, unskilled, *informal* pathetic, useless, lousy, rotten, *Brit informal* duff, rubbish

hopelessly ► **adverb** ① *she began to cry hopelessly* DESPAIRINGLY, in despair, in distress, desperately, dejectedly, downheartedly, despondently, wretchedly, miserably, forlornly ② *she was hopelessly lost* UTTERLY, completely, irretrievably, impossibly, extremely, very, desperately, totally, dreadfully, *informal* terribly

horde ► **noun** CROWD, mob, pack, gang, troop, army, swarm, mass, throng, multitude, host, band, flock, *informal* crew, tribe, load

horizon ► **noun** ① *the sun rose above the horizon* SKYLINE ② *she wanted to broaden her horizons* OUTLOOK, perspective, perception, range of experience, scope, ambit, orbit

■ **on the horizon** IMMINENT, impending, close, near, approaching, coming, forthcoming, in prospect, at hand, on the way, about to happen, upon us, in the offing, in the pipeline, in the air, just around the corner, brewing, looming, threatening, menacing, *informal* on the cards

horizontal ► **adjective** ① *a horizontal surface* level, flat, plane, smooth, even, straight, parallel ② *she was stretched horizontal on a sunbed* FLAT, supine, prone, prostrate
—OPPOSITES vertical

horny ► **adjective** (*informal*) (SEXUALLY) AROUSED, excited, stimulated, titillated, inflamed, *informal* turned on, hot, sexed up, *Brit informal* randy

horrendous ► **adjective**. See HORRIBLE

horrible ► **adjective** ① *a horrible murder* DREADFUL, awful, terrible, shocking, appalling, horrifying, horrific, horrendous, grisly, ghastly, gruesome, harrowing, heinous, vile, unspeakable, nightmarish, macabre, spine-chilling, loathsome, monstrous, abhorrent, hateful, execrable, abominable, atrocious, sickening. ② (*informal*) *a horrible little man* NASTY, horrid, disagreeable, unpleasant, awful, dreadful, terrible, appalling, foul, repulsive, repellent, ghastly; obnoxious, hateful, odious, objectionable, insufferable, vile, loathsome, abhorrent, *informal* frightful, God-awful; *Brit informal* beastly
—OPPOSITES pleasant, agreeable.

horrid ► **adjective** ① *horrid apparitions*. See HORRIBLE sense 1. ② (*informal*) *the teachers were horrid*. See HORRIBLE sense 2

horrific ► **adjective** DREADFUL, horrendous, horrible, frightful, awful, terrible, atrocious; horri-

fying, shocking, appalling, harrowing, gruesome, hideous, grisly, ghastly, unspeakable, monstrous, nightmarish, sickening

horrify ► **verb** ① *she horrified us with ghastly tales* FRIGHTEN, scare, terrify, petrify, alarm, panic, terrorize, fill with fear, scare someone out of their wits, frighten the living daylights out of, make someone's hair stand on end, make someone's blood run cold; *informal* scare the pants off; *Brit informal* put the wind up; *N Amer informal* spook; *archaic* affright ② *he was horrified by her remarks* SHOCK, appal, outrage, scandalize, offend, disgust, revolt, nauseate, sicken

horror ► **noun** ① *children screamed in horror* TERROR, fear, fright, alarm, panic, dread, trepidation ② *to her horror she found herself alone* DISMAY, consternation, perturbation, alarm, distress, disgust, outrage, shock ③ *the horror of the tragedy* AWFULNESS, frightfulness, savagery, barbarity, hideousness, atrocity, outrage ④ (*informal*) *he's a little horror* RASCAL, devil, imp, monkey, *informal* terror, scamp, scallywag, tyke, *Brit informal* perisher, *N Amer informal* varmint
—OPPOSITES delight, satisfaction

■ **have a horror of** HATE, detest, loathe, abhor, *formal* abominate

horror-struck, horror-stricken ► **adjective** HORRIFIED, terrified, petrified, frightened, afraid, fearful, scared, panic-stricken, scared/frightened to death, scared witless, *informal* scared stiff

horse ► **noun** MOUNT, charger, cob, nag, hack, pony, foal, yearling, colt, stallion, gelding, mare, filly, *N Amer* bronco, *Austral/NZ* moke, yarraman; *informal* gee-gee, *archaic* steed See lists here and at HARNESS, EQUESTRIAN
—RELATED TERMS equine

■ **horse around/about** (*informal*) FOOL AROUND/ABOUT, play the fool, act the clown, clown about/around, monkey about/around, *informal* mess about/around, lark about/around, *Brit informal* muck about/around, *dated* play the giddy goat

horseman, horsewoman ► **noun** RIDER, equestrian, jockey, cavalryman, trooper; *historical* hussar, dragoon, *archaic* cavalier

horseplay ► **noun** TOMFOOLERY, fooling around, foolish behaviour, clowning, buffoonery, pranks, antics, high jinks, *informal* shenanigans, monkey business, *Brit informal* monkey tricks

horse sense ► **noun** (*informal*) See COMMON SENSE

horticulture ► **noun** GARDENING, floriculture, arboriculture, agriculture, cultivation

hosanna ► **noun** SHOUT OF PRAISE, alleluia, hurrah, hurray, cheer, paean; *formal* laudation

hose ► **noun** ① *a garden hose* PIPE, piping, tube, tubing, duct, outlet, pipeline, siphon ② *her hose had laddered* See HOSIERY

hosiery ► **noun** STOCKINGS, tights, stay-ups, nylon, hose, socks; *N Amer* pantyhose

hospitable ► **adjective** WELCOMING, friendly, congenial, genial, sociable, convivial, cordial; gracious, well disposed, amenable, helpful, obliging, accommodating, neighbourly, warm, kind, generous, bountiful

Horses and Ponies

American Saddle Horse	Morgan
Andalusian	mustang
Anglo-Arab	New Forest pony
Appaloosa	Nonius
Arab	Noriker
Barb	Norwegian racing
Basuto pony	trotter
Breton	Oldenburger
brumby	Orlov trotter
Camargue	palomino
Caspian	Paso Fino
Cleveland Bay	Percheron
Clydesdale	Pinto
Comtois	Pinzgauer
Conestoga	Plateau Persian
Connemara pony	polo pony
criollo	pony of the Americas
Dales pony	Przewalski's horse
Dartmoor pony	Quarter Horse
Dutch draught	Russ
Dutch warmblood	Russian heavy draught
Exmoor pony	Russian warmblood
Falabella	Sable Island
Fell pony	Saddlebred
Fjord	Salerno
Friesian	Sandalwood pony
Galiceño	Schleswig
Galloway	Shetland pony
Gelderlander	shire horse
Gotland	Standardbred
Hackney	Suffolk Punch
Hafflinger	Swedish warmblood
Hanoverian	Tartar pony
Highland pony	Tennessee Walking Horse
Holstein	Tersky
Huçul	thoroughbred
hunter	Timor pony
Iceland pony	Trakehner
Irish draught	trotter
Irish hunter	Viatka
Jutland	Waler
Kabardin	warmblood
Karabakh	Welsh cob
Kathiawari	Welsh Mountain pony
Kazakh	Yorkshire coach horse
Lipizzaner	
Lokal	
Lundy Island	
Mangalarga	
Manipur pony	
Mérens pony	
miniature Shetland	
Missouri fox-trotting horse	

EXTINCT HORSES

hyracotherium or
eohippus
miotippus
pliohippus
tarpan

Points of a Horse

cannon bone	forearm	point of hip
cheek	forelock	point of
chest	frog	shoulder
chestnut	gaskin	poll
chin groove	gullet	ribs
coffin bone	heel	shank
coronet	hindquarters	sheath
crest	hock	shoulder
croup	hoof	splint bone
dock	knee	stifle
elbow	loin	tail
ergot	mane	tendon
feathers	navicular	windpipe
fetlock	bone	withers
fetlock joint	pastern	
flank	pedal bone	

Horse Colours

albino	grey	roan
bay	iron grey	skewbald
blue roan	liver	sorrel
chestnut	chestnut	strawberry
dapple grey	piebald	roan
dun	pinto	

—OPPOSITES guest

► verb ① *the Queen hosted a dinner* GIVE, have, hold, throw, put on, provide, arrange, organize ② *the show is hosted by Angus* PRESENT, introduce, compère, front, anchor

host² ► noun ① *a host of memories* MULTITUDE, lot, abundance, wealth, profusion, informal load, heap, mass, pile, ton, *Brit* informal shedload, poetic/literary myriad ② *a host of film stars* CROWD, throng, flock, herd, swarm, horde, mob, army, legion, assemblage, gathering

hostage ► noun CAPTIVE, prisoner, detainee, internee

hostel ► noun CHEAP HOTEL, YMCA, YWCA, bed and breakfast, B&B, boarding house, guest house, pension

hostile ► adjective ① *a hostile attack* UNFRIENDLY, unkind, bitter, unsympathetic, malicious, vicious, rancorous, venomous, antagonistic, aggressive, confrontational, belligerent, truculent ② *hostile climatic conditions* UNFAVOURABLE, adverse, bad, harsh, grim, hard, tough, inhospitable, forbidding. ③ *they are hostile to the idea* OPPOSED, averse, antagonistic, ill-disposed, unsympathetic, antipathetic, opposing, against, informal anti, down on

—OPPOSITES friendly, favourable

hostility ► noun ① *he glared at her with hostility* ANTAGONISM, unfriendliness, malevolence, malice, unkindness, rancour, venom, hatred, aggression, belligerence. ② *their hostility to the present regime* OPPOSITION, antagonism, animosity, antipathy, ill will, ill feeling, resentment, aversion, enmity ③ *a cessation of hostilities* FIGHTING, (armed) conflict, combat, warfare, war, bloodshed, violence.

hot ► adjective ① *hot food* HEATED, piping (hot), sizzling, steaming, roasting, boiling (hot), searing, scorching, scalding, red-hot. ② *a hot day* VERY WARM, balmy, summery, tropical, scorch-

hospital ► noun INFIRMARY, sanatorium, hospice, medical centre, health centre, clinic, *Brit* cottage hospital, *Military* field hospital

hospitality ► noun ① *he is renowned for his hospitality* FRIENDLINESS, hospitableness, warm reception, helpfulness, neighbourliness, warmth, kindness, congeniality, geniality, cordiality, amenability, generosity ② *corporate hospitality* entertainment, catering, food

host¹ ► noun ① *the host greeted the guests* PARTY-GIVER, hostess, entertainer. ② *the host of a TV series* PRESENTER, compère, anchor, anchorman, anchorwoman, announcer

ing, searing, blistering, sweltering, torrid, sultry, humid, muggy, close, *informal* boiling, baking, roasting. ③ *she felt very hot* FEVERISH, fevered, febrile, burning, flushed ④ *a hot chilli* SPICY, spiced, highly seasoned, peppery, fiery, strong, piquant, pungent, aromatic ⑤ *the competition was too hot* FIERCE, intense, keen, competitive, cut-throat, dog-eat-dog, ruthless, aggressive, strong ⑥ *(informal) the hottest story in Fleet Street*. NEW, fresh, recent, late, up to date, up to the minute, just out, hot off the press ⑦ *(informal) this band is hot* POPULAR, in demand, sought-after, in favour, fashionable, in vogue, all the rage, *informal* big, in, now, hip, trendy, cool ⑧ *(informal) she is hot on local history* KNOW LEDGEABLE ABOUT, well informed about, au fait with, up on, well versed in, au courant with, *informal* clued up about, genned up about ⑨ *(informal) hot goods* STOLEN, illegally obtained, illegal, illicit, unlawful, smuggled, bootleg, contraband, *Brit informal* dodgy

—OPPOSITES cold, chilly, mild, dispassionate, weak, old, lawful

■ **blow hot and cold** VACILLATE, dither, shilly-shally, waver, be indecisive, change one's mind, be undecided, be uncertain, be unsure, *Brit* haver, hum and haw, *Scottish* swither

■ **hot on the heels of** CLOSE BEHIND, directly after, right after, straight after, hard on the heels of, following closely

■ **hot under the collar** (*informal*) See ANGRY sense 1

■ **make it/things hot for someone** (*informal*) HARASS, hound, plague, badger, harry, bully, intimidate, pick on, persecute, victimize, terrorize, *N Amer* devil, *informal* hassle, give someone a hard time, get on someone's back

hot air ► *noun* (*informal*) NONSENSE, rubbish, garbage, empty talk, wind, blather, claptrap, drivel, balderdash, gibberish, pomposity, bombast, *informal* guff, bosh, hogwash, poppycock, bilge, twaddle, *Brit informal* cobblers, codswallop, tosh, *N Amer informal* flapdoodle

hotbed ► *noun* a hotbed of crime BREEDING GROUND, den, cradle, nest

hot-blooded ► *adjective* PASSIONATE, amorous, amatory, ardent, lustful, libidinous, lecherous, sexy, *informal* horny, randy
—OPPOSITES cold

hotchpotch ► *noun* MIXTURE, mix, mixed bag, assortment, random collection, jumble, ragbag, miscellany, medley, pot-pourri, melange, mish-mash, confusion, farrago, gallimaufry, *N Amer* hodgepodge

hotel ► *noun* INN, motel, boarding house, guest house, bed and breakfast, B&B, hostel, pension, auberge

hotfoot ► *adverb* HASTILY, hurriedly, speedily, quickly, fast, rapidly, swiftly, without delay, at top speed, at full tilt, headlong, post-haste, pell-mell, helter-skelter; *informal* like the wind, like greased lightning, like blazes; *Brit informal* like the clappers, like billy-o, *N Amer informal* lickety-split.

—OPPOSITES slowly

■ **hotfoot it** (*informal*) HURRY, dash, run, race, sprint, bolt, dart, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, streak; *informal* tear, belt, pelt, scoot, clip, leg it, go like a bat out of hell; *Brit informal* bomb; *N Amer informal* hightail it.

hot-headed ► *adjective* IMPETUOUS, impulsive, headstrong, reckless, rash, irresponsible, foolhardy, madcap; excitable, volatile, fiery, hot-tempered, quick-tempered, unruly, harum-scarum

hothouse ► *noun* GREENHOUSE, glasshouse, conservatory, orangery, vinery, winter garden

► *adjective* the school has a hothouse atmosphere IN TENSE, oppressive, stifling, overprotected, pampered, shielded

hotly ► *adverb* ① the rumours were hotly denied. VEHEMENTLY, vigorously, strenuously, fiercely, passionately, heatedly, angrily, indignantly ② he was hotly pursued by Boris CLOSELY, swiftly, quickly, hotfoot, eagerly, enthusiastically
—OPPOSITES calmly

hot-tempered ► *adjective* IRASCIBLE, quick-tempered, short-tempered, irritable, fiery, bad-tempered, touchy, volatile, testy, tetchy, fractious, prickly, peppery, *informal* snappish, snappy, chippy, on a short fuse, *Brit informal* narky, ratty, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* soreheaded
—OPPOSITES easy-going

hound ► *noun* ① (HUNTING) DOG, canine, mongrel, cur, *informal* doggy, pooch, mutt, *Austral/NZ informal* mong, bitzer ② (*informal, dated*) you monstrous hound! See SCOUNDREL

► *verb* ① she was hounded by the press PURSUE, chase, follow, shadow, be hot on someone's heels, hunt (down), stalk, track, trail; harass, persecute, harry, pester, bother, badger, torment, bedevil, *informal* hassle, bug, give someone a hard time, *N Amer informal* devil ② they hounded him out of office FORCE, drive, pressure, pressurize, push, urge, coerce, impel, dragoon, strong-arm, nag, bully, browbeat, chivvy, *informal* bulldoze, railroad, *Brit informal* bounce, *N Amer informal* hustle

house ► *noun* ① an estate of 200 houses RESIDENCE, home, place of residence, homestead, a roof over one's head, formal habitation, dwelling (place), abode, domicile See list at HOME ② you'll wake the whole house! HOUSEHOLD, family, clan, tribe, *informal* brood ③ the house of Stewart FAMILY, clan, tribe, dynasty, line, bloodline, lineage, ancestry, family tree ④ a printing house FIRM, business, company, corporation, enterprise, establishment, institution, concern, organization, operation, *informal* outfit, set-up ⑤ the country's upper house LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, legislative body, chamber, council, parliament, congress, senate, diet ⑥ the house applauded AUDIENCE, crowd, spectators, viewers, congregation, gallery, stalls, *Brit informal* punters

► *verb* ① they can house twelve employees ACCOMMODATE, provide accommodation for, give someone a roof over their head, lodge, quarter, board, billet, take in, sleep, put up, harbour, shelter ② this panel houses the main switch CONTAIN, hold, store, cover, protect, enclose

■ **on the house** (*informal*) FREE (OF CHARGE), without charge, at no cost, for nothing, gratis, courtesy, complimentary, *informal* for free, *N Amer. informal* comp.

household ► *noun* the household was asleep FAMILY, house, occupants; clan, tribe, *informal* brood.

► *adjective* household goods DOMESTIC, family, everyday, workaday.



householder ► noun HOMEOWNER, owner, occupant, resident, tenant, leaseholder, proprietor, landlady, landlord, freeholder, *Bnt* occupier, owner-occupier

housekeeping ► noun HOUSEHOLD MANAGEMENT, domestic work, home-making, housewifery, home economics, *Bnt* housecraft

houseman ► noun (*Bnt*) JUNIOR DOCTOR, house doctor, newly qualified doctor, *Bnt* house officer, *N Amer* intern, resident

house-trained (*Bnt*) ► adjective DOMESTICATED, trained, *N Amer* housebroken

housing ► noun ① they invested in housing HOUSES, homes, residences, buildings, accommodation, living quarters, formal dwellings, dwelling places, habitations ② the housing for the antennae CASING, covering, case, cover, holder, sheath, jacket, shell, capsule

hovel ► noun SHACK, slum, shanty, hut, informal dump, hole

hover ► verb ① helicopters hovered overhead BE SUSPENDED, be poised, hang, levitate, fly ② she hovered anxiously nearby LINGER, loiter, wait about, informal hang around, stick around, *Bnt* informal hang about

however ► adverb ① however, gaining weight is not inevitable NEVERTHELESS, nonetheless, but, still, yet, though, although, even so, for all that, despite that, in spite of that, anyway, anyhow, be that as it may, having said that, notwithstanding, informal still and all ② however you look at it. IN WHATEVER WAY, regardless of how, no matter how

howl ► noun ① the howl of a wolf BAYING, howling, bay, cry, yowl, bark, yelp ② a howl of anguish WAIL, cry, yell, yelp, yowl, bellow, roar, shout, shriek, scream, screech

► verb ① dogs howled in the distance BAY, cry, yowl, bark, yelp ② a baby started to howl WAIL, cry, yell, yowl, bawl, bellow, shriek, scream, screech, caterwaul, informal holler ③ we howled with laughter LAUGH, guffaw, roar, be creased up, be doubled up, split one's sides, informal fall about, crack up, be in stitches, be rolling in the aisles

howler ► noun (informal) MISTAKE, error, blunder, fault, gaffe, slip, informal slip-up, boo-boo, botch, clanger, *Bnt* informal boob, *N Amer* informal blooper

hub ► noun ① the hub of the wheel PIVOT, axis, fulcrum, centre, middle ② the hub of family life CENTRE, core, heart, focus, focal point, nucleus, kernel, nerve centre
-OPPOSITES periphery

hubbub ► noun ① her voice was lost in the hubbub. NOISE, din, racket, commotion, clamour, cacophony, babel, rumpus, *Bnt* informal row ② she fought through the hubbub CONFUSION, chaos, pandemonium, bedlam, mayhem, disorder, turmoil, tumult, fracas, hurly-burly.

hubris ► noun ARROGANCE, conceit, haughtiness, hauteur, pride, self-importance, pomposity, superciliousness, superiority; informal big-headedness
-OPPOSITES humility

huckster ► noun TRADER, dealer, seller, purveyor, vendor, salesman, pedlar, hawker; informal pusher

huddle ► verb ① they huddled together CROWD, cluster, gather, bunch, throng, flock, herd, collect, group, congregate, press, pack, squeeze ② he huddled beneath the sheets CURL UP, snuggle, nestle, hunch up

-OPPOSITES disperse

► noun ① a huddle of passengers. CROWD, cluster, bunch, knot, group, throng, flock, press, pack, collection, assemblage, informal gaggle ② the team went into a huddle CONSULTATION, discussion, debate talk, parley, meeting, conference, informal confab, powwow

hue ► noun ① paints in a variety of hues COLOUR, shade, tone, tint ② men of all political hues COMPLEXION, type, kind, sort, cast, stamp, character, nature

hue and cry ► noun COMMOTION, outcry, uproar, fuss, clamour, storm, stir, furor, ruckus, brouhaha, palaver, rumpus, informal hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo, kerfuffle, to-do, song and dance, *Bnt* informal row, stink

huff ► noun BAD MOOD, sulk, fit of pique, pet, temper, tantrum, rage, informal grump, *Bnt* informal strop, paddy, *N Amer* informal snit, *Bnt* informal, dated bate, wax

huffy ► adjective IRRITABLE, irritated, annoyed, cross, grumpy, bad-tempered, crotchety, crabby, cantankerous, moody, petulant, sullen, surly, touchy, testy, tetchy, snappish, informal snappy, cranky, *Bnt* informal narky, miffed, ratty, eggy, shirty, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer* informal soreheaded

hug ► verb ① they hugged each other EMBRACE, cuddle, squeeze, clasp, clutch, cling to, hold close, hold tight, take someone in one's arms, clasp someone to one's bosom, poetic/literary embosom ② our route hugged the coastline FOLLOW CLOSELY, keep close to, stay near to, follow the course of ③ we hugged the comforting thought CLING TO, hold on to, cherish, harbour, nurse, foster, retain, keep in mind

► noun there were hugs as we left EMBRACE, cuddle, squeeze, bear hug, clinch

huge ► adjective ENORMOUS, vast, immense, large, big, great, massive, colossal, prodigious, gigantic, gargantuan, mammoth, monumental, giant, towering, elephantine, mountainous, titanic, epic, Herculean, Brobdingnagian, informal jumbo, mega, monster, whopping, humongous, hulking, bumper, astronomical, *Bnt* informal ginormous

-OPPOSITES tiny.

hugely ► adverb VERY, extremely, exceedingly, most, really, particularly, tremendously, greatly, decidedly, exceptionally, immensely, inordinately, extraordinarily, vastly, very much, to a great extent, *N English* right, informal terrifically, awfully, terribly, majorly, seriously, mega, ultra, oh-so, damn, damned, *Bnt* informal ever so, well, dead, jolly; *N Amer* informal real, mighty, awful, informal, dated devilish, frightfully, archaic exceeding.

hugger-mugger ► adjective ① at home, all was hugger-mugger DISORDERLY, confused, disorganized, chaotic, muddled, haphazard, in a mess, in disarray, topsy-turvy, informal higgledy-piggledy; *Bnt* informal shambolic ② hugger-mugger dealings: CLANDESTINE, secret, covert, furtive, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, sneaky,

sly, underhand, undercover, underground, *informal* hush-hush

—OPPOSITES orderly, overt

hulk ▶ **noun** ① the rusting hulks of ships WRECK, shipwreck, ruin, derelict, shell, skeleton, hull ② a great hulk of a man GIANT, lump, oaf, *informal* clodhopper, ape, gorilla, *N Amer informal* lum-mox

hulking ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) LARGE, big, heavy, sturdy, burly, brawny, hefty, strapping, bulky, weighty, massive, ponderous, clumsy, awkward, ungainly, lumbering, lumpish, oafish, *informal* hunky, beefy, clodhopping
—OPPOSITES small

hull¹ ▶ **noun** the ship's hull FRAMEWORK, body, shell, frame, skeleton, structure

hull² ▶ **noun** seed hulls SHELL, husk, pod, case, covering, integument, shuck, *Botany* pericarp, legume

▶ **verb** the bird uses its beak to hull seeds SHELL, husk, peel, pare, skin, shuck, *technical* decorticate

hullabaloo ▶ **noun** (*informal*) FUSS, commotion, hue and cry, uproar, outcry, clamour, storm, furore, hubbub, ruckus, brouhaha, pandemonium, mayhem, tumult, turmoil, hurly-burly, *informal* hoo-ha, to-do, kerfuffle, song and dance, *Bnt informal* carry-on, row, stink

hum ▶ **verb** ① the engine was humming PURR, drone, murmur, buzz, thrum, whirr, throb, vibrate, *poetic/literary* bombinate ② she hummed a tune sing, croon, murrui, drone ③ the work-shops are humming BE BUSY, be active, be lively, buzz, bustle, be a hive of activity, throb ④ (*Bnt informal*) this stuff really hums See REEK verb

▶ **noun** a low hum of conversation MURMUR, drone, purr, buzz, *poetic/literary* combination

■ **hum and haw** (*Bnt*) HESITATE, dither, vacillate, be indecisive, equivocate, prevaricate, waver, blow hot and cold, *Bnt* havei, *Scottish* swither, *informal* shilly-shally

human ▶ **adjective** ① the human race anthro-poid ② they're only human MORTAL, flesh and blood, fallible, weak, frail, imperfect, vulnerable, susceptible, erring, error-prone, physical, bodily, fleshly ③ the human side of politics COM-PASSIONATE, humane, kind, considerate, understanding, sympathetic, tolerant, approachable, accessible

—OPPOSITES infallible

▶ **noun** the link between humans and animals PER-SON, human being, personage, mortal, member of the human race, man, woman, individual, (living) soul, being, Homo sapiens, earthling See list

Early Humans

Australopithecus
Boxgrove man
Cro-Magnon man
Heidelberg man
Homo erectus
Homo habilis
Homo sapiens
Java man
Kabwe man
Lucy

Neanderthal man
Nutcracker man
Paranthropus
Peking man
Plithcanthropus
Proconsul
protohuman
Sinanthropus
Zinjanthropus

humane ▶ **adjective** COMPASSIONATE, kind, considerate, understanding, sympathetic, tolerant, lenient, forbearing, forgiving, merciful, mild, tender, clement, benign, humanitarian, benevolent, charitable

—OPPOSITES cruel

humanitarian ▶ **adjective** ① a humanitarian act COMPASSIONATE, humane, unselfish, altruistic, generous, magnanimous, benevolent, merciful, kind, sympathetic ② a humanitarian organization CHARITABLE, philanthropic, public-spirited, socially concerned, welfare

—OPPOSITES selfish

▶ **noun** PHILANTHROPIST, altruist, benefactor, social reformer, good Samaritan, do-gooder, *archaic* philanthrope

humanities ▶ **plural noun** (LIBERAL) ARTS, literature, classics, classical studies, classical literature

humanity ▶ **noun** ① humanity evolved from the apes HUMANKIND, mankind, man, people, the human race, Homo sapiens ② the humanity of Christ HUMAN NATURE, humanness, mortality ③ he praised them for their humanity COMPASSION, brotherly love, fellow feeling, humaneness, kindness, consideration, understanding, sympathy, tolerance, leniency, mercy, mercifulness, pity, tenderness, benevolence, charity

humanize ▶ **verb** CIVILIZE, improve, better, educate, enlighten, instruct, sophisticate, socialize, refine, polish, *formal* edify

humankind ▶ **noun** THE HUMAN RACE, the human species, humanity, human beings, mankind, man, people, mortals, Homo sapiens

humble ▶ **adjective** ① her bearing was humble MEEK, deferential, respectful, submissive, self-effacing, unassertive, unpresuming, modest, unassuming, self-deprecating, *Scottish* mim ② a humble background LOWLY, working-class, lower-class, poor, undistinguished, mean, ignoble, low-born, common, ordinary, simple, inferior, unremarkable, insignificant, inconsequential, *informal* plebby ③ my humble abode MODEST, plain, simple, ordinary, unostentatious, unpretentious

—OPPOSITES proud, noble, grand

▶ **verb** ① he humbled himself to ask for help HUMILI-ATE, abase, demean, lower, degrade, debase, mortify, shame, eat humble pie, take someone down a peg or two, *informal* cut down to size, settle someone's hash, *N Amer informal* make someone eat crow ② Wales were humbled by Romania DEFEAT, beat, trounce, rout, overwhelm, get the better of, bring to one's knees, *informal* lick, clobber, slaughter, massacre, crucify, walk all over, *N Amer informal* shellac, cream

humbug ▶ **noun** ① that is sheer humbug HYPOCRISY, hypocritical talk, sanctimoniousness, posturing, cant, empty talk, insincerity, dishonesty, falseness, deceit, deception, fraud ② you see what a humbug I am? HYPOCRITE, fraud, fake, plaster saint, charlatan, cheat, deceiver, dissembler, *informal* phoney, *poetic/literary* whited sepulchre

▶ **verb** Dave is easily humbugged DECEIVE, trick, delude, mislead, fool, hoodwink, dupe, take in, beguile, bamboozle, gull, *informal* con, kid, have on, put one over on someone

humdrum ▶ **adjective** MUNDANE, dull, dreary, boring, tedious, monotonous, prosaic, unexcit-



ing, uninteresting, uneventful, unvaried, unremarkable, routine, ordinary, everyday, day-to-day, quotidian, run-of-the-mill, commonplace, workaday, pedestrian, *informal* (plain) vanilla
-OPPOSITES remarkable, exciting

humid ▶ **adjective** MUGGY, close, sultry, sticky, steamy, oppressive, airless, stifling, suffocating, stuffy, clammy, heavy
-OPPOSITES fresh

humiliate ▶ **verb** EMBARRASS, mortify, humble, shame, put to shame, disgrace, discomfit, chasten, abash, deflate, crush, squash, abase, debase, demean, degrade, cause to feel small, cause to lose face, take down a peg or two, *informal* show up, put down, cut down to size, settle someone's hash, *N Amer informal* make someone eat crow

humiliating ▶ **adjective** EMBARRASSING, mortifying, humbling, ignominious, inglorious, shameful, discreditable, undignified, chastening, demeaning, degrading, deflating

humiliation ▶ **noun** EMBARRASSMENT, mortification, shame, indignity, ignominy, disgrace, dishonour, degradation, discredit, obloquy, opprobrium, loss of pride, loss of face, blow to one's pride, slap in the face, kick in the teeth
-OPPOSITES honour

humility ▶ **noun** MODESTY, humbleness, meekness, diffidence, unassertiveness, lack of pride, lack of vanity
-OPPOSITES pride

hummock ▶ **noun** HILLOCK, hump, mound, knoll, tump, prominence, elevation, rise, dune, *N Amer* knob, *formal* eminence

humorist ▶ **noun** COMIC WRITER, wit, wag, comic, funny man/woman, comedian, comedienne, joker, jokester, clown

humorous ▶ **adjective** AMUSING, funny, comic, comical, entertaining, diverting, witty, jocular, light-hearted, tongue-in-cheek, wry, hilarious, uproarious, riotous, zany, farcical, droll, *informal* priceless, side-splitting, rib-tickling, a scream, a hoot, a barrel of laughs, waggish, *informal, dated* killing
-OPPOSITES serious

humour ▶ **noun** ① the humour of the situation COMEDY, comical aspect, funny side, funniness, hilarity, absurdity, ludicrousness, drollness, satire, irony ② the stories are spiced up with humour JOKES, jests, jesting, quips, witticisms, funny remarks, puns, wit, wittiness, comedy, drollery, *informal* gags, wisecracks, cracks, waggishness, one-liners ③ his good humour was infectious MOOD, temper, disposition, temperament, state of mind; spirits

▶ **verb** she was always humouring him INDULGE, accommodate, pander to, cater to, yield to, give way to, give in to, go along with, pamper, spoil, overindulge, mollify, placate, gratify, satisfy

humourless ▶ **adjective** SERIOUS, solemn, sober, sombre, grave, grim, dour, unsmiling, stony-faced; gloomy, glum, sad, melancholy, dismal, joyless, cheerless, lugubrious, boring, tedious, dull, dry
-OPPOSITES jovial

hump ▶ **noun** a hump at the base of the spine: PROTUBERANCE, prominence, lump, bump, knob, protrusion, projection, bulge, swelling, hunch; growth, outgrowth

▶ **verb** ① he humped his body to avoid a blow ARCH, hunch, bend, bow, curve ② (informal) he humped boxes up the stairs HEAVE, carry, lug, lift, hoist, heft, *informal* schlep, tote
-OPPOSITES straighten

■ **give someone the hump** (informal). See ANNOY

hunch ▶ **verb** ① he hunched his shoulders ARCH, curve, hump, bow ② I hunched up as small as I could CROUCH, huddle, curl, hunker down, bend, stoop, squat
-OPPOSITES straighten

▶ **noun** ① the hunch on his back PROTUBERANCE, hump, lump, bump, knob, protrusion, prominence, bulge, swelling, growth, outgrowth ② my hunch is that he'll be back FEELING, feeling in one's bones, guess, suspicion, impression, inkling, idea, notion, fancy, intuition, *informal* gut feeling

hundred ▶ **cardinal number** century, *informal* ton
-RELATED TERMS centi-, hecto-, centenary, centennial

hunger ▶ **noun** ① she was faint with hunger LACK OF FOOD, hungriness, ravenousness, emptiness, starvation, malnutrition, malnourishment, undernourishment ② a hunger for news DESIRE, craving, longing, yearning, hankering, appetite, thirst, want, need, *informal* itch, yen

■ **hunger after/for** DESIRE, crave, long for, yearn for, pine for, ache for, hanker after, thirst for, lust for, want, need, *informal* have a yen for, itch for, be dying for, be gagging for

hungry ▶ **adjective** ① I was really hungry RAVENOUS, empty, in need of food, hollow, faint from hunger, starving, starved, famished, malnourished, undernourished, underfed, *informal* peckish, able to eat a horse, *archaic* esurient ② they are hungry for success EAGER, keen, avid, longing, yearning, aching, greedy, craving, desirous of, hankering after, *informal* itching, dying, gagging, hot
-OPPOSITES full

hunk ▶ **noun** ① a hunk of bread CHUNK, wedge, block, slab, lump, square, gobbet, *Brit informal* wodge ② (informal) he's such a hunk: MUSCLEMAN, strongman, macho man, iron man, Hercules, *informal* tough guy, he-man, beefcake, stud, *N Amer informal* studmuffin
-OPPOSITES wimp

hunt ▶ **verb** ① they hunted deer CHASE, stalk, pursue, course, run down, track, trail, follow, shadow, *informal* tail ② police are hunting for her SEARCH, look (high and low), scour the area, seek, try to find, cast about/around/round, rummage (about/around/round), root about/around, fish about/around

▶ **noun** ① the thrill of the hunt. CHASE, pursuit ② police have stepped up their hunt. SEARCH, look, quest

hunted ▶ **adjective** HARASSED, persecuted, harried, hounded, beleaguered, troubled, stressed, tormented; careworn, haggard, distraught, desperate, *informal* hassled
-OPPOSITES carefree

hunter ▶ **noun** HUNTSMAN, huntswoman, trapper, stalker, woodsman; numrod; predator.

hunting ▶ **noun** BLOOD SPORTS, field sports, coursing, fox-hunting; trapping; the chase.

hurdle ▶ **noun** ① his leg hit a hurdle: FENCE, jump, barrier, barricade, bar, railing, rail. ② the



final hurdle to overcome **OBSTACLE**, difficulty, problem, barrier, bar, snag, fly in the ointment, stumbling block, impediment, obstruction, complication, hindrance, *Brit* spanner in the works, *informal* headache

hurl ▶ **verb** **THROW**, toss, fling, pitch, cast, lob, bowl, launch, catapult, project, propel, let fly, *informal* chuck, heave, sling, buzz, bung, *N Amer informal* peg, *Austral & N English informal* hoy, *NZ informal* bish, dated shy

hurly-burly ▶ **noun** **BUSTLE**, hustle and bustle, hubbub, confusion, disorder, uproar, tumult, pandemonium, mayhem, rumpus, *informal* hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo, kerfuffle

—**OPPOSITES** calm, order

hurricane ▶ **noun** **CYCLONE**, typhoon, tornado, storm, tempest, windstorm, whirlwind, gale, *Austral willy-willy*, *N Amer informal* twister

hurried ▶ **adjective** ① *hurried glances* **QUICK**, fast, swift, rapid, speedy, brisk, hasty, cursory, perfunctory, brief, short, fleeting, passing, superficial ② *a hurried decision* **HASTY**, rushed, speedy, quick, impetuous, impulsive, precipitate, precipitous, rash, incautious, imprudent, spur-of-the-moment

—**OPPOSITES** slow, considered

hurriedly ▶ **adverb** **HASTILY**, speedily, quickly, fast, rapidly, swiftly, briskly, without delay, at top speed, at full tilt, at the double, headlong, hotfoot, post-haste, *informal* like the wind, like greased lightning, in double quick time, *Brit informal* like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o, *N Amer informal* lickety-split

hurry ▶ **verb** ① *hurry or you'll be late* **BE QUICK**, hurry up, hasten, speed up, press on, push on, run, dash, rush, race, fly, scurry, scramble, scuttle, sprint, *informal* get a move on, step on it, get cracking, get moving, shake a leg, tear, hare, zip, zoom, hotfoot it, leg it, *Brit informal* shift, get one's skates on, stir one's stumps, *N Amer informal* get the lead out, get a wiggle on, dated make haste, archaic hie ② *she hurried him out* **HUSTLE**, hasten, push, urge, drive, spur, goad, prod, *informal* gee up

—**OPPOSITES** dawdle, delay

▶ **noun** in all the hurry, we forgot **RUSH**, haste, flurry, hustle and bustle, confusion, commotion, hubbub, turmoil, race, scramble, scurry

hurt ▶ **verb** ① *my back hurts* **BE PAINFUL**, be sore, be tender, cause pain, cause discomfort, ache, smart, sting, burn, throb, *informal* be killing; *Brit informal* be playing up ② *Dad hurt his leg* **INJURE**, wound, damage, disable, incapacitate, maim, mutilate, bruise, cut, gash, graze, scrape, scratch, lacerate ③ *his words hurt her* **DISTRESS**, pain, wound, sting, upset, sadden, devastate, grieve, mortify, cut to the quick ④ *high interest rates are hurting the economy* **HARM**, damage, be detrimental to, weaken, blight, impede, jeopardize, undermine, ruin, wreck, sabotage, cripple

—**OPPOSITES** heal, comfort, benefit.

▶ **noun** ① *falling properly minimizes hurt* **HARM**, injury, wounding, pain, suffering, discomfort, soreness, aching, smarting, stinging, throbbing. ② *all the hurt he had caused* **DISTRESS**, pain, suffering, grief, misery, anguish, trauma, woe, upset, sadness, sorrow: harm, damage, trouble

—**OPPOSITES** joy

▶ **adjective** ① *my hurt hand*: **INJURED**, wounded, bruised, grazed, cut, gashed, sore, painful, ach-

ing, smarting, throbbing ② *Anne's hurt expression* **PAINED**, distressed, anguished, upset, sad, mortified, offended, *informal* miffed, peeved, sore

—**OPPOSITES** pleased

hurtful ▶ **adjective** ① *hurtful words* **UPSETTING**, distressing, wounding, painful, unkind, cruel, nasty, mean, malicious, spiteful, cutting, barbed, *informal* catty, bitchy ② *this is hurtful to the interests of women* **DETRIMENTAL**, harmful, damaging, injurious, disadvantageous, unfavourable, prejudicial, deleterious, ruinous

hurtle ▶ **verb** **SPEED**, rush, run, race, bolt, dash, career, whizz, zoom, charge, shoot, streak, gallop, hare, fly, scurry, go like the wind, *informal* belt, pelt, tear, scoot, go like a bat out of hell, *Brit informal* bomb, bucket, go like the clappers, *N Amer informal* hightail, barrel

husband ▶ **noun** **SPOUSE**, partner, mate, consort, man, helpmate, helpmeet, groom, bridegroom, *informal* hubby, old man, one's better half, *Brit informal* other half

▶ **verb** oil reserves should be *husbanded* **CONSERVE**, preserve, save, safeguard, save for a rainy day, put aside, put by, lay in, reserve, stockpile, hoard, use economically, use sparingly, be frugal with

—**OPPOSITES** squander

husbandry ▶ **noun** ① *farmers have new methods of husbandry* **FARM MANAGEMENT**, land management, farming, agriculture, agronomy, cultivation, animal husbandry ② *the careful husbandry of their resources* **CONSERVATION**, management, economy, thrift, thriftiness, frugality

hush ▶ **verb** ① *he tried to hush her* **SILENCE**, quieten (down), shush, gag, muzzle, *informal* shut up ② *the crowd hushed* **FALL SILENT**, stop talking, quieten down, *informal* pipe down, shut up ③ *they hushed up the dangers* **KEEP SECRET**, conceal, hide, suppress, cover up, keep dark, keep quiet about, obscure, veil, sweep under the carpet, *informal* sit on, keep under one's hat

—**OPPOSITES** disclose

▶ **exclamation** *Hush! Someone will hear you* **BE QUIET**, keep quiet, quieten down, be silent, stop talking, hold your tongue, *informal* shut up, shut your mouth, shut your face, shut your trap, button your lip, pipe down, put a sock in it, give it a rest, save it, not another word, *Brit informal* shut your gob

▶ **noun** a hush descended **SILENCE**, quiet, quietness, stillness, peace, peacefulness, calm, tranquillity

—**OPPOSITES** noise*

hush-hush ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) See **SECRET** adjective sense 1

husk ▶ **noun** **SHELL**, hull, pod, case, covering, integument, shuck, *Botany* pericarp, legume

husky ▶ **adjective** ① *a husky voice* **THROATY**, gruff, gravelly, hoarse, croaky, rough, guttural, harsh, rasping, raspy ② *Paddy was a husky guy* **STRONG**, muscular, muscly, muscle-bound, brawny, hefty, burly, hulking, chunky, strapping, thickset, solid, powerful, heavy, robust, sturdy, Herculean, well built, *informal* beefy, hunky.

—**OPPOSITES** shrill, soft, puny

hussy ▶ **noun** (*dated*) **MINX**, coquette, tease, seductress, Lolita, Jezebel: slut, loose woman; *informal* floozie, tart, vamp; *Brit informal* scrubber,



slapper, slag, *N Amer informal tramp, dated trollop, archaic jade, strumpet.*

hustle ▶ **verb** ① *they were hustled as they went* JOSTLE, shove, push, bump, knock, nudge, elbow, shoulder ② *I was hustled away* MANHANDLE, push, shove, thrust, frogmarch; rush, hurry, whisk, *informal bundle* ③ *(informal) don't be hustled into anything* COERCE, force, pressure, pressurize, badger, pester, hound, nag, goad, prod, browbeat, bulldoze, steamroller, dragoon, *informal railroad, fast-talk*

■ **hustle and bustle** HURLY-BURLY, bustle, tumult, hubbub, activity, action, liveliness, animation, excitement, agitation, flurry, whirl, *informal toing and froing, comings and goings, ballyhoo, hoo-ha, hullabaloo*

hut ▶ **noun** SHACK, shanty, (log) cabin, shelter, shed, lean-to, hovel, *Scottish bothy, shieling, N Amer cabana*

hybrid ▶ **noun** a hybrid between a brown and albino mouse CROSS, cross-breed, mixed-breed, half-breed, half-blood, mixture, blend, amalgamation, combination, composite, fusion.

▶ **adjective** hybrid roses COMPOSITE, cross-bred, interbred, mongrel, mixed, blended, compound

hybridize ▶ **verb** CROSS-BREED, cross, interbreed, cross-fertilize, cross-pollinate, mix, blend, combine, amalgamate

hygiene ▶ **noun** CLEANLINESS, sanitation, sterility, purity, disinfection; public health, environmental health

hygienic ▶ **adjective** SANITARY, clean, germ-free, disinfected, sterilized, sterile, antiseptic, aseptic, unpolluted, uncontaminated, salubrious, healthy, wholesome, *informal squeaky clean*
-OPPOSITES insanitary

hymn ▶ **noun** RELIGIOUS SONG, song of praise, anthem, canticle, chorale, psalm, carol, spiritual

hype (*informal*) ▶ **noun** *her work relies on hype and headlines* PUBLICITY, advertising, promotion, marketing, propaganda, exposure, *informal plugging, ballyhoo, Brit informal puff*

▶ **verb** a stunt to hype a new product PUBLICIZE, advertise, promote, push, puff, boost, merchandise, build up, bang the drum for, *informal plug*

hyperbole ▶ **noun** EXAGGERATION, overstatement, magnification, embroidery, embellishment, excess, overkill, *informal purple prose, puffery*
-OPPOSITES understatement

hypercritical ▶ **adjective** OVERCRITICAL, fault-finding, hair-splitting, carping, cavilling, capricious, niggling, quibbling, pedantic, pettifogg, fussy, finicky, *informal picky, nit-picking, pernicky, N Amer informal persnickety, archaic nice.*

hypnosis ▶ **noun** MESMERISM, hypnotism, hypnotic suggestion, auto-suggestion.

hypnotic ▶ **adjective** MESMERIZING, mesmeric, spellbinding, entrancing, bewitching, irresistible, compelling, soporific, sedative, numbing, *Medicine stupefacent*

hypnotism ▶ **noun** MESMERISM, hypnosis, hypnotic suggestion, auto-suggestion

hypnotize ▶ **verb** ① *he had been hypnotized* MESMERIZE, put into a trance ② *they were hypnotized by the dancers* ENTRANCE, spellbind, enthrall, transfix, captivate, bewitch, enrapture, grip, rivet, absorb, magnetize

hypochondria ▶ **noun** VALETUDINARIANISM, imagined ill health, health obsession, neurosis, *technical hypochondriasis*

hypochondriac ▶ **noun** a hypochondriac who depends on her pills VALETUDINARIAN, valetudinarian, neurotic

▶ **adjective** her hypochondriac husband VALETUDINARIAN, valetudinarian, hypochondriacal, malinger-ing, health-obsessed, neurotic

hypocrisy ▶ **noun** SANCTIMONIOUSNESS, sanctimony, pietism, piousness, false virtue, cant, posturing, speciousness, empty talk, insincerity, falseness, deceit, dishonesty, dissimulation, duplicity, *informal phoneyness*
-OPPOSITES sincerity

hypocrite ▶ **noun** SANCTIMONIOUS PERSON, pietist, plaster saint, humbug, pretender, deceiver, dissembler, *informal phoney, poetic/literary whited sepulchre*

hypocritical ▶ **adjective** SANCTIMONIOUS, pietistic, pious, self-righteous, holier-than-thou, superior, insincere, specious, false, deceitful, dishonest, dissembling, two-faced, *informal phoney*

hypodermic ▶ **noun** NEEDLE, syringe, *informal hype, spike*

hypothesis ▶ **noun** THEORY, theorem, thesis, conjecture, supposition, postulation, postulate, proposition, premise, assumption, notion, concept, idea

hypothetical ▶ **adjective** THEORETICAL, speculative, conjectured, notional, suppositional, supposed, assumed, academic
-OPPOSITES actual

hysteria ▶ **noun** FRENZY, feverishness, hysterics, fit of madness, derangement, mania, panic, alarm, distress; *Brit informal the screaming abdabs*

-OPPOSITES calm

hysterical ▶ **adjective** ① *Janet became hysterical* OVERWROUGHT, overemotional, out of control, frenzied, frantic, wild, feverish, beside oneself, driven to distraction, agitated, berserk, manic, delirious, unhinged, deranged, out of one's mind, raving, *informal in a state.* ② *(informal) her attempts to dance were hysterical.* HILARIOUS, uproarious, very funny, very amusing, comical, farcical, *informal hysterically funny, side-splitting, rib-tickling, a scream, a hoot, a barrel of laughs; dated killing*

hysterics ▶ **plural noun** (*informal*) ① a fit of hysterics HYSTERIA, wildness, feverishness, irrationality, frenzy, loss of control, delirium, derangement, mania; *Brit informal the screaming abdabs* ② *the girls collapsed in hysterics* FITS OF LAUGHTER, gales of laughter, uncontrollable laughter, convulsions, fits; *informal stitches.*

Ice ▶ noun ① a lake covered with ice FROZEN WATER, icicles, black ice, verglas, frost, rime, *N Amer* glaze ② assorted ices ICE CREAM, water ice, sorbet, *N Amer* sherbet ③ the ice in her voice COLDNESS, coolness, frostiness, iciness, hostility, unfriendliness

—RELATED TERMS gelid, glacial

▶ verb ① the lake has iced over FREEZE (OVER), turn into ice, harden, solidify ② I'll ice the drinks COOL, chill, refrigerate ③ she had iced the cake COVER WITH ICING, glaze, *N Amer* frost

—OPPOSITES thaw, heat

■ on ice (*informal*) See PENDING adjective sense 1

Ice-cold ▶ adjective icy, freezing, glacial, gelid, sub-zero, frozen, wintry, arctic, polar, Siberian, bitter, biting, raw, chilly, *poetic/literary* froze, rimy

—OPPOSITES hot

icing ▶ noun GLAZE, sugar paste, *N Amer* frosting

icon ▶ noun IMAGE, idol, portrait, representation, symbol, figure, statue

iconoclast ▶ noun CRITIC, sceptic, heretic, unbeliever, dissident, dissenter, rebel, renegade, mutineer

icy ▶ adjective ① icy roads FROSTY, frozen (over), iced over, ice-bound, ice-covered, iced up, slippery, *poetic/literary* rimy ② an icy wind FREEZING, chill, chilly, biting, bitter, raw, arctic, glacial, Siberian, polar, gelid ③ an icy voice UNFRIENDLY, hostile, forbidding; cold, cool, chilly, frigid, frosty, glacial, gelid, haughty, stern, hard

Idea ▶ noun ① the idea of death scares her CONCEPT, notion, conception, thought, image, visualization, hypothesis, postulation ② our idea is to open a new shop PLAN, scheme, design, proposal, proposition, suggestion, aim, intention, objective, object, goal, target ③ Liz had other ideas on the subject THOUGHT, theory, view, opinion, feeling, belief, conclusion ④ I had an idea that it might happen SENSE, feeling, suspicion, fancy, inkling, hunch, theory, notion, impression ⑤ an idea of the cost ESTIMATE, estimation, approximation, guess, conjecture, rough calculation, *informal* guesstimate

Ideal ▶ adjective ① ideal flying weather PERFECT, best possible, consummate, supreme, flawless, faultless, exemplary, classic, model, ultimate, quintessential ② an ideal concept ABSTRACT, theoretical, conceptual, notional; hypothetical, speculative, conjectural, suppositional ③ an ideal world: UNATTAINABLE, unachievable, impracticable, unreal, fictitious, hypothetical, theoretical, ivory-towered, imaginary, idealized, Utopian, fairy-tale

—OPPOSITES bad, concrete, real.

▶ noun ① she tried to be his ideal PERFECTION, paragon, epitome, ne plus ultra, nonpareil, dream, *informal* one in a million, the tops, the bee's knees ② an ideal to aim at MODEL, pattern, exemplar, example, paradigm, archetype; yardstick. ③ liberal ideals: PRINCIPLE, standard, value, belief, conviction, persuasion; (ideals) morals, morality, ethics, ideology, creed.

Idealist ▶ noun UTOPIAN, visionary, fantasist, romantic, dreamer, daydreamer, Walter Mitty, Don Quixote, *N Amer* fantasist

—OPPOSITES realist

Idealistic ▶ adjective UTOPIAN, visionary, romantic, quixotic, dreamy, unrealistic, impractical

idealize ▶ verb ROMANTICIZE, be unrealistic about, look at something through rose-tinted spectacles, paint a rosy picture of, glamorize

ideally ▶ adverb IN A PERFECT WORLD, preferably, if possible, for preference, by choice, as a matter of choice, (much) rather, all things being equal, theoretically, hypothetically, in theory, in principle, on paper

idée fixe ▶ noun OBSESSION, fixation, (consuming) passion, mania, compulsion, preoccupation, infatuation, addiction, fetish, phobia, complex, neurosis, *informal* bee in one's bonnet, hang-up, thing

identical ▶ adjective ① identical badges SIMILAR, (exactly) the same, indistinguishable, uniform, twin, interchangeable, undifferentiated, homogeneous, of a piece, cut from the same cloth; alike, like, matching, like (two) peas in a pod, *informal* much of a muchness ② I used the identical technique THE (VERY) SAME, the selfsame, the very, one and the same, aforementioned, aforesaid, aforementioned, above, above-stated, foregoing, preceding

—OPPOSITES different

identifiable ▶ adjective DISTINGUISHABLE, recognizable, known, noticeable, perceptible, discernible, appreciable, detectable, observable, perceivable, visible, distinct, marked, conspicuous, unmistakable, clear

—OPPOSITES unrecognizable.

identification ▶ noun ① the identification of the suspect RECOGNITION, singling out, pinpointing, naming, discerning, distinguishing, *informal* fingering ② early identification of problems DETECTION, establishment, ascertainment, discovery, diagnosis, divination, verification, confirmation ③ may I see your identification? ID, (identity/identification) papers, bona fides, documents, credentials, ID card, identity card, pass, badge, warrant, licence, permit, passport ④ the identification of the party with high taxes: ASSOCIATION, link, linkage, connection, bracketing ⑤ his identification with the music: EMPATHY, rapport, unity, togetherness, bond, sympathy, understanding

Identify ▶ verb ① Gail identified her attacker RECOGNIZE, single out, pick out, spot, point out, pinpoint, put one's finger on, put a name to, name, know; discern, distinguish; remember, recall, recollect, *informal* finger ② I identified four problem areas: DETERMINE, establish, ascertain, make out, diagnose, discern, distinguish, verify, confirm; *informal* figure out, get a fix on. ③ we identify sport with glamour: ASSOCIATE, link, connect, relate, bracket, couple; mention in the same breath as, set side by side with

④ *Peter identifies with the hero* EMPATHIZE, be in tune, have a rapport, feel at one, sympathize, be on the same wavelength as, speak the same language as, understand, relate to, feel for
⑤ *they identify him with this painter of the same name* EQUATE WITH, identify as, consider to be, regard as being the same as

Identity ▶ **noun** ① the identity of the owner, NAME, specification ② *she was afraid of losing her identity* INDIVIDUALITY, self, selfhood, personality, character, originality, distinctiveness, singularity, uniqueness ③ *a case of mistaken identity* IDENTIFICATION, recognition, naming, singling out ④ *we share an identity of interests* CONGRUITY, congruence, sameness, oneness, interchangeability, likeness, uniformity, similarity, closeness, accordance, alignment

Ideology ▶ **noun** BELIEFS, ideas, ideals, principles, ethics, morals, doctrine, creed, credo, teaching, theory, tenets, canon(s), conviction(s), persuasion

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Idiocy ▶ **noun** STUPIDITY, folly, foolishness, foolhardiness, madness, insanity, lunacy, silliness, brainlessness, thoughtlessness, senselessness, irresponsibility, imprudence, ineptitude, inanity, absurdity, ludicrousness, fatuousness, informal craziness, *Brit informal* daftness
-OPPOSITES sense

Idiom ▶ **noun** ① *a rather dated idiom* EXPRESSION, phrase, turn of phrase, locution ② *the poet's idiom is terse* LANGUAGE, mode of expression, style, speech, locution, usage, phraseology, phrasing, vocabulary, parlance, jargon, patter, *informal* lingo

Idiomatic ▶ **adjective** VERNACULAR, colloquial, everyday, conversational, natural, grammatical, correct

Idiosyncrasy ▶ **noun** PECULIARITY, oddity, eccentricity, mannerism, quirk, whim, vagary, caprice, kink, fetish, foible, crotchet, habit, characteristic, individuality, unconventionality, unorthodoxy; *archaic* megrim, freak

Idiosyncratic ▶ **adjective** DISTINCTIVE, individual, individualistic, characteristic, peculiar, typical, special, specific, unique, personal, eccentric, unconventional, irregular, anomalous, odd, quirky, queer, strange, weird, bizarre, freakish; *informal* freaky

Idiot ▶ **noun** FOOL, ass, halfwit, blockhead, dunce, dolt, ignoramus, simpleton, *informal* dope, ninny, nincompoop, chump, dimwit, dumb, dummy, loon, dork, jackass, bonehead, fathead, numbskull, dunderhead, thickhead, woodenhead, airhead, pinhead, lamebrain, cretin, moron, imbecile, pea-brain, birdbrain, jerk, nerd, donkey, *Brit informal* nit, nitwit, twit, clot, plonker, berk, prat, pillock, wally, divvy, twerp, Charlie, *Scottish informal* nyaff, balloon, *N Amer informal* schmuck, bozo, turkey, chowderhead, dingbat, *Austral/NZ informal* drongo, dill, alec, galah
-OPPOSITES genius.

Idiotic ▶ **adjective** STUPID, silly, foolish, witless, brainless, mindless, thoughtless, unintelligent, imprudent, unwise, ill-advised, ill-considered, half-baked, foolhardy, absurd, senseless, pointless, nonsensical, inane, fatuous, ridiculous; *informal* dumb, dum, dim-witted, half-witted, dopey, gormless, hare-brained, pea-brained, wooden-headed, thickheaded; *Brit informal*

barmy, daft, *Scottish & N English informal* glaikit, *N Amer informal* dumb-ass

Idle ▶ **adjective** ① *an idle fellow* LAZY, indolent, slothful, work-shy, shiftless, inactive, sluggish, lethargic, listless, slack, lax, lackadaisical, good-for-nothing, *informal* bone idle ② *I was bored with being idle* UNEMPLOYED, jobless, out of work, redundant, between jobs, workless, unwaged, unoccupied, *Brit informal* on the dole, 'resting' ③ *they left the machine idle* INACTIVE, unused, unoccupied, unemployed, disused, out of action, inoperative, out of service ④ *their idle hours* UNOCCUPIED, spare, empty, vacant, unfilled, available ⑤ *idle remarks* FRIVOLOUS, trivial, trifling, minor, petty, lightweight, shallow, superficial, insignificant, unimportant, worthless, paltry, giggling, peripheral, inane, fatuous, unnecessary, time-wasting ⑥ *idle threats* EMPTY, meaningless, pointless, worthless, vain, insubstantial, futile, ineffective, ineffectual, groundless, baseless

-OPPOSITES industrious, employed, working, busy, serious

▶ **verb** ① *Lily idled on the window seat* DO NOTHING, be inactive, vegetate, take it easy, mark time, kick one's heels, twiddle one's thumbs, kill time, languish, laze, lounge, loll, loaf, slouch, *informal* hang around, veg out, *Brit informal* hang about; *N Amer informal* bum around, lollygag ② *Rob idled along the pavement* SAUNTER, stroll, dawdle, drift, potter, amble, maunder, wander, straggle, *informal* mosey, tootle, *Brit informal* pootle, mooch ③ *he let the engine idle* TICK OVER

Idler ▶ **noun** LOAFER, layabout, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, lounge, shirker, sluggard, *informal* skiver, waster, slacker, slowcoach, slob, lazybones, *N Amer informal* slowpoke, *poetic/literary* wastrel

-OPPOSITES workaholic

Idol ▶ **noun** ① *an idol in a shrine* ICON, effigy, statue, figure, figurine, fetish, totem, graven image, false god, golden calf ② *the pop world's latest idol* HERO, heroine, star, superstar, icon, celebrity, favourite, darling, *informal* pin-up, heart throb, golden boy/girl, *Brit informal* blue-eyed boy/girl

Idolatry ▶ **noun** ① *he preached against idolatry* IDOL WORSHIP, fetishism, iconolatry, paganism, heathenism ② *our idolatry of art* IDOLIZATION, fetishization, worship, adulation, adoration, reverence, glorification, lionization, hero-worshipping

Idolize ▶ **verb** HERO-WORSHIP, worship, revere, venerate, deify, lionize, stand in awe of, reverence, look up to, admire, exalt, *informal* put on a pedestal

Idyll ▶ **noun** ① *an idyll unspoilt by machines*: PERFECT TIME, ideal time, moment of bliss, paradise, heaven (on earth), Shangri-la, Utopia, *poetic/literary* Arcadia ② *the poem began as a two-part idyll* PASTORAL, eclogue, georgic, rural poem

Idyllic ▶ **adjective** PERFECT, wonderful, blissful, halcyon, happy; ideal, idealized, heavenly, paradisaal, Utopian, Elysian, peaceful, picturesque; *poetic/literary* Arcadian

If ▶ **conjunction** ① *if the weather is fine, we can walk*: ON CONDITION THAT, provided (that), providing (that), presuming (that), supposing (that), assuming (that), as long as, given that, in the

event that. ② *if I go out she gets nasty* WHENEVER, every time ③ *I wonder if he noticed* WHETHER, whether or not ④ *a useful, if unintended innovation* ALTHOUGH, albeit, but, yet, whilst, even though, despite being

► **noun** *there is one if in all this* UNCERTAINTY, doubt, condition, stipulation, provision, proviso, constraint, precondition, requirement, specification, restriction

Iffy ► **adjective** (*informal*) ① *the windscreen's a bit iffy, but it's a good car* SUBSTANDARD, second-rate, low-grade, low-quality, doubtful, dubious, questionable, *informal* not up to much, *Brit informal* dodgy, ropy ② *that date is a bit iffy* TENTATIVE, undecided, unsettled, unsure, unresolved, in doubt, *informal* up in the air

ignite ► **verb** ① *he got to safety moments before the petrol ignited* CATCH FIRE, burst into flames, be set off, explode ② *a cigarette ignited the fumes* LIGHT, set fire to, set on fire, set alight, kindle, touch off, *informal* set/put a match to ③ *the campaign failed to ignite voter interest* AROUSE, kindle, trigger, spark, instigate, excite, provoke, stimulate, stir up, whip up, incite, fuel
-OPPOSITES go out, extinguish

ignoble ► **adjective** DISHONOURABLE, unworthy, base, shameful, contemptible, despicable, shabby, sordid, improper, unprincipled, discreditable

ignominious ► **adjective** HUMILIATING, undignified, embarrassing, ignoble, inglorious
-OPPOSITES glorious

ignominy ► **noun** SHAME, humiliation, embarrassment, disgrace, dishonour, discredit, degradation, scandal, infamy, indignity, ignobility, loss of face

ignoramus ► **noun** FOOL, ass, halfwit, blockhead, dunce, simpleton, *informal* dope, ninny, nincompoop, chump, dimwit, imbecile, moron, dumb, dummy, fathead, numbskull, thickhead, woodenhead, airhead, birdbrain, *Brit informal* nit, nitwit, twit, clot, plonker, berk, divvy, *Scottish informal* balloon, *N Amer informal* schmuck, bozo, turkey, *Austral/NZ informal* drongo

ignorance ► **noun** ① *his ignorance of economics* INCOMPREHENSION, unawareness, unconsciousness, unfamiliarity, inexperience, innocence, lack of knowledge, *informal* cluelessness, *poetic/literary* nescience ② *their attitudes are based on ignorance* LACK OF KNOWLEDGE, lack of education, unenlightenment, benightedness, lack of intelligence, stupidity, foolishness, idiocy
-OPPOSITES knowledge, education

ignorant ► **adjective** ① *an ignorant country girl* UNEDUCATED, unknowledgeable, untaught, unschooled, untutored, untrained, illiterate, unlettered, unlearned, unread, uninformed, unenlightened, benighted, inexperienced, unworldly, unsophisticated, *informal* pig-ignorant, thick ② *they were ignorant of working-class life* WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE, unaware, unconscious, unfamiliar, unacquainted, uninformed, unenlightened, unacquainted, inexperienced, naive, innocent, green; *informal* in the dark, clueless; *poetic/literary* nescient
-OPPOSITES educated, knowledgeable.

ignore ► **verb** ① *he ignored the customers* DISREGARD, take no notice of, pay no attention to, pay no heed to; turn a blind eye to, turn a deaf ear to. ② *he was ignored by the countess* SNUB,

slight, spurn, shun, look right through, cold-shoulder, freeze out, *Brit* send to Coventry, *informal* give someone the brush-off, cut (dead), *Brit informal* blank ③ *doctors ignored her husband's instructions* SET ASIDE, pay no attention to, take no account of, break, contravene, fail to comply with, fail to observe, disregard, disobey, breach, defy, flout

-OPPOSITES acknowledge, obey

ilk ► **noun** TYPE, sort, class, category, group, set, bracket, genre, vintage, make, model, brand, stamp, variety

ill ► **adjective** ① *she was feeling rather ill* UNWELL, sick, not (very) well, ailing, poorly, sickly, peaky, indisposed, infirm, out of sorts, not oneself, under/below par, bad, in a bad way; bedridden, invalided, on the sick list, valetudinarian, queasy, nauseous, nauseated, *Brit* off colour, *informal* under the weather, laid up, lousy, rough, *Brit informal* ropy, groddy, *Austral/NZ informal* crook, *Brit informal, dated* queer ② *the ill effects of smoking* HARMFUL, damaging, detrimental, deleterious, adverse, injurious, hurtful, destructive, pernicious, dangerous, unhealthy, unwholesome, poisonous, noxious, *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent, nocuous, *archaic* baneful ③ *ill feeling* HOSTILE, antagonistic, acrimonious, inimical, antipathetic, unfriendly, unsympathetic, resentful, spiteful, malicious, vindictive, malevolent, bitter ④ *an ill omen* UNLUCKY, adverse, unfavourable, unfortunate, unpropitious, inauspicious, unpromising, infelicitous, ominous, sinister, *poetic/literary* direful ⑤ *ill manners* RUDE, discourteous, impolite, impertinent, insolent, impudent, uncivil, disrespectful, *informal* ignorant ⑥ *ill management* BAD, poor, unsatisfactory, incompetent, deficient, defective, inept
-OPPOSITES well, healthy, beneficial, auspicious, polite

► **noun** ① *the ills of society* PROBLEMS, troubles, difficulties, misfortunes, trials, tribulations, worries, anxieties, concerns; *informal* headaches, hassles ② *he wished them no ill* HARM, hurt, injury, damage, pain, trouble, misfortune, suffering, distress ③ *the body's ills* ILLNESSES, ailments, disorders, complaints, afflictions, sicknesses, diseases, maladies, infirmities

► **adverb** ① *such behaviour ill became the king* POORLY, badly, imperfectly ② *the look on her face boded ill* UNFAVOURABLY, adversely, badly, inauspiciously ③ *he can ill afford the loss of income* BARELY, scarcely, hardly, only just, just possibly ④ *things are going ill* BADLY, adversely, unsuccessfully, unfavourably, unfortunately, unluckily, inauspiciously ⑤ *we are ill prepared* INADEQUATELY, unsatisfactorily, insufficiently, imperfectly, poorly, badly
-OPPOSITES well, auspiciously, satisfactorily

■ **ill at ease** AWKWARD, uneasy, uncomfortable, embarrassed, self-conscious, out of place, inhibited, gauche, restless, restive, fidgety, discomfited, worried, anxious, on edge, edgy, nervous, tense; *informal* twitchy, jittery; *N Amer informal* discombobulated, antsy

■ **speak ill of** DENIGRATE, disparage, criticize, be critical of, speak badly of, be malicious about, blacken the name of, run down, insult, abuse, attack, revile, malign, vilify; *N Amer* slur; *informal* bad-mouth, bitch about, pull to pieces; *Brit informal* rubbish, slate, slag off; *formal* derogate; *rare* asperse



ill-advised ▶ **adjective** UNWISE, injudicious, misguided, imprudent, ill-considered, ill-judged; foolhardy, hare-brained, rash, reckless, *informal* crazy, crackpot
—OPPOSITES judicious

ill-assorted ▶ **adjective** MISMATCHED, incongruous, ill-matched, incompatible, dissimilar, unlike, varied, disparate

ill-bred ▶ **adjective** ILL-MANNERED, bad-mannered, rude, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, boorish, churlish, loutish, vulgar, coarse, crass, uncouth, uncivilized, ungentlemanly, indecorous, unseemly, *informal* ignorant, *Brit informal* yobbish

ill-considered ▶ **adjective** RASH, ill-advised, ill-judged, injudicious, imprudent, unwise, hasty, misjudged, ill-conceived, badly thought out, hare-brained, *poetic/literary* temerarious
—OPPOSITES judicious

ill-defined ▶ **adjective** VAGUE, indistinct, unclear, imprecise, blurred, fuzzy, hazy, woolly

ill-disposed ▶ **adjective** HOSTILE, antagonistic, unfriendly, unsympathetic, antipathetic, inimical, unfavourable, averse, at odds, *informal* anti
—OPPOSITES friendly

illegal ▶ **adjective** UNLAWFUL, illicit, illegitimate, criminal, felonious, unlicensed, unauthorized, unsanctioned; outlawed, banned, forbidden, prohibited, proscribed, contraband, black-market, bootleg, *Law* malfeasant, *informal* crooked, shady, *Brit informal* bent, dodgy
—OPPOSITES lawful, legitimate

illegible ▶ **adjective** UNREADABLE, indecipherable, unintelligible, scrawled, scribbled, crabbed

illegitimate ▶ **adjective** ① *illegitimate share trading* ILLEGAL, unlawful, illicit, criminal, felonious, unlicensed, unauthorized, unsanctioned, prohibited, outlawed, banned, forbidden, proscribed, fraudulent, corrupt, dishonest, *Law* malfeasant, *informal* crooked, shady, *Brit informal* bent, dodgy. ② *an illegitimate child* BORN OUT OF WEDLOCK, *dated* born on the wrong side of the blanket, unfathered, *archaic* bastard, natural, misbegotten, baseborn, nameless, spurious
—OPPOSITES legal, lawful

ill-fated ▶ **adjective** DOOMED, blighted, damned, cursed, ill-starred, jinxed, *poetic/literary* star-crossed

ill-favoured ▶ **adjective** UNATTRACTIVE, plain, ugly; *N Amer* homely, *informal* not much to look at, *Austral/NZ informal* drack
—OPPOSITES attractive

ill-founded ▶ **adjective** BASELESS, groundless, without foundation, unjustified; questionable, misinformed, misguided

ill humour ▶ **noun** BAD MOOD, bad temper, irritability, irascibility, cantankerousness, petulance, peevishness, pettishness, pique, crabbiness, testiness, testiness, fractiousness, snappishness, waspishness, touchiness, moodiness, sullenness, sulkiness, surliness, annoyance, anger, crossness

ill-humoured ▶ **adjective** BAD-TEMPERED, ill-tempered, short-tempered, in a (bad) mood, cross, irritable, irascible, tetchy, testy, crotchety, touchy, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, peevish, fractious, waspish, prickly, pettish,

grumpy, grouchy, crabbed, crabby, splenetic, dyspeptic, choleric, *informal* snappish, snappy, chippy, on a short fuse, *Brit informal* shirty, stropky, ratty, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery, peckish, *Austral/NZ informal* snaky, *informal, dated* waxy, miffy
—OPPOSITES amiable

illiberal ▶ **adjective** INTOLERANT, conservative, unenlightened, reactionary, undemocratic, authoritarian, repressive, totalitarian, despotic, tyrannical, oppressive

illicit ▶ **adjective** ① *illicit drugs* ILLEGAL, unlawful, illegitimate, criminal, felonious, outlawed, banned, forbidden, prohibited, proscribed, unlicensed, unauthorized, unsanctioned, contraband, black-market, bootleg, *Law* malfeasant. ② *an illicit love affair* TABOO, forbidden, impermissible, unacceptable, tapu, haram, secret, clandestine
—OPPOSITES lawful, legal

ilimitable ▶ **adjective** LIMITLESS, unlimited, unbounded, endless, unending, never-ending, infinite, immeasurable

illiteracy ▶ **noun** ① *illiteracy was widespread* IL LITERATENESS, inability to read or write. ② *economic illiteracy* IGNORANCE, unawareness, inexperience, unenlightenment, lack of knowledge/education, *poetic/literary* nescience

illiterate ▶ **adjective** ① *an illiterate peasant* UNABLE TO READ OR WRITE, unlettered. ② *politically illiterate* IGNORANT, unknowledgeable, uneducated, unschooled, untutored, untrained, uninstructed, uninformed; *poetic/literary* nescient

ill-judged ▶ **adjective** ILL-CONSIDERED, unwise, ill-thought-out, imprudent, incautious, injudicious, misguided, ill-advised, impolitic, inexpedient; rash, hasty, thoughtless, careless, reckless
—OPPOSITES judicious

ill-mannered ▶ **adjective** BAD-MANNERED, discourteous, rude, impolite, uncivil, abusive, insolent, impertinent, impudent, cheeky, presumptuous, disrespectful, badly behaved, ill-behaved, loutish, oafish, uncouth, uncivilized, ill-bred, *informal* ignorant
—OPPOSITES polite

ill-natured ▶ **adjective** MEAN, nasty, spiteful, malicious, disagreeable, ill-tempered, bad-tempered, moody, irritable, irascible, surly, sullen, peevish, petulant, fractious, crabbed, crabby, tetchy, testy, grouchy

illness ▶ **noun** SICKNESS, disease, ailment, complaint, malady, affliction, infection, indisposition; ill health, poor health, infirmity, *informal* bug, virus, *Brit informal* lurgy, *Austral informal* wog, *dated* contagion. See lists
—RELATED TERMS -pathy.
—OPPOSITES good health

illogical ▶ **adjective** IRRATIONAL, unreasonable, unsound, unreasoned, unjustifiable, incorrect, erroneous, invalid, spurious, faulty, flawed, fallacious, unscientific, specious, sophistic, casuistic; absurd, preposterous, untenable; *informal* off beam, way out.

ill-starred ▶ **adjective** ILL-FATED, doomed, ill-omened, blighted, damned, cursed, jinxed; unlucky, luckless, unfortunate, hapless, *poetic/literary* star-crossed.
—OPPOSITES blessed.

Physical illnesses and Medical Conditions

- achondroplasia
 acidosis
 acromegaly
 Addison's disease
 agranulocytosis
 Aids (acquired immune deficiency syndrome)
 albinism
 alopecia
 altitude sickness
 Alzheimer's disease
 amaurosis
 amoebiasis
 anaemia
 Angelman's syndrome
 angina
 ankylosing spondylitis
 ankylosis
 anthrax
 aplastic anaemia
 appendicitis
 arc eye
 arteriosclerosis
 arteritis
 arthritis
 asbestosis
 ascariasis
 ascites
 aspergillosis
 asthma
 asthenia
 ataxia
 atheroma
 atherosclerosis
 athetosis
 athlete's foot
 avitaminosis
 Bartholin's disease
 Bell's palsy
 the bends
 beriberi
 berylliosis
 bilharzia
 bird fancier's lung
 black lung
 blackwater fever
 blastomycosis
 Bornholm disease
 botulism
 Bright's disease
 bronchitis
 bronchopneumonia
 brucellosis
 bubonic plague
 Buerger's disease
 Burkitt's lymphoma
 byssinosis
 cachexia
 cancer
 candidiasis
 cardiomyopathy
 carditis
 carpal tunnel syndrome
 cataract
 cat scratch fever
 cerebral palsy
 Chagas' disease
 chickenpox
 chikungunya
- chloracne
 chlorosis
 cholera
 chorea
 Christmas disease
 chronic fatigue syndrome
 ciguatera
 cirrhosis
 coeliac disease
 colic
 coloboma
 common cold
 coronary heart disease
 cor pulmonale
 Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD)
 Crohn's disease
 croup
 cryptococcosis
 cryptosporidiosis
 Cushing's disease
 Cushing's syndrome
 cyanosis
 cystic fibrosis
 cystitis
 decompression sickness
 dengue
 dermatitis
 diabetes
 diphtheria
 diverticular disease
 diverticulitis
 double pneumonia
 Down's syndrome
 Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)
 Dupuytren's contracture
 dysentery
 Ebola fever
 eclampsia
 eczema
 elephantiasis
 emphysema
 empyema
 encephalitis
 encephalopathy
 endocarditis
 endometriosis
 endometritis
 enteritis
 enteropathy
 epidermolysis
 epilepsy
 ergotism
 erysipelas
 falciparum
 fascioliasis
 fibrositis
 filariasis
 fluorosis
 flu
 food poisoning
 fragile X syndrome
 frozen shoulder
 full-blown Aids
 gangrene
 gastritis
 gastroenteritis
- Gaucher's disease
 German measles
 giardiasis
 gigantism
 glandular fever
 glaucoma
 glue ear
 glycosuria
 goitre
 gonorrhoea
 gout
 Graves' disease
 Guillain-Barré syndrome
 Gulf War syndrome
 haemophilia
 Hansen's disease
 Hashimoto's disease
 hay fever
 heat stroke
 helminthiasis
 hepatitis
 hernia
 herpes
 Hirschsprung's disease
 histoplasmosis
 hives
 Hodgkin's disease
 hookworm
 Horner's syndrome
 Huntington's chorea
 Hurler's syndrome
 hydramnios
 hydrocephalus
 hyperglycaemia
 hypertension
 hyperthyroidism
 hypoglycaemia
 hypothermia
 hypothyroidism
 hypoxia
 ichthyosis
 impetigo
 influenza
 insulinitis
 irritable bowel syndrome (IBS)
 jaundice
 kala-azar
 Kaposi's sarcoma
 Kawasaki disease
 ketosis
 Klinefelter's syndrome
 kuru
- kwashiorkor
 kyphosis
 laryngitis
 Lassa fever
 lathyrism
 legionnaires' disease
 leishmaniasis
 leprosy
 leptospirosis
 Lesch-Nyhan syndrome
 leukaemia
 lipidosis
 listeriosis
 locomotor ataxia
 lolaids
 lordosis
- Lou Gehrig's disease
 lupus
 Lyme disease
 malaria
 Marburg disease
 Marfan's syndrome
 measles
 Ménière's disease
 meningitis
 Minamata disease
 mononeucleosis
 motor neurone disease
 mountain sickness
 multiple sclerosis (MS)
 mumps
 muscular dystrophy
 myalgic encephalitis (ME)
 myasthenia gravis
 mycetoma
 mycosis
 myelopathy
 myxoedema
 narcolepsy
 necrotizing fasciitis
 nephrosis
 neurofibromatosis
 neuropathy
 non-specific urethritis (NSU)
 oedema
 oriental sore
 osteoarthritis
 osteoporosis
 otosclerosis
 Paget's disease
 paratyphoid
 paresis
 Parkinson's disease
 Patau's syndrome
 pellagra
 pelvic inflammatory disease (PID)
 pemphigus
 peritonitis
 pernicious anaemia
 pertussis
 Peyronie's disease
 phenylketonuria (PKU)
 phlebitis
 Pick's disease
 pityriasis
 plague
 pleurisy
 pleuropneumonia
 pneumoconiosis
 pneumonia
 podagra
 poliomyelitis
 polyposis
 Pontiac fever
 porphyria
 Prader-Willi syndrome
 prickly heat
 prurigo
 psittacosis
 psoriasis
 puerperal fever
 Q fever

Physical illnesses and Medical Conditions (cont.)

quinsy	scleroderma	sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS)	trigeminal neuralgia
rabies	sclerosis	sweating sickness	trisomy
radiation sickness	scoliosis	Sydenham's chorea	trypanosomiasis
rat-bite fever	scrofula	syphilis	tuberculosis
Raynaud's disease	scrub typhus	syringomyelia	Turner's syndrome
Reiter's syndrome	scurvy	Tay-Sachs disease	typhoid
repetitive strain injury (RSI)	septicaemia	tenosynovitis	typhus
retinitis pigmentosa	shingles	tetanus	undulant fever
retinopathy	sick building syndrome (SBS)	tetany	urolithiasis
Reye's syndrome	sickle-cell anaemia	thalassaemia	urticaria
rheumatic fever	silicosis	thrombosis	vaginismus
rheumatism	sinusitis	thrush	variant Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease (vCJD)
rheumatoid arthritis	Sjögren's syndrome	tonsillitis	venereal disease
rickets	sleeping sickness	torticollis	vitiligo
ringworm	sleepy sickness	Tourette's syndrome	von Recklinghausen's disease
river blindness	smallpox	toxaemia	von Willebrand's disease
rubella	spina bifida	toxic shock syndrome (TSS)	Weill's disease
St Vitus's dance	spondylosis	toxocariasis	Werner's syndrome
salmonella	spotted fever	toxoplasmosis	Wernicke's syndrome
Sanfilippo's syndrome	sprue	trachoma	whooping cough
sarcoidosis	steatosis	trench fever	wryneck
scabies	stenosis	trench foot	xeroderma
scarlet fever	strabismus	trichinosis	yaws
schizophrenia	strangury	trichomoniasis	yellow fever
sciatica	sunstroke		

Psychological illnesses and Conditions

See also PHOBIA.

anorexia nervosa	megalo-mania
Asperger's syndrome	multiple personality disorder
attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)	Munchausen's syndrome
autism	Munchausen's syndrome by proxy
bulimia nervosa	obsessive-compulsive disorder
catatonia	panic disorder
combat fatigue	paramnesia
dementia	paranoia
clinical depression	paraphilia
dysphoria	pica
dysthymia	post-natal depression
eating disorder	post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)
erotomania	psychosis
false memory syndrome	schizo-affective disorder
gender dysphoria	schizophrenia
hebephrenia	seasonal affective disorder (SAD)
hyperactivity	shell shock
hyperkinesia	
hypomania	
Korsakoff's syndrome	
manic depression	

ill temper ► noun BAD MOOD, irritation, vexation, exasperation, indignation, huff, moodiness, pet, pique; anger, crossness, bad temper, irritability, irascibility, peevishness, tetchiness, testiness, *informal* grump, *Brit informal* paddy, strop, *N Amer informal* blowout, hissy fit, *Brit informal*, dated bate, wax.

ill-tempered ► adjective BAD-TEMPERED, short-tempered, ill-humoured, moody; in a (bad) mood, cross, irritable, irascible, tetchy, testy, crotchety, touchy, cantankerous, curmudgeon-

ly, peevish, fractious, waspish, prickly, pettish, grumpy, grouchy, crabbed, crabby, splenetic, dyspeptic, choleric, *informal* snappish, snappy, chippy, on a short fuse, *Brit informal* shirty, strop, ratty, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery, peckish, *Austral/NZ informal* snaky, *informal*, dated waxy, miffy

ill-timed ► adjective UNTIMELY, mistimed, badly timed, premature, early, hasty, inopportune
-OPPOSITES timely

ill-treat ► verb ABUSE, mistreat, maltreat, ill-use, misuse, manhandle, handle roughly, molest, harm, injure, damage, *informal* knock about/around
-OPPOSITES pamper

ill-treatment ► noun ABUSE, mistreatment, maltreatment, ill use, ill usage, misuse, manhandling, rough treatment

illuminate ► verb ① the bundle was illuminated by the torch: LIGHT (UP), throw light on, brighten, shine on, poetic/literary illumine ② the manuscripts were illuminated DECORATE, illustrate, embellish, adorn, ornament ③ documents often illuminate people's thought processes: CLARIFY, elucidate, explain, reveal, shed light on, give insight into
-OPPOSITES darken, conceal.

illuminating ► adjective INFORMATIVE, enlightening, revealing, explanatory, instructive, helpful, educational.

illumination ► noun ① a floodlamp provided illumination. LIGHT, lighting, radiance, gleam, glow, glare; shining, gleaming, glowing; poetic/literary illumining, irradiance, lucency, lambency, effulgence, refulgence. ② the illumination of a manuscript: DECORATION, illustration, embellishment, adornment, ornamentation. ③ these books give illumination on the subject: CLARIFICATION, elucidation, explanation, revelation, explication. ④ moments of real illumination: ENLIGHTEN-

MENT, insight, understanding, awareness, learning, education, formal edification

illusion ▶ noun ① *he had destroyed her illusions* DELUSION, misapprehension, misconception, false impression, fantasy, fancy, dream, chimera ② *the lighting increases the illusion of depth* APPEARANCE, impression, semblance ③ *it's just an illusion* MIRAGE, hallucination, apparition, figment of the imagination, trick of the light ④ *magical illusions* (MAGIC) TRICK, conjuring trick, (ILLUSIONS) magic, conjuring, sleight of hand, legerdemain

illusory ▶ adjective DELUSORY, delusive, illusory, imagined, imaginary, fanciful, fancied, unreal, sham, false, fallacious, fake, bogus, mistaken, erroneous, misguided, untrue
—OPPOSITES genuine

illustrate ▶ verb ① *the photographs that illustrate the book* DECORATE, adorn, ornament, accompany, add pictures/drawings to, provide artwork for ② *this can be illustrated through a brief example* EXPLAIN, elucidate, clarify, make plain, demonstrate, show, emphasize, informal get across/over ③ *his wit was illustrated by his remark to Lucy* EXEMPLIFY, show, demonstrate, display, represent

illustrated ▶ adjective WITH ILLUSTRATIONS, with pictures, with drawings, pictorial

illustration ▶ noun ① *the illustrations in children's books* PICTURE, drawing, sketch, figure, plate, print ② *by way of illustration* EXEMPLIFICATION, demonstration, showing, example, typical case, case in point, analogy ③ *a career in illustration* ARTWORK, (graphic) design, ornamentation, decoration, embellishment

illustrative ▶ adjective EXEMPLIFYING, explanatory, elucidatory, elucidative, explicative, expository, illuminative, exegetic

illustrious ▶ adjective EMINENT, distinguished, acclaimed, notable, noteworthy, prominent, pre-eminent, foremost, leading, important, influential, renowned, famous, famed, well known, celebrated, esteemed, honoured, respected, venerable, august, highly regarded, well thought of, of distinction
—OPPOSITES unknown

ill will ▶ noun ANIMOSITY, hostility, enmity, acrimony, animus, hatred, hate, loathing, antipathy, ill feeling, bad blood, antagonism, unfriendliness, dislike, spite, spitefulness, resentment, hard feelings, bitterness, *archaic* disrelish
—OPPOSITES goodwill

image ▶ noun ① *an image of the Madonna* LIKE NESS, resemblance, depiction, portrayal, representation, statue, statuette, sculpture, bust, effigy, painting, picture, portrait, drawing, sketch. ② *images of the planet Neptune*. PICTURE, photograph, snapshot, photo ③ *he contemplated his image in the mirror* REFLECTION, mirror image, likeness ④ *the image of this country as democratic*. CONCEPTION, impression, idea, perception, notion, mental picture, vision. ⑤ *biblical images*: SIMILE, metaphor, metonymy; figure of speech, trope, turn of phrase. ⑥ *his heart-throb image*. PUBLIC PERCEPTION, persona, profile, face, front, facade, mask, guise. ⑦ *I'm the image of my grandfather*: DOUBLE, living image, look-alike, clone, copy, twin, duplicate, exact likeness, mirror-image; informal spitting image, dead

ringer; *archaic* similitude ⑧ *a graven image*: IDOL, icon, fetish, totem

—RELATED TERMS ICONO-

▶ verb *she imaged imposing castles* ENVISAGE, envision, imagine, picture, see in one's mind's eye

imaginable ▶ adjective THINKABLE, conceivable, supposable, believable, credible, creditable, possible, plausible, feasible, *rare* cogitable

imaginary ▶ adjective UNREAL, non-existent, fictional, fictitious, pretend, make-believe, mythical, fabulous, fanciful, illusory, made-up, dreamed-up, invented, fancied, *archaic* visionary
—OPPOSITES real

imagination ▶ noun ① *a vivid imagination* CREATIVE POWER, fancy, informal mind's eye ② *you need imagination in dealing with these problems* CREATIVITY, imaginativeness, creativeness, vision, inspiration, inventiveness, invention, resourcefulness, ingenuity, originality, innovation, innovativeness ③ *the album captured the public's imagination* INTEREST, fascination, attention, passion, curiosity

imaginative ▶ adjective CREATIVE, visionary, inspired, inventive, resourceful, ingenious, original, innovative, innovatory, unorthodox, unconventional, fanciful, whimsical

imagine ▶ verb ① *one can imagine the cloud-capped castle* VISUALIZE, envisage, envision, picture, see in the mind's eye, dream up, think up/of, conceive ② *I imagine he was at home* AS SUME, presume, expect, take it (as read), presuppose, suppose, think (it likely), dare say, surmise, believe, be of the view, *N Amer* figure, informal guess, reckon, formal opine

imbalance ▶ noun DISPARITY, variance, variation, polarity, contrast, lack of harmony, gulf, breach, gap

imbed ▶ verb. See EMBED

imbibe ▶ verb (formal) ① *they'd imbibed too much whisky* DRINK, consume, quaff, guzzle, gulp (down), informal knock back, down, sink ② *he had imbibed liberally* DRINK (ALCOHOL), take strong drink, tippie, informal booze, knock a few back, *N Amer* informal bend one's elbow, *archaic* tope ③ *imbibing local history* ASSIMILATE, absorb, soak up, take in, drink in, learn, acquire, grasp, pick up, familiarize oneself with

imbroglio ▶ noun ① *a political imbroglio* COMPLICATED SITUATION, complication, problem, difficulty, predicament, trouble, confusion, entanglement, muddle, mess, informal bind, jam, pickle, fix, corner, hole ② (*archaic*) *an imbroglio of papers* JUMBLE, muddle, mess, clutter, hotch-potch, mishmash, *N Amer* hodgepodge

imbue ▶ verb PERMEATE, saturate, diffuse, suffuse, pervade, impregnate, inject, inculcate, ingrain, inspire; fill

imitate ▶ verb ① *other artists have imitated his style* EMULATE, copy, model oneself on, follow, echo, parrot, informal rip off ② *he imitated Winston Churchill*: MIMIC, do an impression of, impersonate, ape, parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty, informal take off, send up, *N Amer* informal make like; formal personate, *archaic* monkey. ③ *the tombs imitated houses*: RESEMBLE, look like, be like, echo, mirror; bring to mind, remind one of.

imitation ▶ noun ① *an imitation of a sailor's hat*. COPY, simulation, reproduction, replica



② *learning by imitation* EMULATION, copying, echoing, parroting ③ *a perfect imitation of Francis* IMPERSONATION, impression, parody, mockery, caricature, burlesque, travesty, lampoon, pastiche; mimicry, mimicking, imitating, aping, *informal* send-up, take-off, spoof

▶ **adjective** *imitation ivory* ARTIFICIAL, synthetic, simulated, man-made, manufactured, ersatz, substitute, mock, sham, fake, bogus, *informal* pseudo, phoney

—OPPOSITES real, genuine

imitative ▶ **adjective** ① *imitative crime* SIMILAR, like, mimicking, *informal* copycat ② *I found the film empty and imitative* DERIVATIVE, unoriginal, unimaginative, uninspired, plagiarized, plagiaristic, clichéd, hackneyed, stale, trite, banal, *informal* cribbed, old hat ③ *imitative words* ONOMATOPOEIC, echoic

imitator ▶ **noun** ① *the show's success has sparked off many imitators* COPIER, copyist, emulator, follower, mimic, plagiarist, ape, parrot, *informal* copycat ② *an Elvis imitator* IMPERSONATOR, impressionist, mimicker, parodist, caricaturist, lampooner

immaculate ▶ **adjective** ① *an immaculate white shirt* CLEAN, spotless, pristine, unsoiled, unstained, unsullied, shining, shiny, gleaming, neat, tidy, spick and span, *informal* squeaky clean ② *immaculate condition* PERFECT, pristine, mint, flawless, faultless, unblemished, unspoiled, undamaged, excellent, impeccable, *informal* tip-top, A1 ③ *his immaculate record* UNBLEMISHED, spotless, impeccable, unsullied, undefiled, untarnished, stainless, *informal* squeaky clean

—OPPOSITES dirty, damaged

immanent ▶ **adjective** ① *the protection of liberties immanent in the constitution* INHERENT, intrinsic, innate, latent, essential, fundamental, basic ② *God is immanent in His creation* PERVASIVE, pervading, permeating, omnipresent

immaterial ▶ **adjective** ① *the difference in our ages was immaterial* IRRELEVANT, unimportant, inconsequential, insignificant, of no matter/moment, of little account, beside the point, neither here nor there ② *the immaterial soul* INTANGIBLE, incorporeal, bodiless, disembodied, impalpable, ethereal, insubstantial, spiritual, unearthly, supernatural

—OPPOSITES significant, physical

immature ▶ **adjective** ① *an immature Shilton* UNRIPE, not mature, unmellowed; undeveloped, unformed, unfinished. ② *an extremely immature girl* CHILDISH, babyish, infantile, juvenile, puerile, jejune, callow, green, inexperienced, unsophisticated, unworldly, naive; *informal* wet behind the ears

—OPPOSITES ripe

immeasurable ▶ **adjective** INCALCULABLE, inestimable, innumerable, untold, limitless, boundless, unbounded, unlimited, illimitable, infinite, never-ending, interminable, endless, inexhaustible; vast, immense, great, abundant; *informal* no end of; *poetic/literary* myriad

immediate ▶ **adjective** ① *the UN called for immediate action*; INSTANT, instantaneous, prompt, swift, speedy, rapid, quick, expeditious; sudden, hurried, hasty, precipitate; *informal* snappy, *poetic/literary* rathe. ② *their immediate concerns* CURRENT, present, existing, actual; urgent,

pressing ③ *the immediate past* RECENT, not long past, just gone, occurring recently ④ *our immediate neighbours* NEAREST, near, close, closest, next-door, adjacent, adjoining ⑤ *the immediate cause of death* DIRECT, primary

—OPPOSITES delayed, distant

immediately ▶ **adverb** ① *it was necessary to make a decision immediately* STRAIGHT AWAY, at once, right away, instantly, now, directly, promptly, forthwith, this/that (very) minute, this/that instant, there and then, here and now, without delay, without further ado, post-haste quickly, as fast as possible, speedily, as soon as possible, as a p. *informal* pronto, in double-quick time, pretty damn quick, p.d.q., toot sweet, *archaic* instanter, forthright ② *I sat immediately behind him* DIRECTLY, right, exactly, precisely, squarely, just, dead, *informal* slap bang, *N Amer informal* smack dab

immemorial ▶ **adjective** ANCIENT, (very) old, age-old, antediluvian, timeless, archaic, longstanding, time-worn, time-honoured, traditional, *poetic/literary* of yore

immense ▶ **adjective** HUGE, vast, massive, enormous, gigantic, colossal, great, very large/big, monumental, towering, tremendous, giant, elephantine, monstrous, mammoth, titanic, king-sized, *informal* mega, monster, whopping (great), thumping (great), humongous, jumbo, *Brit informal* whacking (great), ginormous

—OPPOSITES tiny

immensely ▶ **adverb** EXTREMELY, very, exceedingly, exceptionally, extraordinarily, tremendously, hugely, singularly, distinctly, outstandingly, uncommonly, unusually, decidedly, particularly, eminently, supremely, highly, remarkably, really, truly, mightily, thoroughly, in the extreme, *informal* terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, seriously, mega, damn, damned, *Brit informal* ever so, well, bloody, hellish, dead, jolly, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, powerful, awful, darned, *informal*, dated devilish, frightfully, *archaic* exceeding

—OPPOSITES slightly

immerse ▶ **verb** ① *litmus paper turns red on being immersed in acid* SUBMERGE, dip, dunk, duck, sink, soak, drench, saturate, wet ② *new Christians were immersed in the river* BAPTIZE, christen; *informal*, dated dip, rare lustrate. ③ *Elliot was immersed in his work* ABSORB, engross, occupy, engage, involve, bury; busy, employ, pre-occupy, *informal* lose oneself in.

immigrant ▶ **noun** NEWCOMER, settler, incomer, migrant, emigrant, non-native, foreigner, alien

—OPPOSITES native.

imminent ▶ **adjective** IMPENDING, close (at hand), near, (fast) approaching, coming, forthcoming, on the way, in the offing, in the pipeline, on the horizon, in the air/wind, expected, anticipated, brewing, looming; *informal* on the cards

immobile ▶ **adjective** ① *she sat immobile for a long time*; MOTIONLESS, without moving, still, stock-still, static, stationary; rooted to the spot, rigid, frozen, transfixed, like a statue, not moving a muscle. ② *she dreaded being immobile*; UNABLE TO MOVE, immobilized; paralysed, crippled

—OPPOSITES moving.

Immobilize ▶ **verb** PUT OUT OF ACTION, disable, make inoperative, inactivate, deactivate, paralyse, cripple, bring to a standstill, halt, stop, clamp, wheel-clamp

Immoderate ▶ **adjective** EXCESSIVE, heavy, intemperate, unrestrained, unrestricted, uncontrolled, unlimited, unbridled, uncurbed, over-indulgent, imprudent, reckless, undue, inordinate, unreasonable, unjustified, unwarranted, uncalled for, outrageous, extravagant, lavish, prodigal, profligate

Immodest ▶ **adjective** INDECOROUS, improper, indecent, indelicate, immoral, forward, bold, brazen, impudent, shameless, loose, wanton, informal fresh, cheeky, saucy

Immolate ▶ **verb** SACRIFICE, offer up, kill, slaughter, burn

Immoral ▶ **adjective** UNETHICAL, bad, morally wrong, wrongful, wicked, evil, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonourable, dishonest, unconscionable, iniquitous, disreputable, corrupt, depraved, vile, villainous, nefarious, base, miscreant, sinful, impure, unchaste, unvirtuous, shameless, degenerate, debauched, dissolute, reprobate, lewd, licentious, wanton, promiscuous, informal shady, low-down, *Bnt* informal dodgy, crooked

—OPPOSITES ethical, chaste

Immorality ▶ **noun** WICKEDNESS, immoral behaviour, badness, evil, vileness, corruption, dishonesty, dishonourableness, sinfulness, unchastity, sin, depravity, vice, degeneracy, debauchery, dissolution, perversion, lewdness, wantonness, promiscuity, informal shadiness, *Bnt* informal crookedness, *formal* turpitude

Immortal ▶ **adjective** ① our souls are immortal UNDYING, deathless, eternal, everlasting, never-ending, endless, lasting, enduring, imperishable, indestructible, inextinguishable, immutable ② an immortal children's classic TIMELESS, perennial, classic, time-honoured, enduring, famous, famed, renowned, great, eminent, outstanding, acclaimed, celebrated

▶ **noun** ① Greek temples of the immortals GOD, GODDESS, deity, divine being, supreme being, divinity ② one of the immortals of soccer GREAT, hero, Olympian

Immortality ▶ **noun** ① the immortality of the gods ETERNAL LIFE, everlasting life, deathlessness, indestructibility, imperishability ② the book has achieved immortality TIMELESSNESS, legendary status, lasting fame/renown

Immortalize ▶ **verb** COMMEMORATE, memorialize, eternalize, celebrate, eulogize, pay tribute to, honour, salute, exalt, glorify, poetic/literary eternize.

Immovable ▶ **adjective** ① lock your bike to something immovable FIXED, secure, stable, moored, anchored, braced, set firm, set fast, stuck, jammed, stiff, unbudgeable. ② he sat immovable: MOTIONLESS, unmoving, stationary, still, stock-still, not moving a muscle, rooted to the spot, transfixed, paralysed, frozen ③ she was immovable in her loyalties. STEADFAST, unwavering, unswerving, resolute, determined, firm, unshakable, unflinching, dogged, tenacious, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, uncompromising, iron-willed; *N Amer* rock-ribbed.

—OPPOSITES mobile, moving

Immune ▶ **adjective** RESISTANT, not subject, not liable, unsusceptible, not vulnerable, protected from, safe from, secure against, not in danger of.

—OPPOSITES susceptible

Immunity ▶ **noun** ① an immunity to malaria RESISTANCE, non-susceptibility, ability to fight off, protection against, defences against, immunization against, inoculation against ② immunity from prosecution EXEMPTION, exception, freedom, release, dispensation, informal a let-off ③ diplomatic immunity INDEMNITY, privilege, prerogative, right, liberty, licence, legal exemption, impunity, protection

Immunize ▶ **verb** VACCINATE, inoculate, inject, protect from, safeguard against, informal give someone a jab/shot

Immure ▶ **verb** CONFINED, intern, shut up, lock up, incarcerate, imprison, jail, put behind bars, put under lock and key, hold captive, hold prisoner, detain, hold

Immutable ▶ **adjective** FIXED, set, rigid, inflexible, permanent, established, unchanging, unchanged, unvarying, unvaried, static, constant, lasting, enduring

—OPPOSITES variable

Imp ▶ **noun** ① imps are thought to sprout from Satan DEMON, devil, fiend, hobgoblin, goblin, elf, sprite, puck, cacodemon, archaic bugbear ② a cheeky young imp RASCAL, monkey, devil, troublemaker, wretch, urchin, tearaway, informal scamp, brat, monster, horror, tyke, whippersnapper, *Bnt* informal perisher, *N Amer* informal hellion, varmint, archaic scapegrace, rascalion

Impact ▶ **noun** ① the force of the impact COLLISION, crash, smash, bump, bang, knock ② the job losses will have a major impact EFFECT, influence, consequences, repercussions, ramifications, reverberations

▶ **verb** ① (*N Amer*) a comet impacted the earth sixty million years ago CRASH INTO, smash into, collide with, hit, strike, smack into, bang into ② high interest rates have impacted on retail spending AFFECT, influence, have an effect, make an impression, hit, touch, change, alter, modify, transform, shape

Impair ▶ **verb** HAVE A NEGATIVE EFFECT ON, damage, harm, diminish, reduce, weaken, lessen, decrease, impede, hinder, undermine, compromise, formal vitiate

—OPPOSITES improve, enhance

Impaired ▶ **adjective** DISABLED, handicapped, incapacitated, euphemistic challenged, differently abled

Impairment ▶ **noun** DISABILITY, handicap, abnormality, defect, dysfunction

Impale ▶ **verb** STICK, skewer, spear, spike, transfix, pierce, stab, run through, poetic/literary transpierce

Impalpable ▶ **adjective** INTANGIBLE, insubstantial, incorporeal; indefinable, elusive, indescribable

Impart ▶ **verb** ① she had news to impart: COMMUNICATE, pass on, convey, transmit, relay, relate, recount, tell, make known, make public, report, announce, proclaim, spread, disseminate, circulate, promulgate, broadcast; disclose, reveal, divulge; informal let on about, blab; archaic discover, unbosom ② the brush imparts a good

sheen GIVE, bestow, confer, grant, lend, afford, provide, supply

Impartial ▶ adjective UNBIASED, unprejudiced, neutral, non-partisan, disinterested, detached, dispassionate, objective, open-minded, equitable, even-handed, fair, just
—OPPOSITES biased, partisan

Impassable ▶ adjective UNPASSABLE, unnavigable, untraversable, closed, blocked

Impasse ▶ noun DEADLOCK, dead end, stalemate, checkmate, stand-off, standstill, halt, (full) stop

Impassioned ▶ adjective EMOTIONAL, heartfelt, wholehearted, earnest, sincere, fervent, ardent, passionate, fervid, poetic/literary perfervid, rare passional

Impassive ▶ adjective EXPRESSIONLESS, inexpressive, inscrutable, blank, deadpan, poker-faced, straight-faced, stony, wooden, unresponsive
—OPPOSITES expressive

Impatience ▶ noun ① *he was shifting in his seat with impatience* RESTLESSNESS, restiveness, agitation, nervousness, eagerness, keenness, informal jitteriness ② *a burst of impatience* IRRITABILITY, testiness, tetchiness, irascibility, querulousness, peevishness, frustration, exasperation, annoyance, pique

Impatient ▶ adjective ① *Melissa grew impatient* RESTLESS, restive, agitated, nervous, anxious, ill at ease, edgy, keyed up, nervy, informal twitchy, jumpy, jittery, uptight ② *they are impatient to get back home* ANXIOUS, eager, keen, yearning, longing, aching, informal itching, dying ③ *an impatient gesture* IRRITATED, annoyed, angry, testy, tetchy, snappy, cross, querulous, peevish, piqued, short-tempered, abrupt, curt, brusque, terse, short, informal peeved
—OPPOSITES calm, reluctant

Impeach ▶ verb ① (*N Amer*) *moves to impeach the president* INDICT, charge, accuse, lay charges against, arraign, take to court, put on trial, prosecute ② *the headlines impeached their clean image* CHALLENGE, question, call into question, raise doubts about

Impeccable ▶ adjective FLAWLESS, faultless, unblemished, spotless, stainless, perfect, exemplary, sinless, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless, informal squeaky clean
—OPPOSITES imperfect, sinful

Impecunious ▶ adjective PENNILESS, poor, impoverished, indigent, insolvent, hard up, poverty-stricken, needy, destitute, in straitened circumstances, unable to make ends meet, *Brit* on the breadline, informal (flat) broke, strapped (for cash), on one's uppers, *Brit informal* skint, stony broke, in *Queer Street*, *N Amer informal* stone broke, formal penurious
—OPPOSITES wealthy

Impede ▶ verb HINDER, obstruct, hamper, hold back/up, delay, interfere with, disrupt, retard, slow (down), block, check, stop, thwart, frustrate, balk, foil, derail, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works, *N Amer* throw a monkey wrench in the works; informal stymie; *Brit informal* scupper, *N Amer informal* bork, dated cumber.
—OPPOSITES facilitate.

Impediment ▶ noun ① *an impediment to economic improvement* HINDRANCE, obstruction, obs-

tacle, barrier, bar, block, check, curb, restriction, limitation, setback, difficulty, snag, hitch, fly in the ointment, stumbling block, *Brit* spanner in the works, *N Amer* monkey wrench in the works, informal hiccup, archaic cumber. ② *a speech impediment* DEFECT, stammer, stutter, lisp

Impedimenta ▶ plural noun PARAPHERNALIA, trappings, equipment, accoutrements, appurtenances, accessories, bits and pieces, tackle, informal stuff, gear, *Brit informal* clobber, gubbins; archaic equipage

Impel ▶ verb ① *financial difficulties impelled her to seek work* FORCE, compel, constrain, oblige, require, make, urge, press, pressurize, drive, push, spui, prod, goad, incite, prompt, persuade ② *vital energies impel him in unforeseen directions* PROPEL, drive, move, get going, get moving

Impending ▶ adjective IMMINENT, close (at hand), near, nearing, approaching, coming, forthcoming, upcoming, to come, on the way, about to happen, in store, in the offing, on the horizon, in the air/wind, brewing, looming, threatening, menacing

Impenetrable ▶ adjective ① *impenetrable armoured plating* UNBREAKABLE, indestructible, solid, thick, unyielding, impregnable, inviolable, unassailable, unpierceable ② *a dark, impenetrable forest* IMPASSABLE, unpassable, inaccessible, unnavigable, untraversable, dense, thick, overgrown ③ *an impenetrable clique* EXCLUSIVE, closed, secretive, secret, private, restrictive, restricted, limited ④ *impenetrable statistics* INCOMPREHENSIBLE, unfathomable, inexplicable, unintelligible, unclear, baffling, bewildering, puzzling, perplexing, confusing, abstruse, opaque, complex, complicated, difficult, archaic wildering

Impenitent ▶ adjective UNREPENTANT, unrepenting, uncontrite, remorseless, unashamed, unapologetic, unabashed

Imperative ▶ adjective ① *it is imperative that you find him* VITALLY IMPORTANT, of vital importance, all-important, vital, crucial, critical, essential, necessary, indispensable, urgent ② *the imperative note in her voice* PEREMPTORY, commanding, imperious, authoritative, masterful, dictatorial, assertive, firm, insistent
—OPPOSITES unimportant, submissive.

Imperceptible ▶ adjective UNNOTICEABLE, undetectable, indistinguishable, indiscernible, invisible, inaudible, impalpable, unobtrusive, slight, small, subtle, faint, fine, negligible, indistinct, unclear, obscure, vague, indefinite, hard to make out
—OPPOSITES noticeable

Imperfect ▶ adjective ① *the good were returned as imperfect* FAULTY, flawed, defective, shoddy, unsound, inferior, second-rate, below standard, substandard, damaged, blemished, torn, broken, cracked, scratched, informal not up to scratch, tenth-rate, crummy, *Brit informal* duff ② *an imperfect form of the manuscript* INCOMPLETE, unfinished, half-done; unpolished, unrefined, rough ③ *she spoke imperfect Arabic* BROKEN, faltering, halting, hesitant, rudimentary, limited
—OPPOSITES flawless.

imperfection ▶ noun ① *the glass is free from imperfections* DEFECT, fault, flaw, deformity, discoloration, disfigurement, crack, scratch, chip, dent, blemish, stain, spot, mark ② *he was aware of his imperfections* FLAW, fault, failing, deficiency, weakness, weak point, shortcoming, foible, inadequacy, limitation ③ *the imperfection of the fossil record* INCOMPLETENESS, patchiness, deficiency, roughness, crudeness
—OPPOSITES strength

imperial ▶ adjective ① *imperial banners* ROYAL, regal, monarchical, monarchial, monarchical, sovereign, kingly, queenly, princely ② *her imperial bearing* MAJESTIC, grand, dignified, proud, stately, noble, aristocratic, regal, magnificent, imposing, impressive ③ *our customers thought we were imperial* IMPERIOUS, high-handed, peremptory, dictatorial, domineering, bossy, arrogant, overweening, overbearing

imperlil ▶ verb ENDANGER, jeopardize, risk, put in danger, put in jeopardy, expose to danger, threaten, pose a threat to, *archaic* peril

imperious ▶ adjective PEREMPTORY, high-handed, commanding, imperial, overbearing, overweening, domineering, authoritarian, dictatorial, authoritative, lordly, assertive, bossy, arrogant, *informal* pushy, high and mighty

imperishable ▶ adjective ENDURING, everlasting, undying, immortal, perennial, long-lasting, indestructible, inextinguishable, ineradicable, unfading, permanent, never-ending, never dying, *poetic/literary* sempiternal, perdurable

impermanent ▶ adjective TEMPORARY, transient, transitory, passing, fleeting, momentary, ephemeral, fugitive, short-lived, brief, here today and gone tomorrow, *poetic/literary* evanescent

impermeable ▶ adjective WATERTIGHT, waterproof, damp-proof, airtight, (hermetically) sealed

impersonal ▶ adjective ① *the hand of fate is impersonal* NEUTRAL, unbiased, non-partisan, unprejudiced, objective, detached, disinterested, dispassionate, without favouritism ② *he remained strangely impersonal* ALOOF, distant, remote, reserved, withdrawn, unemotional, unsentimental, dispassionate, cold, cool, indifferent, unconcerned, formal, stiff, businesslike, *informal* starchy, stand-offish
—OPPOSITES biased, warm

impersonate ▶ verb IMITATE, mimic, do an impression of, ape, parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty, satirize, lampoon; masquerade as, pose as, pass oneself off as, *informal* take off, send up, *N Amer informal* make like; *formal* personate; *archaic* monkey

impersonation ▶ noun IMPRESSION, imitation; parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty, lampoon, pastiche; *informal* take-off, send-up, *formal* personation

impertinence ▶ noun RUDENESS, insolence, impoliteness, bad manners, discourtesy, discourteousness, disrespect, incivility; impudence, cheek, cheekiness, audacity, temerity, effrontery, nerve, gall, boldness, cockiness, brazenness; *informal* brass (neck); *Brit. informal* sauce, *N Amer informal* sass, sassiness,chutzpah; *archaic* assumption

impertinent ▶ adjective ① *she asked a lot of impertinent questions*: RUDE, insolent, impolite, ill-

mannered, bad-mannered, uncivil, discourteous, disrespectful, impudent, cheeky, audacious, bold, brazen, brash, presumptuous, forward, tactless, undiplomatic, *informal* brass-necked, saucy; *N Amer informal* sassy, *archaic* contumelious ② *(formal) talk of 'rhetoric' is impertinent to this process* IRRELEVANT, inapplicable, inapposite, inappropriate, immaterial, unrelated, unconnected, not germane, beside the point, out of place

—OPPOSITES polite, relevant

imperturbable ▶ adjective SELF-POSSESSED, composed, {cool, calm, and collected}, cool-headed, self-controlled, serene, relaxed, unexcitable, even-tempered, placid, phlegmatic, unperturbed, unflustered, unruffled, *informal* unflappable, unfazed, laid-back
—OPPOSITES excitable

impervious ▶ adjective ① *he seemed impervious to the chill wind*. UNAFFECTED, untouched, immune, invulnerable, insusceptible, resistant, indifferent, heedless, oblivious, proof against ② *an impervious damp-proof course* IMPERMEABLE, impenetrable, impregnable, waterproof, watertight, (hermetically) sealed
—OPPOSITES susceptible, permeable

impetuous ▶ adjective ① *an impetuous decision* IMPULSIVE, rash, hasty, overhasty, reckless, heedless, foolhardy, incautious, imprudent, injudicious, ill-considered, unthought-out, spontaneous, impromptu, spur-of-the-moment, precipitate, precipitous, hurried, rushed ② *an impetuous flow of water* TORRENTIAL, powerful, forceful, vigorous, violent, raging, relentless, uncontrolled, rapid, fast, fast-flowing
—OPPOSITES considered, sluggish

impetus ▶ noun ① *the flywheel lost all its impetus* MOMENTUM, propulsion, impulsion, motive force, driving force, drive, thrust, energy, force, power, push, strength ② *the sales force were given fresh impetus* MOTIVATION, stimulus, incitement, incentive, inducement, inspiration, encouragement, boost, *informal* a shot in the arm

impiety ▶ noun ① *a world of impiety and immorality* GODLESSNESS, ungodliness, unholiness, irreligion, sinfulness, sin, vice, immorality, unrighteousness, apostasy, atheism, agnosticism, paganism, heathenism, non-belief, unbelief ② *one impiety will cost me my eternity in paradise* SIN, transgression, wrongdoing, evil-doing, wrong, misdeed, misdemeanour
—OPPOSITES faith

impinge ▶ verb ① *these issues impinge on all of us* AFFECT, have an effect, touch, influence, make an impact, leave a mark ② *the proposed fencing would impinge on a public bridleway* ENCROACH, intrude, infringe, invade, trespass, obstruct, cut through, interfere with, violate, *archaic* trench on ③ *(Physics) electrically charged particles impinge on the lunar surface* STRIKE, hit, collide with

impious ▶ adjective GODLESS, ungodly, unholy, irreligious, sinful, immoral, unrighteous, sacrilegious, profane, blasphemous, irreverent; apostate, atheistic, agnostic, pagan, heathen, faithless, non-believing, unbelieving; *rare* nullifidian.

impish ▶ adjective ① *he takes an impish delight in shocking the press*: MISCHIEVOUS, naughty, wicked, rascally, roguish, playful, sportive; mischief-



making, full of mischief ② *an impish grin* ELFIN, elflike, pixie-like, puckish, mischievous, roguish

implacable ▶ **adjective** UNAPPEASABLE, unpacifiable, unplacatable, unmollifiable, unforgiving, intransigent, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, uncompromising, unrelenting, ruthless, remorseless, merciless, heartless, pitiless, cruel, hard, harsh, stern, tough

implant ▶ **verb** ① *the collagen is implanted under the skin* INSERT, embed, bury, lodge, place, graft ② *he implanted the idea in my mind* INSTIL, inculcate, insinuate, introduce, inject, plant, sow, root, lodge

▶ **noun** a silicone implant TRANSPLANT, graft, implantation, insert

implausible ▶ **adjective** UNLIKELY, improbable, questionable, doubtful, debatable, unrealistic, unconvincing, far-fetched, incredible, unbelievable, unimaginable, inconceivable, fantastic, fanciful, ridiculous, absurd, preposterous, *informal* cock and bull

—OPPOSITES convincing

implement ▶ **noun** garden implements TOOL, utensil, instrument, device, apparatus, gadget, contraption, appliance, machine, contrivance, *informal* gizmo

▶ **verb** *the cost of implementing the new law* EXECUTE, apply, put into effect/action, put into practice, carry out/through, perform, enact, fulfil, discharge, accomplish, bring about, achieve, realize, *formal* effectuate

implicate ▶ **verb** ① *he had been implicated in a financial scandal* INCRIMINATE, compromise, involve, connect, embroil, enmesh, *archaic* inculpate ② *viruses are implicated in the development of cancer* INVOLVE IN, concern with, associate with, connect with ③ *when one asks a question one implicates that one desires an answer* See IMPLY sense 1

implication ▶ **noun** ① *he was smarting at their implication* SUGGESTION, inference, insinuation, innuendo, hint, intimation, imputation ② *important political implications* CONSEQUENCE, result, ramification, repercussion, reverberation, effect ③ *his implication in the murder case* INCRIMINATION, involvement, connection, entanglement, association, *archaic* inculpation

implicit ▶ **adjective** ① *implicit assumptions* IMPLIED, inferred, understood, hinted at, suggested, deducible, unspoken, unexpressed, undeclared, unstated, tacit, unacknowledged, taken for granted ② *assumptions implicit in the way questions are asked* INHERENT, latent, underlying, inbuilt, incorporated ③ *an implicit trust in human nature* ABSOLUTE, complete, total, wholehearted, perfect, utter, unqualified, unconditional, unshakeable, unquestioning, firm, steadfast

—OPPOSITES explicit

implicitly ▶ **adverb** COMPLETELY, absolutely, totally, wholeheartedly, utterly, unconditionally, unreservedly, without reservation

implied ▶ **adjective** IMPLICIT, hinted at, suggested, insinuated, inferred, understood, deducible, unspoken, unexpressed, undeclared, unstated, tacit, unacknowledged, taken for granted

—OPPOSITES explicit

implore ▶ **verb** ① *his mother implored him to continue studying*: PLEAD WITH, beg, entreat, appeal

to, ask, request, call on, exhort, urge, enjoin, press, push, petition, bid, *poetic/literary* beseech ② *(archaic) she implored pity* BEG FOR, plead for, appeal for, call for, ask for, request, sue for

imply ▶ **verb** ① *are you implying he is mad?* IN SINUATE, suggest, hint, intimate, say indirectly, indicate, give someone to understand, make out ② *the forecasted traffic increase implies more roads* INVOLVE, entail, mean, point to, signify, indicate, signal, necessitate, require

impolite ▶ **adjective** RUDE, bad-mannered, ill-mannered, discourteous, uncivil, disrespectful, inconsiderate, boorish, churlish, ill-bred, ungentlemanly, unladylike, ungracious, insolent, impudent, impertinent, cheeky, loutish, rough, crude, indelicate, indecorous, *informal* ignorant, lippy, *archaic* malapert, contumelious

impolitic ▶ **adjective** IMPRUDENT, unwise, injudicious, incautious, irresponsible, ill-judged, ill-advised, misguided, rash, reckless, foolhardy, foolish, short-sighted, undiplomatic, tactless

—OPPOSITES prudent

import ▶ **verb** *the UK imports iron ore* BUY FROM ABROAD, bring in, buy in, ship in

—OPPOSITES export

▶ **noun** ① *a tax on imports* IMPORTED COMMODITY, foreign commodity ② *the import of foreign books* IMPORTATION, importing, bringing in, bringing from abroad, shipping in ③ *a matter of great import* IMPORTANCE, significance, consequence, momentousness, magnitude, substance, weight, note, gravity, seriousness, *formal* moment ④ *the full import of her words* MEANING, sense, essence, gist, drift, purport, message, thrust, substance, implication

—OPPOSITES export, insignificance

importance ▶ **noun** ① *an event of immense importance* SIGNIFICANCE, momentousness, import, consequence, note, noteworthy, substance, seriousness, gravity, weightiness, urgency ② *she had a fine sense of her own importance* POWER, influence, authority, sway, weight, dominance, prominence, eminence, pre-eminence, notability, worth

—OPPOSITES insignificance

important ▶ **adjective** ① *an important meeting* SIGNIFICANT, consequential, momentous, of great import, major, critical, crucial, vital, pivotal, decisive, urgent, historic, serious, grave, weighty, material, *formal* of great moment. ② *the important thing is that you do well in your exams*: MAIN, chief, principal, key, major, salient, prime, foremost, paramount, overriding, crucial, vital, critical, essential, significant; central, fundamental, *informal* number-one ③ *the school was important to the community* OF VALUE, valuable, beneficial, necessary, essential, indispensable, vital, of concern, of interest, relevant, pertinent ④ *he was an important man* POWERFUL, influential, of influence, well-connected, high-ranking, prominent, eminent, pre-eminent, notable, noteworthy, of note, distinguished, esteemed, respected, prestigious, celebrated, famous, great; *informal* major league

—OPPOSITES trivial, insignificant

importunate ▶ **adjective** PERSISTENT, insistent, tenacious, persevering, dogged, unrelenting, tireless, indefatigable; aggressive, high-pressure; *informal* pushy; *formal* exigent, pertinacious

importune ▶ **verb** ① *he importuned her for some spare change* BEG, entreat, implore, plead with, appeal to, call on, harass, pester, press, badger, bother, nag, harry, *informal* hassle, *poetic/literary* beseech ② *they arrested me for importuning* SO LICIT, *informal* proposition, *N Amer informal* hustle

impose ▶ **verb** ① *he imposed his ideas on the art director* FOIST, force, inflict, press, urge, *informal* saddle someone with, land someone with ② *new taxes will be imposed* LEVY, charge, apply, enforce, set, establish, institute, introduce, bring into effect ③ *how dare you impose on me like this!* TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, exploit, take liberties with, treat unfairly, bother, trouble, disturb, inconvenience, put out, put to trouble ■ **impose oneself** FORCE ONESELF, foist oneself, control, take charge of, *informal* call the shots/tune, be in the driving seat, be in the saddle, run the show

imposing ▶ **adjective** IMPRESSIVE, striking, arresting, eye-catching, dramatic, spectacular, stunning, awesome, formidable, splendid, grand, majestic
—OPPOSITES modest

imposition ▶ **noun** ① *the imposition of an alien culture* IMPOSING, foisting, forcing, inflicting ② *the imposition of VAT* LEVYING, charging, application, applying, enforcement, enforcing, setting, establishment, introduction, institution ③ *it would be no imposition* BURDEN, encumbrance, strain, bother, worry, *informal* hassle ④ *the levying of special impositions* TAX, levy, duty, charge, tariff, toll, impost, *formal* mulct, exaction

impossible ▶ **adjective** ① *gale force winds made fishing impossible* NOT POSSIBLE, out of the question, unfeasible, impractical, impracticable, non-viable, unworkable, unthinkable, unimaginable, inconceivable ② *an impossible dream* UNATTAINABLE, unachievable, unobtainable, hopeless, impractical, implausible, far-fetched, impracticable, unworkable ③ *food shortages made life impossible* UNBEARABLE, intolerable, unendurable ④ (*informal*) *an impossible woman* UNREASONABLE, objectionable, difficult, awkward, intolerable, unbearable, unendurable, exasperating, maddening, infuriating
—OPPOSITES attainable, bearable

impostor ▶ **noun** IMPERSONATOR, masquerader, pretender, deceiver, hoaxer, trickster, fraudster, fake, fraud, sham, *informal* phoney

imposture ▶ **noun** MISREPRESENTATION, pretence, deceit, deception, trickery, artifice, subterfuge, hoax, trick, ruse, dodge, *informal* con (trick), scam, flimflam, *Brit informal* wheeze

impotent ▶ **adjective** ① *the legal sanctions are impotent* POWERLESS, ineffective, ineffectual, inadequate, weak, useless, worthless, futile, *poetic/literary* impuissant ② *forces which man is impotent to control* UNABLE, incapable, powerless ③ *an impotent opposition party* WEAK, powerless, ineffective, feeble
—OPPOSITES powerful, effective.

impound ▶ **verb** ① *officials began impounding documents* CONFISCATE, appropriate, take possession of, seize, commandeer, expropriate, requisition, sequester, sequesterate, *Law* distraint ② *the cattle were impounded* PEN IN, shut up/in, fence in, enclose, confine; *N Amer* corral ③ *unfortunates impounded in prison*: LOCK UP, in-

carcerate, imprison, confine, intern, immure, hold captive, hold prisoner

impoverish ▶ **verb** ① *the widow had been impoverished* MAKE POOR, make penniless, reduce to penury, bankrupt, ruin, make insolvent, pauperize ② *the trees were impoverishing the soil* WEAKEN, sap, exhaust, deplete

impoverished ▶ **adjective** ① *an impoverished peasant farmer* POOR, poverty-stricken, penniless, destitute, indigent, impecunious, needy, pauperized, down and out, on the breadline, bankrupt, ruined, insolvent, *informal* (flat) broke, stony broke, on one's uppers, hard up, without a bean, on skid row, *Brit informal* skint, *N Amer informal* stone broke, *formal* penurious ② *the soil is impoverished* WEAKENED, exhausted, drained, sapped, depleted, spent, barren, unproductive, infertile

—OPPOSITES rich

impracticable ▶ **adjective** UNWORKABLE, unfeasible, non-viable, unachievable, unattainable, unrealizable, impractical
—OPPOSITES workable, feasible

impractical ▶ **adjective** ① *an impractical suggestion* UNREALISTIC, unworkable, unfeasible, non-viable, impracticable, ill-thought-out, impossible, absurd, wild, *informal* cock-eyed, crackpot, crazy ② *impractical white ankle boots* UNSUITABLE, not sensible, inappropriate, unserviceable ③ *an impractical scholar* IDEALISTIC, unrealistic, romantic, dreamy, fanciful, quixotic, *informal* airy-fairy

—OPPOSITES practical, sensible

imprecation ▶ **noun** (*formal*) ① *the most dreadful imprecations* CURSE, malediction, *N Amer* hex, *poetic/literary* anathema, *archaic* execration ② *a stream of imprecations* SWEAR WORD, curse, expletive, oath, profanity, four-letter word, obscenity, (*Imprecations*) swearing, cursing, foul language, strong language, *N Amer informal* cuss word, *archaic* execration
—OPPOSITES blessing

imprecise ▶ **adjective** ① *a rather imprecise definition* VAGUE, loose, indefinite, inexplicit, indistinct, non-specific, unspecific, sweeping, broad, general, hazy, fuzzy, woolly, nebulous, ambiguous, equivocal, uncertain ② *an imprecise estimate* INEXACT, approximate, estimated, rough, *N Amer informal* ballpark
—OPPOSITES exact

impregnable ▶ **adjective** ① *an impregnable castle* INVULNERABLE, impenetrable, unassailable, inviolable, secure, strong, well fortified, well defended, invincible, unconquerable, unbeatable, indestructible. ② *an impregnable parliamentary majority* UNASSAILABLE, unbeatable, undefeatable, unshakeable, invincible, unconquerable, invulnerable
—OPPOSITES vulnerable

impregnate ▶ **verb** ① *a pad impregnated with natural oils* INFUSE, soak, steep, saturate, drench. ② *the woman he had impregnated* MAKE PREGNANT, inseminate, fertilize, *informal* put in the family way; *Brit informal* get up the duff/spout, put in the club, *N Amer informal* knock up; *informal*, dated get into trouble, *archaic* get with child

impresario ▶ **noun** ORGANIZER, (stage) manager, producer, promoter, publicist, showman, director, conductor, maestro

Impress ▶ **verb** ① *Hazel had impressed him mightily* MAKE AN IMPRESSION ON, have an impact on, influence, affect, move, stir, rouse, excite, inspire, dazzle, awe, overawe, take someone's breath away, amaze, astonish, *informal* grab, stick in someone's mind ② *goldsmiths impressed his likeness on medallions* IMPRINT, print, stamp, mark, emboss, punch ③ *you must impress upon her the need to save* EMPHASIZE TO, stress to, bring home to, instil in, inculcate into, drum into, knock into, din into
-OPPOSITES disappoint

Impression ▶ **noun** ① *he got the impression that she was hiding something* FEELING, feeling in one's bones, sense, fancy, (sneaking) suspicion, inkling, intuition, hunch, notion, idea, funny feeling, *informal* gut feeling ② *a favourable impression* OPINION, view, image, picture, perception, judgement, verdict, estimation ③ *school made a profound impression on me* IMPACT, effect, influence ④ *the cap had left a circular impression* INDENTATION, dent, mark, outline, imprint ⑤ *he did a good impression of their science teacher* IMPERSONATION, imitation, parody, caricature, burlesque, travesty, lampoon, *informal* take-off, send-up, spoof, *formal* personation ⑥ *an artist's impression of the gardens* REPRESENTATION, portrayal, depiction, rendition, interpretation, picture, drawing ⑦ *a revised impression of the 1981 edition* PRINT RUN, imprint, reprint, issue, edition

Impressionable ▶ **adjective** EASILY INFLUENCED, suggestible, susceptible, persuadable, pliable, malleable, pliant, ingenuous, trusting, naive, gullible

Impressive ▶ **adjective** ① *an impressive building* MAGNIFICENT, majestic, imposing, splendid, spectacular, grand, awe-inspiring, stunning, breathtaking, stately, palatial ② *they played some impressive football* ADMIRABLE, masterly, accomplished, expert, skilled, skilful, consummate, excellent, outstanding, first-class, first-rate, fine, *informal* great, mean, nifty, cracking, ace, wizard, *N Amer informal* crackerjack
-OPPOSITES ordinary, mediocre

Imprint ▶ **verb** ① *patterns can be imprinted in the clay* STAMP, print, impress, mark, emboss ② *the image was imprinted on his mind* FIX, establish, stick, lodge, implant, embed
▶ **noun** ① *her feet left imprints on the floor* IMPRESSION, print, mark, indentation ② *colonialism has left its imprint* IMPACT, lasting effect, influence, impression

Imprison ▶ **verb** INCARCERATE, send to prison, jail, lock up, put away, intern, detain, hold prisoner, hold captive, *informal* send down, put behind bars, put inside, *Brit informal* bang up
-OPPOSITES free, release

Imprisoned ▶ **adjective** INCARCERATED, in prison, in jail, jailed, locked up, interned, detained, held prisoner, held captive, *informal* sent down, behind bars, doing time, inside, *Brit informal* doing porridge, doing bird, banged up

Imprisonment ▶ **noun** INCARCERATION, internment, confinement, detention, captivity, *informal* time; *Brit informal* porridge, bird, *archaic* durance

Improbability ▶ **noun** UNLIKELIHOOD, implausibility, doubtfulness, uncertainty, dubiousness.

Improbable ▶ **adjective** ① *it seemed improbable that the hot weather should continue* UNLIKELY,

doubtful, dubious, debatable, questionable, uncertain, unthinkable, inconceivable, unimaginable, incredible ② *an improbable exaggeration* UNCONVINCING, unbelievable, incredible, ridiculous, absurd, preposterous
-OPPOSITES certain, believable

Impromptu ▶ **adjective** an impromptu lecture UNREHEARSED, unprepared, unscripted, extempore, extemporized, extemporaneous, improvised, spontaneous, unplanned, *informal* off-the-cuff

-OPPOSITES prepared, rehearsed

▶ **adverb** *they played the song impromptu* EXTEMPORE, spontaneously, extemporaneously, without preparation, without rehearsal, *informal* off the cuff, off the top of one's head

Improper ▶ **adjective** ① *it is improper for policemen to accept gifts* INAPPROPRIATE, unacceptable, unsuitable, unprofessional, irregular, unethical, corrupt, immoral, dishonest, dishonourable, *informal* not cricket ② *it was improper for young ladies to drive a young man home* UNSEEMLY, indecorous, unfitting, unladylike, ungentlemanly, indelicate, impolite, indecent, immodest, immoral ③ *an extremely improper poem* INDECENT, risqué, off colour, suggestive, naughty, ribald, earthy, smutty, dirty, filthy, vulgar, crude, rude, obscene, lewd, *informal* blue, raunchy, steamy, *Brit informal* fruity, saucy
-OPPOSITES acceptable, decent

Impropriety ▶ **noun** ① *a suggestion of impropriety* WRONGDOING, misconduct, dishonesty, corruption, unscrupulousness, unprofessionalism, irregularity, unseemliness, indecorousness, indelicacy, indecency, immorality ② *fiscal improprieties* TRANSGRESSION, misdemeanour, offence, misdeed, crime, indiscretion, mistake, peccadillo, *archaic* trespass

Improve ▶ **verb** ① *ways to improve the service* MAKE BETTER, ameliorate, upgrade, refine, enhance, boost, build on, raise, *informal* tweak, *formal* meliorate ② *communications improved during the 18th century* GET BETTER, advance, progress, develop, make headway, make progress, pick up, look up ③ *the dose is not repeated if patient improves* RECOVER, get better, recuperate, gain strength, rally, revive, get back on one's feet, get over something, be on the road to recovery, be on the mend, turn the corner, take a turn for the better ④ *resources are needed to improve the offer* INCREASE, make larger, raise, augment, supplement, top up, *informal* up, hike up, bump up.

-OPPOSITES worsen, deteriorate

■ **Improve on** SURPASS, better, do better than, outdo, exceed, beat, top, cap

Improvement ▶ **noun** ADVANCE, development, upgrade, refinement, enhancement, advancement, upgrading, amelioration, boost, augmentation, raising, rally, recovery, upswing

Imprudent ▶ **adjective** SPENDTHRIFT, thriftless, wasteful, prodigal, profligate, extravagant, free-spending, lavish, immoderate, excessive, imprudent, irresponsible, careless, reckless.
-OPPOSITES thrifty.

Improvise ▶ **verb** ① *she was improvising in front of the cameras* EXTEMPORIZE, ad-lib, speak impromptu, *informal* speak off the cuff, speak off the top of one's head, busk it, wing it. ② *she improvised a sandpit* CONTRIVE, devise, throw to-

gether, cobble together, rig up, *Brit informal* knock up, *informal* whip up, rustle up

improvised ▶ **adjective** ① *an improvised speech* IMPROMPTU, unrehearsed, unprepared, unscripted, extempore, extemporized, spontaneous, unplanned, *informal* off-the-cuff ② *an improvised shelter* MAKESHIFT, thrown together, cobbled-together, rough and ready, make-do
-OPPOSITES prepared, rehearsed

imprudent ▶ **adjective** UNWISE, injudicious, incautious, misguided, ill-advised, thoughtless, unthinking, improvident, irresponsible, shortsighted, foolish
-OPPOSITES sensible

impudence ▶ **noun** IMPERTINENCE, insolence, effrontery, cheek, cockiness, brazenness, presumption, presumptuousness, disrespect, flippancy, bumptiousness, brashness, rudeness, impoliteness, ill manners, discourteousness, gall, *informal* brass neck, chutzpah, nerve, *Brit informal* sauce, *N Amer informal* sassiness

impudent ▶ **adjective** IMPERTINENT, insolent, cheeky, cocky, brazen, presumptuous, forward, disrespectful, insubordinate, flippant, bumptious, brash, rude, impolite, ill-mannered, discourteous, ill-bred; *informal* brass-necked, saucy, lippy, *N Amer informal* sassy, *archaic* malapert, contumelious
-OPPOSITES polite

Impugn ▶ **verb** CALL INTO QUESTION, challenge, question, dispute, query, take issue with

impulse ▶ **noun** ① *she had an impulse to run and hide* URGE, instinct, drive, compulsion, itch, whim, desire, fancy, notion ② *a man of impulse* SPONTANEITY, impetuosity, recklessness, rashness ③ *passions provide the main impulse of poetry* INSPIRATION, stimulation, stimulus, incitement, motivation, encouragement, spur, catalyst ④ *impulses from the spinal cord to the muscles* PULSE, current, wave, signal
■ **on (an) impulse** IMPULSIVELY, spontaneously, on the spur of the moment, without forethought, without premeditation

impulsive ▶ **adjective** ① *he had an impulsive nature* IMPETUOUS, spontaneous, hasty, passionate, emotional, uninhibited, rash, reckless, foolhardy, unwise, madcap, devil-may-care, daredevil ② *an impulsive decision* IMPROMPTU, snap, spontaneous, unpremeditated, spur-of-the-moment, extemporaneous, impetuous, precipitate, hasty, rash, sudden, ill-considered, ill-thought-out
-OPPOSITES cautious, premeditated

impunity ▶ **noun** the impunity enjoyed by military officers IMMUNITY, indemnity, exemption (from punishment), non-liability, licence, privilege, special treatment
-OPPOSITES liability
■ **with impunity** WITHOUT PUNISHMENT, scot-free, unpunished

Impure ▶ **adjective** ① *impure gold* ADULTERATED, mixed, combined, blended, alloyed, technical admixed ② *the water was impure* CONTAMINATED, polluted, tainted, unwholesome, poisoned, dirty, filthy, foul; unhygienic, unsanitary, insanitary; *poetic/literary* befouled ③ *impure thoughts* IMMORAL, sinful, wrongful, wicked, unchaste, lustful, lecherous, lewd, lascivious, prurient, obscene, indecent, ribald, risqué, improper, crude, coarse; *formal* concupiscent.

-OPPOSITES clean, chaste

impurity ▶ **noun** ① *the impurity of the cast iron* ADULTERATION, debasement, degradation ② *the impurity of the air* CONTAMINATION, pollution, dirtiness, filthiness, uncleanness, foulness, unwholesomeness ③ *the impurities in beer* CONTAMINANT, pollutant, foreign body, dross, dirt, filth ④ *sin and impurity* IMMORALITY, sin, sinfulness, wickedness, unchastity, lustfulness, lechery, lecherousness, lewdness, lasciviousness, prurience, obscenity, dirtiness, crudeness, indecency, ribaldry, impropriety, vulgarity, coarseness, *formal* concupiscence

impute ▶ **verb** ATTRIBUTE, ascribe, assign, credit, connect with, associate with

in ▶ **preposition** ① *she was hiding in a wardrobe* INSIDE, within, in the middle of, surrounded by, enclosed by ② *he was covered in mud* WITH, by ③ *he put a fruit gum in his mouth* INTO, inside ④ *they met in 1921* DURING, in the course of, over ⑤ *I'll see you in half an hour* AFTER, at the end of, following, within, in less than, in under ⑥ *a tax of ten pence in the pound* TO per, every, each
-OPPOSITES outside

▶ **adverb** ① *his mum walked in* INSIDE, indoors, into the room, into the house/building ② *the tide's in* HIGH, at its highest level, rising
-OPPOSITES out

▶ **adjective** ① *there was no one in* PRESENT, (at) home, inside, indoors, in the house/room ② (*informal*) *beards are in* FASHIONABLE, in fashion, in vogue, popular, (bang) up to date, modern, modish, chic, à la mode, de rigueur, *informal* trendy, all the rage, with it, cool, the in thing, hip ③ (*informal*) *I was in with all the right people* IN FAVOUR, popular, friendly, friends, liked, admired, accepted, *informal* in someone's good books
-OPPOSITES out, unfashionable, unpopular

■ **in for** DUE FOR, in line for, expecting, about to receive

■ **in for it** IN TROUBLE, about to be punished, *informal* for the high jump, in hot/deep water, in (deep) shtook, *Brit informal* for it

■ **in on** PRIVY TO, aware of, acquainted with, informed about/of, apprised of, *informal* wise to, in the know about, hip to, *archaic* ware of

■ **ins and outs** (*informal*) DETAILS, particulars, facts, features, characteristics, nuts and bolts, *informal* nitty gritty

inability ▶ **noun** LACK OF ABILITY, incapability, incapacity, powerlessness, impotence, helplessness, incompetence, ineptitude, unfitness

inaccessible ▶ **adjective** ① *an inaccessible woodland site* UNREACHABLE, out of reach, cut-off, isolated, remote, in the back of beyond, out of the way, lonely, godforsaken ② *the book was elitist and inaccessible* ESOTERIC, obscure, abstruse, recondite, arcane, elitist, exclusive, pretentious

inaccuracy ▶ **noun** ① *the inaccuracy of recent opinion polls* INCORRECTNESS, inexactness, imprecision, erroneousness, mistakenness, fallaciousness, faultiness ② *the article contained a number of inaccuracies* ERROR, mistake, fallacy, slip, oversight, fault, blunder, gaffe, erratum; *Brit* literal; *informal* howler, boo-boo, typo; *Brit informal* boob, *N Amer informal* blooper, goof
-OPPOSITES correctness.



inaccurate ► **adjective** INEXACT, imprecise, incorrect, wrong, erroneous, faulty, imperfect, flawed, defective, unsound, unreliable, fallacious, false, mistaken, untrue, *informal* off beam, *Brit informal* adrift

inaction ► **noun** INACTIVITY, non-intervention; neglect, negligence, apathy, inertia, indolence

inactivate ► **verb** DISABLE, deactivate, make inoperative, immobilize

inactive ► **adjective** ① *over the next few days I was horribly inactive* IDLE, indolent, lazy, lifeless, slothful, lethargic, inert, sluggish, unenergetic, listless, torpid ② *the device remains inactive while the computer is started up* INOPERATIVE, non-functioning, idle, not working, out of service, unused, not in use

inactivity ► **noun** ① *years of inactivity* IDLENESS, indolence, laziness, lifelessness, slothfulness, lethargy, inertia, sluggishness, listlessness ② *government inactivity* INACTION, non-intervention, neglect, negligence, apathy
-OPPOSITES action

inadequacy ► **noun** ① *the inadequacy of available resources* INSUFFICIENCY, deficiency, scarcity, scarceness, sparseness, dearth, paucity, shortage, want, lack, undersupply, paltriness, meagreness, *formal* exiguity ② *her feelings of personal inadequacy* INCOMPETENCE, incapability, unfitness, ineffectiveness, inefficiency, inefficacy, inexperience, ineptness, uselessness, impotence, powerlessness ③ *the inadequacies of the present system* SHORTCOMING, defect, fault, failing, weakness, weak point, limitation, flaw, imperfection
-OPPOSITES abundance, competence

inadequate ► **adjective** ① *inadequate water supplies* INSUFFICIENT, deficient, poor, scant, scanty, scarce, sparse, in short supply, paltry, meagre, niggardly, limited, *informal* measly, pathetic, *formal* exiguous ② *inadequate staff* INCOMPETENT, incapable, unsatisfactory, not up to scratch, unfit, ineffective, ineffectual, inefficient, unskilful, inexperienced, inept, amateurish, substandard, poor, useless, inferior, *informal* not up to snuff, *Brit informal* duff, not much cop, no great shakes
-OPPOSITES sufficient, competent

inadmissible ► **adjective** UNALLOWABLE, invalid, unacceptable, impermissible, disallowed, forbidden, prohibited, precluded

inadvertent ► **adjective** UNINTENTIONAL, unintended, accidental, unpremeditated, unplanned, innocent, uncalculated, unconscious, unthinking, unwitting, involuntary
-OPPOSITES deliberate

inadvertently ► **adverb** ACCIDENTALLY, by accident, unintentionally, unwittingly

inadvisable ► **adjective** UNWISE, ill-advised, imprudent, ill-judged, ill-considered, injudicious, impolitic, foolish, misguided
-OPPOSITES shrewd

inalienable ► **adjective** INVIOABLE, absolute, sacrosanct, untransferable, non-transferable, non-negotiable, *Law* indefeasible

inane ► **adjective** SILLY, foolish, stupid, fatuous, idiotic, ridiculous, ludicrous, asinine, frivolous, vapid; childish, puerile, *informal* dumb, gormless, moronic; *Brit informal* daft
-OPPOSITES sensible

inanimate ► **adjective** LIFELESS, insentient, without life, dead, defunct
-OPPOSITES living

inapplicable ► **adjective** IRRELEVANT, immaterial, not germane, not pertinent, unrelated, unconnected, extraneous, beside the point, *formal* impertinent
-OPPOSITES relevant

inapposite ► **adjective** INAPPROPRIATE, unsuitable, inapt, out of place, infelicitous, misplaced, ill-judged, ill-advised
-OPPOSITES appropriate

inappreciable ► **adjective** IMPERCEPTIBLE, minute, tiny, slight, small, insignificant, inconsequential, unimportant, negligible, trivial, minor, *informal* piddling, piffling, *formal* exiguous
-OPPOSITES considerable

inappropriate ► **adjective** UNSUITABLE, unfitting, unseemly, unbecoming, unbefitting, improper, incongruous, out of place/keeping, inapposite, inapt, *informal* out of order, *formal* malapropos
-OPPOSITES suitable

inapt ► **adjective** See INAPPROPRIATE

inarticulate ► **adjective** ① *an inarticulate young man* TONGUE-TIED, lost for words, unable to express oneself, *archaic* mumchance ② *an inarticulate reply* UNINTELLIGIBLE, incomprehensible, incoherent, unclear, indistinct, mumbled, muffled ③ *inarticulate rage* UNSPOKEN, silent, unexpressed, wordless, unvoiced
-OPPOSITES silver-tongued, fluent

inattention ► **noun** ① *a moment of inattention* DISTRACTION, inattentiveness, preoccupation, absent-mindedness, daydreaming, abstraction ② *his inattention to duty* NEGLIGENCE, neglect, disregard, forgetfulness, carelessness, thoughtlessness, heedlessness
-OPPOSITES concentration

inattentive ► **adjective** ① *an inattentive pupil* DISTRACTED, lacking concentration, preoccupied, absent-minded, daydreaming, dreamy, abstracted, distraught, *informal* miles away ② *inattentive service* NEGLIGENCE, neglectful, remiss, slack, sloppy, slapdash, lax, forgetful, careless, thoughtless, heedless
-OPPOSITES alert

inaudible ► **adjective** UNHEARD, out of earshot, indistinct, faint, muted, soft, low, muffled, whispered, muttered, murmured, mumbled

inaugural ► **adjective** FIRST, opening, initial, introductory, initiatory
-OPPOSITES final

inaugurate ► **verb** ① *he inaugurated a new policy* INITIATE, begin, start, institute, launch, start off, get going, get under way, establish, lay the foundations of; bring in, usher in; *informal* kick off ② *the new President will be inaugurated*: ADMIT TO OFFICE, install, instate, swear in, invest, ordain, crown ③ *the museum was inaugurated in September* OPEN, declare open, unveil, dedicate, consecrate; *N Amer* *hansel*

inauspicious ► **adjective** UNPROMISING, unpromising, unfavourable, unfortunate, infelicitous, ominous, discouraging, disheartening, bleak.
-OPPOSITES promising

inborn ► **adjective** INNATE, congenital, connate, connatural, inherent, natural, inbred, inherited, hereditary, in one's genes.

inbred ▶ adjective See INBORN

inbuilt ▶ adjective ① an inbuilt CD-ROM drive BUILT-IN, integral, incorporated ② our inbuilt survival instinct INHERENT, intrinsic, innate, congenital, natural, connatural, connate

incalculable ▶ adjective INESTIMABLE, indeterminable, untold, immeasurable, incomputable, infinite, endless, limitless, boundless, measureless, enormous, immense, huge, vast, innumerable

Incandescent ▶ adjective ① incandescent fragments of lava WHITE-HOT, red-hot, burning, fiery, blazing, ablaze, aflame, glowing, aglow, radiant, bright, brilliant, luminous, poetic/literary fervid, rutilant, lucent ② the minister was incandescent FURIOUS, enraged, raging, very angry, incensed, seething, infuriated, fuming, irate, in a temper, beside oneself, informal livid, foaming at the mouth, (hopping) mad, wild, apoplectic, steamed up, in a lather, in a paddy, poetic/literary wrathful, archaic wroth

incantation ▶ noun ① he muttered some weird incantations CHANT, invocation, conjuration, magic spell/formula, rune, N Amer hex, mojo, NZ makutu ② ritual incantation CHANTING, intonation, recitation

incapable ▶ adjective ① an incapable government INCOMPETENT, inept, inadequate, not good enough, leaving much to be desired, inexpert, unskilful, ineffective, ineffectual, ineffectacious, feeble, unfit, unqualified, unequal to the task, informal out of one's depth, not up to it, not up to snuff, useless, hopeless, pathetic, a dead loss ② he was mentally incapable INCAPACITATED, helpless, powerless, impotent
-OPPOSITES competent

incapacitated ▶ adjective DISABLED, debilitated, indisposed, unfit, immobilized, out of action, out of commission, hors de combat, informal laid up
-OPPOSITES fit

incapacity ▶ noun ① mental incapacity DISABILITY, incapability, inability, debility, impairment, indisposition, impotence, powerlessness, helplessness, incompetence, inadequacy, ineffectiveness ② legal incapacity DISQUALIFICATION, lack of entitlement
-OPPOSITES capability

incarcerate ▶ verb IMPRISON, put in prison, send to prison, jail, lock up, put under lock and key, put away, intern, confine, detain, hold, immure, put in chains, clap in irons, hold prisoner, hold captive, Bnt detain at Her Majesty's pleasure, informal send down, put behind bars, put inside, Bnt informal bang someone up
-OPPOSITES release

incarceration ▶ noun IMPRISONMENT, internment, confinement, detention, custody, captivity, restraint, informal time, Bnt informal porridge, archaic durance, duress

incarnate ▶ adjective IN HUMAN FORM, in the flesh, in physical form, in bodily form, made flesh, corporeal, physical, fleshly, embodied

Incarnation ▶ noun ① the incarnation of artistic genius EMBODIMENT, personification, exemplification, type, epitome; manifestation, bodily form, avatar ② a previous incarnation LIFETIME, life, existence.

Incautious ▶ adjective RASH, unwise, careless, heedless, thoughtless, reckless, unthinking, imprudent, misguided, ill-advised, ill-judged, injudicious, impolitic, unguarded, foolhardy, foolish, unwary, off-guard, inattentive, informal asleep on the job
-OPPOSITES circumspect

incendiary ▶ adjective ① an incendiary bomb COMBUSTIBLE, flammable, inflammable ② an incendiary speech INFLAMMATORY, rabble-rousing, provocative, seditious, subversive, contentious, controversial

▶ noun ① an aircraft loaded with incendiaries EXPLOSIVE, bomb, incendiary device ② incendiaries set the village on fire ARSONIST, fire-bomber, fire-setter, pyromaniac, Bnt fire-raiser, informal firebug, pyro, N Amer informal torch ③ a political incendiary AGITATOR, demagogue, rabble-rouser, firebrand, troublemaker, agent provocateur, revolutionary, insurgent, subversive

incense¹ ▶ verb his taunts used to incense me ENRAGE, infuriate, anger, madden, outrage, inflame, exasperate, antagonize, provoke, informal make someone see red, make someone's blood boil, make someone's hackles rise, drive mad/crazy, N Amer informal burn up
-OPPOSITES placate, please

incense² ▶ noun a whiff of incense PERFUME, fragrance, scent

incensed ▶ adjective ENRAGED, very angry, furious, infuriated, irate, in a temper, raging, incandescent, fuming, seething, beside oneself, outraged, informal mad, hopping mad, wild, livid, apoplectic, hot under the collar, foaming at the mouth, steamed up, in a paddy, fit to be tied, poetic/literary wrathful, archaic wroth

incentive ▶ noun INDUCEMENT, motivation, motive, reason, stimulus, stimulant, spur, impetus, encouragement, impulse, incitement, goad, provocation, attraction, lure, carrot, bait, informal sweetener, come-on
-OPPOSITES deterrent

inception ▶ noun ESTABLISHMENT, institution, foundation, founding, formation, initiation, setting up, origination, constitution, inauguration, opening, day one, beginning, commencement, start, birth, dawn, genesis, origin, informal kick-off
-OPPOSITES end

incessant ▶ adjective CEASELESS, unceasing, constant, continual, unabating, interminable, endless, unending, never-ending, everlasting, eternal, perpetual, continuous, non-stop, uninterrupted, unbroken, unremitting, persistent, relentless, unrelenting, unrelieved, sustained
-OPPOSITES intermittent

incessantly ▶ adverb CONSTANTLY, continually, all the time, non-stop, without stopping, without a break, round the clock, (morning, noon, and night), interminably, unremittingly, ceaselessly, endlessly, informal 24-7
-OPPOSITES occasionally

Incidence ▶ noun OCCURRENCE, prevalence, rate, frequency, amount, degree, extent

Incident ▶ noun ① incidents in his youth EVENT, occurrence, episode, experience, happening, occasion, proceeding, eventuality, affair, business, adventure, exploit, escapade; matter, circumstance, fact, development. ② police are investigating the incident DISTURBANCE, fracas, melee,



commotion, rumpus, scene, fight, skirmish, clash, brawl, free-for-all, encounter, conflict, ruckus, confrontation, altercation, contretemps, *informal* ruction, *Law, dated* affray ① *the journey was not without incident* EXCITEMENT, adventure, drama, danger, peril

Incidental ▶ **adjective** ① *incidental details* LESS IMPORTANT, secondary, subsidiary, minor, peripheral, background, by-the-way, by-the-by, non-essential, inessential, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, tangential, extrinsic, extraneous ② *an incidental discovery* CHANCE, accidental, random, fluky, fortuitous, serendipitous, adventitious, coincidental, unlooked-for ③ *the risks incidental to the job* CONNECTED WITH, related to, associated with, accompanying, attending, attendant on, concomitant with
-OPPOSITES essential, deliberate

Incidentally ▶ **adverb** ① *Incidentally, I haven't had a reply yet* BY THE WAY, by the by(e), in passing, en passant, speaking of which, parenthetically, *informal* btw, as it happens ② *the infection was discovered incidentally* BY CHANCE, by accident, accidentally, fortuitously, by a fluke, by happenstance, coincidentally, by coincidence

Incinerate ▶ **verb** BURN, reduce to ashes, consume by fire, carbonize, cremate

Incipient ▶ **adjective** DEVELOPING, growing, emerging, emergent, dawning, just beginning, inceptive, initial, nascent, embryonic, fledgling, in its infancy, germinal
-OPPOSITES full-blown

Incise ▶ **verb** ① *the wound was incised* CUT (OPEN), make an incision in, slit (open), lance ② *an inscription incised in Roman letters* ENGRAVE, etch, carve, cut, chisel, inscribe, score, chase

Incision ▶ **noun** ① *a surgical incision* CUT, opening, slit ② *incisions on the marble* NOTCH, nick, snick, scratch, scarification

Incisive ▶ **adjective** PENETRATING, acute, sharp, sharp-witted, razor-sharp, keen, astute, trenchant, shrewd, piercing, perceptive, insightful, percipient, perspicacious, discerning, analytical, clever, smart, quick, concise, succinct, pithy, to the point, crisp, clear, *informal* punchy
-OPPOSITES rambling, vague

Incite ▶ **verb** ① *he was arrested for inciting racial hatred* STIR UP, whip up, encourage, fan the flames of, stoke up, fuel, kindle, ignite, inflame, stimulate, instigate, provoke, excite, arouse, awaken, inspire, trigger, spark off, ferment, foment, *poetic/literary* enkindle, waken ② *she incited him to commit murder* EGG ON, encourage, urge, goad, provoke, spur on, drive, stimulate, push, prod, prompt, induce, impel, arouse, rouse, excite, inflame, sting, prick, *informal* put up to.
-OPPOSITES discourage, deter

Incivility ▶ **noun** RUDENESS, discourtesy, discourteousness, impoliteness, bad manners, disrespect, boorishness, ungraciousness, insolence, impertunence, impudence
-OPPOSITES politeness.

Inclement ▶ **adjective** COLD, chilly, bleak, wintry, freezing, snowy, icy, wet, rainy, drizzly, damp; stormy, blustery, wild, rough, squally, windy, unpleasant, bad, foul, nasty, filthy, severe, extreme, harsh.
-OPPOSITES fine

Inclination ▶ **noun** ① *his political inclinations* TENDENCY, propensity, proclivity, leaning, predisposition, disposition, predilection, desire, wish, impulse, bent, liking, penchant, partiality, preference, appetite, fancy, interest, affinity, stomach, taste, *informal* yen, *formal* velleity, *archaic* list, humour ② *an inclination of his head* BOWING, bow, bending, nod, nodding, lowering ③ *an inclination of ninety degrees* See INCLINE noun
-OPPOSITES aversion

Incline ▶ **verb** ① *his prejudice inclines him to overlook obvious facts* PREDISPOSE, lead, make, make of a mind to, dispose, prejudice, prompt, induce, influence, sway, persuade, convince ② *I incline to the opposite view* PREFER, favour, go for, tend, lean, swing, veer, gravitate, be drawn ③ *he inclined his head* BEND, bow, nod, bob, lower, dip ④ *the columns incline away from the vertical* LEAN, tilt, angle, tip, slope, slant, bend, curve, bank, cant, bevel, list, heel

▶ **noun** a steep incline SLOPE, gradient, pitch, ramp, bank, ascent, rise, acclivity, upslope, dip, descent, declivity, downslope, hill, *N Amer* grade, downgrade, upgrade

Inclined ▶ **adjective** ① *I'm inclined to believe her* DISPOSED, minded, of a mind, willing, ready, prepared, predisposed ② *she's inclined to gossip* PRONE, given, in the habit of, liable, likely, apt, *poetic/literary* wont

Include ▶ **verb** ① *activities include sports, drama, music, and chess* INCORPORATE, comprise, encompass, cover, embrace, involve, take in, number, contain, consist of, be made up of, be composed of, *formal* comprehend ② *don't forget to include the cost of repairs* ALLOW FOR, count, take into account, take into consideration
-OPPOSITES exclude

Including ▶ **preposition** INCLUSIVE OF, counting, as well as, plus, together with

Inclusive ▶ **adjective** ① *an inclusive price* | *an inclusive definition* ALL-IN, all-inclusive, comprehensive, in toto, overall, full, all-round, umbrella, catch-all, all-encompassing ② *prices are inclusive of VAT* INCLUDING, incorporating, taking in, counting, comprising, covering

Incognito ▶ **adverb & adjective** UNDER AN ASSUMED NAME, under a false name, in disguise, disguised, under cover, in plain clothes, camouflaged, secretly, anonymously

Incoherent ▶ **adjective** ① *a long, incoherent speech* UNCLEAR, confused, muddled, unintelligible, incomprehensible, hard to follow, disjointed, disconnected, disordered, mixed up, garbled, jumbled, scrambled, rambling, wandering, discursive, disorganized, illogical; inarticulate, mumbling, slurred ② *she was incoherent and shivering violently* DELIRIOUS, raving, babbling, hysterical, irrational
-OPPOSITES lucid.

Incombustible ▶ **adjective** NON-FLAMMABLE, non-combustible, fireproof, flameproof, fire/flame resistant, fire/flame retardant, heatproof, ovenproof.
-OPPOSITES flammable, inflammable

Income ▶ **noun** EARNINGS, salary, pay, remuneration, wages, stipend; revenue, receipts, takings, profits, gains, proceeds, turnover, yield, dividend, incomings, means; *N Amer* take; *formal* emolument.
-OPPOSITES expenditure, outgoings.

Incoming ▶ **adjective** ① *the incoming train* **AR RIVING**, entering, approaching, coming (in) ② *the incoming president* **NEWLY ELECTED**, newly appointed, succeeding, new, next, future, elect, to-be, designate

—**OPPOSITES** outgoing

Incommensurate ▶ **adjective** **OUT OF PRO PORTION**, not in proportion, disproportionate, inappropriate, out of keeping, insufficient, inadequate, excessive, inordinate, unreasonable, uncalled for, undue, unfair

—**OPPOSITES** proportional

Incommunicable ▶ **adjective** **INDESCRIBABLE**, inexpressible, unutterable, unspeakable, undefinable, ineffable, beyond words, beyond description, overwhelming, intense, profound

Incomparable ▶ **adjective** **WITHOUT EQUAL**, beyond compare, unparalleled, matchless, peerless, unmatched, without parallel, beyond comparison, second to none, in a class of its own, unequalled, unrivalled, inimitable, nonpareil, par excellence, transcendent, superlative, surpassing, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, supreme, top, outstanding, consummate, singular, unique, rare, perfect, *informal* one-in-a-million, *formal* unexemplary

Incomparably ▶ **adverb** **FAR AND AWAY**, by far, infinitely, immeasurably, easily, inimitably, supremely, superlatively, uniquely, transcendentally

Incompatible ▶ **adjective** ① *she and McBride are totally incompatible* **UNSUITED**, mismatched, ill-matched, poles apart, worlds apart, like day and night, *Brit* like chalk and cheese ② *incompatible economic objectives* **IRRECONCILABLE**, conflicting, opposed, opposite, contradictory, antagonistic, antipathetic, clashing, inharmonious, discordant, mutually exclusive ③ *a theory incompatible with that of his predecessor* **INCONSISTENT** WITH, at odds with, out of keeping with, at variance with, inconsonant with, different to, divergent from, contrary to, in conflict with, in opposition to, (diametrically) opposed to, counter to, irreconcilable with

—**OPPOSITES** well matched, harmonious, consistent

Incompetent ▶ **adjective** **INEPT**, unskilful, unskilled, inexperienced, amateurish, unprofessional, bungling, blundering, clumsy, inadequate, substandard, inferior, ineffective, deficient, inefficient, ineffectual, wanting, lacking, leaving much to be desired, incapable, unfit, unqualified, *informal* useless, pathetic, cack-handed, ham-fisted, not up to it, not up to scratch, *Brit informal* not much cop

Incomplete ▶ **adjective** ① *the project is still incomplete* **UNFINISHED**, uncompleted, partial, half-finished, half-done, half-completed ② *inaccurate or incomplete information* **DEFICIENT**, insufficient, imperfect, defective, partial, patchy, sketchy, fragmentary, fragmented, scrappy, bitty, abridged, shortened, expurgated, bowdlerized.

Incomprehensible ▶ **adjective** **UNINTELLIGIBLE**, impossible to understand, impenetrable, unclear, indecipherable, beyond one's comprehension, beyond one, beyond one's grasp, complicated, complex, involved, baffling, bewildering, mystifying, puzzling, confusing, perplexing, abstruse, esoteric, recondite, arcane, mys-

terious, Delphic, *informal* over one's head, all Greek to someone, *Brit informal* double Dutch

—**OPPOSITES** intelligible, clear

Inconceivable ▶ **adjective** **UNBELIEVABLE**, beyond belief, incredible, unthinkable, unimaginable, extremely unlikely, impossible, beyond the bounds of possibility, out of the question, preposterous, ridiculous, ludicrous, absurd, incomprehensible, *informal* hard to swallow

—**OPPOSITES** likely

Inconclusive ▶ **adjective** **INDECISIVE**, proving nothing, indefinite, indeterminate, unresolved, unproved, unsettled, still open to question/doubt, debatable, unconfirmed, moot, vague, ambiguous, *informal* up in the air, left hanging

Incongruous ▶ **adjective** ① *the women looked incongruous in their smart hats and fur coats* **OUT OF PLACE**, out of keeping, inappropriate, unsuitable, unsuited, wrong, strange, odd, absurd, bizarre, off-key, extraneous ② *an incongruous collection of objects* **ILL-MATCHED**, ill-assorted, mismatched, unharmonious, discordant, dissonant, conflicting, clashing, jarring, incompatible, different, dissimilar, contrasting, disparate

—**OPPOSITES** appropriate, harmonious

Inconsequential ▶ **adjective** **INSIGNIFICANT**, unimportant, of little no/consequence, neither here nor there, incidental, inessential, non-essential, immaterial, irrelevant, negligible, inappreciable, inconsiderable, slight, minor, trivial, trifling, petty, *informal* piddling, piffing

—**OPPOSITES** important

Inconsiderable ▶ **adjective** **INSIGNIFICANT**, negligible, trifling, small, tiny, little, minuscule, nominal, token, petty, slight, minor, inappreciable, insubstantial, inconsequential, *informal* piffing, *formal* exiguous

Inconsiderate ▶ **adjective** **THOUGHTLESS**, unthinking, insensitive, selfish, self-centred, unsympathetic, uncaring, heedless, unmindful, unkind, uncharitable, ungracious, impolite, discourteous, rude, disrespectful, tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet, indelicate, *informal* ignorant

—**OPPOSITES** thoughtful

Inconsistent ▶ **adjective** ① *his inconsistent behaviour* **ERRATIC**, changeable, unpredictable, variable, varying, changing, changeful, inconstant, unstable, irregular, fluctuating, unsteady, unsettled, uneven, self-contradictory, contradictory, paradoxical, capricious, fickle, flighty, whimsical, unreliable, mercurial, volatile, blowing hot and cold, ever-changing, chameleon-like, *informal* up and down, *technical* labile ② *he had done nothing inconsistent with his morality* **INCOMPATIBLE** WITH, conflicting with, in conflict with, at odds with, at variance with, differing from, contrary to, in opposition to, (diametrically) opposed to, irreconcilable with, out of keeping with, out of step with, antithetical to

Inconsolable ▶ **adjective** **HEARTBROKEN**, broken-hearted, grief-stricken, beside oneself with grief, devastated, wretched, sick at heart, desolate, despairing, distraught, comfortless, miserable, unhappy, sad, *poetic/literary* heartsick

Inconspicuous ▶ **adjective** **UNOBTRUSIVE**, unnoticeable, unremarkable, unspectacular, unostentatious, undistinguished, unexceptional, modest, unassuming, discreet, hidden, concealed; unseen, in the background, low-profile

—OPPOSITES noticeable

Inconstant ▶ adjective FICKLE, faithless, unfaithful, false, false-hearted, wayward, unreliable, untrustworthy, capricious, volatile, flighty, unpredictable, erratic, blowing hot and cold, *informal* cheating, two-timing

—OPPOSITES faithful

Incontestable ▶ adjective INCONTROVERTIBLE, indisputable, undeniable, irrefutable, unassailable, beyond dispute, unquestionable, beyond question, indubitable, beyond doubt, airtight, watertight, unarguable, undebatable, emphatic, categorical, certain, definite, definitive, proven, demonstrable, decisive, conclusive

—OPPOSITES questionable

Incontinent ▶ adjective UNRESTRAINED, uncontrolled, lacking self-restraint, unbridled, unchecked, uncontrollable, ungovernable

Incontrovertible ▶ adjective INDISPUTABLE, incontestable, undeniable, irrefutable, unassailable, beyond dispute, unquestionable, beyond question, indubitable, beyond doubt, unarguable, undebatable, certain, sure, definite, definitive, proven, decisive, conclusive, demonstrable, emphatic, categorical, airtight, watertight

—OPPOSITES questionable

Inconvenience ▶ noun ① *we apologize for any inconvenience caused* TROUBLE, bother, problems, disruption, difficulty, disturbance, vexation, irritation, annoyance, *informal* aggravation, hassle

② *his early arrival was clearly an inconvenience* NUISANCE, trouble, bother, problem, vexation, worry, trial, bind, bore, irritant, thorn in someone's flesh, *informal* headache, pain, pain in the neck, pain in the backside, drag, aggravation, hassle, *N Amer informal* pain in the butt

▶ verb *I don't want to inconvenience you* TROUBLE, bother, put out, put to any trouble, disturb, impose on, burden, vex, annoy, irritate, *informal* hassle, *formal* discommode

Inconvenient ▶ adjective AWKWARD, difficult, inopportune, untimely, ill-timed, unsuitable, inappropriate, unfortunate; tiresome, irritating, annoying, vexing, bothersome, *informal* aggravating

Incorporate ▶ verb ① *the region was incorporated into Moldavian territory* ABSORB, include, subsume, assimilate, integrate, take in, swallow up ② *the model incorporates some advanced features* INCLUDE, contain, comprise, embody, embrace, build in, encompass ③ *a small amount of salt is incorporated with the butter* BLEND, mix, mingle, meld, combine, fold in, stir in

Incorporeal ▶ adjective INTANGIBLE, impalpable, non-physical, bodiless, disembodied, discarnate, spiritual, ethereal, unsubstantial, insubstantial, transcendental, ghostly, spectral, supernatural

—OPPOSITES tangible

Incorrect ▶ adjective ① *an incorrect answer* WRONG, erroneous, in error, mistaken, inaccurate, wide of the mark, off target, untrue, false, fallacious; *informal* off beam, out, way out, full of holes ② *incorrect behaviour* INAPPROPRIATE, wrong, unsuitable, inapt, inapposite; ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, injudicious, unacceptable, unfitting, out of keeping, improper, unseemly, unbecoming, indecorous, *informal* out of order.

Incorrigible ▶ adjective INVETERATE, habitual, confirmed, hardened, incurable, irredeemable, hopeless, beyond hope, beyond redemption, impenitent, uncontrite, unrepentant, unapologetic, unashamed

Incorruptible ▶ adjective ① *an incorruptible man* HONEST, honourable, trustworthy, principled, high-principled, unbribeable, moral, ethical, good, virtuous ② *an incorruptible substance* IMPERISHABLE, indestructible, indissoluble, enduring, everlasting

—OPPOSITES venal

Increase ▶ verb ① *demand is likely to increase* GROW, get bigger, get larger, enlarge, expand, swell, rise, climb, escalate, soar, surge, rocket, shoot up, spiral, intensify, strengthen, extend, heighten, stretch, spread, widen, multiply, snowball, mushroom, proliferate, balloon, build up, mount up, pile up, accrue, accumulate, *poetic/literary* wax ② *higher expectations will increase user demand* ADD TO, make larger, make bigger, augment, supplement, top up, build up, extend, raise, swell, inflate, magnify, intensify, strengthen, heighten, amplify, *informal* up, jack up, hike up, bump up, crank up

—OPPOSITES decrease, reduce

▶ noun *the increase in size* | *an increase in demand* GROWTH, rise, enlargement, expansion, extension, multiplication, elevation, inflation, increment, addition, augmentation, magnification, intensification, amplification, step up, climb, escalation, surge, upsurge, upswing, spiral, spurt, *informal* hike

Increasingly ▶ adverb MORE AND MORE, progressively, to an increasing extent, ever more

Incredible ▶ adjective ① *I find his story incredible* UNBELIEVABLE, beyond belief, hard to believe, unconvincing, far-fetched, implausible, improbable, highly unlikely, dubious, doubtful, inconceivable, unthinkable, unimaginable, impossible, feeble, weak, thin, lame, *informal* hard to swallow/take, cock-and-bull ② *an incredible feat of engineering* MAGNIFICENT, wonderful, marvellous, spectacular, remarkable, phenomenal, prodigious, breathtaking, extraordinary, unbelievable, amazing, stunning, astounding, astonishing, awe-inspiring, staggering, formidable, impressive, supreme, great, awesome, superhuman, *informal* fantastic, terrific, tremendous, stupendous, mind-boggling, mind-blowing, out of this world, *poetic/literary* wondrous

Incredulity ▶ noun DISBELIEF, incredulosity, scepticism, distrust, suspicion, doubt, doubtfulness, dubiousness, lack of conviction, cynicism

Incredulous ▶ adjective DISBELIEVING, unbelieving, sceptical, distrustful, mistrustful, suspicious, doubtful, dubious, unconvinced, cynical

Increment ▶ noun INCREASE, addition, supplement, gain, augmentation, boost, *informal* hike. —OPPOSITES reduction.

Incriminate ▶ verb IMPLICATE, involve, entmesh, blame, accuse, denounce, inform against, point the finger at; entrap, *informal* frame, set up, stick/pin the blame on, rat on, *Brit informal* fit up, grass on, *archaic* inculpate.

Inculcate ▶ verb ① *the beliefs inculcated in him by his father*: INSTIL, implant, fix, impress, imprint; hammer into, drum into, drive into, drill



into, din into ② they will try to inculcate you with a respect for culture **IMBUE**, infuse, inspire, teach

Inculcate ▶ verb (archaic) See **INCRIMINATE**

Incumbent ▶ adjective ① it is incumbent on the government to give a clear lead **NECESSARY**, essential, required, imperative, compulsory, binding, obligatory, mandatory ② the incumbent president **CURRENT**, present, in office, in power, reigning

▶ noun the first incumbent of the post **HOLDER**, bearer, occupant

Incur ▶ verb **BRING UPON ONESELF**, expose oneself to, lay oneself open to, run up, attract, invite, earn, arouse, cause, give rise to, be liable/subject to, meet with, sustain, experience

Incurable ▶ adjective ① an incurable illness **UNTREATABLE**, inoperable, irremediable, terminal, fatal, mortal, chronic ② an incurable romantic **INVETERATE**, dyed-in-the-wool, confirmed, established, long-established, long-standing, absolute, complete, utter, thorough, thoroughgoing, out-and-out, through and through, unashamed, unapologetic, unrepentant, incorrigible, hopeless

Incursion ▶ noun **ATTACK**, assault, raid, invasion, storming, foray, blitz, sortie, sally, advance, push, thrust
-**OPPOSITES** retreat

Indebted ▶ adjective **BEHOLDEN**, under an obligation, obliged, obligated, grateful, thankful, in someone's debt, owing a debt of gratitude

Indecent ▶ adjective ① indecent photographs **OBSCENE**, dirty, filthy, rude, coarse, naughty, vulgar, gross, crude, lewd, salacious, improper, smutty, off colour, pornographic, offensive, prurient, sordid, scatological, ribald, risqué, racy, informal blue, nudge-nudge, porn, porno, X-rated, raunchy, skin, *Bnt* informal saucy, euphemistic adult ② indecent clothes **REVEALING**, short, brief, skimpy, scanty, low-cut, flimsy, thin, see-through, erotic, arousing, sexy, suggestive, titillating ③ indecent haste **UNSEEMLY**, improper, indecorous, uncereceremonious, indelicate, unbecoming, ungentelemanly, unladylike, unfitting, unbecoming, untoward, unsuitable, inappropriate, in bad taste, tasteless, unacceptable, offensive, crass

Indecipherable ▶ adjective **ILLEGIBLE**, unreadable, hard to read, unintelligible, unclear, scribbled, scrawled, hieroglyphic, squiggly, cramped, crabbed

Indecision ▶ noun **INDECISIVENESS**, irresolution, hesitancy, hesitation, tentativeness, ambivalence, doubt, doubtfulness, uncertainty, incertitude, vacillation, equivocation, second thoughts, shilly-shallying, dithering, temporizing, *Bnt* humming and hawing, *Scottish* swithering, informal dilly-dallying, sitting on the fence, formal dubiety.

Indecisive ▶ adjective ① an indecisive result: IN **CONCLUSIVE**, proving nothing, settling nothing, open, indeterminate, undecided, unsettled, borderline, indefinite, unclear, ambiguous, informal up in the air. ② an indecisive leader **IRRESOLUTE**, hesitant, tentative, weak; vacillating, equivocating, dithering, wavering, faltering, shilly-shallying, ambivalent, divided, blowing hot and cold, in two minds, in a dilemma, in a quandary, torn; doubtful, unsure, uncertain; un-

decided, uncommitted, informal iffy, sitting on the fence

Indecorous ▶ adjective **IMPROPER**, unseemly, unbecoming, undignified, immodest, indelicate, indecent, unladylike, ungentelemanly, inappropriate, incorrect, unsuitable, undesirable, unfitting, in bad taste, ill-bred

Indecorum ▶ noun **IMPROPRIETY**, unseemliness, immodesty, indecency, indelicacy, inappropriateness, unsuitability, undesirability, unacceptability, bad taste

Indeed ▶ adverb ① there was, indeed, quite a future **AS EXPECTED**, to be sure, in fact, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in truth, actually, as it happens/happened, if truth be told, archaic in sooth ② 'May I join you?' 'Indeed you may' **YES**, certainly, assuredly, of course, naturally, without (a) doubt, without question, by all means, informal you bet, I'll say ③ Ian's future with us looked rosy indeed **VERY**, extremely, exceedingly, tremendously, immensely, singularly, decidedly, particularly, remarkably, really

Indefatigable ▶ adjective **TIRELESS**, untiring, unwearied, unwearrying, unflagging, determined, tenacious, dogged, single-minded, assiduous, industrious, unswerving, unflinching, unshakeable, indomitable, persistent, relentless, unremitting

Indefensible ▶ adjective ① indefensible cruelty **INEXCUSABLE**, unjustifiable, unjustified, unpardonable, unforgivable, uncalled for, unprovoked, gratuitous, unreasonable, unnecessary ② an indefensible system of dual justice **UNTENABLE**, unsustainable, insupportable, unwarranted, unwarrantable, unjustifiable, unjustified, flawed, unacceptable ③ an indefensible island **DEFENCELESS**, vulnerable, exposed, open to attack, pregnable, undefended, unfortified, unguarded, unprotected, unarmed

Indefinable ▶ adjective **HARD TO DEFINE**, hard to describe, indescribable, inexpressible, nameless, vague, obscure, impalpable, elusive

Indefinite ▶ adjective ① an indefinite period **IN DETERMINATE**, unspecified, unlimited, unrestricted, undecided, undetermined, undefined, unfixed, unsettled, unknown, uncertain, limitless, infinite, endless, immeasurable ② an indefinite meaning **VAGUE**, ill-defined, unclear, loose, general, imprecise, inexact, nebulous, blurred, fuzzy, hazy, obscure, ambiguous, equivocal
-**OPPOSITES** fixed, clear

Indefinitely ▶ adverb **FOR AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD**, for an unlimited period, without limit, sine die

Indelible ▶ adjective **INERADICABLE**, permanent, lasting, persisting, enduring, unfading, unforgettable, haunting, never to be forgotten

Indelicate ▶ adjective ① an indelicate question **INSENSITIVE**, tactless, undiplomatic, impolitic, indiscreet ② an indelicate sense of humour **VULGAR**, rude, crude, bawdy, racy, risqué, ribald, earthy, indecent, improper, naughty, indecorous, off colour, dirty, smutty, salacious, informal blue, nudge-nudge, raunchy; *Bnt* informal saucy

Indemnify ▶ verb ① he should be indemnified for his losses **REIMBURSE**, compensate, recompense, repay, pay back, remunerate, recoup ② they are indemnified against breach of contract. **INSURE**, guarantee, protect, secure, underwrite.

Indemnity ► noun ❶ *no indemnity will be given for loss of cash* INSURANCE, assurance, protection, security, indemnification, surety, guarantee, warranty, safeguard ❷ *indemnity from prosecution* IMMUNITY, exemption, dispensation, freedom, special treatment, privilege ❸ *the company was paid \$100,000 in indemnity* COMPENSATION, reimbursement, recompense, repayment, restitution, payment, redress, reparation(s), damages

Indent ► verb ❶ *a coastline indented by many fjords* NOTCH, make an indentation in, scallop, groove, furrow ❷ *you'll have to indent for a new uniform* ORDER, put in an order for, requisition, apply for, put in for, request, ask for, claim, put in a request/claim for, call for

► noun (Brit) *an indent for silk scarves* ORDER, requisition, purchase order, request, call, application, claim

Indentation ► noun HOLLOW, depression, dip, dent, dint, cavity, concavity, pit, trough, dimple, cleft, snick, nick, notch, recess, bay, inlet, cove

Indenture ► noun CONTRACT, agreement, compact, covenant, bond, warrant, certificate, deed, document, instrument

Independence ► noun ❶ *the struggle for American independence* SELF-GOVERNMENT, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, sovereignty, autonomy, non-alignment, freedom, liberty ❷ *he valued his independence* SELF-SUFFICIENCY, self-reliance ❸ *the adviser's independence* IMPARTIALITY, neutrality, disinterest, disinterestedness, detachment, objectivity ❹ *independence of spirit* FREEDOM, individualism, unconventionality, unorthodoxy

Independent ► adjective ❶ *an independent country* SELF-GOVERNING, self-ruling, self-determining, sovereign, autonomous, autarchic, free, non-aligned ❷ *two independent groups of biologists verified the results* SEPARATE, different, unconnected, unrelated, dissociated, discrete ❸ *an independent school* PRIVATE, non-state-run, private-sector, fee-paying, privatized, denationalized ❹ *her grown-up, independent children* SELF-SUFFICIENT, self-supporting, self-reliant, standing on one's own two feet ❺ *independent advice* IMPARTIAL, unbiased, unprejudiced, neutral, disinterested, uninvolved, uncommitted, detached, dispassionate, objective, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, with no axe to grind, without fear or favour ❻ *an independent spirit* FREETHINKING, free, individualistic, unconventional, maverick, bold, unconstrained, unfettered, untrammelled

—OPPOSITES subservient, related, public, biased

Independently ► adverb ALONE, on one's own, separately, unaccompanied, solo, unaided, unassisted, without help, by one's own efforts, under one's own steam, single-handed(ly), off one's own bat, on one's own initiative

Indescribable ► adjective INEXPRESSIBLE, indefinable, beyond words/description, incommunicable, ineffable, unutterable, unspeakable; intense, extreme, acute, strong, powerful, profound; incredible, extraordinary, remarkable, prodigious

Indestructible ► adjective UNBREAKABLE, shatterproof, durable; lasting, enduring, ever-

lasting, perennial, deathless, undying, immortal, inextinguishable, imperishable, poetic/literary adamantine

—OPPOSITES fragile

Indeterminate ► adjective ❶ *an indeterminate period of time* UNDETERMINED, uncertain, unknown, unspecified, unstipulated, indefinite, unfixed ❷ *some indeterminate background noise* VAGUE, indefinite, unspecific, unclear, nebulous, indistinct, amorphous, shapeless, formless, hazy, faint, shadowy, dim

Index ► noun ❶ *the library's subject index* LIST, listing, inventory, catalogue, register, directory ❷ *literature is an index to the condition of civilization* GUIDE, sign, indication, indicator, measure, signal, mark, evidence, symptom, token, clue, hint ❸ *the index jumped up the dial* POINTER, indicator, needle, hand, finger, marker

India ► noun. See list

States and Union Territories of India

STATE	CAPITAL
Andhra Pradesh	Hyderabad
Arunachal Pradesh	Itanagar
Assam	Dispur
Bihar	Patna
Chhattisgarh	Raipur
Delhi	Delhi
Goa	Panaji
Gujarat	Gandhinagar
Haryana	Chandigarh
Himachal Pradesh	Shimla (Simla)
Jammu and Kashmir	Srinagar (summer) Jammu (winter)
Jharkand	Ranchi
Karnataka	Bangalore
Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum)
Madhya Pradesh	Bhopal
Maharashtra	Mumbai (Bombay)
Manipur	Imphal
Meghalaya	Shillong
Mizoram	Aizawl
Nagaland	Kohima
Orissa	Bhubaneswar
Punjab	Chandigarh
Rajasthan	Jaipur
Sikkim	Gangtok
Tamil Nadu	Chennai (Madras)
Tripura	Agartala
Uttaranchal	Dehra Dun
Uttar Pradesh	Lucknow
West Bengal	Kolkata (Calcutta)

UNION TERRITORY	CAPITAL
Andaman and Nicobar Islands	Port Blair
Chandigarh	Chandigarh
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	Silvassa
Daman and Diu	Daman
Lakshadweep	Kavaratti
Pondicherry	Pondicherry

Indicate ► verb ❶ *sales indicate a growing market for such art* POINT TO, be a sign of, be evidence of, evidence, demonstrate, show, testify to, be-

speak, be a symptom of, be symptomatic of, denote, connote, mark, signal, signify, suggest, imply, manifest, reveal, betray, display, reflect, represent, *formal* evince, *poetic/literary* betoken

② *the president indicated his willingness to use force* STATE, declare, make known, communicate, announce, mention, reveal, divulge, disclose, put it on record, admit ③ *please indicate your choice of prize on the form* SPECIFY, designate, stipulate, show ④ *he indicated the room with a sweep of his arm* POINT TO, point out, gesture towards

indicated ▶ *adjective* in such cases surgery is indicated ADVISABLE, recommended, suggested, desirable, preferable, best, sensible, wise, commonsensical, prudent, in someone's (best) interests, necessary, needed, required, called for

indication ▶ *noun* SIGN, signal, indicator, symptom, mark, manifestation, demonstration, show, evidence, pointer, guide, hint, clue, intimation, omen, augury, portent, warning, forewarning

indicative ▶ *adjective* SYMPTOMATIC, expressive, suggestive, representative, emblematic, symbolic, typical, characteristic, *rare* indicator

Indicator ▶ *noun* ① *these tests are a reliable indicator of performance* MEASURE, gauge, barometer, guide, index, mark, sign, signal, standard, touchstone, yardstick, benchmark, criterion, point of reference, guideline, test, litmus test ② *the depth indicator* METER, measuring device, measure, gauge, dial ③ *a position indicator* POINTER, needle, hand, arrow, marker

indict ▶ *verb* CHARGE, accuse, arraign, take to court, put on trial, prosecute, summons, cite, prefer charges against, *N Amer* impeach
-OPPOSITES acquit

indictment ▶ *noun* CHARGE, accusation, arraignment, citation, summons, *Brit* plaint, *N Amer* impeachment

indifference ▶ *noun* ① *his apparent indifference infuriated her* LACK OF CONCERN, unconcern, disinterest, lack of interest, lack of enthusiasm, apathy, nonchalance, boredom, unresponsiveness, impassivity, dispassion, detachment, coolness ② *the indifference of the midfield players* ME DIOCRITY, lack of distinction, amateurism, amateurishness, lack of inspiration

indifferent ▶ *adjective* ① *an indifferent shrug* UNCONCERNED, uninterested, uncaring, casual, nonchalant, offhand, uninvolved, unenthusiastic, apathetic, lukewarm, phlegmatic, unimpressed, bored, unmoved, unresponsive, impassive, dispassionate, detached, cool ② *an indifferent performance* MEDIOCRE, ordinary, average, middling, middle-of-the-road, uninspired, undistinguished, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill, pedestrian, prosaic, lacklustre, forgettable, amateur, amateurish, *informal* OK, so-so, fair-to-middling, no great shakes, not up to much, *Brit informal* not much cop, *N Amer informal* bush-league; *NZ informal* half-pie.

-OPPOSITES enthusiastic, brilliant

indigenous ▶ *adjective* NATIVE, original, aboriginal, autochthonous, earliest, first

indigent ▶ *adjective* POOR, impecunious, destitute, penniless, impoverished, insolvent, poverty-stricken; needy, in need, hard up, on the breadline, deprived, disadvantaged, badly

off, on one's beam-ends, *informal* on one's uppers, broke, flat broke, strapped (for cash), without a brass farthing, without a bean/sou, as poor as a church mouse, *Brit informal* stony broke, skint, boracic, *N Amer informal* on skid row, *formal* penurious

-OPPOSITES rich

indigestion ▶ *noun* DYSPEPSIA, heartburn, pyrosis, acidity, stomach ache, (an) upset stomach, (a) stomach upset, *informal* bellyache, tummy ache, collywobbles.

indignant ▶ *adjective* AGGRIEVED, resentful, affronted, disgruntled, displeased, cross, angry, annoyed, offended, exasperated, irritated, piqued, nettled, in high dudgeon, chagrined, *informal* peeved, vexed, irked, put out, miffed, aggravated, riled, in a huff, *Brit informal* narked, *N Amer informal* sore

Indignation ▶ *noun* RESENTMENT, umbrage, affront, disgruntlement, displeasure, anger, annoyance, irritation, exasperation, vexation, offence, pique, *informal* aggravation, *poetic/literary* ire

indignity ▶ *noun* SHAME, humiliation, loss of self-respect, loss of pride, loss of face, embarrassment, mortification, disgrace, dishonour, stigma, discredit, affront, insult, abuse, mistreatment, injury, offence injustice, slight, snub, discourtesy, disrespect, *informal* slap in the face, kick in the teeth

indirect ▶ *adjective* ① *an indirect effect* INCIDENT, accidental, unintended, secondary, subordinate, ancillary, collateral, concomitant, contingent ② *the indirect route* ROUNDABOUT, circuitous, wandering, meandering, serpentine, winding, tortuous, zigzag ③ *an indirect attack* OBLIQUE, inexplicit, implicit, implied, allusive

indirectly ▶ *adverb* ① *I heard of the damage indirectly* SECOND-HAND, at second hand, from others, *informal* on the grapevine, on the bush/jungle telegraph ② *he referred to the subject indirectly* OBLIQUELY, by implication, allusively

indiscernible ▶ *adjective* ① *an almost indiscernible change* UNNOTICEABLE, imperceptible, invisible, hidden, undetectable, indistinguishable, inappreciable, tiny, minute, minuscule, microscopic, infinitesimal, negligible, inconsequential ② *an indiscernible shape* INDISTINCT, nebulous, unclear, fuzzy, obscure, vague, indefinite, amorphous, shadowy, dim, hard to make out
-OPPOSITES distinct

indiscreet ▶ *adjective* ① *an indiscreet remark* IMPRUDENT, unwise, impolitic, injudicious, incautious, irresponsible, ill-judged, ill-advised, misguided, ill-considered, careless, rash, unwary, hasty, reckless, precipitate, impulsive, foolhardy, foolish, short-sighted, undiplomatic, indelicate, tactless, insensitive, inexpedient, untimely, infelicitous ② *her indiscreet behaviour* IMMODEST, indecorous, unseemly, improper, indecent, indelicate.

Indiscretion ▶ *noun* ① *he was prone to indiscretion* IMPRUDENCE, injudiciousness, incaution, irresponsibility; carelessness, rashness, recklessness, precipitateness, impulsiveness, foolhardiness, foolishness, folly, tactlessness, insensitivity ② *his past indiscretions* BLUNDER, lapse, gaffe, mistake, faux pas, error, slip, miscalculation, impropriety; misdeemeanour, transgression, peccadillo, misdeed, *informal* slip-up.

Indiscriminate ▶ **adjective** NON-SELECTIVE, unselective, indiscriminating, uncritical, aimless, hit-or-miss, haphazard, random, arbitrary, unsystematic, undirected, wholesale, general, sweeping, blanket, thoughtless, unthinking, unconsidered, casual, careless
—OPPOSITES selective

Indispensable ▶ **adjective** ESSENTIAL, necessary, all-important, of the utmost importance, of the essence, vital, crucial, key, needed, required, requisite, invaluable
—OPPOSITES superfluous

Indisposed ▶ **adjective** ① *my wife is indisposed* ILL, unwell, sick, on the sick list, poorly, ailing, not (very) well, out of sorts, under/below par, out of action, hors de combat, *Brit* off colour, *informal* under the weather ② *she was indisposed to help him* RELUCTANT, unwilling, disinclined, loath, unprepared, not disposed, not minded, averse
—OPPOSITES well, willing

Indisposition ▶ **noun** ① *a mild indisposition* ILLNESS, malady, ailment, disorder, sickness, disease, infection, condition, complaint, problem, *informal* bug, virus, *Brit informal* lurgy ② *his indisposition to leave the house* RELUCTANCE, unwillingness, disinclination, aversion

Indisputable ▶ **adjective** INCONTROVERTIBLE, incontestable, undeniable, irrefutable, beyond dispute, unassailable, unquestionable, beyond question, indubitable, not in doubt, beyond doubt, beyond a shadow of a doubt, unarguable, undebatable, airtight, watertight, unequivocal, unmistakable, certain, sure, definite, definitive, proven, decisive, conclusive, demonstrable, self-evident, clear, clear-cut, plain, obvious, manifest, patent, palpable
—OPPOSITES questionable

Indistinct ▶ **adjective** ① *the distant shoreline was indistinct* BLURRED, out of focus, fuzzy, hazy, misty, foggy, cloudy, shadowy, dim, nebulous, unclear, obscure, vague, faint, indistinguishable, barely perceptible, hard to see, hard to make out ② *the last two digits are indistinct* INDECIPHERABLE, illegible, unreadable, hard to read ③ *indistinct sounds* MUFFLED, muted, low, quiet, soft, faint, inaudible, hard to hear, muttered, mumbled
—OPPOSITES clear

Indistinguishable ▶ **adjective** ① *the two girls were indistinguishable* IDENTICAL, difficult to tell apart, like (two) peas in a pod, like Tweedledum and Tweedledee, very similar, two of a kind ② *his words were indistinguishable* UNINTELLIGIBLE, incomprehensible, hard to make out, indistinct, unclear, inaudible
—OPPOSITES unlike, clear

Individual ▶ **adjective** ① *exhibitions devoted to individual artists* SINGLE, separate, discrete, independent, sole, lone, solitary, isolated ② *he had his own individual style of music* CHARACTERISTIC, distinctive, distinct, typical, particular, peculiar, personal, personalized, special. ③ *a chic and highly individual apartment* ORIGINAL, unique, exclusive, singular, idiosyncratic, different, unusual, novel, unorthodox, atypical, out of the ordinary

▶ **noun** ① *Peter was a rather stuffy individual* PERSON, human being, mortal, soul, creature, man, boy, woman, girl, character, personage, *informal* type, sort, beggar, cookie, customer, guy, gee-

zer, devil, bastard, *Brit informal* bod, gent, punter, *informal*, dated body, cove, *archaic* wight ② *she was a real individual* INDIVIDUALIST, free spirit, nonconformist, original, eccentric, character, maverick, rare bird, *Brit informal* one-off

Individualism ▶ **noun** INDEPENDENCE, free-thinking, freedom of thought, originality, unconventionality, eccentricity

Individualist ▶ **noun** FREE SPIRIT, individual, nonconformist, original, eccentric, maverick, rare bird, *Brit informal* one-off
—OPPOSITES conformist

Individualistic ▶ **adjective** UNCONVENTIONAL, unorthodox, atypical, singular, unique, original, nonconformist, independent, freethinking, eccentric, maverick, strange, odd, peculiar, idiosyncratic

Individuality ▶ **noun** DISTINCTIVENESS, distinction, uniqueness, originality, singularity, particularity, peculiarity, differentness, separateness, personality, character, identity, self

Individually ▶ **adverb** ONE AT A TIME, one by one, singly, separately, severally, independently, apart
—OPPOSITES together

Indoctrinate ▶ **verb** BRAINWASH, propagandize, proselytize, inculcate, re-educate, persuade, convince, condition, mould, discipline, instruct, teach, school, drill

Indolence ▶ **noun** LAZINESS, idleness, slothfulness, sloth, shiftlessness, inactivity, inaction, inertia, sluggishness, lethargy, languor, languidness, torpor, *poetic/literary* hebetude

Indolent ▶ **adjective** LAZY, idle, slothful, loafing, work-shy, do-nothing, sluggardly, shiftless, lackadaisical, languid, inactive, inert, sluggish, lethargic, torpid, slack, lax, remiss, negligent, good-for-nothing, feckless, *informal* bone idle
—OPPOSITES industrious, energetic

Indomitable ▶ **adjective** INVINCIBLE, unconquerable, unbeatable, unassailable, invulnerable, unshakeable, indefatigable, unyielding, unbending, stalwart, stout-hearted, lion-hearted, strong-willed, strong-minded, steadfast, staunch, resolute, firm, determined, intransigent, inflexible, adamant, unflinching, courageous, brave, valiant, heroic, intrepid, fearless, plucky, mettlesome, gritty, steely
—OPPOSITES submissive

Indubitable ▶ **adjective** UNQUESTIONABLE, undoubtable, indisputable, unarguable, undebatable, incontestable, undeniable, irrefutable, incontrovertible, unmistakable, unequivocal, certain, sure, positive, definite, absolute, conclusive, watertight, beyond doubt, beyond the shadow of a doubt, beyond dispute, beyond question, not in question, not in doubt
—OPPOSITES doubtful

Induce ▶ **verb** ① *the pickets induced many workers to stay away* PERSUADE, convince, prevail upon, get, make, prompt, move, inspire, influence, encourage, motivate, coax into, wheedle into, cajole into, talk into, prod into, *informal* twist someone's arm ② *these activities induce a feeling of togetherness* BRING ABOUT, cause, produce, effect, create, give rise to, generate, instigate, engender, occasion, set in motion, lead to, result in, trigger off, spark off, whup up, stir up, kindle, arouse, rouse, foster, promote, encourage, *poetic/literary* beget, enkindle.

—OPPOSITES dissuade, prevent

inducement ► **noun** INCENTIVE, encouragement, attraction, temptation, stimulus, bait, carrot, lure, pull, draw, spur, goad, impetus, motive, motivation, provocation, bribe, reward, *informal* come-on, sweetener

—OPPOSITES deterrent

induct ► **verb** ① *the new ministers were inducted into the government* ADMIT TO, allow into, introduce to, initiate into, install in, instate in, swear into, appoint to ② *he inducted me into the skills of magic* INTRODUCE TO, acquaint with, familiarize with, make conversant with, ground in, instruct in, teach in, educate in, school in

indulge ► **verb** ① *Sally indulged her passion for long walks* SATISFY, gratify, fulfil, feed, accommodate, yield to, give in to, give way to ② *she indulged in a fit of sulks* WALLOW IN, give oneself up to, give way to, yield to, abandon oneself to, give free rein to, luxuriate in, revel in, lose oneself in ③ *she did not like her children to be indulged* PAMPER, spoil, overindulge, coddle, mollycoddle, cosset, baby, pet, spoon-feed, feather-bed, wrap in cotton wool, pander to, wait on hand and foot, cater to someone's every whim, kill with kindness, *archaic* cocker

—OPPOSITES frustrate

■ **indulge oneself** TREAT ONESELF, give oneself a treat, have a spree, splash out, *informal* go to town, splurge

indulgence ► **noun** ① *the indulgence of all his desires* SATISFACTION, gratification, fulfilment ② *excess indulgence contributed to his ill-health* SELF-GRATIFICATION, self-indulgence, overindulgence, intemperance, immoderation, excess, excessiveness, lack of restraint, extravagance, decadence, pleasure-seeking, sybaritism ③ *they viewed holidays as an indulgence* EXTRAVAGANCE, luxury, treat, non-essential, extra, frill ④ *her indulgence left him spoilt* PAMPERING, coddling, mollycoddling, cossetting, babying ⑤ *his parents view his lapses with indulgence* TOLERANCE, forbearance, understanding, kindness, compassion, sympathy, forgiveness, leniency

indulgent ► **adjective** GENEROUS, permissive, easy-going, liberal, tolerant, forgiving, forbearing, lenient, kind, kindly, soft-hearted, compassionate, understanding, sympathetic, fond, dotting, soft, compliant, obliging, accommodating

—OPPOSITES strict

industrial ► **adjective** ① *industrial areas of the city* MANUFACTURING, factory, commercial, business, trade ② (*Brit*) *industrial action* STRIKE, protest

industrialist ► **noun** MANUFACTURER, producer, factory owner; captain of industry, big businessman, magnate, tycoon, capitalist, financier, *informal*, derogatory fat cat

industrious ► **adjective** HARD-WORKING, diligent, assiduous, conscientious, steady, painstaking, sedulous, persevering, unflagging, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, studious, busy, as busy as a bee, active, bustling, energetic, on the go, vigorous, determined, dynamic, zealous, productive; with one's shoulder to the wheel, with one's nose to the grindstone.

—OPPOSITES indolent.

industry ► **noun** ① *British industry* MANUFACTURING, production; construction. ② *the publishing industry* BUSINESS, trade, field, line (of busi-

ness), *informal* racket ③ *the kitchen was a hive of industry* ACTIVITY, busyness, energy, vigour, productivity, hard work, industriousness, diligence, application, dedication

inebriated ► **adjective** DRUNK, intoxicated, drunken, incapable, tipsy, the worse for drink, under the influence, *informal* tight, merry, in one's cups, three sheets to the wind, pie-eyed, plastered, smashed, wrecked, wasted, sloshed, soused, sozzled, blotto, stewed, pickled, tanked (up), off one's face, out of one's head, ratted, *Brit informal* legless, bevvied, paralytic, Brahms and Liszt, half cut, out of it, bladdered, trolleyed, squiffy, tiddly, *N Amer informal* loaded, trashed, juiced, sauced, out of one's gourd, in the bag, zoned, *euphemistic* tired and emotional, *informal*, dated lit up

—OPPOSITES sober

inedible ► **adjective** UNEATABLE, indigestible, unsavoury, unpalatable, unwholesome, stale, rotten, off, bad

ineffable ► **adjective** ① *the ineffable beauty of the Everglades* INDESCRIBABLE, inexpressible, beyond words; undefinable, unutterable, untold, unimaginable, overwhelming, breathtaking, awesome, staggering, amazing ② *the ineffable name of God* UNUTTERABLE, unmentionable, taboo, forbidden, off limits, *informal* no go

ineffective ► **adjective** ① *an ineffective scheme* UNSUCCESSFUL, unproductive, fruitless, unprofitable, abortive, futile, purposeless, useless, worthless, ineffectual, inefficient, inefficacious, inadequate, feeble, inept, lame, *archaic* bootless ② *an ineffective president* INEFFECTUAL, inefficient, inefficacious, unsuccessful, powerless, impotent, inadequate, incompetent, incapable, unfit, inept, weak, poor, *informal* useless, hopeless

ineffectual ► **adjective** See INEFFECTIVE senses 1, 2

inefficacious ► **adjective**. See INEFFECTIVE sense 1

inefficient ► **adjective** ① *an inefficient worker* INEFFECTIVE, ineffectual, incompetent, inept, incapable, unfit, unskilful, inexpert, amateurish, disorganized, unprepared, negligent, lax, sloppy, slack, careless, *informal* lousy, useless ② *inefficient processes* UNECONOMICAL, wasteful, unproductive, time-wasting, slow, deficient, disorganized, unsystematic

inelegant ► **adjective** ① *an inelegant bellow of laughter* UNREFINED, uncouth, unsophisticated, unpolished, uncultivated, ill-bred, coarse, vulgar, rude, impolite, unmannerly. ② *inelegant dancing* GRACELESS, ungraceful, ungainly, uncoordinated, awkward, clumsy, lumbering, inept, unskilful, inexpert, *informal* having two left feet

—OPPOSITES refined, graceful

ineligible ► **adjective** ① *we are ineligible for a grant* UNQUALIFIED, ruled out, disqualified, dis-entitled, *Law* incompetent ② (*dated*) *she was in love with someone ineligible* UNMARRIAGEABLE, unavailable, unsuitable, unacceptable, undesirable, inappropriate, unworthy

—OPPOSITES suitable

inept ► **adjective** INCOMPETENT, unskilful, unskilled, inexpert, amateurish, clumsy, awkward, maladroit, unhandy, bungling, blundering; unproductive, unsuccessful, ineffectual, not up to scratch; *informal* cack-handed, ham-



fisted, butterfingere, klutzy, *BrE informal* all (fingers and) thumbs

—OPPOSITES competent

inequality ► **noun** **IMBALANCE**, inequity, inconsistency, variation, variability; divergence, polarity, disparity, discrepancy, dissimilarity, difference, bias, prejudice, discrimination, unfairness

inequitable ► **adjective** **UNFAIR**, unjust, unequal, uneven, unbalanced, one-sided, discriminatory, preferential, biased, partisan, partial, prejudiced

—OPPOSITES fair

inequity ► **noun** **UNFAIRNESS**, injustice, unjustness, discrimination, partisanship, partiality, favouritism, bias, prejudice

inert ► **adjective** **UNMOVING**, motionless, immobile, inanimate, still, stationary, static, dormant, sleeping, unconscious, comatose, lifeless, insensible, insensate, insentient, idle, inactive, sluggish, lethargic, stagnant, listless, torpid

—OPPOSITES active

inertia ► **noun** **INACTIVITY**, inaction, inertness, apathy, accidie, malaise, stagnation, enervation, lethargy, listlessness, torpor, idleness, sloth, motionlessness, immobility, lifelessness, formal stasis

inescapable ► **adjective** **UNAVOIDABLE**, inevitable, ineluctable, inexorable, assured, sure, certain, necessary, required, compulsory, mandatory, *rare* ineludible

—OPPOSITES avoidable

inessential ► **adjective** **UNNECESSARY**, non-essential, unwanted, uncalled-for, needless, redundant, superfluous, excessive, surplus, dispensable, expendable, unimportant, peripheral, minor, secondary

inestimable ► **adjective** **IMMEASURABLE**, incalculable, innumerable, unfathomable, indeterminable, measureless, untold, limitless, boundless, unlimited, infinite, endless, inexhaustible, *informal* no end of, *poetic/literary* myriad

—OPPOSITES few

inevitable ► **adjective** **UNAVOIDABLE**, inescapable, inexorable, ineluctable, assured, certain, sure, fated, predestined, predetermined, *rare* ineludible

—OPPOSITES uncertain

inevitably ► **adverb** **NATURALLY**, necessarily, automatically, as a matter of course, of necessity, inescapably, unavoidably, certainly, surely, definitely, undoubtedly, *informal* like it or not, *formal* perforce

inexact ► **adjective** **IMPRECISE**, inaccurate, approximate, rough, crude, general, vague, incorrect, erroneous, wrong, false, off, out, *N Amer informal* ballpark

inexcusable ► **adjective** **INDEFENSIBLE**, unjustifiable, unwarranted, unpardonable, unforgivable, blameworthy, censurable, reprehensible, deplorable, unconscionable, unacceptable, unreasonable, uncalled-for, unprovoked, gratuitous

inexhaustible ► **adjective** ① *her patience is inexhaustible* **UNLIMITED**, limitless, illimitable, infinite, boundless, endless, never-ending, unfailing, everlasting, immeasurable, incalculable, inestimable, untold; copious, abundant. ② *the dancers were inexhaustible* **TIRELESS**, indefatig-

able, untiring, unfaltering, unflagging, unremitting, persevering, persistent, dogged

—OPPOSITES limited, weary

inexorable ► **adjective** ① *the inexorable advance of science* **RELENTLESS**, unstoppable, inescapable, inevitable, unavoidable, irrevocable, persistent, continuous, non-stop, steady, interminable, incessant, unceasing, unremitting, unrelenting

② *inexorable creditors* **INTRANSIGENT**, unbending, unyielding, inflexible, adamant, obdurate, immovable, unshakeable, implacable, unappeasable, unforgiving, unsparing, uncompromising, ruthless, relentless, pitiless, merciless

inexpedient ► **adjective** **UNADVISABLE**, injudicious, unwise, impolitic, imprudent, incautious, irresponsible, foolhardy, foolish, ill-advised, ill-considered, inappropriate, disadvantageous, prejudicial

—OPPOSITES wise

inexpensive ► **adjective** **CHEAP**, low-priced, low-cost, economical, competitive, affordable, reasonable, budget, economy, bargain, cut-price, reduced, discounted, discount, rock-bottom, giveaway, bargain-basement, *informal* dirt cheap

inexperience ► **noun** **IGNORANCE**, unworldliness, naivety, naiveness, innocence, greenness, immaturity, *poetic/literary* nescience

inexperienced ► **adjective** **INEXPERT**, unpractised, untrained, unschooled, unqualified, unskilled, amateur, ignorant, unversed, unseasoned, naive, unsophisticated, callow, immature, green, *informal* wet behind the ears, wide-eyed

inexpert ► **adjective** **UNSKILLED**, unskilful, amateur, amateurish, unprofessional, inexperienced, inept, incompetent, maladroit, clumsy, bungling, blundering, unhandy, *informal* cack-handed, ham-fisted, butterfingere

inexplicable ► **adjective** **UNACCOUNTABLE**, unexplainable, incomprehensible, unfathomable, impenetrable, insoluble, baffling, puzzling, perplexing, mystifying, bewildering, mysterious, strange

—OPPOSITES understandable

inexpressible ► **adjective** **INDESCRIBABLE**, undefinable, unutterable, unspeakable, ineffable, beyond words, unimaginable, inconceivable, unthinkable, untold.

inexpressive ► **adjective** **EXPRESSIONLESS**, impassive, emotionless; inscrutable, unreadable, blank, vacant, glazed, lifeless, deadpan, wooden, stony, poker-faced, straight-faced

inextinguishable ► **adjective** **IRREPRESSIBLE**, unquenchable, indestructible, undying, unfailing, unceasing, ceaseless, enduring, everlasting, eternal, persistent.

inextricable ► **adjective** ① *our lives are inextricable* **INSEPARABLE**, indivisible, entangled, tangled, mixed up. ② *an inextricable situation* **IN-ESCAPABLE**, unavoidable, ineluctable.

infallible ► **adjective** ① *an infallible sense of timing* **UNERRING**, unfailing, faultless, flawless, impeccable, perfect, precise, accurate, meticulous, scrupulous; *BrE informal* spot on. ② *infallible cures* **UNFAILING**, guaranteed, dependable, trustworthy, reliable, sure, certain, safe, foolproof, effective; *informal* sure-fire; *formal* efficacious

infamous ► **adjective** ① *an infamous mass murderer* NOTORIOUS, disreputable, legendary, fabled ② *infamous misconduct* ABOMINABLE, outrageous, shocking, shameful, disgraceful, dishonourable, discreditable, unworthy, monstrous, atrocious, appalling, dreadful, terrible, heinous, egregious, detestable, loathsome, hateful, vile, unspeakable, unforgivable, iniquitous, scandalous, *informal* dirty, filthy, low-down, *Brit informal* beastly

—OPPOSITES reputable, honourable

Infamy ► **noun** ① *these acts brought him infamy* NOTORIETY, disrepute, ill fame, disgrace, discredit, shame, dishonour, ignominy, scandal, censure, blame, disapprobation, condemnation ② *she was punished for her infamy* WICKEDNESS, evil, vileness, iniquity, depravity, degeneracy, immorality, sin, wrongdoing, offence, abuse, *formal* turpitude

Infancy ► **noun** ① *she died in infancy* BABYHOOD, early childhood ② *the infancy of broadcasting* BEGINNINGS, early days, early stages, seeds, roots, start, commencement, launch, debut, rise, emergence, dawn, birth, inception
—OPPOSITES end

infant ► **noun** *a fretful infant* BABY, newborn, young child, (tiny) tot, little one, *Medicine* neonate, *Scottish & N English* bairn, wean, *informal* tiny, *sprog*, *poetic/literary* babe

► **adjective** *infant industries* DEVELOPING, emergent, emerging, embryonic, nascent, new, fledgling, budding, up-and-coming.

Infantile ► **adjective** CHILDISH, babyish, immature, puerile, juvenile, adolescent, silly, inane, fatuous

Infantry ► **noun** INFANTRYMEN, foot soldiers, foot guards, the ranks, cannon fodder, *US* GIs, *Brit informal* Tommies, *Military slang* infanteers, grunts, *US informal, dated* dogfaces, *historical* footmen

Infatuated ► **adjective** BESOTTED, in love, head over heels, obsessed, taken, enamoured of, attracted to, devoted to, captivated by, enchanted by, bewitched by, under the spell of, *informal* smitten with, sweet on, keen on, gone on, mad about, crazy about, stuck on, bowled over by, carrying a torch for

Infatuation ► **noun** PASSION, love, adoration, desire, feeling, devotion; obsession, fixation, fancy, *informal* crush, thing, hang-up, pash.

Infect ► **verb** ① *the ill can infect their partners* PASS INFECTION TO, spread disease to, contaminate ② *nitrates were infecting rivers* CONTAMINATE, pollute, taint, foul, dirty, blight, damage, ruin, poison ③ *his high spirits infected everyone* AFFECT, influence, impact on, touch, excite, inspire, stimulate, animate

Infection ► **noun** ① *a kidney infection* DISEASE, virus, disorder, condition, affliction, complaint, illness, ailment, sickness, infirmity; *informal* bug; *Brit informal* lurgy; *dated* contagion. See list at ILLNESS. ② *the infection in his wounds* CONTAMINATION, poison; septicity, septicæmia, suppuration, inflammation; germs, bacteria, *Medicine* sepsis

Infectious ► **adjective** ① *infectious disease* CONTAGIOUS, communicable, transmittable, transmissible, transferable, spreadable; epidemic; *informal* catching, *dated* infective ② *infectious fluids* CONTAMINATING, germ-laden, polluting; poison-

ous, toxic, noxious ③ *her laughter is infectious* IRRESISTIBLE, compelling, contagious, catching

Infelicitous ► **adjective** UNFORTUNATE, unsuitable, inappropriate, inapposite, inapt, untimely, inopportune, injudicious, imprudent, indiscreet, indelicate

—OPPOSITES appropriate

Infelicity ► **noun** MISTAKE, error, blunder, slip, lapse, solecism

Infer ► **verb** DEDUCE, conclude, conjecture, surmise, reason, gather, understand, presume, assume, take it, read between the lines, *N Amer* figure, *Brit informal* suss (out)

Inference ► **noun** DEDUCTION, conclusion, reasoning, conjecture, speculation, presumption, assumption, supposition, reckoning, extrapolation, guesswork

Inferior ► **adjective** ① *she regards him as inferior* SECOND-CLASS, lower-ranking, subordinate, junior, minor, second-fiddle, lowly, humble, menial, beneath one ② *inferior accommodation* SECOND-RATE, substandard, low-quality, low-grade, unsatisfactory, shoddy, deficient, poor, bad, awful, dreadful, wretched, *Brit* downmarket, *informal* crummy, dire, rotten, lousy, third-rate, *Brit informal* duff, rubbish, ropy, dodgy
—OPPOSITES superior, luxury

► **noun** *how dare she treat him as an inferior?* SUBORDINATE, junior, underling, minion

Infernal ► **adjective** ① *the infernal regions* HELLISH, lower, nether, subterranean, underworld, chthonic, Hadean, Tartarean ② *(informal) an infernal nuisance* DAMNABLE, wretched; annoying, irritating, infuriating, exasperating, *informal* damned, damn, flaming, blasted, blessed, pesky, aggravating, *Brit informal* blinking, blooming, flipping, *Brit informal, dated* bally, ruddy

Infertile ► **adjective** ① *infertile soil* BARREN, unfruitful, unproductive, uncultivable, sterile, impoverished, arid ② *she was infertile* STERILE, barren, childless, *technical* infecund

Infest ► **verb** OVERRUN, spread through, invade, infiltrate, pervade, permeate, inundate, overwhelm, beset, plague

Infested ► **adjective** OVERRUN, swarming, teeming, crawling, alive, ridden, plagued, beset.

Infidel ► **noun** UNBELIEVER, disbeliever, nonbeliever, agnostic, atheist, heathen, pagan, idolater, idolatress, heretic, freethinker, dissenter, nonconformist, *archaic* paynum, *rare* nullifidian

Infidelity ► **noun** UNFAITHFULNESS, adultery, unchastity, faithlessness, disloyalty, treachery, double-dealing, duplicity, deceit, affair, *informal* playing around, fooling around, cheating, two-timing; *formal* fornication, *dated* cuckoldry

Infiltrate ► **verb** ① *he infiltrated the smuggling operation*: INSINUATE ONESELF INTO, worm one's way into, sneak into, invade, intrude on, butt into, *informal* gatecrash, muscle in on ② *mineral solutions infiltrate the rocks* PERMEATE, penetrate, pervade, seep into/through, soak into, get into, enter.

Infiltrator ► **noun** SPY, (secret) agent, plant, intruder, interloper, subversive, informant, informer, mole, entrust, entryist, *N Amer informal* spook.

Infinite ► **adjective** ① *the universe is infinite*: BOUNDLESS, unbounded, unlimited, limitless,



never-ending, interminable, immeasurable, fathomless, extensive, vast ② an infinite number of birds COUNTLESS, uncountable, inestimable, innumerable, numberless, immeasurable, incalculable, untold, great, huge, enormous ③ she bathed him with infinite care GREAT, immense, supreme, absolute, real, informal no end of
-OPPOSITES limited, small

Infinitesimal ▶ adjective MINUTE, tiny, minuscule, very small, microscopic, imperceptible, indiscernible, Scottish wee, informal teeny, teeny-weeny, itty-bitty, tiddly, Brt informal titchy, N Amer informal little-bitty
-OPPOSITES huge

Infinity ▶ noun ① the infinity of space ENDLESSNESS, infinitude, infiniteness, boundlessness, limitlessness, vastness, immensity ② an infinity of different molecules INFINITE NUMBER, abundance, profusion, host, multitude, mass, wealth, informal heap, stack

Infirm ▶ adjective ① she cares for infirm people FRAIL, weak, feeble, debilitated, decrepit, disabled, ill, unwell, sick, sickly, poorly, indisposed, ailing ② (archaic) he was infirm of purpose WEAK, uncertain, indefinite, indecisive, irresolute, unresolved, undecided, wavering, vacillating
-OPPOSITES healthy, strong

Infirmity ▶ noun ① they were excused due to infirmity FRAILITY, weakness, feebleness, delicacy, debility, decrepitude, disability, impairment, illness, sickness, indisposition, poor health ② the infirmities of old age AILMENT, malady, illness, disease, disorder, sickness, affliction, complaint, indisposition

Inflame ▶ verb ① the play inflames anti-semitism INCITE, arouse, rouse, provoke, stir up, whip up, kindle, ignite, touch off, foment, inspire, stimulate, agitate ② he inflamed a sensitive situation AGGRAVATE, exacerbate, intensify, worsen, compound ③ his opinions inflamed his rival ENRAGE, incense, anger, madden, infuriate, exasperate, provoke, antagonize, rile, informal make someone see red, make someone's blood boil
-OPPOSITES calm, soothe, placate

Inflamed ▶ adjective SWOLLEN, puffed up; red, hot, burning, itchy, raw, sore, painful, tender, infected, septic

Inflammable ▶ adjective FLAMMABLE, combustible, incendiary, ignitable, volatile, unstable
-OPPOSITES fireproof

Inflammation ▶ noun SWELLING, puffiness, redness, heat, burning, rawness, soreness, tenderness, infection, festering, septicity

Inflammatory ▶ adjective ① an inflammatory lung condition causing inflammation; Medicine erythrogenic ② inflammatory language PROVOCATIVE, incendiary, stirring, rousing, rabble-rousing, seditious, mutinous, like a red rag to a bull, fiery, passionate, controversial, contentious

Inflate ▶ verb ① the mattress inflated BLOW UP, fill up, fill with air, aerate, puff up/out, pump up, dilate, distend, swell ② the demand inflated prices INCREASE, raise, boost, escalate, put up; informal hike up, jack up, bump up ③ the figures were inflated by the press EXAGGERATE, magnify, overplay, overstate, enhance, embellish, touch up, increase, amplify, augment.
-OPPOSITES decrease, understate

Inflated ▶ adjective ① an inflated balloon BLOWN UP, aerated, filled, puffed up/out, pumped up, distended, expanded, engorged, swollen ② inflated prices HIGH, sky-high, excessive, unreasonable, prohibitive, outrageous, exorbitant, extortionate, Brt over the odds, informal steep ③ an inflated opinion of himself EXAGGERATED, magnified, aggrandized, immoderate, overblown, overstated ④ inflated language HIGH-FLOWN, extravagant, exaggerated, elaborate, flowery, ornate, overblown, overwrought, grandiloquent, magniloquent, lofty, grandiose, affected, pretentious, informal windy, highfalutin

Inflection ▶ noun ① (Grammar) verbal inflections CONJUGATION, declension, form, ending, case ② his voice was without inflection STRESS, cadence, rhythm, accentuation, intonation, emphasis, modulation, lilt

Inflexible ▶ adjective ① his inflexible attitude STUBBORN, obstinate, obdurate, intractable, intransigent, unbending, immovable, unaccommodating, hidebound, single-minded, pig-headed, mulish, uncompromising, adamant, firm, resolute, diehard, dyed-in-the-wool, formal refractory ② inflexible rules UNALTERABLE, unchangeable, immutable, unvarying, firm, fixed, set, established, entrenched, hard and fast, stringent, strict ③ an inflexible structure RIGID, stiff, unyielding, unbending, unbendable, hard, firm, inelastic
-OPPOSITES accommodating, pliable

Inflit ▶ verb ① he inflicted an injury on Frank IMPOSE, exact, wreak, administer to, deal out to, mete out to, cause to, give to ② I won't inflit my pain on my children IMPOSE, force, thrust, foist, saddle someone with, burden someone with

Infliction ▶ noun ① the infliction of pain ADMINISTRATION, delivery, application, imposition, perpetration, formal exaction ② (informal dated) they bore the infliction with heroism AFFLICTION, trial, problem, nuisance, trouble, annoyance, bother, irritant, suffering, torment, tribulation

Influence ▶ noun ① the influence of parents on their children EFFECT, impact, control, sway, hold, power, authority, mastery, domination, supremacy, guidance, direction, pressure ② a bad influence on young girls. EXAMPLE TO, (role) model for, guide for, inspiration to. ③ political influence POWER, authority, sway, leverage, weight, pull, standing, prestige, statue, rank, informal clout, muscle, teeth, N Amer informal drag

▶ verb ① bosses can influence our careers AFFECT, have an impact on, determine, guide, control, shape, govern, decide, change, alter, transform ② an attempt to influence the jury SWAY, bias, prejudice, suborn, pressurize, coerce, dragoon, intimidate, browbeat, brainwash, informal twist someone's arm, lean on, Brt informal nobbie

Influential ▶ adjective ① an influential leader POWERFUL, dominant, controlling, strong, authoritative, important, prominent, distinguished. ② he was influential in shaping her career INSTRUMENTAL, significant, important, crucial, pivotal.

Influx ▶ noun ① an influx of tourists: INUNDATION, rush, stream, flood, incursion; invasion, intrusion. ② influxes of river water INFLOW, unrush, flood, inundation

inform ▶ **verb** ① *she informed him that she was ill* TELL, notify, apprise, advise, impart to, communicate to, let someone know, brief, prime, enlighten, send word to, *informal* fill in, clue in/up ② *he informed on two villains* DENOUNCE, give away, betray, incriminate, inculpate, report, sell out, stab in the back, *informal* rat, squeal, split, tell, blow the whistle, sell down the river, snitch, peach, stitch up, *Brit informal* grass, shop, sneak, *Scottish informal* clype, *N Amer informal* rat out, finger, *Austral/NZ informal* dob ③ *the articles were informed by feminism* SUFFUSE, pervade, permeate, infuse, imbue, characterize, typify

informal ▶ **adjective** ① *an informal discussion* UNOFFICIAL, casual, relaxed, easy-going, unceremonious, open, friendly, intimate, simple, unpretentious, easy, homely, cosy, *informal* unstuffy, laid-back, chummy, pally, matey ② *an informal speech style* COLLOQUIAL, vernacular, idiomatic, demotic, popular, familiar, everyday, unofficial, simple, natural, unpretentious, *informal* slangy, chatty, folksy ③ *informal clothes* CASUAL, relaxed, comfortable, everyday, sloppy, leisure, *informal* comfy

—OPPOSITES formal, official, literary, smart

informality ▶ **noun** LACK OF CEREMONY, casualness, unceremoniousness, unpretentiousness, homeliness, cosiness, ease, naturalness, approachability

information ▶ **noun** DETAILS, particulars, facts, figures, statistics, data, knowledge, intelligence, instruction, advice, guidance, direction, counsel, enlightenment, news, *informal* info, gen, the low-down, the dope, the inside story

informative ▶ **adjective** INSTRUCTIVE, instructional, illuminating, enlightening, revealing, explanatory, factual, educational, educative, edifying, didactic, *informal* newsy

informed ▶ **adjective** KNOWLEDGEABLE, enlightened, literate, educated, sophisticated, cultured, briefed, up to date, up to speed, in the picture, in the know, au courant, au fait, *informal* clued up, genned up, *Brit informal* switched-on, sussed

—OPPOSITES ignorant

informer ▶ **noun** INFORMANT, betrayer, traitor, Judas, collaborator, stool pigeon, fifth columnist, spy, double agent, infiltrator, plant, telltale, tale-teller, *N Amer* tattletale, *informal* rat, squealer, whistle-blower, snake in the grass, snitch, *Brit informal* grass, supergrass, nark, snout, *Scottish informal* clype, *N Amer informal* fink, stoolie

infraction ▶ **noun** INFRINGEMENT, contravention, breach, violation, transgression, neglect, dereliction, non-compliance, *Law* delict, contumacy

infrequent ▶ **adjective** RARE, uncommon, unusual, exceptional, few (and far between), like gold dust, as scarce as hens' teeth, unaccustomed, unwonted; isolated, scarce, scattered, sporadic, irregular, intermittent, *informal* once in a blue moon, *dated* seldom

—OPPOSITES common

infringe ▶ **verb** ① *the bid infringed EU rules* CONTRAVENE, violate, transgress, break, breach, disobey, defy, flout, fly in the face of, disregard, ignore, neglect; go beyond, overstep, exceed, *Law* infract ② *surveillance could infringe personal liberties* UNDERMINE, erode, diminish, weaken,

impair, damage, compromise, limit, curb, check, encroach on

—OPPOSITES obey, preserve

infuriate ▶ **verb** ENRAGE, incense, anger, madden, inflame, exasperate, antagonize, provoke, rile, annoy, irritate, nettle, gall, irk, vex, pique, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience, *N Amer* iankle, *informal* aggravate, make someone see red, get someone's back up, make someone's blood boil, get up someone's nose, needle, hack off, brown off; *Brit informal* wind up, get to, nark, cheese off, *N Amer informal* bug, tick off

—OPPOSITES please

infuriating ▶ **adjective** EXASPERATING, maddening, annoying, irritating, irksome, vexatious, trying, tiresome, *informal* aggravating, pesky

infuse ▶ **verb** ① *she was infused with a sense of hope* FILL, suffuse, imbue, inspire, charge, pervade, permeate ② *he infused new life into the group* INSTIL, breathe, inject, impart, inculcate, introduce, add ③ *infuse the dried leaves* STEEP, brew, stew, soak, immerse, souse, *Brit informal* mash

ingenious ▶ **adjective** INVENTIVE, creative, imaginative, original, innovative, pioneering, resourceful, enterprising, inspired, clever, intelligent, smart, brilliant, masterly, talented, gifted, skilful, astute, sharp-witted, quick-witted, shrewd, elaborate, sophisticated

ingenuous ▶ **adjective** NAIVE, innocent, simple, childlike, trusting, trustful, over-trusting, unwary, unsuspecting, unworldly, wide eyed, inexperienced, green, open, sincere, honest, frank, candid, forthright, artless, guileless, genuine

—OPPOSITES artful

inglorious ▶ **adjective** SHAMEFUL, dishonourable, ignominious, discreditable, disgraceful, scandalous, humiliating, mortifying, demeaning, ignoble, undignified, wretched

ingrained, engrained ▶ **adjective** ① *ingrained attitudes* ENTRENCHED, established, deep-rooted, deep-seated, fixed, firm, unshakable, ineradicable, inveterate, dyed-in-the-wool, abiding, enduring, stubborn ② *ingrained dirt* GROUND-IN, fixed, implanted, embedded, permanent, indelible, ineradicable, inexpungible

—OPPOSITES transient, superficial

ingratiate

■ **ingratiate oneself** CURRY FAVOUR WITH, cultivate, win over, get in someone's good books, toady to, crawl to, grovel to, fawn over, kowtow to, play up to, pander to, flatter, court, *informal* suck up to, rub up the right way, lick someone's boots

ingratiating ▶ **adjective** SYCOPHANTIC, toadying, fawning, unctuous, obsequious, flattering, insincere, smooth-tongued, silver-tongued, slick, greasy, oily, saccharine, *informal* smarmy, slimy, creepy, sucky

ingratitude ▶ **noun** UNGRATEFULNESS, thanklessness, unthankfulness, non-recognition

ingredient ▶ **adjective** CONSTITUENT, component, element, part, piece, bit, strand, portion, unit, feature, aspect, attribute, (Ingredients) contents, makings.

Ingress ▶ **noun** ① *the doors gave ingress to the station* ENTRY, entrance, access, admittance, admission, way in, approach. ② *the ingress of*

water SEEPAGE, leakage, inundation, inrush, intrusion, incursion, entry, entrance
 —OPPOSITES EXIT

Inhabit ▶ **verb** LIVE IN, occupy, settle (in), people, populate, colonize, dwell in, reside in, tenant, lodge in, have one's home in; *formal* be domiciled in, abide in

Inhabitable ▶ **adjective** HABITABLE, fit to live in, usable, *informal* liveable-in, *formal* tenantable

Inhabitant ▶ **noun** RESIDENT, occupant, occupier, dweller, settler, local, native, (**Inhabitants**) population, populace, people, public, community, citizenry, townsfolk, townspeople, *formal* denizen, *archaic* burgher, habitant

Inhale ▶ **verb** BREATHE IN, inspire, draw in, suck in, sniff in, drink in, *poetic/literary* inbreathe

Inharmonious ▶ **adjective** ① *inharmonious* sounds UNMELODIOUS, unharmonious, unmusical, tuneless, discordant, dissonant, off-key, harsh, grating, jarring, cacophonous, *archaic* absonant ② *an inharmonious modern building* OUT OF PLACE, unsuitable, inappropriate, clashing, conflicting, incompatible, mismatched, jarring, discordant ③ *his relationships are inharmonious* ANTAGONISTIC, quarrelsome, argumentative, disputatious, cantankerous, confrontational, belligerent
 —OPPOSITES musical, fitting, congenial

Inherent ▶ **adjective** INTRINSIC, innate, connate, connatural, immanent, built-in, inborn, ingrained, deep-rooted, essential, fundamental, basic, structural, organic, natural, instinctive, instinctual, congenial, native
 —OPPOSITES acquired

Inherit ▶ **verb** ① *she inherited his farm* BECOME HEIR TO, come into/by, be bequeathed, be left, be willed, *Law* be devised ② *Richard inherited the title* SUCCEED TO, assume, take over, come into; *formal* accede to

Inheritance ▶ **noun** ① *a comfortable inheritance* LEGACY, bequest, endowment, bestowal, bequeathal, provision, birthright, heritage, patrimony, *Law* devise ② *his inheritance of the title* SUCCESSION TO, accession to, assumption of, elevation to

Inheritor ▶ **noun** HEIR, heiress, legatee, successor, next in line, *Law* devisee, grantee, cestui que trust; *Scottish Law* heritor

Inhibit ▶ **verb** ① *the obstacles which inhibit change* IMPEDE, hinder, hamper, hold back, discourage, interfere with, obstruct, slow down, retard, curb, check, suppress, restrict, fetter, cramp, frustrate, stifle, prevent, block, thwart, foil, stop, halt. ② *she feels inhibited from taking part* PREVENT, disallow, exclude, forbid, prohibit, preclude, ban, bar, interdict
 —OPPOSITES assist, encourage, allow

Inhibited ▶ **adjective** SHY, reticent, reserved, self-conscious, diffident, bashful, coy; wary, reluctant, hesitant, insecure, unconfident, unassertive, timid; withdrawn, repressed, undemonstrative; *informal* uptight.

Inhibition ▶ **noun** ① *they overcame their inhibitions*: SHYNESS, reticence, self-consciousness, reserve, diffidence; wariness, hesitance, hesitancy, insecurity; unassertiveness, timidity; repression, reservation; psychological block; *informal* hang-up ② *the inhibition of publishing*: HINDRANCE, hampering, discouragement, obstruct-

tion, impediment, retardation, suppression, repression, restriction, restraint, constraint, cramping, stifling, prevention, curb, check, bar, barrier

Inhospitable ▶ **adjective** ① *the inhospitable landscape* UNINVITING, unwelcoming, bleak, forbidding, cheerless, hostile, harsh, inimical; uninhabitable, barren, bare, desolate, stark ② *forgive me if I seem inhospitable* UNWELCOMING, unfriendly, unsociable, unsocial, antisocial, un-neighbourly, uncongenial, cool, cold, frosty, distant, remote, aloof, indifferent, offhand, uncivil, discourteous, ungracious, ungenerous, unkind, unsympathetic, *informal* stand-offish
 —OPPOSITES welcoming

Inhuman ▶ **adjective** ① *inhuman treatment* CRUEL, harsh, inhumane, brutal, callous, sadistic, severe, savage, vicious, barbaric, monstrous, heinous, egregious, merciless, ruthless, pitiless, remorseless, cold-blooded, heartless, hard-hearted, unkind, inconsiderate, unfeeling, uncaring, *Brit informal* beastly, *dated* dastardly ② *hellish and inhuman shapes* NON-HUMAN, non-mortal, monstrous, devilish, ghostly, sub-human, animal, strange, odd, unearthly
 —OPPOSITES humane

Inhumane ▶ **adjective**. See INHUMAN sense 1

Inhume ▶ **verb** (*poetic/literary*) BURY, inter, lay to rest, entomb, *informal* plant, *poetic/literary* sepulchre

Inimical ▶ **adjective** ① *this is inimical to genuine democracy* HARMFUL, injurious, detrimental, deleterious, prejudicial, damaging, hurtful, destructive, ruinous, antagonistic, contrary, antipathetic, unfavourable, adverse, opposed, hostile, *poetic/literary* malefic ② *he fixed her with an inimical gaze*. HOSTILE, unfriendly, antagonistic, unkind, unsympathetic, malevolent, unwelcoming, cold, frosty
 —OPPOSITES advantageous, friendly

Inimitable ▶ **adjective** UNIQUE, exclusive, distinctive, individual, special, idiosyncratic, incomparable, unparalleled, unrivalled, peerless, matchless, unequalled, unsurpassable, superlative, supreme, beyond compare, second to none, in a class of one's own; *formal* unexampled

Iniquity ▶ **noun** ① *the iniquity of his conduct*: WICKEDNESS, sinfulness, immorality, impropriety; vice, evil, sin, villainy, criminality, odiousness, atrocity, egregiousness; , outrage, monstrosity, obscenity, reprehensibility ② *I will forgive their iniquity*. SIN, crime, transgression, wrongdoing, wrong, violation, offence, vice, atrocity, outrage
 —OPPOSITES goodness, virtue.

Initial ▶ **adjective** the initial stages: BEGINNING, opening, commencing, starting, inceptive, embryonic, fledgling; first, early, primary, preliminary, elementary, foundational, preparatory; introductory, inaugural.
 —OPPOSITES final.

▶ **noun** what do the initials stand for? INITIAL LETTER; (**Initials**) acronym, abbreviation, initialism

▶ **verb** ① *he initialled the warrant*: PUT ONE'S INITIALS ON, sign, countersign, autograph, endorse, inscribe, witness. ② *they initialled a new agreement*: RATIFY, accept, approve, authorize, validate, recognize.



Initially ► **adverb** AT FIRST, at the start, at the outset, in/at the beginning, to begin with, to start with, originally

Initiate ► **verb** ① *the government initiated the scheme* BEGIN, start (off), commence, institute, inaugurate, launch, instigate, establish, set up, sow the seeds of, start the ball rolling, originate, pioneer, *informal* kick off ② *he was initiated into a cult* INTRODUCE, admit, induct, install, incorporate, enlist, enrol, recruit, sign up, swear in, ordain, invest ③ *they were initiated into the world of maths* TEACH ABOUT, instruct in, tutor in, school in, prime in, ground in, familiarize with, acquaint with, indoctrinate, inculcate, *informal* show someone the ropes
—OPPOSITES finish, expel

► **noun** an initiate on the team NOVICE, starter, beginner, newcomer, learner, student, pupil, trainee, apprentice, new boy, new girl, recruit, tyro, neophyte, postulant, novitiate, *informal* rookie, new kid (on the block), newbie, newbie, greenhorn

Initiative ► **noun** ① *employers are looking for initiative* ENTERPRISE, resourcefulness, inventiveness, imagination, ingenuity, originality, creativity, drive, dynamism, ambition, motivation, spirit, energy, vision, *informal* get-up-and-go, pep, punch ② *he has lost the initiative* ADVANTAGE, upper hand, edge, lead, whip hand, trump card ③ *a recent initiative on recycling* PLAN, scheme, strategy, stratagem, measure, proposal, step, action, approach

Inject ► **verb** ① *he injected a dose of codeine* AD MINISTER, introduce, inoculate, vaccinate, *informal* shoot (up), mainline, fix (up) ② *a pump injects air into the valve* INSERT, introduce, feed, push, force, shoot ③ *he injected new life into the team* INTRODUCE, instil, infuse, imbue, breathe

Injection ► **noun** INOCULATION, vaccination, vaccine, immunization, booster, dose, *informal* jab, shot, hype

Injudicious ► **adjective** IMPRUDENT, unwise, inadvisable, ill-advised, misguided, ill-considered, ill-judged, incautious, hasty, rash, foolish, foolhardy, hare-brained, inappropriate, impolitic, inexpedient, *informal* dumb
—OPPOSITES prudent

Injunction ► **noun** ORDER, ruling, direction, directive, command, instruction, decree, edict, dictum, dictate, fiat, mandate

Injure ► **verb** ① *he injured his foot* HURT, wound, damage, harm, cripple, lame, disable, maim, mutilate, deform, mangle, break, *Brit informal* knacker, *archaic* scathe ② *a libel injured her reputation* DAMAGE, mar, spoil, ruin, blight, blemish, tarnish, blacken ③ *(archaic) I have injured no one by my folly* WRONG, do an injustice to, offend against, maltreat, mistreat, ill-use, *informal* do the dirty on

Injured ► **adjective** ① *his injured arm* HURT, wounded, damaged, sore, bruised, crippled, lame, game, disabled, maimed, mutilated, deformed, mangled, broken, fractured, *Brit informal* gammy. ② *the injured party* WRONGED, offended, maltreated, mistreated, ill-used, harmed; defamed, maligned, insulted, dishonoured. ③ *an injured tone* UPSET, hurt, wounded, offended, reproachful, pained, aggrieved, unhappy, put out.
—OPPOSITES healthy, offending.

Injurious ► **adjective** HARMFUL, damaging, deleterious, detrimental, hurtful, disadvantageous, unfavourable, undesirable, adverse, inimical, unhealthy, pernicious, *poetic/literary* malefic

Injury ► **noun** ① *minor injuries* WOUND, bruise, cut, gash, scratch, graze, abrasion, contusion, lesion; *Medicine* trauma ② *they escaped without injury* HARM, hurt, damage, pain, suffering, impairment, affliction, incapacity ③ *the injury to her feelings* OFFENCE, abuse, affront, insult, slight, snub, wrong, wrongdoing, injustice

Injustice ► **noun** ① *the injustice of the world* UN FAIRNESS, unjustness, inequity, cruelty, tyranny, repression, exploitation, corruption, bias, prejudice, discrimination, intolerance ② *his sacking was an injustice* WRONG, offence, crime, sin, misdeed, outrage, atrocity, scandal, disgrace, affront

Inkling ► **noun** IDEA, notion, sense, impression, suggestion, indication, whisper, glimmer, (sneaking) suspicion, fancy, hunch, hint, clue, intimation, sign, *informal* the foggiest (idea), the faintest (idea)

Inky ► **adjective** ① *the inky darkness* BLACK, jet-black, pitch-black, sable, ebony, dark, *poetic/literary* Stygian ② *inky fingers* INK-STAINED, stained, blotchy

Inlaid ► **adjective** INSET, set, studded, lined, panelled, ornamented, decorated, mosaic, intarsia, marquetry

Inland ► **adjective** ① *inland areas* INTERIOR, inshore, central, internal, upcountry ② *inland trade* DOMESTIC, internal, home, local
—OPPOSITES coastal, international

► **adverb** the goods were carried inland UPCOUNTRY, inshore, to the interior

Inlet ► **noun** ① COVE, bay, bight, creek, estuary, fjord, sound, *Scottish* firth ② *a fresh air inlet*: VENT, flue, shaft, duct, channel, pipe, pipeline.

Inmate ► **noun** ① *the inmates of the hospital* PATIENT, inpatient, convalescent, resident, inhabitant, occupant ② *the prison's inmates* PRISONER, convict, captive, detainee, internee, *informal* jailbird, con, *Brit informal* lag, *N Amer informal* yardbird

Inmost ► **adjective** See INNERMOST

Inn ► **noun** TAVERN, bar, hostelry, taproom, hotel, guest house, *Brit* pub, public house, *Canadian* beer parlour, *informal* watering hole, *dated* alehouse

Innards ► **plural noun (informal)** ENTRAILS, internal organs, viscera, intestines, bowels, guts, *informal* insides

Innate ► **adjective** INBORN, inbred, congenital, inherent, natural, intrinsic, instinctive, intuitive, unlearned, hereditary, inherited, in the blood, in the family, inbuilt, deep-rooted, deep-seated, connate, connatural
—OPPOSITES acquired

Inner ► **adjective** ① *inner London* CENTRAL, innermost, mid, middle ② *the inner gates* INTERNAL, interior, inside, inmost, innermost, intramural ③ *the Queen's inner circle* PRIVILEGED, restricted, exclusive, private, confidential, intimate ④ *the inner meaning* HIDDEN, secret, deep, underlying, unapparent; veiled, esoteric, unrevealed ⑤ *one's inner life* MENTAL, intellectual, psychological, spiritual, emotional.
—OPPOSITES external, apparent.



Innermost ▶ **adjective** ① *the innermost shrine* CENTRAL, middle, internal, interior ② *her innermost feelings* DEEPEST, deep-seated, inward, underlying, intimate, private, personal, secret, hidden, concealed, unexpressed, unrevealed, unapparent, true, real, honest

Innkeeper ▶ **noun** LANDLORD, landlady, hotelier, hotel owner, proprietor, manager, manageress, licensee, barman, barmaid, *Brit* publican.

Innocence ▶ **noun** ① *he protested his innocence* GUILTLESSNESS, blamelessness, irreproachability. ② *the innocence of his bride* VIRGINITY, chastity, chasteness, purity, integrity, morality, decency, dated honour, *archaic* virtue ③ *she took advantage of his innocence* NAIVETY, ingenuousness, credulity, inexperience, gullibility, simplicity, unworldliness, guilelessness, greenness

Innocent ▶ **adjective** ① *he was entirely innocent* GUILTLESS, blameless, in the clear, unimpeachable, irreproachable, above suspicion, faultless, honourable, honest, upright, law-abiding, *informal* squeaky clean ② *innocent fun* HARMLESS, innocuous, safe, inoffensive ③ *nice innocent girls* VIRTUOUS, pure, moral, decent, righteous, upright, wholesome, demure, modest, chaste, virginal, impeccable, spotless, sinless, unsullied, incorrupt, undefiled, *informal* squeaky clean, whiter than white ④ *she is innocent of guile* FREE FROM, without, lacking (in), clear of, ignorant of, unaware of, untouched by, *poetic/literary* nescient of ⑤ *innocent foreigners* NAIVE, ingenuous, trusting, credulous, unsuspecting, unwary, unguarded, impressionable, gullible, easily led, inexperienced, unsophisticated, green, simple, artless, guileless, *informal* wet behind the ears, born yesterday
-OPPOSITES guilty, sinful, worldly, malignant

▶ **noun** an innocent in a strange land INGENUE, unworldly person, child, novice, *N Amer informal* greenhorn, *poetic/literary* babe in arms

Innocuous ▶ **adjective** ① *an innocuous fungus* HARMLESS, safe, non-toxic, innocent, edible, eatable ② *an innocuous comment* INOFFENSIVE, unobjectionable, unexceptionable, harmless, mild, tame, anodyne, unremarkable, commonplace, run-of-the-mill
-OPPOSITES harmful, offensive

Innovation ▶ **noun** CHANGE, alteration, revolution, upheaval, transformation, metamorphosis, reorganization, restructuring, rearrangement, remodelling, new measures, new methods, modernization, modernism, novelty, newness, *informal* a shake up, a shakedown

Innovative ▶ **adjective** ORIGINAL, innovative, innovational, new, novel, fresh, unusual, unprecedented, avant-garde, experimental, inventive, ingenious, advanced, modern, state-of-the-art, pioneering, ground-breaking, revolutionary, radical, newfangled

Innovator ▶ **noun** PIONEER, trailblazer, pathfinder, ground-breaker, developer, modernizer, reformer, reformist, progressive, experimenter, inventor, creator

Innuendo ▶ **noun** INSINUATION, suggestion, intimation, implication, hint, overtone, undertone, allusion, reference, aspersion, slur

Innumerable ▶ **adjective** COUNTLESS, numerous, untold, legion, without number, numberless, unnumbered, multitudinous, incalculable,

limitless, *informal* umpteen, a slew of, no end of, loads of, stacks of, heaps of, masses of, oodles of, zillions of, *N Amer informal* gazillions of, *poetic/literary* myriad

-OPPOSITES few

Inoculate ▶ **verb** IMMUNIZE, vaccinate, inject, protect from, safeguard against, *informal* give someone a jab/shot

Inoculation ▶ **noun** IMMUNIZATION, vaccination, vaccine, injection, booster, *informal* jab, shot

Inoffensive ▶ **adjective** HARMLESS, innocuous, unobjectionable, unexceptionable, non-violent, non-aggressive, mild, peaceful, peaceable, gentle, tame, innocent

Inoperable ▶ **adjective** ① *an inoperable tumour* UNTREATABLE, incurable, irremediable, malignant, terminal, fatal, deadly, lethal, *archaic* immedicable ② *the airfield was left inoperable* UNUSABLE, out of action, out of service, non-active ③ *the agreement is now inoperable* IMPRACTICAL, unworkable, unfeasible, unrealistic, non-viable, impracticable, unsuitable
-OPPOSITES curable, workable

Inoperative ▶ **adjective** ① *the fan is inoperative* OUT OF ORDER, out of service, broken, out of commission, unserviceable, faulty, defective, down, *informal* bust, kaput, on the blink, acting up, shot, *Brit informal* knackered ② *the contract is inoperative* VOID, null and void, invalid, ineffective, non-viable, cancelled, revoked, terminated, worthless, valueless, unproductive, abortive
-OPPOSITES working, valid

Inopportune ▶ **adjective** INCONVENIENT, unsuitable, inappropriate, unfavourable, unfortunate, infelicitous, inexpedient, untimely, ill-timed, unseasonable, awkward, difficult
-OPPOSITES convenient

Inordinate ▶ **adjective** EXCESSIVE, undue, unreasonable, unjustifiable, unwarrantable, disproportionate, unwarranted, unnecessary, needless, uncalled for, exorbitant, extreme, immoderate, extravagant, *informal* over the top, OTT
-OPPOSITE moderate

Inorganic ▶ **adjective** INANIMATE, inert, lifeless, dead, defunct, extinct, mineral

input ▶ **noun** an error resulted from invalid input DATA, details, information, material, facts, figures, statistics, particulars, specifics; *informal* info

▶ **verb** she input data into the file FEED IN, put in, load, insert, key in, type in, code, store.

Inquest ▶ **noun** INQUIRY, investigation, inquisition, probe, examination, review, analysis, hearing

Inquire ▶ **verb**. See ENQUIRE

Inquiring ▶ **adjective**. See ENQUIRING.

Inquiry ▶ **noun**. See ENQUIRY

Inquisition ▶ **noun** INTERROGATION, questioning, quizzing, cross-examination; investigation, inquiry, inquest; *informal* grilling; *Law* examination

Inquisitive ▶ **adjective** CURIOUS, interested, intrigued, agog; prying, spying, eavesdropping, intrusive, busybody, meddlesome; inquiring, questioning, probing, *informal* nosy, nosy-parker, snoopy.

-OPPOSITES uninterested

insalubrious ▶ **adjective** SEEDY, unsavoury, sordid, seamy, sleazy, unpleasant, dismal, wretched, slummy, squalid, shabby, ramshackle, tumbledown, dilapidated, neglected, crumbling, decaying, *informal* scruffy, scuzzy, crummy, *Brit informal* grotty, *N Amer informal* shabby

—OPPOSITES smart

insane ▶ **adjective** ① *she was declared insane* MENTALLY ILL, mentally disordered, of unsound mind, certifiable, psychotic, schizophrenic, mad, deranged, demented, out of one's mind, non compos mentis, sick in the head, unhinged, unbalanced, unstable, disturbed, crazed, *informal* crazy, (stark) raving mad, not all there, bonkers, cracked, batty, cuckoo, loony, loopy, nuts, screwy, bananas, wacko, off one's rocker, off one's head, round the bend, *Brit informal* crackers, barmy, barking (mad), off one's trolley, round the twist, not the full shilling, *N Amer informal* buggy, nutso, out of one's tree, *Austral/NZ informal* bushed ② *an insane suggestion* FOOLISH, idiotic, stupid, silly, senseless, nonsensical, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, preposterous, fatuous, inane, asinine, hare-brained, half-baked, impracticable, implausible, irrational, illogical, *informal* crazy, mad, cock-eyed, *Brit informal* daft, barmy

—OPPOSITES sensible, calm

insanitary ▶ **adjective** UNHYGIENIC, unsanitary, unhealthy, insalubrious, dirty, filthy, unclean, impure, contaminated, polluted, foul, infected, infested, germ-ridden, *informal* germey

—OPPOSITES hygienic

insanity ▶ **noun** ① *insanity runs in her family* MENTAL ILLNESS, madness, dementia, lunacy, instability, mania, psychosis, *informal* craziness ② *it would be insanity to take this loan* FOLLY, foolishness, madness, idiocy, stupidity, lunacy, silliness, *informal* craziness

insatiable ▶ **adjective** UNQUENCHABLE, unappeasable, uncontrollable, voracious, gluttonous, greedy, hungry, ravenous, wolfish, avid, eager, keen, *informal* piggy; *poetic/literary* insatiate

inscribe ▶ **verb** ① *his name was inscribed above the door* CARVE, write, engrave, etch, cut; imprint, stamp, impress, mark ② *a book inscribed to him by the author* DEDICATE, address, name, sign

inscription ▶ **noun** ① *the inscription on the sarcophagus* ENGRAVING, etching, wording, writing, lettering, legend, epitaph, epigraph. ② *the book had an inscription* DEDICATION, message, signature, autograph

inscrutable ▶ **adjective** ① *her inscrutable face* ENIGMATIC, unreadable, mysterious, unexpressive, inexpressive, emotionless, unemotional, expressionless, impassive, blank, vacant, deadpan, poker-faced, dispassionate ② *God's ways are inscrutable* MYSTERIOUS, inexplicable, unexplainable, incomprehensible, impenetrable, unfathomable, opaque, abstruse, arcane, obscure, cryptic.

—OPPOSITES expressive, transparent

insect ▶ **noun**. See list

insecure ▶ **adjective** ① *an insecure young man*. UNCONFIDENT, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, hesitant, self-conscious, unassertive, diffident, unforthcoming, shy, timid, retiring, timorous, inhibited, introverted; anxious, fearful, worried,

informal mousy ② *insecure windows* UNGUARDED, unprotected, vulnerable, defenceless, unshielded, exposed, assailable, pregnable, unlocked, unsecured ③ *an insecure footbridge* UNSTABLE, rickety, rocky, wobbly, shaky, unsteady, precarious, weak, flimsy, unsound, unsafe, *informal* jerry-built, *Brit informal* dicky, dodgy

—OPPOSITES confident, stable

insecurity ▶ **noun** ① *he hid his insecurity* LACK OF CONFIDENCE, self-doubt, diffidence, unassertiveness, timidity, uncertainty, nervousness, inhibition, anxiety, worry, unease ② *the insecurity of our situation* VULNERABILITY, defencelessness, peril, danger, instability, fragility, frailty, shakiness, unreliability

insensate ▶ **adjective**. See INSENSIBLE sense 1

insensible ▶ **adjective** ① *she was insensible on the floor* UNCONSCIOUS, insensate, senseless, insentient, inert, comatose, knocked out, passed out, blacked out, stunned, numb, numbed, *informal* out (cold), out for the count, out of it, zonked (out), dead to the world, *Brit informal* spark out ② *he was insensible to the risks* UN-AWARE OF, ignorant of, unconscious of, unmindful of, oblivious to, indifferent to, impervious to, deaf to, blind to, unaffected by, *informal* in the dark about ③ *he scared even the most insensible person* INSENSITIVE, dispassionate, cool, emotionless, unfeeling, unconcerned, detached, indifferent, hardened, tough, *informal* hard-boiled

—OPPOSITES conscious, aware, sensitive

insensitive ▶ **adjective** ① *an insensitive bully* HEARTLESS, unfeeling, inconsiderate, thoughtless, thick-skinned, hard-hearted, cold-blooded, uncaring, unconcerned, unsympathetic, unkind, callous, cruel, merciless, pitiless ② *he was insensitive to her feelings* IMPERVIOUS TO, oblivious to, unaware of, unresponsive to, indifferent to, unaffected by, unmoved by, untouched by, *informal* in the dark about

—OPPOSITES compassionate

insentient ▶ **adjective** INANIMATE, lifeless, inorganic, inert, insensate, unconscious, comatose, anaesthetized, desensitized, numb, *informal* dead to the world, out (cold)

inseparable ▶ **adjective** ① *inseparable friends* DEVOTED, bosom, close, fast, firm, good, best, intimate, boon, faithful, *informal* as thick as thieves ② *the laws are inseparable* INDIVISIBLE, indissoluble, inextricable, entangled, (one and the same

insert ▶ **verb** ① *he inserted a tape in the machine* PUT, place, push, thrust, slide, slip, load, fit, slot, lodge, install, *informal* pop, stick, bung ② *she inserted a clause* ENTER, introduce, incorporate, interpolate, interpose, interject

—OPPOSITES extract, remove

▶ **noun** *the newspaper carried an insert*. ENCLOSURE, insertion, inlay, supplement; circular, advertisement, pamphlet, leaflet, *informal* ad

inside ▶ **noun** ① *the inside of a volcano* INTERIOR, inner part, centre, core, middle, heart. ② (*informal*) *my insides are out of order* STOMACH, gut, bowels, intestines, *informal* belly, tummy, guts

—OPPOSITES exterior

▶ **adjective** ① *his inside pocket* INNER, interior, internal, innermost. ② *inside information* CONFIDENTIAL, classified, restricted, privileged, pri-

Insects

See also BUTTERFLY, MOTH

agron	carrot fly	fly	louse	snake fly
alderfly	chafer	forest fly	louse fly	snipe fly
amazon ant	chalcid wasp	frit fly	mantis	snow flea
ambrosia beetle	cheese fly	froghopper	Maori bug	soldier beetle
animated stick	chigger	fruit fly	mason bee	soldier fly
anopheles	chinch bug	fungus beetle	mason wasp	Spanish fly
ant	Christmas beetle	furniture beetle	May bug	spider beetle
ant-lion	churchyard beetle	gadfly	mayfly	spider-hunting
aphid	cicada	gall midge	meal beetle	wasp
Argentine ant	cigarette beetle	gall wasp	mealworm	spittlebug
army ant	click beetle	garden chafer	mealy bug	springtail
army worm	cluster fly	glow-worm	meat ant	spruce budworm
asparagus beetle	cockchafer	gnat	midge	squash bug
assassin bug	cockroach	gold beetle	mining bee	stable fly
backswimmer	Colorado beetle	gollath beetle	minotaur beetle	stag beetle
bark beetle	conehead	grain borer	mole cricket	stick insect
bat fly	corn borer	grain weevil	mopane worm	stilt bug
bedbug	corn earworm	grasshopper	mosquito	stink bug
bee	cotton-leaf worm	greenbottle	moth	stonefly
bee beetle	cotton stainer	greenfly	mud dauber	stylops
bee fly	crab louse	greenhead	museum beetle	tarantula hawk
bee louse	crane fly	ground beetle	musk beetle	tent caterpillar
beetle	cricket	groundhopper	nostril fly	termite
biscuit beetle	cuckoo bee	hawker	oil beetle	thrips
biting midge	cuckoo wasp	head louse	onion fly	thunderbug
black ant	curculio	Hercules beetle	paper wasp	thunderfly
black beetle	cutworm	Hessian fly	pharaoh ant	tiger beetle
blackfly	daddy-long-legs	hide beetle	phyloxera	timberman
blister beetle	damsel bug	honey ant	pill beetle	tobacco beetle
bloodworm	damsel fly	honeybee	pinhole borer	tortoise beetle
bloody-nosed beetle	darkling beetle	honeypot ant	plant hopper	treehopper
blowfly	darnier	hornet	plant louse	tsetse fly
bluebottle	darter	horntail	pond skater	tumblebug
body louse	death-watch beetle	hornworm	potato beetle	turtle bug
boll weevil	deer fly	horsefly	potter wasp	vedelia beetle
bombardier beetle	démouille	housefly	powder-post	velvet ant
booklouse	devil's coach-horse	hoverfly	beetle	warble fly
bookworm	digger wasp	Ichneumon	praying mantis	wart-biter
borer	diving beetle	Japanese beetle	raspberry beetle	wasp
botfly	dobsonfly	Jewel beetle	rat-tailed maggot	wasp beetle
braconid	dor beetle	june bug	rhinoceros beetle	water beetle
bristletail	dragonfly	katydid	robber fly	water boatman
buffalo gnat	driver ant	ked	root fly	water cricket
bulb fly	drone fly	khapra beetle	rose chafer	water measurer
bulldog ant	drosophila	kissing bug	rove beetle	water scorpion
bumblebee	dung beetle	lace bug	St Mark's fly	water strider
burying beetle	dung fly	lacewing	sandfly	weaver ant
bush cricket	earwig	lac insect	sand wasp	web-spinner
butterfly	elm bark beetle	ladybird	saucer bug	webworm
cabbage root fly	emperor dragonfly	lantern fly	sawfly	weevil
cabbageworm	fairy fly	larder beetle	sawyer	weta
caddis fly	field cricket	leaf beetle	scale insect	whirligig
cadelle	fig wasp	leafcutter ant	scarab	white ant
camel cricket	fire ant	leafcutter bee	scorpion fly	whitefly
cankerworm	firebrat	leafhopper	screech beetle	wireworm
carabid	firefly	leaf insect	screw worm	witchetty grub
cardinal beetle	flea	leaf miner	sexton beetle	wood ant
carpenter ant	flea beetle	leatherjacket	shield bug	woodwasp
carpenter bee	flesh fly	lightning bug	silverfish	woodworm
carpet beetle	flour beetle	locust	skin beetle	woolly bear
carrion beetle	flower beetle	longhorn beetle	slave-making ant	yellowjacket

vate, secret, exclusive; *informal* hush-hush
—OPPOSITES outer, public

► **adverb** ① *she ushered me inside* INDOORS, within, in. ② *how do you feel inside?* INWARDLY, within, secretly, privately, deep down, at heart, emo-

tionally, intuitively, instinctively. ③ (*informal*) *if I burgle again I'll be back inside*: IN PRISON, in jail, in custody; locked up, imprisoned, incarcerated, *informal* behind bars, doing time; *Brit. informal* banged up.

insider ► **noun** MEMBER, worker, employee, representative, person in the know

insidious ► **adjective** STEALTHY, subtle, surreptitious, cunning, crafty, artful, sly, wily, underhand, backhanded, indirect, *informal* sneaky

insight ► **noun** ① *your insight has been invaluable* INTUITION, discernment, perception, awareness, understanding, comprehension, apprehension, appreciation, penetration, acumen, perspicacity, judgement, acuity, vision, prescience, imagination, *informal* nous, savvy ② *an insight into the government* UNDERSTANDING OF, appreciation of, revelation about, introduction to, *informal* eye-opener

insignia ► **noun** BADGE, crest, emblem, symbol, sign, device, mark, seal, colours

insignificant ► **adjective** UNIMPORTANT, trivial, trifling, negligible, inconsequential, of no account, inconsiderable, nugatory, paltry, petty, insubstantial, frivolous, pointless, worthless, irrelevant, immaterial, peripheral, *informal* piddling

insincere ► **adjective** FALSE, fake, hollow, artificial, feigned, pretended, put-on, disingenuous, hypocritical, cynical, deceitful, deceptive, duplicitous, double-dealing, two-faced, lying, untruthful, mendacious, *informal* phoney, pretend, pseud

insinuate ► **verb** ① *he insinuated that she lied* IMPLY, suggest, hint, intimate, indicate, let it be known, give someone to understand, *informal* make out, tip someone the wink ② *he insinuated his hand under hers* SLIDE, slip, manoeuvre, insert, edge

■ **insinuate oneself into** WORM ONE'S WAY INTO, ingratiate oneself with, curry favour with, foist oneself on, introduce oneself into; infiltrate, invade, sneak into, intrude on, impinge on, *informal* muscle in on

insinuation ► **noun** IMPLICATION, inference, suggestion, hint, intimation, innuendo, reference, allusion, indication, undertone, overtone, aspersion, slur, allegation

insipid ► **adjective** ① *insipid coffee* TASTELESS, flavourless, savourless, bland, weak, wishy-washy, unappetizing, unpalatable ② *insipid pictures* UNIMAGINATIVE, uninspired, uninspiring, characterless, flat, uninteresting, lacklustre, dull, boring, dry (as dust), jejune, humdrum, run-of-the-mill, commonplace, pedestrian, trite, tired, hackneyed, stale, lame, tame, poor, inadequate, sterile, anaemic.

—OPPOSITES tasty, interesting

insist ► **verb** ① *be prepared to insist*: STAND FIRM, stand one's ground, be resolute, be determined, hold out, be emphatic, not take no for an answer, persevere, persist, *informal* stick to one's guns ② *she insisted that they pay up* DEMAND, command, require, dictate, urge, exhort ③ *he insisted that he knew nothing*: MAINTAIN, assert, hold, contend, argue, protest, claim, vow, swear, declare, stress, repeat, reiterate, *formal* aver.

insistence ► **noun** ① *she sat down at Anne's insistence*: DEMAND, bidding, command, dictate, instruction, requirement, request, entreaty, exhortation; *informal* say-so; *poetic/literary* behest ② *his insistence that he loved her*: ASSERTION, declaration, contention, claim, pronouncement, assurance, affirmation, avowal, profession.

insistent ► **adjective** ① *Tony's insistent questioning* PERSISTENT, determined, adamant, importunate, tenacious, undying, dogged, unrelenting, inexorable, demanding, pushy, urgent, emphatic, firm, assertive ② *an insistent buzzing* INCESSANT, constant, unremitting, repetitive, obtrusive, intrusive

insobriety ► **noun** DRUNKENNESS, intoxication, inebriation, tipsiness, *informal* tightness, *poetic/literary* crapulence

insolent ► **adjective** IMPERTINENT, impudent, cheeky, ill-mannered, bad mannered, unmannerly, rude, impolite, uncivil, discourteous, disrespectful, insubordinate, contemptuous, audacious, bold, cocky, brazen, insulting, abusive, *informal* fresh, flip, lippy, saucy, *N Amer informal* sassy, *archaic* contumelious, malapert
—OPPOSITES polite

insoluble ► **adjective** ① *some problems are insoluble* UNSOLVABLE, unanswerable, unresolvable, unfathomable, impenetrable, unexplainable, inscrutable, inexplicable ② *these minerals are insoluble* INDISSOLUBLE

insolvency ► **noun** BANKRUPTCY, liquidation, failure, collapse, (financial) ruin, pennilessness, penury, *Brit* receivership

insolvent ► **adjective** BANKRUPT, ruined, liquidated, wiped out, penniless, impoverished, impecunious, *Brit* in receivership, without a penny (to one's name), *informal* bust, (flat) broke, belly-up, gone to the wall, on the rocks, in the red, hard up, strapped for cash, *Brit informal* skint, in Queer Street, stony broke, cleaned out, *formal* penurious

insomnia ► **noun** SLEEPLESSNESS, wakefulness, restlessness, *archaic* watchfulness

insouciance ► **noun** NONCHALANCE, unconcern, indifference, heedlessness, calm, equanimity, composure, ease, airiness, *informal* cool
—OPPOSITES anxiety

insouciant ► **adjective** NONCHALANT, untroubled, unworried, unruffled, unconcerned, indifferent, blasé, heedless, relaxed, calm, equable, equanimous, serene, composed, easy, carefree, free and easy, happy-go-lucky, light-hearted, *informal* cool, laid-back

inspect ► **verb** EXAMINE, check, scrutinize, investigate, vet, test, monitor, survey, study, look over, scan, explore, probe, assess, appraise, review, *informal* check out, give something a/the once-over.

inspection ► **noun** EXAMINATION, check-up, survey, scrutiny, probe, exploration, observation, investigation, assessment, appraisal, review, evaluation, *informal* once-over, going-over, look-see, overhaul

inspector ► **noun** EXAMINER, checker, scrutinizer, scrutineer, investigator, surveyor, assessor, appraiser, reviewer, analyst, observer, overseer, supervisor, monitor, watchdog, ombudsman, auditor

inspiration ► **noun** ① *she's a real inspiration to others*: STIMULUS, stimulation, motivation, fillop, encouragement, influence, muse, spur, lift, boost, incentive, impulse, catalyst; example, model. ② *his work lacks inspiration*: CREATIVITY, inventiveness, innovation, ingenuity, imagination, originality; artistry, insight, vision; finesse, flair ③ *she had a sudden inspiration*:



BRIGHT IDEA, revelation, *informal* brainwave, *N Amer informal* brainstorm ④ *inspiration* pains her
 INHALATION, breathing in, respiration

Inspire ▶ verb ① the landscape inspired him to write STIMULATE, motivate, encourage, influence, rouse, move, stir, energize, galvanize, incite, animate, fire, inspirit, incentivize ② the film inspired a musical GIVE RISE TO, lead to, bring about, cause, prompt, spawn, engender, poetic/literary beget ③ Charles inspired awe in her AROUSE, awaken, prompt, induce, ignite, trigger, kindle, produce, bring out, poetic/literary enkindle

Inspired ▶ adjective OUTSTANDING, wonderful, marvellous, excellent, magnificent, fine, exceptional, first-class, first-rate, virtuoso, supreme, superlative, innovative, innovatory, innovation-al, ingenious, original, *informal* tremendous, superb, super, ace, wicked, awesome, out of this world, *Brit informal* brilliant, brill
 -OPPOSITES poor

Inspiring ▶ adjective INSPIRATIONAL, encouraging, heartening, uplifting, stirring, rousing, stimulating, electrifying, moving, affecting, influential

Instability ▶ noun ① the instability of political life UNRELIABILITY, uncertainty, unpredictability, insecurity, perilousness, riskiness, impermanence, inconstancy, changeability, variability, fluctuation, mutability ② emotional instability VOLATILITY, unpredictability, variability, capriciousness, vacillation, frailty, infirmity, weakness, irregularity ③ the instability of the foundations UNSTEADINESS, unsoundness, shakiness, frailty, fragility
 -OPPOSITES steadiness

Install ▶ verb ① a photocopier was installed in the office PUT, position, place, locate, situate, station, site, lodge, insert ② they installed a new president SWEAR IN, induct, instate, inaugurate, invest, appoint, take on, ordain, consecrate, anoint, enthrone, crown ③ she installed herself behind the table ENSCONCE, establish, position, settle, seat, lodge, plant, sit (down), *informal* plonk, park, *Brit informal* take a pew
 -OPPOSITES remove

Installation ▶ noun ① the installation of radiators. INSTALLING, fitting, putting in, insertion ② the installation of the chancellor SWEARING IN, induction, instatement, inauguration, investiture, ordination, consecration, enthronement, coronation ③ a new computer installation UNIT, appliance, fixture, equipment, machinery ④ an army installation BASE, camp, post, depot, centre, facility; premises

Instalment ▶ noun ① I pay by monthly instalments PART PAYMENT, deferred payment, *Brit* hire purchase, HP, *Brit informal* the never-never ② a story published in instalments PART, portion, section, segment, bit, chapter, episode, volume, issue

Instance ▶ noun ① an instance of racism: EXAMPLE, exemplar, occasion, occurrence, case, illustration ② (formal) proceedings began at the instance of the director. INSTIGATION, prompting, suggestion, request, entreaty, demand, insistence; wish, desire

▶ verb as an example I would instance Jones's work CITE, quote, refer to, mention, allude to, give;

specify, name, identify, draw attention to, put forward, offer, advance

■ In the first instance INITIALLY, at first, at the start, at the outset, in/at the beginning, to begin with, to start with, originally

Instant ▶ adjective ① instant access to your money IMMEDIATE, instantaneous, on-the-spot, prompt, swift, speedy, rapid, quick, express, lightning, sudden, precipitate, abrupt, *informal* snappy, p d q (pretty damn quick) ② instant meals PRE-PREPARED, pre-cooked, ready mixed, fast, microwaveable, convenience, TV
 -OPPOSITES delayed

▶ noun ① come here this instant! MOMENT, time, minute, second, juncture, point ② it all happened in an instant TRICE, moment, minute, (split) second, twinkling of an eye, flash, no time (at all), *informal* sec, jiffy, the blink of an eye, *Brit informal* mo, *N Amer informal* snap

Instantaneous ▶ adjective IMMEDIATE, instant, on-the-spot, prompt, swift, speedy, rapid, quick, express, lightning, sudden, hurried, precipitate, *informal* snappy, p d q (pretty damn quick)
 -OPPOSITES delayed

Instantly ▶ adverb IMMEDIATELY, at once, straight away, right away, instantaneously, suddenly, abruptly, all of a sudden, forthwith, there and then, here and now, this/that minute, this/that instant, quickly, rapidly, speedily, promptly, in an instant, in a moment, in a (split) second, in a trice, in/like a flash, like a shot, in the twinkling of an eye, in no time (at all), before you know it, *informal* in a jiffy, pronto, before you can say Jack Robinson, double quick, like (greased) lightning, *archaic* instant

Instead ▶ adverb travel by train instead AS AN ALTERNATIVE, in lieu, alternatively, rather, by contrast, for preference, by/from choice, on second thoughts, all things being equal, ideally, *N Amer* alternately

■ Instead of AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO, as a substitute for, as a replacement for, in place of, in lieu of, in preference to, rather than, as opposed to, as against, as contrasted with, before

Instigate ▶ verb ① they instigated formal proceedings SET IN MOTION, get under way, get off the ground, start, commence, begin, initiate, launch, institute, set up, inaugurate, establish, organize, actuate, generate, bring about, start the ball rolling, *informal* kick off ② he instigated men to refuse allegiance INCITE, encourage, urge, goad, provoke, spur on, push, press, prompt, induce, prevail upon, motivate, influence, persuade, sway, *informal* put up to
 -OPPOSITES halt, dissuade

Instigation ▶ noun ① they became involved at his instigation PROMPTING, suggestion; request, entreaty, demand, insistence, wish, desire, persuasion, formal instance ② foreign instigation of the disorder INITIATION, incitement, provocation, fomentation, encouragement, inducement, inception

Instigator ▶ noun INITIATOR, prime mover, motivator, architect, designer, planner, inventor, mastermind, originator, author, creator, agent; founder, pioneer, founding father; agitator, fomenter, troublemaker, ringleader.

instil ▶ **verb** ① we instil vigilance in our children **INCUPLICATE**, implant, ingrain, impress, imprint, introduce, engender, produce, generate, induce, inspire, promote, foster, drum into ② he instilled Monet with a love of nature **IMBUE**, inspire, infuse, inculcate, indoctrinate, teach ③ she instilled the eye drops **ADMINISTER**, introduce, infuse, inject

instinct ▶ **noun** ① some instinct told me to be careful **NATURAL TENDENCY**, inherent tendency, inclination, urge, drive, compulsion, need, intuition, feeling, sixth sense, insight, nose ② a good instinct for acting **TALENT**, gift, ability, aptitude, skill, flair, feel, genius, knack, bent

instinctive ▶ **adjective** **INTUITIVE**, natural, instinctual, innate, inborn, inherent, unconscious, subconscious, intuitional, automatic, reflex, knee-jerk, mechanical, spontaneous, involuntary, impulsive, *informal* gut
—**OPPOSITES** learned, voluntary

institute ▶ **noun** a research institute **ORGANIZATION**, establishment, institution, foundation, centre, academy, school, college, university, society, association, federation, body, guild

▶ **verb** ① we instituted a search **INITIATE**, set in motion, get under way, get off the ground, start, commence, begin, launch, set up, inaugurate, found, establish, organize, generate, bring about, start the ball rolling, *informal* kick off ② he will be instituted as vicar **INSTALL**, instate, induct, invest, inaugurate, swear in, initiate, ordain, consecrate, anoint, appoint, create
—**OPPOSITES** end, dismiss

institution ▶ **noun** ① an academic institution **ESTABLISHMENT**, organization, institute, foundation, centre, academy, school, college, university, society, association, body, guild, consortium ② they spent their lives in institutions (**RESIDENTIAL**) **HOME**, hospital, asylum ③ the institution of the rector **INSTALLATION**, instatement, induction, investiture, inauguration, ordination, consecration, anointing, appointment, creation ④ the institution of adoption **PRACTICE**, custom, convention, tradition, phenomenon, fact, procedure, usage, method, system, policy, idea, notion, concept ⑤ the institution of legal proceedings **INITIATION**, instigation, launch start, commencement, beginning, inauguration, generation, origination

institutional ▶ **adjective** ① an institutional framework for discussions **ORGANIZED**, established, bureaucratic, conventional, procedural, prescribed, set, routine, formal, systematic, systematized, methodical, businesslike, orderly, coherent, structured, regulated ② the rooms are rather institutional **IMPERSONAL**, formal, regimented, uniform, unvaried, monotonous, insipid, bland, uninteresting, dull, unappealing, uninviting, unattractive, unwelcoming, dreary, drab, colourless, stark, spartan, bare, clinical, sterile

instruct ▶ **verb** ① the union instructed them to strike. **ORDER**, direct, command, tell, enjoin, require, call on, mandate, charge, *poetic/literary* bid ② nobody instructed him in how to operate it **TEACH**, school, coach, train, enlighten, inform, educate, tutor, guide, prepare, prime. ③ she instructed a solicitor of her own choice: **EMPLOY**, authorize, brief. ④ the bank was instructed that money would be withdrawn. **INFORM**, tell, notify,

apprise, advise, brief, prime, *informal* put in the picture, fill in

instruction ▶ **noun** ① do not disobey my instructions **ORDER**, command, directive, direction, decree, edict, injunction, mandate, dictate, commandment, bidding, requirement, stipulation, *informal* say-so, *poetic/literary* behest ② read the instructions **DIRECTIONS**, key, specification, handbook, manual, guide. ③ he gave instruction in demolition work **TUITION**, teaching, coaching, schooling, tutelage, lessons, classes, lectures, training, drill, preparation, grounding, guidance

instructive ▶ **adjective** **INFORMATIVE**, instructional, informational, illuminating, enlightening, explanatory, educational, educative, edifying, didactic, pedagogic, heuristic, improving, moralistic, homiletic, useful, helpful

instructor ▶ **noun** **TRAINER**, coach, teacher, tutor, adviser, counsellor, guide, educator, *formal* pedagogue

instrument ▶ **noun** ① a wound made with a sharp instrument **IMPLEMENT**, tool, utensil, device, apparatus, contrivance, gadget. See lists here and at **TOOL** ② check all the cockpit instruments **MEASURING DEVICE**, gauge, meter, indicator, dial, display ③ they tuned their instruments **MUSICAL INSTRUMENT** See lists at **BRASS**, **KEY BOARD**, **ORCHESTRA**, **ORGAN**, **PERCUSSION**, **STRING**, **WIND** ④ an instrument of learning **AGENT**, agency, cause, channel, medium, means, mechanism, vehicle, organ ⑤ a mere instrument acting under coercion **PAWN**, puppet, creature, dupe, cog, tool, cat's paw, *informal* stouge

Surgical Instruments

bistoury	gouge	scalpel
bougie	guillotine	scarificator
burr	haemostat	scoop
cannula	lancet	sigmoidoscope
colposcope	laparoscope	snare
curette	osteotome	tenaculum
depressor	probe	trepan
dilator	raspatory	trephine
forceps	retractor	trocarr

instrumental ▶ **adjective** **INVOLVED**, active, influential, contributory, helpful, useful, of service, significant, important, (**be instrumental in**) play a part in, contribute to, be a factor in, have a hand in, add to, help, promote, advance, further, be conducive to, make for, lead to, cause

instrumentalist ▶ **noun**. See list

insubordinate ▶ **adjective** **DISOBEDIENT**, unruly, wayward, errant, badly behaved, disorderly, undisciplined, delinquent, troublesome, rebellious, defiant, recalcitrant, uncooperative, wilful, intractable, unmanageable, uncontrollable; awkward, difficult, perverse, contrary, *Bnt informal* bolshie
—**OPPOSITES** obedient.

insubordination ▶ **noun** **DISOBEDIENCE**, unruliness, indiscipline, bad behaviour, misbehaviour, misconduct, delinquency, rebellion, defiance, mutiny, revolt; recalcitrance, wilfulness, awkwardness, perversity; *informal* acting-up; *Law* contumacy



Instrumentalists

See also JAZZ.

Accardo, Salvatore (Italian violinist)
André, Maurice (French trumpeter)
Arrau, Claudio (Chilean pianist)
Ashkenazy, Vladimir (Russian pianist)
Barenboim, Daniel (Israeli pianist)
Blades, James (English percussionist)
Brain, Dennis (English horn player)
Bream, Julian (English guitarist)
Brendel, Alfred (Czech pianist)
Brouwer, Leo (Cuban guitarist)
Brymer, Jack (English clarinettist)
Casals, Pablo (Spanish cellist)
Chung, Kyung-Wha (Korean violinist)
Chung, Myung-Wha (Korean cellist)
Chung, Myung-Whun (Korean pianist)
Cortot, Alfred (French pianist)
de Peyer, Gervase (English clarinettist)
Donohoe, Peter (English pianist)
du Pré, Jacqueline (English cellist)
Ellis, Osian (Welsh harpist)
Galway, James (Northern Irish flautist)
Gilbert, Kenneth (Canadian harpsichordist)
Gilels, Emil (Russian pianist)
Glennie, Evelyn (Scottish percussionist)
Goossens, Leon (English oboist)
Gould, Glenn (Canadian pianist)
Gruniaux, Arthur (Belgian violinist)
Haendel, Ida (British violinist, b. in Poland)
Hardenberger, Håken (Swedish trumpeter)
Heifetz, Jascha (American violinist, b. in Lithuania)
Hess, Myra (English pianist)
Holliger, Heinz (Swiss oboist)
Horowitz, Vladimir (Russian pianist)
Imai, Nobuko (Japanese violist)
Joachim, Joseph (Austro-Hungarian violinist)
Katchen, Julius (American pianist)
Kempff, Wilhelm (German pianist)
Kennedy, Nigel (English violinist)
Kirkpatrick, Ralph (American harpsichordist)
Kovacevich, Stephen (American pianist, b. in Yugoslavia)
Kreisler, Fritz (American violinist, b. in Austria)
Landowska, Wanda (Polish harpsichordist)
Leonhardt, Gustav (Dutch harpsichordist)
Lucia, Paco de (Spanish guitarist)
Lupu, Radu (Romanian pianist)
Lympny, Moura (British pianist)
Malcolm, George (English harpsichordist)

Marsalis, Wynton (American trumpeter)
Menuhin, Yehudi (British violinist, b. in America)
Michelangelo, Arturo Benedetti (Italian pianist)
Milstein, Nathan (American violinist, b. in Russia)
Montoya, Carlos (Spanish guitarist)
Mullova, Viktoria (Austrian violinist, b. in Russia)
Mutter, Anne-Sophie (German violinist)
Nicolet, Aurèle (Swiss flautist)
Ogdon, John (English pianist)
Oistrakh, David (Russian violinist)
Oistrakh, Igor (Russian violinist)
Paderewski, Ignacy Jan (Polish pianist)
Paganini, Niccolò (Italian violinist)
Peña, Paco (Spanish guitarist)
Perahia, Murray (American pianist)
Perlman, Itzhak (Israeli violinist)
Pleeth, William (English cellist)
Pollini, Maurizio (Italian pianist)
Rampal, Jean-Pierre (French flautist)
Richter, Sviatoslav (Russian pianist)
Robles, Marisa (British harpist, b. in Spain)
Rogg, Lionel (Swiss organist)
Rooley, Anthony (English lutenist)
Rostropovich, Mstislav Leopoldovich (Azerbaijani cellist)
Rubinstein, Artur (American pianist, b. in Poland)
Salomon, Johann Peter (German violinist)
Schiff, András (Hungarian pianist)
Schnabel, Artur (American pianist, b. in Austria)
Schumann, Clara (German pianist)
Segovia, Andrés (Spanish guitarist)
Serkin, Rudolf (American pianist, b. in Russia)
Shankar, Ravi (Indian sitar player)
Solomon (British pianist)
Stadler, Anton (Austrian clarinettist)
Stern, Isaac (American violinist, b. in Russia)
Suk, Josef (Czech violinist)
Szeryng, Henryk (Mexican violinist, b. in Poland)
Tertis, Lionel (English violist)
Tortelier, Paul (French cellist)
Uchida, Mitsuko (Japanese pianist)
Vásáry, Tamás (Hungarian pianist)
Weir, Gillian (New Zealand organist)
Williams, John (Australian guitarist)
Wittgenstein, Paul (American pianist, b. in Austria)
Ysaÿe, Eugène (Belgian violinist)
Zukerman, Pinchas (Israeli violinist)

insubstantial ▶ **adjective** ① *an insubstantial structure*: FLIMSY, slight, fragile, breakable, weak, frail, unstable, shaky, wobbly, rickety, ramshackle, jerry-built ② *insubstantial evidence*: WEAK, flimsy, feeble, poor, inadequate, insufficient, tenuous, insignificant, inconsequential, unsubstantial, unconvincing, implausible, unsatisfactory, paltry ③ *the light made her seem insubstantial*: INTANGIBLE, impalpable, untouchable, discarnate, unsubstantial, incorporeal, imaginary, unreal, illusory, spectral, ghostlike, vaporous, *Philosophy* immaterial.
–OPPOSITES sturdy, sound, tangible

insufferable ▶ **adjective** ① *the heat was insufferable*: INTOLERABLE, unbearable, unendurable, insupportable, unacceptable, oppressive, overwhelming, overpowering; more than flesh and blood can stand; *informal* too much. ② *his win*

made him insufferable: CONCEITED, arrogant, boastful, cocky, cocksure, full of oneself, self-important, swollen-headed, swaggering; vain, self-satisfied, self-congratulatory, smug; *informal* big-headed, too big for one's boots, *poetic/literary* vainglorious

–OPPOSITES bearable, modest

insufficient ▶ **adjective** INADEQUATE, deficient, poor, scant, scanty, not enough, too little, too few, too small; scarce, sparse, in short supply, lacking, wanting; paltry, meagre, niggardly; incomplete, restricted, limited; *informal* measly, pathetic, piddling

insular ▶ **adjective** ① *insular people*: NARROW-MINDED, small-minded, blinkered, inward-looking, parochial, provincial, small-town, short-sighted, hidebound, set in one's ways, inflexible, rigid, entrenched; illiberal, intolerant,

prejudiced, bigoted, biased, partisan, xenophobic, *Brit* blimpish ② *an insular existence* ISOLATED, inaccessible, cut off, segregated, detached, solitary, lonely
-OPPOSITES broad-minded, cosmopolitan

insulate ▶ **verb** ① *pipes must be insulated* WRAP, sheathe, cover, encase, enclose, envelop, lag, heatproof, soundproof; pad, cushion ② *they were insulated from the impact of the war* PROTECT, save, shield, shelter, screen, cushion, cocoon, isolate, segregate, sequester, detach, cut off

insulation ▶ **noun** ① *a layer of insulation* LAGGING, blanket, jacket, wrap ② *insulation from the rigours of city life* PROTECTION, defence, shelter, screen, shield, isolation, segregation, separation, sequestration, detachment

insult ▶ **verb** *he insulted my wife* ABUSE, be rude to, call someone names, slight, disparage, discredit, libel, slander, malign, defame, denigrate, cast aspersions on, offend, affront, hurt, humiliate, wound, *informal* bad-mouth, *Brit informal* slag off, *formal* derogate, calumniate, *rare* asperse
-OPPOSITES compliment

▶ **noun** *he hurled insults at us* ABUSIVE REMARK, jibe, affront, slight, barb, slur, indignity, injury, libel, slander, defamation, abuse, disparagement, aspersions, *informal* dig, put-down, slap in the face, kick in the teeth

insulting ▶ **adjective** ABUSIVE, rude, offensive, disparaging, belittling, derogatory, deprecatory, disrespectful, denigratory, uncomplimentary, pejorative, disdainful, derisive, scornful, contemptuous, defamatory, slanderous, libellous, scurrilous, blasphemous, *informal* bitchy, catty

Insuperable ▶ **adjective** INSURMOUNTABLE, invincible, unassailable, overwhelming, hopeless, impossible

Insupportable ▶ **adjective** ① *this view is insupportable* UNJUSTIFIABLE, indefensible, inexcusable, unwarrantable, unreasonable, baseless, groundless, unfounded, unsupported, unsubstantiated, unconfirmed, uncorroborated, invalid, untenable, implausible, weak, flawed, specious, defective ② *the heat was insupportable* INTOLERABLE, insufferable, unbearable, unendurable, oppressive, overwhelming, overpowering, more than flesh and blood can stand, *informal* too much
-OPPOSITES justified, bearable

insurance ▶ **noun** ① *insurance for his new car* INDEMNITY, indemnification, assurance, (financial) protection, security, cover ② *insurance against a third World War* PROTECTION, defence, safeguard, security, precaution, provision; immunity, guarantee, warranty, *informal* backstop

insure ▶ **verb** PROVIDE INSURANCE FOR, indemnify, cover, assure, protect, underwrite, guarantee, warrant

Insurgent ▶ **adjective** *insurgent forces*: REBELLIOUS, rebel, revolutionary, mutinous, insurrectionist, renegade, seditious, subversive
-OPPOSITES loyal

▶ **noun** *the troops are fighting insurgents*. REBEL, revolutionary, revolutionist, mutineer, insurrectionist, agitator, subversive, renegade; guerrilla, freedom fighter, anarchist, terrorist
-OPPOSITES loyalist

Insurmountable ▶ **adjective** INSUPERABLE, unconquerable, invincible, unassailable; overwhelming, hopeless, impossible

Insurrection ▶ **noun** REBELLION, revolt, uprising, mutiny, revolution, insurgency, riot, sedition, civil disorder, unrest, anarchy, coup (d'état)

Intact ▶ **adjective** WHOLE, entire, complete, unbroken, undamaged, unimpaired, faultless, flawless, unscathed, untouched, unspoiled, unblemished, unmarked, perfect, pristine, inviolate, undefiled, unsullied, in one piece, sound, solid
-OPPOSITES damaged

Intangible ▶ **adjective** ① *the moonlight made things seem intangible* IMPALPABLE, untouchable, incorporeal, discarnate, abstract, ethereal, insubstantial, airy, ghostly, spectral, unearthly, supernatural, *Philosophy* immaterial ② *an intangible atmosphere* INDEFINABLE, indescribable, inexpressible, nameless, vague, obscure, unclear, indefinite, subtle, elusive, fugitive

Integral ▶ **adjective** ① *an integral part of human behaviour* ESSENTIAL, fundamental, basic, intrinsic, inherent, constitutive, innate, structural, vital, necessary, requisite ② *the dryer has integral cord storage*. BUILT-IN, inbuilt, integrated, incorporated, fitted ③ *an integral approach to learning* UNIFIED, integrated, comprehensive, composite, combined, aggregate, complete, whole
-OPPOSITES peripheral, fragmented

Integrate ▶ **verb** COMBINE, amalgamate, merge, unite, fuse, blend, mingle, coalesce, consolidate, meld, intermingle, mix, incorporate, unify, assimilate, homogenize, desegregate
-OPPOSITES separate

Integrated ▶ **adjective** ① *an integrated package of services* UNIFIED, united, consolidated, amalgamated, combined, merged, fused, homogeneous, assimilated, cohesive ② *an integrated school*: DESEGREGATED, non-segregated, unsegregated, mixed

Integrity ▶ **noun** ① *I never doubted his integrity* HONESTY, probity, rectitude, honour, good character, principle(s), ethics, morals, righteousness, morality, virtue, decency, fairness, scrupulousness, sincerity, truthfulness, trustworthiness ② *the integrity of the federation*. UNITY, unification, coherence, cohesion, togetherness, solidarity ③ *the structural integrity of the aircraft* SOUNDNESS, strength, sturdiness, solidity, durability, stability, stoutness, toughness
-OPPOSITES dishonesty, division, fragility

Intellect ▶ **noun** ① *a film that appeals to the intellect*. MIND, brain(s), intelligence, reason, understanding, thought, brainpower, sense, judgement, wisdom, wits, *informal* nous, grey matter, brain cells, upper storey; *Brit informal* loaf; *N Amer informal* smarts. ② *one of the finest intellects* THINKER, intellectual, sage, mind, brain.

Intellectual ▶ **adjective** ① *his intellectual capacity*: MENTAL, cerebral, cognitive, psychological, rational, abstract, conceptual, theoretical, analytical, logical, academic. ② *an intellectual man* INTELLIGENT, clever, academic, educated, well read, erudite, cerebral, learned, knowledgeable, literary, bookish, donnish, highbrow, scholarly, studious, enlightened, sophisticated; *informal* brainy.

—OPPOSITES physical, stupid

► **noun** *intellectuals are appalled by television* HIGH-BROW, intelligent person, learned person, academic, bookworm, man/woman of letters, bluestocking, thinker, brain, scholar, sage, genius, Einstein, polymath, mastermind, *informal* egghead, brains, *Brit informal* brainbox, clever clogs, boffin, *N Amer informal* brainiac, rocket scientist

—OPPOSITES dunce

Intelligence ► **noun** ① *a man of great intelligence* INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY, mental capacity, intellect, mind, brain(s), brainpower, judgement, reasoning, understanding, comprehension, acumen, wit, sense, insight, perception, penetration, discernment, quick-wittedness, smartness, caniness, astuteness, intuition, acuity, cleverness, brilliance, ability, talent, *informal* braininess ② *intelligence from our agents* INFORMATION, facts, details, particulars, data, knowledge, reports, *informal* info, gen, dope ③ *military intelligence* INFORMATION GATHERING, surveillance, observation, reconnaissance, spying, espionage, infiltration, ELINT, Humint, *informal* recon

Intelligent ► **adjective** ① *an intelligent writer* CLEVER, bright, brilliant, quick-witted, quick on the uptake, smart, canny, astute, intuitive, insightful, perceptive, perspicacious, discerning; knowledgeable, able, gifted, talented, *informal* brainy ② *an intelligent being* RATIONAL, higher-order, capable of thought ③ *intelligent machines* SELF-REGULATING, capable of learning, smart

Intelligentsia ► **plural noun** INTELLECTUALS, intelligent people, academics, scholars, literati, cognoscenti, illuminati, highbrows, thinkers, brains, the intelligent, *informal* eggheads, *Brit informal* boffins

Intelligible ► **adjective** COMPREHENSIBLE, understandable, accessible, digestible, user-friendly, penetrable, fathomable, lucid, clear, coherent, plain, explicit, precise, unambiguous, self-explanatory

Intemperance ► **noun** ① *they were criticized for intemperance* OVERINDULGENCE, immoderation, excess, extravagance, prodigality, profligacy, lavishness, self-indulgence, self-gratification, debauchery, decadence, dissipation, dissolution. ② *he said intemperance was a disease* DRINKING, alcoholism, alcohol abuse, dipsomania, drunkenness, intoxication, inebriation, insobriety, tipsiness, *formal* inebriety, *poetic/literary* crapulence

Intemperate ► **adjective** IMMODERATE, excessive, undue, inordinate, extreme, unrestrained, uncontrolled, self-indulgent, overindulgent, extravagant, lavish, prodigal, profligate, imprudent, reckless, wild, dissolute, debauched, wanton, dissipated
—OPPOSITES moderate.

Intend ► **verb** PLAN, mean, have in mind, have the intention, aim, propose, aspire, hope, expect, be resolved, be determined, want, wish, contemplate, think of, envisage, design, earmark, set aside; *formal* purpose

Intended ► **adjective** *the foul was not intended* DELIBERATE, intentional, calculated, conscious, planned, studied, knowing, wilful, wanton, purposeful, done on purpose, premeditated,

pre-planned, preconceived, *Law* aforethought, *Law*, dated prepense

—OPPOSITES accidental

► **noun** (*informal*) *do you share everything with your intended?* FIANCE(E), betrothed, bride-to-be, wife-to-be, husband-to-be, future wife, future husband, prospective spouse

Intense ► **adjective** ① *intense heat* EXTREME, great, acute, fierce, severe, high, exceptional, extraordinary, harsh, strong, powerful, potent, vigorous, *informal* serious ② *a very intense young man* PASSIONATE, impassioned, ardent, fervent, zealous, vehement, fiery, emotional, earnest, eager, animated, spirited, vigorous, energetic, fanatical, committed

—OPPOSITES mild, apathetic

Intensify ► **verb** ESCALATE, increase, step up, boost, raise, strengthen, augment, reinforce, pick up, build up, heighten, deepen, extend, expand, amplify, magnify, aggravate, exacerbate, worsen, inflame, compound

—OPPOSITES abate

Intensity ► **noun** ① *the intensity of the sun* STRENGTH, power, potency, force, severity, ferocity, vehemence, fierceness, harshness, magnitude, greatness, acuteness, extremity ② *his eyes had a glowing intensity* PASSION, ardour, fervour, zeal, vehemence, fire, heat, emotion, eagerness, animation, spirit, vigour, strength, energy, fanaticism

Intensive ► **adjective** THOROUGH, thoroughgoing, in-depth, rigorous, exhaustive, all-out, all-embracing, all-inclusive, comprehensive, complete, full, vigorous, strenuous, detailed, minute, close, meticulous, scrupulous, painstaking, methodical, careful, extensive, widespread, sweeping, determined, resolute, persistent

—OPPOSITES cursory

Intent ► **noun** *he tried to divine his father's intent* AIM, intention, purpose, objective, object, goal, target, design, plan, scheme, wish, desire, ambition, idea, aspiration

► **adjective** ① *he was intent on proving his point* BENT, set, determined, insistent, resolved, hell-bent, keen, committed to, obsessive about, fanatical about, determined to, anxious to, impatient to ② *an intent expression* ATTENTIVE, absorbed, engrossed, fascinated, enthralled, rapt, focused, earnest, concentrating, intense, studious, preoccupied, alert, watchful.

■ **to all intents and purposes** IN EFFECT, effectively, in essence, essentially, virtually, practically, more or less, just about, all but, as good as, in all but name, as near as dammit, almost, nearly, nigh on; *informal* pretty much, pretty well

Intention ► **noun** ① *it is his intention to be leader* AIM, purpose, intent, objective, object, goal, target; design, plan, scheme, resolve, resolution, determination; wish, desire, ambition, idea, dream, aspiration ② *he managed, without intention, to upset me*: INTENT, intentionality, deliberateness, design, calculation; premeditation, forethought, pre-planning, *Law* malice aforethought

Intentional ► **adjective** DELIBERATE, calculated, conscious, intended, planned, meant, studied, knowing, wilful, wanton, purposeful, purposive, done on purpose, premeditated, pre-

planned, preconceived; *Law* *aforethought*, *Law*, *dated* *prepen*

Intently ▶ *adverb* ATTENTIVELY, closely, keenly, earnestly, hard, carefully, fixedly, steadily

Inter ▶ *verb* BURY, lay to rest, entomb, inurn, *informal* put six feet under, plant; *poetic/literary* sepulchre, inhumate

—OPPOSITES exhume

Intercede ▶ *verb* MEDIATE, intermediate, arbitrate, conciliate, negotiate, moderate, intervene, interpose, step in, act; plead, petition.

Intercept ▶ *verb* STOP, head off, cut off, catch, seize, grab, snatch, obstruct, impede, interrupt, block, check, detain, ambush, challenge, waylay.

Intercession ▶ *noun* MEDIATION, intermediation, arbitration, conciliation, negotiation, intervention, involvement, pleading, petition, entreaty, agency, diplomacy

Interchange ▶ *verb* ① *they interchange ideas* EXCHANGE, trade, swap, barter, bandy, reciprocate, *archaic* truck. ② *the terms are often interchanged* SUBSTITUTE, transpose, exchange, switch, swap (round), change (round), reverse, invert, replace

▶ *noun* ① *the interchange of ideas* EXCHANGE, trade, swap, barter, give and take, traffic, reciprocity, reciprocity; *archaic* truck ② *a motorway interchange* JUNCTION, intersection, crossing; *N Amer* cloverleaf

Interchangeable ▶ *adjective* ① *the gun has interchangeable barrels* EXCHANGEABLE, transposable, replaceable ② *two more or less interchangeable roads* SIMILAR, identical, indistinguishable, alike, the same, uniform, twin, undifferentiated, corresponding, commensurate, equivalent, comparable, equal, *informal* much of a muchness

Intercourse ▶ *noun* ① *social intercourse* DEALINGS, relations, relationships, association, connections, contact, interchange, communication, communion, correspondence, negotiations, bargaining, transactions, trade, traffic; *informal* truck, doings ② *she did not consent to intercourse* SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, sex, lovemaking, sexual relations, intimacy, coupling, mating, copulation, *informal* nooky, *Brit informal* bonking, rumpy pumpy, how's your father, *technical* coitus, coition; *formal* fornication; *dated* carnal knowledge

Interdict ▶ *noun* *they breached an interdict* PROHIBITION, ban, bar, veto, proscription, interdiction, embargo, moratorium, injunction

—OPPOSITES permission

▶ *verb* ① *they interdicted foreign commerce* PROHIBIT, forbid, ban, bar, veto, proscribe, embargo, disallow, debar, outlaw, stop, suppress; *Law* enjoin, estop. ② *efforts to interdict asylum seekers* INTERCEPT, stop, head off, cut off, obstruct, impede, block, detain.

—OPPOSITES permit.

Interest ▶ *noun* ① *we listened with interest*: AT TENTIVENESS, attention, absorption; heed, regard, notice; curiosity, inquisitiveness; enjoyment, delight. ② *places of interest*: ATTRACTION, appeal, fascination, charm, beauty, allure. ③ *this will be of interest to those involved*: CONCERN, consequence, importance, import, significance, note, relevance, value, weight; *formal* moment. ④ *her interests include reading*: HOBBY, pastime, leisure pursuit, recreation, diversion, amuse-

ment, relaxation, passion, enthusiasm, *informal* thing, bag, cup of tea ⑤ *a financial interest in the firm*: STAKE, share, claim, investment, stock, equity; involvement, concern. ⑥ *what is your interest in the case?* INVOLVEMENT, partiality, partisanship, preference, loyalty; bias, prejudice. ⑦ *his attorney guarded his interests*. CONCERN, business, affair ⑧ *her savings earned interest* DIVIDENDS, profits, returns; a percentage.

—OPPOSITES boredom.

▶ *verb* ① *a topic that interests you*. APPEAL TO, be of interest to, attract, intrigue, fascinate, absorb, engross, rivet, grip, captivate, amuse, divert, entertain, arouse one's curiosity, whet one's appetite; *informal* float someone's boat, tickle someone's fancy ② *can I interest you in a drink?* persuade to have; sell

—OPPOSITES bore.

■ *In someone's interests* OF BENEFIT TO, to the advantage of; for the sake of, for the benefit of

Interested ▶ *adjective* ① *an interested crowd* ATTENTIVE, intent, absorbed, engrossed, fascinated, riveted, gripped, captivated, rapt, agog; intrigued, inquisitive, curious, keen, eager; *informal* all ears, nosy, snoopy ② *the government consulted with interested bodies* CONCERNED, involved, affected, connected, related ③ *no interested party can judge the contest* PARTISAN, partial, biased, prejudiced, one-sided, preferential.

Interesting ▶ *adjective* ABSORBING, engrossing, fascinating, riveting, gripping, compelling, compulsive, captivating, engaging, enthralling, appealing, attractive, amusing, entertaining, stimulating, thought-provoking, diverting, intriguing; *informal* unputdownable.

Interfere ▶ *verb* ① *don't let emotion interfere with duty* IMPEDE, obstruct, stand in the way of, hinder, inhibit, restrict, constrain, hamper, handicap, cramp, check, block; disturb, disrupt, influence, affect, confuse ② *she tried not to interfere in his life* BUTT INTO, barge into, pry into, nose into, intrude into, intervene in, get involved in, encroach on, unpunge on, meddle in, tamper with, *informal* poke one's nose into, horn in on, muscle in on, stick one's oar in. ③ (*Brit euphemistic*) *he interfered with local children* (SEXUALLY) ABUSE, sexually assault, indecently assault, molest, grope, *informal* feel up, touch up

Interference ▶ *noun* ① *they resent state interference* INTRUSION, intervention, intercession, involvement, trespass, obstruction, meddling, prying. ② *radio interference* DISRUPTION, disturbance, static

Interfering ▶ *adjective* MEDDLESOME, meddling, intrusive, prying, inquisitive, over-curious, busybody, *informal* nosy, nosy-parker, snoopy.

Interim ▶ *noun* *in the interim they did more research*. MEANTIME, meanwhile, intervening time

▶ *adjective* *an interim advisory body*: PROVISIONAL, temporary, pro tem, stopgap, short-term, fill-in, caretaker, acting, intervening, transitional, makeshift, improvised, impromptu.

—OPPOSITES permanent

Interior ▶ *adjective* ① *the house has interior paneling*: INSIDE, inner, internal, intramural. ② *the interior deserts of the US*: INLAND, inshore, up-country, inner, innermost, central. ③ *the country's interior affairs*: INTERNAL, home, domestic, national, state, civil, local. ④ *an interior*

monologue INNER, mental, spiritual, psychological, private, personal, intimate, secret
-OPPOSITES exterior, outer, foreign.

► **noun** ① the interior of the yacht INSIDE, inner part, depths, recesses, bowels, belly, centre, core, heart ② the country's interior CENTRE, heartland, hinterland
-OPPOSITES exterior, outside

Interject ► **verb** ① she interjected a comment INTERPOSE, introduce, throw in, interpolate, add ② he interjected before there was a fight INTERRUPT, intervene, cut in, break in, butt in, chime in; put one's oar in, *Brit informal* chip in, *N Amer informal* put in one's two cents

Interjection ► **noun** ① an astonished interjection EXCLAMATION, cry, shout, vociferation, utterance, dated ejaculation ② the interjection of a question INTERPOSITION, interpolation, insertion, addition, introduction

Interlock ► **verb** INTERCONNECT, interlink, engage, mesh, intermesh, join, unite, connect, couple

Interloper ► **noun** INTRUDER, encroacher, trespasser, invader, infiltrator, uninvited guest, outsider, stranger, alien, *informal* gatecrasher

Interlude ► **noun** INTERVAL, intermission, break, recess, pause, respite, rest, breathing space, halt, gap, stop, stoppage, hiatus, lull, *informal* breather, let-up, time out, down time

Intermediary ► **noun** MEDIATOR, go-between, negotiator, intervenor, interceder, intercessor, arbitrator, arbiter, conciliator, peacemaker, middleman, broker, linkman

Intermediate ► **adjective** HALFWAY, in-between, middle, mid, midway, median, medial, intermediary, intervening, transitional

Interment ► **noun** BURIAL, burying, committal, entombment, inhumation, funeral; *archaic* sepulture

Interminable ► **adjective** (SEEMINGLY) ENDLESS, never-ending, unending, non-stop, everlasting, ceaseless, unceasing, incessant, constant, continual, uninterrupted, sustained, monotonous, long-winded, overlong, rambling

Intermingle ► **verb** MIX, intermix, mingle, blend, fuse, merge, combine, amalgamate, unite, affiliate, associate, fraternize, *poetic/literary* commingle.

Intermission ► **noun** INTERVAL, interlude, entr'acte, break, recess, pause, rest, respite, breathing space, lull, gap, stop, stoppage, halt, cessation, suspension, *informal* let-up, breather, time out, down time

Intermittent ► **adjective** SPORADIC, irregular, fitful, spasmodic, broken, fragmentary, discontinuous, isolated, random, patchy, scattered, occasional, periodic
-OPPOSITES continuous

Intern ► **verb** they were interned without trial IMPRISON, incarcerate, impound, jail, put behind bars, detain, hold (captive), lock up, confine; *informal* put away, put inside, send down, *Brit informal* bang up.

► **noun** an intern at a local firm. TRAINEE, apprentice, probationer, student, novice, beginner.

Internal ► **adjective** ① an internal courtyard. INNER, interior, inside, intramural, central. ② the state's internal affairs. DOMESTIC, home, interior, civil, local; national, state. ③ an internal

battle with herself MENTAL, psychological, emotional, personal, private, secret, hidden
-OPPOSITES external, foreign.

International ► **adjective** GLOBAL, worldwide, intercontinental, universal, cosmopolitan, multiracial, multinational
-OPPOSITES national, local

Interplay ► **noun** INTERACTION, interchange, teamwork, cooperation, reciprocation, reciprocity, give and take

Interpolate ► **verb** INSERT, interpose, enter, add, incorporate, inset, put, introduce

Interpose ► **verb** ① he interposed himself between the girls INSINUATE, place, put ② I must interpose a note of caution INTRODUCE, insert, interject, add ③ they interposed to suppress the custom INTERVENE, intercede, step in, involve oneself, interfere, intrude, butt in, cut in, *informal* barge in, horn in, muscle in

Interpret ► **verb** ① the rabbis interpreted the Jewish laws EXPLAIN, elucidate, expound, explicate, clarify, illuminate, shed light on ② the remark was interpreted as an invitation UNDERSTAND, construe, take (to mean), see, regard ③ the symbols are difficult to interpret DECIPHER, decode, make intelligible, understand, comprehend, make sense of, *informal* crack

Interpretation ► **noun** ① the interpretation of the Bible's teachings EXPLANATION, elucidation, expounding, exposition, explication, exegesis, clarification. ② she did not care what interpretation he put on her haste MEANING, understanding, construal, connotation, explanation, inference ③ the interpretation of experimental findings ANALYSIS, evaluation, review, study, examination ④ his interpretation of the sonata RENDITION, rendering, execution, presentation, performance, reading, playing, singing

Interpreter ► **noun** ① a Japanese interpreter TRANSLATOR, dragoman ② a vocal interpreter of his music PERFORMER, presenter, exponent, singer, player ③ interpreters of Soviet history ANALYST, evaluator, reviewer, commentator

Interrogate ► **verb** QUESTION, cross-question, cross-examine, quiz; interview, examine, debrief, give someone the third degree, *informal* pump, grill

Interrogative ► **adjective** QUESTIONING, inquiring, inquisitive, probing, searching, quizzing, quizzical, curious

Interrupt ► **verb** ① she opened her mouth to interrupt CUT IN (ON), break in (on), barge in (on), intervene (in), put one's oar in, *Brit* put one's pennyworth in; *N Amer* put one's two cents in; *informal* butt in (on), chime in (on), *Brit informal* chip in (on). ② the band had to interrupt their tour: SUSPEND, adjourn, discontinue, break off, stop, halt, cease, end, bring to an end/close; *informal* put on ice, put on a back burner. ③ the coastal plain is interrupted by large lagoons: BREAK (UP), punctuate; pepper, strew, dot, scatter. ④ their view was interrupted by houses: OBSTRUCT, impede, block, restrict.

Interruption ► **noun** ① he was not pleased at her interruption: CUTTING IN, barging in, intervention, intrusion; *informal* butting in. ② an interruption of the power supply: DISCONTINUATION, breaking off, suspension, stopping, halting, cessation. ③ an interruption in her career: INTERVAL, interlude, break, pause, gap

intersect ▶ **verb** ① the lines intersect at right angles **CROSS**, **criss-cross**; *technical* **decussate** ② the cornfield is intersected by a track **BISECT**, divide, cut in two/half, cut across/through, **cross**, **traverse**

Intersection ▶ **noun** ① the intersection of the two curves **CROSSING**, **criss-crossing** ② the driver stopped at an intersection (ROAD) **JUNCTION**, **T-junction**, **interchange**, **crossroads**, *Brit* **roundabout**

Interperse ▶ **verb** ① giant lobelia were interspersed among the rocks **SCATTER**, **disperse**, **spread**, **strew**, **dot**, **sprinkle**, **pepper**; *poetic/literary* **bestrew** ② the beech trees are interspersed with conifers **INTERMIX**, **mix**, **mingle**, **punctuate**

Interstice ▶ **noun** **SPACE**, **gap**, **aperture**, **opening**, **hole**, **crevice**, **chink**, **slit**, **slot**, **crack**

Intertwine ▶ **verb** **ENTWINE**, **interweave**, **interlace**, **interwind**, **twist**, **coil**

Interval ▶ **noun** ① a 15-minute interval **INTERMISSION**, **interlude**, **entr'acte**, **break**, **recess**, **half-time** ② Baldwin made two speeches in the interval **INTERIM**, **interlude**, **intervening time/period**, **meantime**, **meanwhile** ③ short intervals of still water **STRETCH**, **distance**, **span**, **area**

Intervene ▶ **verb** ① had the war not intervened, they might have married **OCCUR**, **happen**, **take place**, **arise**, **crop up**, **come about**, **result**, **ensue**, **follow**, *poetic/literary* **come to pass**, **befall**, **betide** ② she intervened in the row **INTERCEDE**, **involve oneself**, **get involved**, **interpose oneself**, **step in**, **interfere**, **intrude**

Intervention ▶ **noun** **INVOLVEMENT**, **intercession**, **interceding**, **interposing**, **interference**, **intrusion**

Interview ▶ **noun** all applicants will be called for an interview **MEETING**, **discussion**, **conference**, **examination**, **interrogation**, **audience**, **talk**, **dialogue**, **exchange**, **talks**

▶ **verb** we interviewed seventy subjects for the survey **TALK TO**, **have a discussion/dialogue with**, **question**, **interrogate**, **cross-examine**, **poll**, **canvass**, **survey**, **sound out**, *informal* **grill**, **pump**; *Law* **examine**

Interviewer ▶ **noun** **QUESTIONER**, **interrogator**, **examiner**, **assessor**, **appraiser**, **journalist**, **reporter**

Interweave ▶ **verb** ① the threads are interwoven **INTERTWINE**, **entwine**, **interlace**, **splice**, **braid**, **plait**, **twist together**, **weave together**, **wind together**; *Nautical* **marry** ② their fates were interwoven: **INTERLINK**, **link**, **connect**; **intermix**, **mix**, **merge**, **blend**, **interlock**, **knit/bind together**

Intestinal ▶ **adjective** **ENTERIC**, **gastro-enteric**, **duodenal**, **coeliac**, **gastric**, **ventral**, **stomach**, **abdominal**

Intestines ▶ **plural noun** **GUT**, **guts**, **entrails**, **viscera**; **small intestine**, **large intestine**; *informal* **insides**, **innards**.
—RELATED TERMS **enteric**.

Intimacy ▶ **noun** ① the sisters re-established their old intimacy: **CLOSENESS**, **togetherness**, **affinity**, **rapprochement**, **attachment**, **familiarity**, **friendliness**, **amity**, **affection**, **warmth**; *informal* **chummy**, **palliness**; *Brit* *informal* **mateyness**. ② the memory of their intimacy: **SEXUAL RELATIONS**, (**sexual**) **intercourse**, **sex**, **lovmaking**, **copulation**; *technical* **coitus**

Intimate¹ ▶ **adjective** ① an intimate friend **CLOSE**, **bosom**, **boon**, **dear**, **cherished**, **faithful**, **fast**, **firm**; *informal* **chummy**, **pally** ② an intimate atmosphere: **FRIENDLY**, **warm**, **welcoming**, **hospitable**, **relaxed**, **informal**; **cosy**, **comfortable**, **snug**; *informal* **comfy** ③ intimate thoughts: **PERSONAL**, **private**, **confidential**, **secret**; **innermost**, **inner**, **inward**, **unspoken**, **undisclosed**. ④ an intimate knowledge of the industry **DETAILED**, **thorough**, **exhaustive**, **deep**, **in-depth**, **profound** ⑤ intimate relations **SEXUAL**, **carnal**, **amorous**, **amatory**

—OPPOSITES **distant**, **formal**.

▶ **noun** his circle of intimates **CLOSE FRIEND**, **best friend**, **bosom friend**, **confidant**, **confidante**, *informal* **chum**, **pal**, **crony**, *Brit* *informal* **mate**; *N Amer* *informal* **buddy**

Intimate² ▶ **verb** ① he intimated his decision **ANNOUNCE**, **state**, **proclaim**, **make known**, **make public**, **disclose**, **reveal**, **divulge**. ② her feelings were subtly intimated: **IMPLY**, **suggest**, **hint at**, **insinuate**, **indicate**, **signal**, **allude to**, **refer to**, **convey**

Intimation ▶ **noun** ① the early intimation of session dates **ANNOUNCEMENT**, **statement**, **communication**, **notification**, **notice**, **reporting**, **publishing**, **disclosure**, **revelation**, **divulging** ② the first intimation of discord **SUGGESTION**, **hint**, **indication**, **sign**, **signal**, **inkling**, **suspicion**, **impression**, **clue to**, **undertone of**, **whisper of**

Intimidate ▶ **verb** **FRIGHTEN**, **menace**, **terrify**, **scare**, **terrorize**, **cow**, **subdue**, **threaten**, **browbeat**, **bully**, **pressure**, **pressurize**, **harass**, **harry**, **hound**, *informal* **lean on**, **bulldoze**, **steamroller**, **railroad**, **use strong-arm tactics on**

Intolerable ▶ **adjective** **UNBEARABLE**, **insufferable**, **unsupportable**, **insupportable**, **unendurable**, **beyond endurance**, **more than flesh and blood can stand**, **too much to bear**.
—OPPOSITES **bearable**

Intolerant ▶ **adjective** ① intolerant in religious matters **BIGOTED**, **narrow-minded**, **small-minded**, **parochial**, **provincial**, **illiberal**, **uncompromising**, **prejudiced**, **biased**, **partial**, **partisan**, **discriminatory** ② foods to which you are intolerant: **ALLERGIC**, **sensitive**, **hypersensitive**

Intonation ▶ **noun** ① she read the sentence with the wrong intonation. **INFLECTION**, **pitch**, **tone**, **tumble**, **cadence**, **cadency**, **lilt**, **modulation**, **speech pattern** ② the intonation of hymns: **CHANTING**, **incantation**, **recitation**, **singing**, *rare* **cantillation**

Intone ▶ **verb** **CHANT**, **sing**, **recite**, *rare* **cantillate**

Intoxicate ▶ **verb** ① one glass of wine intoxicated him. **INEBRIATE**, **make drunk**, **make intoxicated**, **befuddle**, **go to someone's head**; *informal* **make legless**, **make woozy**. ② he was intoxicated by cinema **EXHILARATE**, **thrill**, **elate**, **delight**, **captivate**, **enthral**, **entrance**, **enrapture**, **excite**, **stir**, **rouse**, **inspire**, **fire with enthusiasm**, *informal* **give someone a buzz**, **give someone a kick**, *N Amer* *informal* **give someone a charge**

Intoxicated ▶ **adjective** **DRUNK**, **inebriated**, **inebriate**, **drunken**, **tipsy**, **under the influence**; *informal* **tight**, **merry**, **the worse for wear**, **pie-eyed**, **in one's cups**, **three sheets to the wind**, **plastered**, **smashed**, **sloshed**, **sozzled**, **well oiled**, **wrecked**, **blotto**, **stewed**, **pickled**, **tanked up**, **soaked**, **off one's face**, **out of one's head/skull**; *Brit. informal* **paralytic**, **legless**, **Brahms** and

Liszt, half cut, bladdered, trolleyed, tiddly, *N Amer informal* loaded, trashed, out of one's gourd, *euphemistic* tired and emotional, *formal* bibulous, *poetic/literary* crapulent
 —OPPOSITES sober

Intoxicating ▶ *adjective* ① *intoxicating drink* ALCOHOLIC, strong, hard, potent, stiff, intoxicant, *formal* spiritous ② *an intoxicating sense of freedom* HEADY, exhilarating, thrilling, exciting, rousing, stirring, stimulating, invigorating, electrifying; strong, powerful, potent, *informal* mind-blowing
 —OPPOSITES non-alcoholic

intoxication ▶ *noun* DRUNKENNESS, inebriation, insobriety, tipsiness, *informal* tightness, *poetic/literary* crapulence

Intractable ▶ *adjective* ① *intractable problems* UNMANAGEABLE, uncontrollable, difficult, awkward, troublesome, demanding, burdensome ② *an intractable man* STUBBORN, obstinate, obdurate, inflexible, unadaptable, unbending, unyielding, uncompromising, unaccommodating, uncooperative, difficult, awkward, perverse, contrary, pig-headed, *N Amer* rock-ribbed, *informal* stiff-necked
 —OPPOSITES manageable, compliant

Intransigent ▶ *adjective* UNCOMPROMISING, inflexible, unbending, unyielding, unshakeable, unwavering, resolute, rigid, unaccommodating, uncooperative, stubborn, obstinate, obdurate, pig-headed, single-minded, iron-willed, *informal* stiff-necked
 —OPPOSITES compliant

Intrench ▶ *verb*. See ENTRENCH

Intrenched ▶ *adjective*. See ENTRENCHED

Intrepid ▶ *adjective* FEARLESS, unafraid, undaunted, unflinching, unshrinking, bold, daring, audacious, adventurous, heroic, dynamic, spirited, indomitable, brave, courageous, valiant, valorous, stout-hearted, stalwart, plucky, doughty, *informal* gutsy, spunky
 —OPPOSITES fearful

Intricate ▶ *adjective* COMPLEX, complicated, convoluted, tangled, entangled, twisted, elaborate, ornate, detailed, involuted, *Brit informal* fiddly

Intrigue ▶ *verb* ① *her answer intrigued him* INTEREST, be of interest to, fascinate, arouse someone's curiosity, attract ② *the ministers were intriguing* PLOT, conspire, make secret plans, scheme, manoeuvre, connive, collude, machinate

▶ *noun* ① *the intrigue that accompanied the selection of a new leader* PLOTTING, conspiracy, collusion, conniving, scheming, machination, trickery, sharp practice, double-dealing, underhandedness, subterfuge; *informal* dirty tricks ② *the king's intrigues with his nobles' wives* (LOVE) AFFAIR, affair of the heart, liaison, amour, fling, flirtation, dalliance; adultery, infidelity, unfaithfulness, *informal* fooling around, playing around, hanky-panky, *Brit informal* carryings-on

Intriguer ▶ *noun* CONSPIRATOR, co-conspirator, plotter, schemer, colluder, conniver, machinator, Machiavelli.

Intriguing ▶ *adjective* INTERESTING, fascinating, absorbing, compelling, gripping, riveting, captivating, engaging, enthralling.

Intrinsic ▶ *adjective* INHERENT, innate, inborn, unbred, congenital, connate, connatural, natural; deep-rooted, indelible, ineradicable; integral, basic, fundamental, essential.

Introduce ▶ *verb* ① *he has introduced a new system* INSTITUTE, initiate, launch, inaugurate, establish, found, bring in, set in motion, start, begin, commence, get going, get under way, originate, pioneer, *informal* kick off ② *you can introduce new ideas* PROPOSE, put forward, suggest, table, raise, broach, bring up, mention, air, float ③ *she introduced Lindsey to the young man* PRESENT (FORMALLY), make known, acquaint with ④ *introducing nitrogen into canned beer* INSERT, inject, put, force, shoot, feed ⑤ *she introduced a note of severity into her voice* IN STILL, infuse, inject, add ⑥ *the same presenter introduces the programme each week* ANNOUNCE, present, give an introduction to; start off, begin, open

Introduction ▶ *noun* ① *the introduction of democratic reforms* INSTITUTION, establishment, initiation, launch, inauguration, foundation, start, commencement, inception, origination, pioneering. ② *an introduction to the king* (FORMAL) PRESENTATION, meeting, audience ③ *an introduction to the catalogue*. FOREWORD, preface, preamble, prologue, prelude, opening (statement), beginning, *informal* intro, *formal* proem, prolegomenon ④ *an introduction to the history of the period* BASIC EXPLANATION/ACCOUNT OF, the basics, the rudiments, the fundamentals ⑤ *a gentle introduction to the life of the school* INITIATION, induction, inauguration
 —OPPOSITES afterword

Introductory ▶ *adjective* ① *the introductory chapter* OPENING, initial, starting, initiatory, first, prefatory, preliminary ② *an introductory course* ELEMENTARY, basic, rudimentary, initiatory, preparatory
 —OPPOSITES final, advanced

Introspection ▶ *noun* SELF-ANALYSIS, soul-searching, introversion, contemplation, meditation, thoughtfulness, pensiveness, reflection, *informal* navel-gazing, *formal* cogitation

Introspective ▶ *adjective* INWARD-LOOKING, self-analysing, introverted, introvert, contemplative, thoughtful, pensive, meditative, reflective, *informal* navel-gazing

Introverted ▶ *adjective* SHY, reserved, withdrawn, reticent, diffident, retiring, quiet, introspective, introvert, inward-looking, indrawn, self-absorbed, contemplative, thoughtful, pensive, meditative, reflective
 —OPPOSITES extroverted

Intrude ▶ *verb* ① *intruding on people's privacy*. ENCROACH, impinge, trespass, infringe, obtrude, invade, violate, disturb, disrupt, *informal* horn in, muscle in. ② *he intruded his own personality into his work* FORCE, push, obtrude, impose, thrust.

Intruder ▶ *noun* TRESPASSER, interloper, invader, infiltrator, burglar, housebreaker, thief

Intrusion ▶ *noun* ENCROACHMENT, obtrusion; invasion, incursion, intervention, disturbance, disruption, infringement, impingement.

Intrusive ▶ *adjective* ① *an intrusive journalist*: INTRUDING, invasive, obtrusive, unwelcome; inquisitive, prying; *informal* nosy. ② *opinion polls play an intrusive role in elections*: INVASIVE, high-profile, prominent; *informal* in one's face. ③ *in-*

trusive questions **PERSONAL**, prying, forward, impertinent; *informal* nosy

Intuition ▶ **noun** ① *he works according to intuition*. **INSTINCT**, intuitiveness, sixth sense, clairvoyance, second sight ② *this confirms an intuition I had*. **HUNCH**, feeling (in one's bones), inkling, (sneaking) suspicion, premonition, presentiment, *informal* gut feeling

Intuitive ▶ **adjective** **INSTINCTIVE**, intuitional, instinctual, innate, inborn, inherent, natural, congenital; unconscious, subconscious, involuntary; *informal* gut

Intumescence ▶ **noun** (*rare*) **SWELLING**, bulging, bloating, distension, dilatation, turgidity

Inundate ▶ **verb** ① *many buildings were inundated* **FLOOD**, deluge, overrun, swamp, submerge, engulf ② *we have been inundated by complaints* **OVERWHELM**, overrun, overload, bog down, swamp, besiege, snow under

Inundation ▶ **noun** **FLOOD**, deluge, torrent, flash flood, freshet, *Brit* spate

Inure ▶ **verb** **HARDEN**, toughen, season, temper, condition, accustom, habituate, familiarize, acclimatize, adjust, adapt
—**OPPOSITES** sensitize

Invade ▶ **verb** ① *the island was invaded* **OCCUPY**, conquer, capture, seize, take (over), annex, win, gain, secure, march into, overrun, overwhelm, storm. ② *someone had invaded our privacy* **INTRUDE ON**, violate, encroach on, infringe on, trespass on, obtrude on, disturb, disrupt, *informal* horn in on, muscle in on ③ *the feeling of betrayal invaded my being* **PERMEATE**, pervade, spread through/over, diffuse through, imbue
—**OPPOSITES** withdraw

Invader ▶ **noun** **ATTACKER**, raider, marauder, occupier, conqueror, intruder

Invalid¹ ▶ **noun** *my mother is an invalid* **ILL PERSON**, sick person, valetudinarian, patient, convalescent

▶ **adjective** *her invalid husband* **ILL**, sick, ailing, unwell, infirm, valetudinarian, in poor health, incapacitated, bedridden, frail, feeble, weak, debilitated, sickly, poorly
—**OPPOSITES** healthy.

▶ **verb** *an officer invalidated by a chest wound* **DISABLE**, incapacitate, indispose, hospitalize, put out action, lay up, injure, wound, hurt

Invalid² ▶ **adjective** ① *the law was invalid* (**LEGALLY**) **VOID**, null and void, unenforceable, not binding, illegitimate, inapplicable ② *the whole theory is invalid* **FALSE**, untrue, inaccurate, faulty, fallacious, spurious, unconvincing, unsound, weak, wrong, wide of the mark, off target, untenable, baseless, ill-founded, groundless; *informal* off beam, full of holes
—**OPPOSITES** binding, true

Invalidate ▶ **verb** ① *a low turnout invalidated the ballot* **RENDER INVALID**, void, nullify, annul, negate, cancel, overturn, overrule. ② *this case invalidates the general argument*. **DISPROVE**, refute, explode, contradict, rebut, negate, belie, discredit, debunk; weaken, undermine, compromise; *informal* shoot full of holes; *formal* confute

Invaluable ▶ **adjective** **INDISPENSABLE**, crucial, critical, key, vital, irreplaceable, all-important.
—**OPPOSITES** dispensable.

Invariable ▶ **adjective** **UNVARYING**, unchanging, unvaried; constant, stable, set, steady, predict-

able, regular, consistent, unchangeable, unalterable, immutable, fixed

—**OPPOSITES** varied

Invariably ▶ **adverb** **ALWAYS**, on every occasion, at all times, without fail, without exception, everywhere, in all places, in all cases/instances, regularly, consistently, repeatedly, habitually, unfailingly

—**OPPOSITES** sometimes, never

Invasion ▶ **noun** ① *the invasion of the islands*. **OCCUPATION**, conquering, capture, seizure, annexation, annexing, takeover, overrunning, overwhelming, storming ② *an invasion of cars* **IN FLUX**, inundation, inrush, flood, torrent, deluge, avalanche ③ *an invasion of my privacy* **VIOLATION**, infringement, interruption, intrusion, encroachment, obtrusion, disturbance, disruption, breach

—**OPPOSITES** withdrawal

Invective ▶ **noun** **ABUSE**, insults, vituperation, expletives, swear words, swearing, curses, bad/foul language, obloquy, *archaic* contumely
—**OPPOSITES** praise

Inveigh ▶ **verb** **FULMINATE**, declaim, protest, rail, rage, remonstrate, denounce, censure, condemn, decry, criticize, disparage, denigrate, run down, abuse, vilify, impugn, *informal* kick up a fuss/stink about, bellyache about, sound off about

—**OPPOSITES** support

Inveigle ▶ **verb** **CAJOLE**, wheedle, coax, persuade, talk, tempt, lure, entice, seduce, beguile, *informal* sweet-talk, soft-soap, con, *N Amer* *informal* sucker, *archaic* blandish

Invent ▶ **verb** ① *Louis Braille invented an alphabet to help blind people* **ORIGINATE**, create, innovate, design, devise, contrive, develop, conceive, think up, dream up, come up with, pioneer ② *they invented the story for a laugh*: **MAKE UP**, fabricate, concoct, hatch, dream up, *informal* cook up

Invention ▶ **noun** ① *the invention of the telescope* **ORIGINATION**, creation, innovation, devising, contriving, development, design ② *medieval inventions* **INNOVATION**, creation, design, contraption, contrivance, construction, device, gadget, *informal* brainchild. See list at **INVENTOR** ③ *his invention was flagging* **INVENTIVENESS**, originality, creativity, creativeness, imagination, imaginativeness, inspiration ④ *a journalistic invention* **FABRICATION**, concoction, (piece of) fiction, story, tale, lie, untruth, falsehood, fib, myth, fantasy, *informal* tall story, cock-and-bull story

Inventive ▶ **adjective** ① *the most inventive composer of his time* **CREATIVE**, original, innovational, innovative, imaginative, ingenious, resourceful ② *a fresh, inventive comedy*: **ORIGINAL**, innovative, unusual, fresh, novel, new, experimental, avant-garde, ground-breaking, unorthodox, unconventional.

—**OPPOSITES** unimaginative, hackneyed

Inventor ▶ **noun** **ORIGINATOR**, creator, innovator; designer, deviser, developer, maker, producer; author, architect; pioneer, mastermind, father. See list.

Inventory ▶ **noun** *a complete inventory of all their belongings*: **LIST**, listing, catalogue, record, register, checklist, log, archive.

▶ **verb** *I inventoried his collection*: **LIST**, catalogue, record, register, log.



Inventors and Their Inventions

Abbe, Ernst	apochromatic lens	Helmholtz, Hermann	ophthalmoscope
Archimedes	Archimedean screw	von	
Arkwright, Richard	water-powered spinning machine	Hero of Alexandria	'aeoliptyle' (earliest known steam engine)
Armstrong, Edwin	FM radio	Hoe, Richard	first successful rotary printing press
Auer, Karl	Incandescent gas mantle	Hollerith, Herman	tabulating machine using punched cards
Babbage, Charles	calculating machine	Hooke, Robert	balance spring for watches
Bakeland, Leo	Bakelite	Hotchkiss, Benjamin Berkeley	Hotchkiss gun
Baird, John Logie	mechanical television system	Howe, Elias	sewing machine
Bell, Alexander Graham	telephone	Ives, Frederick	halftone photography
Berliner, Emile	flat phonograph disc	Jacquard, Joseph-Marie	Jacquard loom
Bessemer, Henry	Bessemer process	Laënnec, René	stethoscope
Birdseye, Clarence	process for freezing food in small packages	Land, Edwin	Polaroid camera
Biró, László	the 'biro' machine tools	Lumière, Auguste	'Cinématograph'
Bodmer, Johann	Braille raised-dot writing system	Lumière, Louis	'Cinématograph' macadamization of roads
Braille, Louis	hydraulic press	McAdam, John	reaping machine
Bramah, Joseph	coupled system of radio transmission	McCormick, Cyrus	pedal cycle
Braun, Karl	Bunsen burner	MacMillan, Kirkpatrick	Maxim machine gun
Bunsen, Robert	power loom	Maxim, Hiram	hot-air balloon
Cartwright, Edmund	caterpillar tractor	Montgolfier, Jacques-Étienne	hot-air balloon
Cayley, George	hovercraft	Montgolfier, Joseph-Michel	telegraph and morse code
Cockrell, Christopher	Colt revolver	Morse, Samuel Finley	steam piston engine
Colt, Samuel	electric telegraph alarm	Newcomen, Thomas	dynamite and gellignite
Cooke, William	Creed teleprinter	Nobel, Alfred Bernhard	permanent photographic images
Fothergill	spinning mule	Niépce, Joseph-Nicéphore	first elevator with a safety device
Creed, Frederick	first practical photographic process	Otis, Elisha	steam turbine
Crompton, Samuel	Davy lamp	Parsons, Charles	bathyscape
Daguerre, Louis-Jacques-Mandé	first cast-steel plough	Piccard, Auguste	lithography
Davy, Humphry	triode valve	Senefelder, Aloys	transistor
Deere, John	vacuum flask	Shockley, William	typewriter
De Forest, Lee	diesel engine	Sholes, Christopher	shrapnel shell
Dewar, James	pneumatic tyre	Shrapnel, Henry	open-hearth steel furnace
Diesel, Rudolf	bagless vacuum cleaner	Siemens, William	first successful sewing machine
Dunlop, John	photographic roll film and Kodak box camera	Singer, Isaac	steam locomotive
Dyson, James	phonograph and carbon filament lamp	Stephenson, George	an astronomical water clock
Eastman, George	DNA-blocking drugs	Su Sung	transformer
Edison, Thomas	mercury thermometer	Tesla, Nikola	maser
Elion, Gertrude B.	heterodyne receiver	Townes, Charles	seed drill
Fahrenheit, Gabriel	gyroscope	Tull, Jethro	first electric battery
Fessenden, Reginald	motion-picture camera	Volta, Alessandro, Count	improved steam engine
Foucault, Jean	paddle-wheel steamboat	Watt, James	electric telegraph and rheostat
Friese-Greene, William	holography	Wheatstone, Charles	mechanical cotton-gin
Fulton, Robert	Gatling gun	Whitney, Eli	jet aircraft engine
Gabor, Dennis	long-playing record	Whittle, Frank	
Gatling, Richard	vulcanized rubber		
Goldmark, Peter	air pump		
Goodyear, Charles	printing with movable type		
Guericke, Otto von	spinning jenny		
Gutenberg, Johannes			
Hangreaves, James			

Inverse ► adjective inverse snobbery: REVERSE, reversed, inverted, opposite, converse, contrary, counter, antithetical

► noun alkalinity is the inverse of acidity: OPPOSITE, converse, obverse, antithesis; informal flip side.

Inversion ► noun REVERSAL, transposition, turning upside down; reverse, contrary, antithesis, converse

Invert ► verb TURN UPSIDE DOWN, upturn, upend, turn around/about, turn inside out, turn back

to front, reverse, flip (over).

Invest ► verb ① he invested in a cotton mill: PUT/ PLOUGH MONEY INTO, provide capital for, fund, back, finance, underwrite; buy into, buy shares in. ② they invested £18 million: SPEND, expend, put in, plough in; venture, speculate, risk; informal lay out. ③ their words were invested with sarcasm: IMBUE, infuse, charge, steep, suffuse, pervade, endow. ④ the powers invested in the bishop: VEST IN, confer on, bestow on, grant to, entrust

to, put in someone's hands. ⑤ *bishops whom the king had invested*: ADMIT TO OFFICE, instate, install, induct, swear in; ordain, crown. ⑥ (archaic) *invested in the full canonicals of his calling*: CLOTHE, attire, dress, garb, robe, deck out, accoutre, archaic apparel. ⑦ (archaic) *he invested the fort of Arcot*: BESIEGE, lay siege to, beleague, surround.

Investigate ▶ **verb** ENQUIRE INTO, look into, go into, probe, explore, scrutinize, conduct an investigation into, make inquiries about, inspect, analyse, study, examine, consider, research, informal check out, suss out; *N Amer informal* scope out

Investigation ▶ **noun** EXAMINATION, inquiry, study, inspection, exploration, consideration, analysis, appraisal, research scrutiny, scrutinization, perusal, probe, review, survey

Investigator ▶ **noun** INSPECTOR, examiner, inquirer, explorer, analyser, researcher, fact-finder, scrutineer, scrutinizer, prober, searcher, detective

Investiture ▶ **noun** INAUGURATION, appointment, installation, instatement, initiation, swearing in, ordination, consecration, crowning, enthronement

Investment ▶ **noun** ① *you can lose money by bad investment*: INVESTING, speculation, funding, backing, financing, underwriting, buying shares. ② *it's a good investment*: VENTURE, speculation, risk, gamble, asset, acquisition, holding, possession. ③ *an investment of £305,000*: STAKE, share, money/capital invested. ④ *a substantial investment of time*: SACRIFICE, surrender, loss, forfeiture

Inveterate ▶ **adjective** ① *an inveterate gambler*: CONFIRMED, hardened, incorrigible, addicted, compulsive, obsessive, informal pathological. ② *an inveterate Democrat*: STAUNCH, steadfast, committed, devoted, dedicated, dyed-in-the-wool, out-and-out, diehard. ③ *mankind's inveterate stupidity*: INGRAINED, deep-seated, deep-rooted, entrenched, ineradicable, incurable

Invidious ▶ **adjective** ① *that put her in an invidious position*: UNPLEASANT, awkward, difficult, undesirable, unenviable. ② *an invidious comparison*: UNFAIR, unjust, iniquitous, unwarranted, deleterious, detrimental
—OPPOSITES pleasant, fair

Invigorate ▶ **verb** REVITALIZE, energize, refresh, revive, vivify, brace, rejuvenate, enliven, liven up, perk up, wake up, animate, galvanize, fortify, stimulate, rouse, exhilarate, informal buck up, pep up
—OPPOSITES tire

Invincible ▶ **adjective** INVULNERABLE, indestructible, unconquerable, unbeatable, indomitable, unassailable, impregnable, inviolable
—OPPOSITES vulnerable

Inviolable ▶ **adjective** INALIENABLE, absolute, unalterable, unchallengeable; sacrosanct, holy, sacred.

Inviolable ▶ **adjective** UNTOUCHED, undamaged, unhurt, unharmed, unscathed, unspoiled, unflawed, unsullied, unstained, undefiled, unprofaned, perfect, pristine, pure; intact, unbroken, whole, entire, complete

Invisible ▶ **adjective** UNABLE TO BE SEEN, NOT VISIBLE; undetectable, indiscernible, inconspic-

uous, imperceptible, unseen, unnoticed, unobserved, hidden, obscured, out of sight

Invitation ▶ **noun** ① *an invitation to dinner*: request to attend, call, summons, informal invite. ② *an open door is an invitation to a thief*: ENCOURAGEMENT, provocation, temptation, lure, magnet, bait, enticement, attraction, allure, informal come-on

Invite ▶ **verb** ① *they invited us to Sunday lunch*: ASK, summon, have someone over/round, request (the pleasure of) someone's company at. ② *applications are invited for the posts*: ASK FOR, request, call for, appeal for, solicit, seek, summon. ③ *airing such views invites trouble*: CAUSE, induce, provoke, create, generate, engender, foster, encourage, lead to, incite, elicit, bring on oneself, arouse

▶ **noun** (informal) *an invite to a party*: See INVITATION sense 1

Inviting ▶ **adjective** TEMPTING, enticing, alluring, beguiling, attractive, appealing, pleasant, agreeable, delightful, appetizing, mouth-watering, fascinating, enchanting, entrancing, captivating, intriguing, irresistible, seductive
—OPPOSITES repellent

Invocation ▶ **noun** ① *her invocation of new methodologies*: CITATION, mention, acknowledgement, reference to, allusion to. ② *the invocation of rain by tribal people*: SUMMONING, calling up, conjuring up. ③ *an invocation to the Holy Ghost*: PRAYER, intercession, supplication, entreaty, petition, appeal, archaic orison

Invoice ▶ **noun** *an invoice for the goods*: BILL, account, statement (of charges), *N Amer* check, informal tab, archaic reckoning

▶ **verb** *we'll invoice you for the damage*: BILL, charge, send an invoice/bill to

Invoke ▶ **verb** ① *he invoked his statutory rights*: CITE, refer to, adduce, instance, resort to, have recourse to, turn to. ② *I invoked the Madonna*: PRAY TO, call on, appeal to, supplicate, entreat, solicit, beg, implore, poetic/literary beseech. ③ *invoking the spirits*: SUMMON, call (up), conjure (up). ④ *middle-class moralities invoke peculiar anxieties*: BRING FORTH, bring out, elicit, induce, cause, kindle.

Involuntary ▶ **adjective** ① *an involuntary shudder*: REFLEX, automatic, spontaneous, instinctive, unconscious, unintentional, uncontrollable. ② *involuntary repatriation*: COMPULSORY, obligatory, mandatory, forced, coerced, compelled, imposed, required, prescribed, unwilling, unconsenting, against one's will
—OPPOSITES deliberate, optional

Involve ▶ **verb** ① *the inspection involved a lot of work*: REQUIRE, necessitate, demand, call for, entail, mean, imply, presuppose. ② *I try to involve everyone in key decisions*: INCLUDE, count in, bring in, take into account, take note of; cover, incorporate, encompass, touch on, embrace, comprehend. ③ *many drug addicts involve themselves in crime*: IMPLICATE, incriminate, inculpate, associate, connect, concern; embroil, entangle, enmesh; informal mix up
—OPPOSITES preclude, exclude

Involved ▶ **adjective** ① *social workers involved in the case*: ASSOCIATED, connected, concerned. ② *he had been involved in burglaries*: IMPLICATED, incriminated, inculpated, embroiled, entangled, caught up, mixed up. ③ *a long and involved*

story **COMPLICATED**, intricate, complex, elaborate, convoluted, impenetrable, unfathomable
 ① they were totally involved in their work. **ENGROSSED**, absorbed, immersed, caught up, preoccupied, busy, engaged, intent
 -**OPPOSITES** unconnected, straightforward

Involvement ▶ noun ① his involvement in a plot to overthrow the government. **PARTICIPATION**, action, hand, collaboration, collusion, complicity, implication, incrimination, inculpation, association, connection, attachment, entanglement
 ② emotional involvement **ATTACHMENT**, friendship, intimacy; relationship, relations, bond

Invulnerable ▶ adjective **IMPERVIOUS**, insusceptible, immune, indestructible, impenetrable, impregnable, unassailable, inviolable, invincible, secure, proof against

Inward ▶ adjective ① a small inward indentation **TOWARDS THE INSIDE**, going in, ingoing; concave
 ② an inward smile. **INTERNAL**, inner, interior, innermost, private, personal, hidden, secret, veiled, masked, concealed, unexpressed, archaic privy

-**OPPOSITES** outward

▶ **adverb** the door opened inward See **INWARDS**

Inwardly ▶ **adverb** **INSIDE**, internally, within, deep down (inside), in one's heart (of hearts), privately, secretly, confidentially

Inwards ▶ **adverb** **INSIDE**, into the interior, inward, within

Iota ▶ noun (**LITTLE**) BIT, mite, speck, scrap, shred, ounce, scintilla, atom, jot (or tittle), *informal* smidgen, *archaic* scruple

Irascible ▶ adjective **IRRITABLE**, quick-tempered, short-tempered, snappish, tetchy, testy, touchy, edgy, crabby, waspish, dyspeptic, crusty, grouchy, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, ill-natured, peevish, querulous, fractious, *informal* prickly, ratty, snappy

Irate ▶ adjective **ANGRY**, furious, infuriated, incensed, enraged, incandescent, fuming, seething, cross, mad; raging, ranting, raving, in a frenzy, beside oneself, outraged, up in arms, indignant, annoyed, irritated, irked, piqued, *informal* foaming at the mouth, hot under the collar, *poetic/literary* wrathful, *archaic* wroth.

Ire ▶ noun (*poetic/literary*) **ANGER**, rage, fury, wrath, outrage, temper, crossness, spleen; annoyance, exasperation, irritation, displeasure, indignation, *poetic/literary* choler

Ireland ▶ noun **Eire**, the Republic of Ireland, the Irish Republic; **Hibernia**, the Emerald Isle; *poetic/literary* Erin. See **ISTS**

The Six Counties of Northern Ireland

COUNTY	CHIEF TOWN
Antrim	Belfast
Armagh	Armagh
Down	Downpatrick
Fermanagh	Fenagh
Londonderry	Londonderry
Tyrone	Oraugh

Provinces and Counties of the Republic of Ireland

PROVINCE	COUNTY	COUNTY TOWN
Leinster	Carlow	Carlow
	Dublin	Dublin
	Kildare	Nees
	Kilkenny	Kilkenny
	Laos	Port Laos
	Longford	Longford
	Louth	Dundalk
	Meath	Navan
	Offaly	Tullamore
	Westmeath	Mullingar
	Wexford	Wexford
	Wicklow	Wicklow
Munster	Clare	Ennis
	Cork	Cork
	Kerry	Tralee
	Limerick	Limerick
	Tipperary	Clonmel
	Waterford	Dungarvan
	Galway	Galway
Connacht	Leitrim	Carrick-on-Shannon
	Mayo	Castlebar
	Roscommon	Roscommon
	Sligo	Sligo
Ulster (formerly)	Cavan	Cavan
	Donegal	Lifford
	Monaghan	Monaghan

Iridescent ▶ adjective **SHIMMERING**, glittering, sparkling, dazzling, shining, gleaming, glowing, lustrous, scintillating, opalescent; *poetic/literary* glistening, coruscating, effulgent

Irk ▶ verb **IRRITATE**, annoy, gall, pique, nettle, exasperate, try someone's patience, anger, infuriate, madden, incense, get on someone's nerves, antagonize, provoke, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise, *Brit* rub up the wrong way, *informal* get someone's goat, get/put someone's back up, make someone's blood boil, peeve, miff, rile, aggravate, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, brown off, get up someone's nose, give someone the hump, drive mad/crazy, drive up the wall, make someone see red, *Brit informal* wind up, cheese off, nark, get on someone's wick; *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off, rankle, rde, gravel.
 -**OPPOSITES** please.

Irksome ▶ adjective **IRRITATING**, annoying, vexing, vexatious, galling, exasperating, disagreeable; tiresome, wearsome, tedious, trying, troublesome, bothersome, awkward, difficult, boring, uninteresting; infuriating, maddening; *informal* infernal.

Iron ▶ noun ① a ship built of iron: metal, pig iron, cast iron, wrought iron. ② she needed some iron in her soul: **STRENGTH**, toughness, resilience, firmness, robustness, steel, grit; *informal* guts, spunk. ③ a soldering iron. **TOOL**, implement, utensil, device. ④ a hot iron: **FLAT IRON**, electric iron, steam iron, smoothing iron. ⑤ they were clapped in irons: **MANACLES**, shackles, fetters, chains, handcuffs; *informal* cuffs, bracelets.
 ▶ adjective ① an iron key: **MADE OF IRON**, ferric, ferrous. ② an iron law of politics: **INFLEXIBLE**, unbreakable, absolute, unconditional, categorical,

incontrovertible, infallible ① *an iron will*. UN COMPROMISING, unrelenting, unyielding, unbending, resolute, resolved, determined, firm, rigid, steadfast, unwavering

—OPPOSITES flexible

► **verb** she irons his shirts PRESS

■ **iron something out** ① John had ironed out all the minor snags RESOLVE, straighten out, sort out, clear up, settle, put right, solve, remedy, rectify, *informal* fix, mend ② ironing out differences in national systems. ELIMINATE, eradicate, erase, get rid of, harmonize, reconcile

Ironic ► **adjective** ① Edward's tone was ironic SARCASTIC, sardonic, dry, caustic, sharp, stinging, scathing, acerbic, acid, bitter, trenchant, mordant, cynical, mocking, satirical, scoffing, derisive, derisive, scornful, *Brit informal* sarky ② it's ironic that I've ended up writing PARADOXICAL, incongruous, odd, strange, peculiar, unexpected

—OPPOSITES sincere

irony ► **noun** ① that note of irony in her voice SARCASTIC, sardonicism, dryness, causticity, sharpness, acerbity, bitterness, trenchancy, mordancy, cynicism, mockery, satire, ridicule, derision, scorn, *Brit informal* sarkiness ② the irony of the situation PARADOX, incongruity, incongruousness, peculiarity

—OPPOSITES sincerity

irradiate ► **verb** ILLUMINATE, light (up), cast light upon, brighten, shine on, *poetic/literary* illumine

Irrational ► **adjective** UNREASONABLE, illogical, groundless, baseless, unfounded, unjustifiable, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, silly, foolish, senseless

—OPPOSITES logical

irreconcilable ► **adjective** ① irreconcilable views INCOMPATIBLE, at odds, at variance, conflicting, clashing, antagonistic, mutually exclusive, diametrically opposed, disparate, variant, dissimilar, poles apart; *rare* oppugnant ② irreconcilable enemies IMPLACABLE, unappeasable, uncompromising, inflexible, mortal, bitter, deadly, sworn, out-and-out

—OPPOSITES compatible

irrecoverable ► **adjective** UNRECOVERABLE, unreclaimable, ir retrievable, irredeemable, unsalvageable, gone for ever, written off

Irrefutable ► **adjective** INDISPUTABLE, undeniable, unquestionable, incontrovertible, incontestable, beyond question, beyond doubt, conclusive, definite, definitive, decisive, certain, positive

Irregular ► **adjective** ① irregular features | an irregular coastline ASYMMETRICAL, non-uniform, uneven, crooked, misshapen, lopsided, twisted, jagged, ragged, serrated, indented. ② irregular surfaces: ROUGH, bumpy, uneven, pitted, rutted; lumpy, knobbly, gnarled ③ an irregular heartbeat: INCONSISTENT, unsteady, uneven, fitful, patchy, variable, varying, changeable, changing, inconstant, erratic, unstable, unsettled, spasmodic, intermittent, fluctuating. ④ irregular financial dealings AGAINST THE RULES, out of order, improper, illegitimate, unscrupulous, unethical, unprofessional, unacceptable, beyond the pale, *informal* shady; *Brit informal* not cricket, *Austral/NZ informal* over the fence. ⑤ an irregular army: GUERRILLA, underground; paramilitary; partisan, mercenary

—OPPOSITES straight, smooth.

► **noun** gun-toting irregulars. GUERRILLA, underground fighter, paramilitary; resistance fighter, partisan, mercenary

Irregularity ► **noun** ① the irregularity of the coastline ASYMMETRY, non-uniformity, unevenness, crookedness, lopsidedness, jaggedness, raggedness, indentation. ② the irregularity of the surface ROUGHNESS, bumpiness, unevenness, lumpiness, knobbliness ③ irregularities in the concrete: BUMP, lump, bulge, hump, protuberance, kink, hole, hollow, pit, crater, depression, dip, indentation, dent, crack, chunk, fissure, cranny. ④ the irregularity of the bus service INCONSISTENCY, unsteadiness, unevenness, fitfulness, patchiness, inconstancy, instability, variability, changeableness, fluctuation, unpredictability, unreliability ⑤ financial irregularities IMpropriety, wrongdoing, misconduct, dishonesty, corruption, immorality, *informal* shadiness, crookedness ⑥ staff noted any irregularity in operation ABNORMALITY, unusualness, strangeness, oddness, singularity, atypicality, anomaly, deviation, aberration, peculiarity, idiosyncrasy

Irregularly ► **adverb** ① irregularly hexagonal ASYMMETRICALLY, unevenly ② his heart was beating irregularly ERRATICALLY, intermittently, in/by fits and starts, fitfully, patchily, haphazardly, unsystematically, unmethodically, inconsistently, unsteadily, unevenly, variably, spasmodically, discontinuously, inconstantly

Irrelevance ► **noun** INAPPLICABILITY, unrelatedness, inappropriateness, inappositeness, unimportance, inconsequentiality, insignificance, *formal* impertinence

Irrelevant ► **adjective** BESIDE THE POINT, immaterial, not pertinent, not germane, off the subject, unconnected, unrelated, peripheral, extraneous, inapposite, unimportant, inconsequential, insignificant, trivial; *formal* impertinent

Irreligious ► **adjective** ATHEISTIC, unbelieving, non-believing, agnostic, heretical, faithless, godless, ungodly, impious, profane, infidel, barbarian, heathen, pagan, *rare* nullifidian

—OPPOSITES pious.

Irreparable ► **adjective** IRREVERSIBLE, unrectifiable, irrevocable, unrestorable, irrecoverable, unrepairable, beyond repair

—OPPOSITES repairable.

Irreplaceable ► **adjective** UNIQUE, unrepeatable, incomparable, unparalleled, treasured, prized, cherished

Irrepressible ► **adjective** ① the desire for freedom is irrepressible. INEXTINGUISHABLE, unquenchable, uncontrollable, indestructible, undying, everlasting ② his irrepressible personality EBULLIENT, exuberant, buoyant, sunny, breezy, jaunty, light-hearted, high-spirited, vivacious, animated, full of life, lively; *informal* bubbly, bouncy, peppy, chipper, chirpy, full of beans.

Irreproachable ► **adjective** IMPECCABLE, exemplary, model, immaculate, outstanding, exceptional, admirable, perfect; above/beyond reproach, blameless, faultless, flawless, unblemished, untarnished, spotless; *informal* squeaky clean, whiter than white.

—OPPOSITES reprehensible.

Irresistible ► **adjective** ① her irresistible smile TEMPTING, enticing, alluring, inviting, seductive;



attractive, desirable, fetching, appealing, captivating, beguiling, enchanting. ② *an irresistible impulse* UNCONTROLLABLE, overwhelming, overpowering, compelling, compulsive, irrepressible, ungovernable, driving, forceful

Irresolute ▶ *adjective* INDECISIVE, hesitant, vacillating, equivocating, dithering, wavering, shilly-shallying; ambivalent, blowing hot and cold, in two minds, in a dilemma, in a quandary, torn, doubtful, in doubt, unsure, uncertain, undecided, *informal* sitting on the fence
-OPPOSITES decisive

Irresolution ▶ *noun* INDECISIVENESS, indecision, irresoluteness, hesitancy, hesitation, doubt, doubtfulness, unsureness, uncertainty, vacillation, equivocation, wavering, shilly-shallying, blowing hot and cold, dithering, temporizing, temporization, *Brit* hawing, humming and hawing, *informal* dilly-dallying, sitting on the fence

Irrespective ▶ *adjective* REGARDLESS OF, without regard to/for, notwithstanding, whatever, no matter what, without consideration of, *informal* irregardless of

Irresponsible ▶ *adjective* ① irresponsible behaviour RECKLESS, rash, careless, thoughtless, incautious, unwise, imprudent, ill-advised, injudicious, misguided, unheeding, hasty, overhasty, precipitate, precipitous, foolhardy, impetuous, impulsive, devil-may-care, hot-headed, delinquent, *N Amer* derelict ② *an irresponsible teenager* IMMATURE, naive, foolish, hare-brained; unreliable, undependable, untrustworthy, flighty, giddy, scatterbrained, harum-scarum
-OPPOSITES sensible

Irretrievable ▶ *adjective* IRREVERSIBLE, unrectifiable, irremediable, irrecoverable, irreparable, unrepairable, beyond repair
-OPPOSITES reversible

Irreverent ▶ *adjective* DISRESPECTFUL, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, derisive, disparaging, impertinent, cheeky, flippant, rude, discourteous
-OPPOSITES respectful

Irreversible ▶ *adjective* IRREPARABLE, unrepairable, beyond repair, unrectifiable, irremediable, irrevocable, permanent, unalterable, unchangeable, immutable, *Law* peremptory

Irrevocable ▶ *adjective* IRREVERSIBLE, unalterable, unchangeable, immutable, final, binding, permanent, *Law* peremptory

Irrigate ▶ *verb* WATER, bring water to, soak, flood, inundate.

Irritability ▶ *noun* IRASCIBILITY, tetchiness, testiness, touchiness, grumpiness, moodiness, grouchiness, a (bad) mood, cantankerousness, curmudgeonliness, bad temper, short temper, ill humour, peevishness, crossness, fractiousness, pettishness, crabbiness, waspishness, prickliness; *Brit* *informal* shirtiness, stroppiness, rattiness; *N Amer* *informal* crankiness, ornerness; *Austral/NZ* *informal* snakiness, *poetic/literary* cholera

Irritable ▶ *adjective* BAD-TEMPERED, short-tempered, irascible, tetchy, testy, touchy, grumpy, grouchy, moody, crotchety, in a (bad) mood, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabby, waspish, prickly, splenetic, dyspeptic, choleric; *informal* on a short fuse; *Brit* *informal* shirty, stroppy, ratty; *N Amer.* *informal*

cranky, ornery, peckish, *Austral/NZ* *informal* snaky

-OPPOSITES good-humoured

Irritant ▶ *noun* ANNOYANCE, (source of) irritation, thorn in someone's side/flesh, pest, bother, trial, torment, plague, inconvenience, nuisance, *informal* aggravation, peeve, pain (in the neck), headache, *N Amer* *informal* nudnik, burr in/under someone's saddle, *Austral/NZ* *informal* nark

Irritate ▶ *verb* ① the smallest things may irritate you ANNOY, vex, make angry, make cross, anger, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, nettle, put out, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise; infuriate, madden, provoke, *Brit* rub up the wrong way, *informal* aggravate, miff, rile, needle, get to, bug, hack off, get under someone's skin, get/put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, give someone the hump, drive mad/crazy, drive round the bend/twist, drive up the wall, *Brit* *informal* wind up, get on someone's wick, *N Amer* *informal* tee off, tick off, rangle, ride, gravel ② some sand irritated my eyes INFLAME, aggravate, hurt, chafe, abrade, scratch, scrape, graze
-OPPOSITES pacify, soothe

Irritated ▶ *adjective* ANNOYED, cross, angry, vexed, exasperated, irked, piqued, nettled, put out, disgruntled, in a bad mood, in a temper, testy, huffy, in a huff, aggrieved, irate, infuriated, incensed, *informal* aggravated, peeved, miffed, mad, riled, hacked off, browned off, fed up, hot under the collar, *Brit* *informal* cheesed off, brassed off, ratty, shirty, *N Amer* *informal* teed off, ticked off, sore, *Austral/NZ* *informal* snaky, crook, *archaic* snuffy, wroth
-OPPOSITES good-humoured

Irritating ▶ *adjective* ANNOYING, infuriating, exasperating, maddening, trying, tiresome, vexing, vexatious, irksome, galling, *informal* aggravating

Irritation ▶ *noun* ① she tried not to show her irritation ANNOYANCE, exasperation, vexation, indignation, impatience, crossness, displeasure, chagrin, pique, anger, rage, fury, wrath, *informal* aggravation, *poetic/literary* ire ② I realize my presence is an irritation for you IRRITANT, annoyance, thorn in someone's side/flesh, bother, trial, torment, plague, inconvenience, nuisance, *informal* aggravation, pain (in the neck), headache, *N Amer* *informal* nudnik, burr in/under someone's saddle, *Austral/NZ* *informal* nark.
-OPPOSITES delight

Island ▶ *noun* ISLE, islet, atoll; *Brit* holm, (Islands) archipelago See list
-RELATED TERMS insular

Isolate ▶ *verb* ① she isolated herself from her family | the contaminated area was isolated. SEPARATE, set/keep apart, segregate, detach, cut off, shut away, divorce, alienate, distance; keep in solitude, cloister, seclude, cordon off, seal off, close off, fence off. ② the laser beam can isolate the offending vehicles IDENTIFY, single out, pick out, point out, spot, recognize, distinguish, pinpoint, locate.
-OPPOSITES integrate.

Isolated ▶ *adjective* ① isolated communities: REMOTE, out of the way, outlying, off the beaten

Largest Islands

ISLAND	COUNTRY/COUNTRIES
Greenland	Denmark
New Guinea	Indonesia/Papua New Guinea
Borneo	Indonesia/Malaysia/Brunei
Madagascar	
Baffin Island	Canada
Sumatra	Indonesia
Honshu	Japan
Great Britain	
Victoria Island	Canada
Ellesmere Island	Canada
Sulawesi	Indonesia
South Island	New Zealand
Java	Indonesia
North Island	New Zealand
Cuba	
Newfoundland	Canada
Luzon	Philippines
Iceland	
Mindanao	Philippines
Ireland	
Hokkaido	Japan

Australia is classified as a continent

track, secluded, lonely, in the back of beyond, godforsaken, inaccessible, cut-off, *N Amer* in the backwoods, lonesome, *Austral/NZ* in the backblocks, in the booby, *informal* in the middle of nowhere, in the sticks, *N Amer informal* jerkwater, in the tall timbers, *Austral/NZ informal* Barcoo, beyond the black stump, *archaic* unapproachable ② *he lived a very isolated existence* SOLITARY, lonely, companionless, friendless, secluded, cloistered, segregated, unsociable, reclusive, hermitic, *N Amer* lonesome ③ *an isolated incident* UNIQUE, lone, solitary, unusual, uncommon, exceptional, anomalous, abnormal, untypical, freak, *informal* one-off
 -OPPOSITES accessible, sociable, common

Isolation ► noun ① *patients who need isolation* SEPARATION, segregation, seclusion, keeping apart ② *their feeling of isolation* SOLITARINESS, loneliness, friendlessness ③ *the isolation of some mental hospitals* REMOTENESS, seclusion, inaccessibility
 -OPPOSITES contact

Israel ► noun. See list

The Twelve Tribes of Israel

Asher	Issachar	Naphtali
Benjamin	Judah	Reuben
Dan	Levi	Simeon
Gad	Manasseh	Zebulun

Issue ► noun ① *the committee discussed the issue*: MATTER (IN QUESTION), question, point (at issue), affair, case, subject, topic, problem, bone of contention. ② *the issue of a special stamp*: ISSUING, publication, publishing, circulation, distribution, supplying, appearance. ③ *the latest issue of our magazine*: EDITION, number, instalment, copy ④ *(Law) she died without issue*: OFFSPRING, descendants, heirs, successors, children, progeny, family; *informal* kids; *archaic* seed, fruit (of one's loins). ⑤ *an issue of blood*: DISCHARGE,

emission, release, outflow, outflowing, outflux, secretion, emanation, exudation, effluence, *technical* efflux. ⑥ *(dated) a favourable issue*: (END) RESULT, outcome, consequence, upshot, conclusion, end

► verb ① *the minister issued a statement*: SEND OUT, put out, release, deliver, publish, announce, broadcast, communicate, circulate, distribute, disseminate ② *the captain issued the crew with guns* SUPPLY, provide, furnish, arm, equip, fit out, rig out, kit out, *informal* fix up ③ *savoury smells issued from the kitchen* EMANATE, emerge, exude, flow (out/forth), pour (out/forth), be emitted ④ *large profits might issue from the deal*: RESULT, follow, ensue, stem, spring, arise, proceed, be the result of, be brought on/about by, be produced by

-OPPOSITES withdraw

■ **at issue** IN QUESTION, in dispute, under discussion, under consideration, for debate

■ **take issue** DISAGREE, be in dispute, be in contention, be at variance, be at odds, argue, quarrel, challenge, dispute, (call into) question, *archaic* discord

Italy ► noun. See list

Regions of Italy

REGION	CAPITAL
Abruzzi	L'Aquila
Apulia	Bari
Basilicata	Potenza
Calabria	Reggio di Calabria
Campania	Naples
Emilia-Romagna	Bologna
Friuli-Venezia Giulia	Trieste
Lazio	Rome
Liguria	Genoa
Lombardy	Milan
The Marches	Ancona
Molise	Campobasso
Piedmont	Turin
Sardinia	Cagliari
Sicily	Palermo
Trentino-Alto Adige	Bolzano
Trento	Trento
Tuscany	Florence
Umbria	Perugia
Valle d'Aosta	Aosta
Venetia	Venice

Itch ► noun ① *I have an itch on my back*: tingling, irritation, itchiness ② *(informal) the itch to travel* LONGING, yearning, craving, ache, hunger, thirst, urge, hankering, wish, fancy, desire, *informal* yen.

► verb ① *my chilblains really itch* tingle, be irritated, be itchy ② *(informal) he itched to do something to help*: LONG, yearn, ache, burn, crave, hanker for/after, hunger, thirst, be eager, be desperate; want, wish, desire, fancy, set one's sights on; *informal* have a yen, be dying, be gagging.

Item ► noun ① *an item of farm equipment* | *the main item in a badger's diet*: THING, article, object, artefact, piece, product; element, constituent, component, ingredient. ② *the meeting discussed the item*: ISSUE, matter, affair, case, situation, subject, topic, question, point. ③ *a news item*: REPORT, story, account, article, piece, write-up,

bulletin, feature ④ *items in the profit and loss account* ENTRY, record, statement, listing

Itemize ▶ **verb** ① *Steinburg itemized thirty-two design faults* LIST, catalogue, inventory, record, document, register, detail, specify, identify, enumerate, number ② *an itemized bill* ANALYSE, break down, split up

Iterate ▶ **verb** REPEAT, recapitulate, go over/through again, say again, restate, reiterate; *informal* recap, *archaic* ingeminate

Itinerant ▶ **adjective** *itinerant traders* TRAVELLING, peripatetic, wandering, roving, roaming, touring, nomadic, gypsy, migrant, vagrant, vagabond, of no fixed address/abode.

▶ **noun** *an itinerants' lodging house* TRAVELLER, wanderer, roamer, rover, nomad, gypsy, migrant, transient, drifter, vagabond, vagrant, tramp, *dated* bird of passage

Itinerary ▶ **noun** (PLANNED) ROUTE, journey, way, road, travel plan, schedule, timetable, programme, tour



jab ► **verb** he jabbed the Englishman with his finger
POKE, prod, dig, nudge, butt, ram, thrust, stab, push

► **noun** a jab in the ribs POKE, prod, dig, nudge, butt, thrust, stab, push

jabber ► **verb** they jabbered away non-stop PRATTLE, babble, chatter, twitter, prate, gabble, rattle on/away, blather; *informal* yak, yap, yabber, yatter, blab, blabber, *Brit informal* witter, rabbit, natter, *archaic* twaddle, clack

► **noun** stop your jabber! PRATTLE, babble, chatter, chattering, twitter, twittering, gabble, blather, *informal* yabbering, yatter, blabber, *Brit informal* wittering, rabbiting, nattering, *archaic* clack

jack

■ **jack something up** ① they jacked up the car RAISE, hoist, lift (up), winch up, lever up, hitch up, elevate ② (*informal*) he may need to jack up interest rates INCREASE, raise, put up, up, mark up, *informal* hike (up), bump up

jacket ► **noun** WRAPPING, wrapper, wrap, sleeve, sheath, sheathing, cover, covering See list at COAT

jackpot ► **noun** this week's lottery jackpot TOP PRIZE, first prize, pool, bonanza

■ **hit the jackpot** (*informal*) WIN A LARGE PRIZE, win a lot of money, strike it lucky/rich, *informal* clean up, hit the big time

jaded ► **adjective** ① a jaded palate SATIATED, sated, surfeited, glutted, dulled, blunted, deadened ② she felt really jaded TIRED (OUT), weary, wearied, worn out, exhausted, fatigued, overtired, sapped, drained, *informal* all in, done (in), dead (beat), dead on one's feet, bushed, *Brit informal* knackered, whacked, *N Amer informal* tuckered out
-OPPOSITES fresh.

jag ► **noun** SHARP PROJECTION, point, barb, thorn

jagged ► **adjective** SPIKY, barbed, ragged, rough, uneven, irregular, broken, serrated, sawtooth, indented
-OPPOSITES smooth

jail ► **noun** he was thrown into jail PRISON, penal institution, lock-up, detention centre, *N Amer* penitentiary, jailhouse, stockade, correctional facility, *informal* clink, slammer, inside, jug, brig, cooler; *Brit informal* nick, *N Amer informal* can, pen, slam, pokey; *Brit historical* approved school, borstal, bridewell; *N Amer historical* reformatory

► **verb** she was jailed for killing her husband IM PRISON, put in prison, send to prison, incarcerate, lock up, put away, intern, detain, hold (prisoner/captive), put into detention, *informal* send down, put behind bars, put inside, *Brit informal* bang up.
-OPPOSITES acquit, release.

jailer ► **noun** PRISON OFFICER, warder, wardress, warden, guard, captor; *informal* screw, *archaic* turnkey

jam¹ ► **verb** ① he jammed a finger in each ear: STUFF, shove, force, ram, thrust, press, push, stick, squeeze, cram. ② hundreds of people jammed into the hall: CROWD, pack, pile, press,

squeeze, cram; throng, mob, occupy, fill, overcrowd, obstruct, block, clog, congest ③ the ruler had jammed STICK, become stuck, catch, seize (up), become trapped. ④ dust can jam the mechanism IMMOBILIZE, paralyse, disable, cripple, put out of action, bring to a standstill

► **noun** ① a traffic jam TAILBACK, hold-up, congestion, bottleneck, *N Amer* gridlock, *informal* snarl-up ② (*informal*) we are in a real jam PREDICAMENT, plight, tricky situation, difficulty, problem, quandary, dilemma, muddle, mess, imbroglio, mare's nest, dire straits; *informal* pickle, stew, fix, hole, scrape, bind, (tight) spot, (tight) corner, hot/deep water, *Brit informal* spot of bother

jam² ► **noun** raspberry jam PRESERVE, conserve, jelly, marmalade

jamb ► **noun** POST, doorpost, upright, frame

jamboree ► **noun** RALLY, gathering, convention, conference; festival, fête, fiesta, gala, carnival, celebration, *informal* bash, shindig, shindy, junket

jammy ► **adjective** (*Brit informal*) See LUCKY sense 1

jangle ► **verb** ① keys jangled at his waist. CLANK, clink, jingle, tinkle ② the noise jangled her nerves GRATE ON, jar on, irritate, disturb, fray, put/set on edge, *informal* get on.

► **noun** the jangle of his chains CLANK, clanking, clink, clinking, jangling, jingle, jingling, tinkling, tinnabulation

janitor ► **noun** CARETAKER, custodian, porter, concierge, doorkeeper, doorman, warden, cleaner, maintenance man, *N Amer* superintendent

jar¹ ► **noun** a jar of honey GLASS CONTAINER, pot, crock, receptacle

jar² ► **verb** ① each step jarred my whole body JOLT, jerk, shake, vibrate ② her shrill voice jarred on him GRATE, set someone's teeth on edge, irritate, annoy, irk, exasperate, nettle, disturb, discompose, *informal* rile, aggravate, get on someone's nerves ③ the play's symbolism jarred with the realism of its setting CLASH, conflict, contrast, be incompatible, be at variance, be at odds, be inconsistent, be discordant, *informal* scream at

jargon ► **noun** SPECIALIZED LANGUAGE, slang, cant, idiom, argot, patter, gobbledegook; *informal* -speak, -ese

jarring ► **adjective** CLASHING, conflicting, contrasting, incompatible, incongruous; discordant, dissonant, inharmonious, harsh, grating, strident, shrill, cacophonous.
-OPPOSITES harmonious

jaundiced ► **adjective** BITTER, resentful, cynical, soured, disenchanted, disillusioned, disappointed, pessimistic, sceptical, distrustful, suspicious, misanthropic.

jaunt ► **noun** (PLEASURE) TRIP, outing, excursion, day trip, day out, mini holiday, short break; tour, drive, ride, run; *informal* spin, tootle.

Jazz Musicians and Singers

Armstrong, Louis (American trumpeter/singer/
bandleader)
Baker, Chet (American trumpeter/singer)
Basie, Count (American pianist/bandleader)
Bechet, Sidney (American soprano saxophonist)
Belderbecke, Bix (American cornettist/pianist)
Blakey, Art (American drummer)
Bley, Carla (American pianist)
Bolden, Buddy (American cornettist)
Brubeck, Dave (American pianist)
Calloway, Cab (American singer/bandleader)
Carmichael, Hoagy (American pianist/singer)
Charles, Ray (American pianist/singer)
Cheatham, Doc (American trumpeter)
Christian, Charlie (American guitarist)
Coleman, Ornette (American saxophonist)
Coltrane, John (American saxophonist)
Condon, Eddie (American guitarist)
Corea, Chick (American pianist)
Dankworth, John (English saxophonist)
Davis, Miles (American trumpeter)
Dolphy, Eric (American saxophonist)
Domino, Fats (American pianist/singer)
Ellington, Duke (American bandleader/pianist)
Evans, Bill (American pianist)
Evans, Gil (Canadian pianist)
Fitzgerald, Ella (American singer)
Getz, Stan (American saxophonist)
Gillespie, Dizzy (American trumpeter/bandleader)
Goodman, Benny (American clarinetist/bandleader)
Grappelli, Stephane (French violinist)
Hampton, Lionel (American vibraphonist/bandleader)
Hancock, Herbie (American pianist)
Hawkins, Coleman (American saxophonist)
Herman, Woody (American clarinetist/saxophonist/
singer)

Hines, Earl (American pianist)
Holiday, Billie (American singer)
Kenton, Stan (American bandleader)
Laine, Cleo (English singer)
Lyttelton, Humphrey (English trumpeter)
McLaughlin, John (English guitarist)
Marsalis, Wynton (American trumpeter)
Miller, Glenn (American trombonist/bandleader)
Mingus, Charlie (American bassist)
Monk, Thelonius (American pianist)
Morton, Jelly Roll (American pianist)
Mulligan, Gerry (American saxophonist)
Oliver, Joe 'King' (American cornettist)
Parker, Charlie 'Bird' (American saxophonist)
Paul, Les (American guitarist)
Pepper, Art (American saxophonist)
Peterson, Oscar (Canadian pianist)
Pine, Courtney (English soprano saxophonist)
Powell, Bud (American pianist)
Rainey, Gertrude 'Ma' (American singer)
Reinhardt, Django (Belgian guitarist)
Rich, Buddy (American drummer)
Roach, Max (American drummer)
Rollins, Sonny (American saxophonist)
Scott, Ronnie (English saxophonist)
Schuller, Gunther (American French horn player)
Shaw, Artie (American clarinetist)
Shorter, Wayne (American saxophonist)
Simone, Nina (American singer)
Smith, Bessie (American singer)
Tatum, Art (American pianist)
Teagarden, Jack (American trombonist)
Vaughan, Sarah (American singer)
Waller, Fats (American pianist)
Washington, Grover (American saxophonist)
Young, Lester (American saxophonist)

D

jaunty ▶ adjective CHEERFUL, cheery, happy, merry, jolly, joyful, lively, perky, bright, buoyant, bubbly, bouncy, breezy, full of the joys of spring, in good spirits, exuberant, ebullient, carefree, airy, light-hearted, nonchalant, insouciant, happy-go-lucky, *informal* bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, full of beans, chirpy, *poetic/literary* blithe, blithesome.

—OPPOSITES depressed, serious

javelin ▶ noun SPEAR, harpoon, dart, gig, shaft, assegai.

jaw ▶ noun ① a broken jaw JAWBONE, lower/upper jaw; *Anatomy* mandible, maxilla ② the whale seized a seal pup in its jaws MOUTH, maw, muzzle; *informal* chops ③ (*informal*) we ought to have a jaw See CHAT noun

—RELATED TERMS mandibular, maxillary

▶ verb (*informal*) Tom was the type to jaw See CHAT verb

jazz ▶ noun. See lists

■ **jazz something up** (*informal*) ENLIVEN, liven up, brighten up, make more interesting/exciting, add (some) colour to, ginger up, perk up, spice up; *informal* pep up.

jazzy ▶ adjective BRIGHT, colourful, brightly coloured, striking, eye-catching, vivid, lively, vibrant, bold, flamboyant, showy, gaudy; *informal* flashy.

—OPPOSITES dull

jealous ▶ adjective ① he was jealous of his brother's popularity ENVOUS, covetous, desirous; re-

Types of jazz

acid jazz	fusion	razmatazz
Afro-Cuban	Harlem	rooty-toot
avant-garde	harmoniodics	skiffle
barrelhouse	honky-tonk	swing
bebop	hot jazz	third stream
bop	mainstream	trad jazz
cool	modern jazz	west coast
Dixieland	progressive	
free jazz	jazz	

sentful, grudging, begrudging, green (with envy). ② a jealous lover SUSPICIOUS, distrustful, mistrustful, doubting, insecure, anxious, possessive, proprietorial, overprotective. ③ they are very jealous of their rights. PROTECTIVE, vigilant, watchful, heedful, mindful, careful, solicitous.

—OPPOSITES proud, trusting.

jealousy ▶ noun ① he was consumed with jealousy ENVY, covetousness; resentment, resentfulness, bitterness, spite, *informal* the green-eyed monster ② the jealousy of his long-suffering wife: SUSPICION, suspiciousness, distrust, mistrust, insecurity, anxiety; possessiveness, overprotectiveness ③ an intense jealousy of status: PROTECTIVENESS, vigilance, watchfulness, heedfulness, mindfulness, care, solicitousness.

jeans ▶ plural noun DENIMs, blue jeans; trademark Levi's, Wranglers.

Jeer ▶ **verb** the demonstrators jeered the police
TAUNT, mock, scoff at, ridicule, sneer at, deride, insult, abuse, jibe (at), scorn, shout disapproval (at); heckle, catcall (at), boo (at), hoot at, whistle at, hiss (at), *archaic* flout at

—OPPOSITES cheer

▶ **noun** the jeers of the crowd TAUNT, sneer, insult, shout, jibe, boo, hiss, catcall, derision, teasing, scoffing, abuse, scorn, heckling, catcalling, *Brit & Austral/NZ* barracking

—OPPOSITES applause

Jefune ▶ **adjective** ① their jefune opinions NAIVE, innocent, artless, guileless, unworldly, childlike, ingenuous, unsophisticated, credulous, gullible, childish, immature, juvenile, puerile, infantile ② the following poem is rather jefune BORING, dull, tedious, dreary, uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, unimaginative, humdrum, run-of-the-mill, mundane, commonplace, lacklustre, dry, sterile, lifeless, vapid, flat, bland, banal, trite, prosaic, *Brit informal* samey, *N Amer informal* ornery

—OPPOSITES sophisticated, fascinating

Jell ▶ **verb**. See GEL

Jeopardize ▶ **verb** THREATEN, endanger, imperil, risk, put at risk, put in danger/jeopardy, leave vulnerable, compromise, prejudice, be prejudicial to, be a danger to, pose a threat to, *archaic* peril

—OPPOSITES safeguard

Jeopardy ▶ **noun** DANGER, peril, at risk

Jerk ▶ **noun** ① she gave the reins a jerk YANK, tug, pull, wrench, tweak, twitch ② he let the clutch in with a jerk JOLT, lurch, bump, start, jar, jog, bang, bounce, shake, shock ③ (informal) I felt a complete jerk See FOOL noun sense 1

▶ **verb** ① she jerked her arm free YANK, tug, pull, wrench, wrest, drag, pluck, snatch, seize, rip, tear ② the car jerked along JOLT, lurch, bump, rattle, bounce, shake, jounce

Jerky ▶ **adjective** ① jerky movements CONVULSIVE, spasmodic, fitful, twitchy, shaky ② the coach drew to a jerky halt JOLTING, lurching, bumpy, bouncy, jarring

—OPPOSITES smooth

Jerry-built ▶ **adjective** SHODDY, badly built, gimcrack, flimsy, insubstantial, rickety, ramshackle, crude, makeshift, inferior, poor-quality, second-rate, third-rate, low-grade

—OPPOSITES sturdy

Jersey ▶ **noun** PULLOVER, sweater, *Brit* jumper, *informal* woolly

Jest ▶ **noun** jests were bandied about freely JOKE, witticism, funny remark, gag, quip, sally, pun, *informal* crack, wisecrack, one-liner

▶ **verb** ① surely you are jesting JOKE, quip, gag, pun; tell jokes, crack jokes, *informal* wisecrack ② she feared that they had not been jesting FOOL (ABOUT/AROUND), play a practical joke, tease; *informal* kid, have someone on, pull someone's leg; *N Amer informal* pull someone's chain, fun, *Brit informal* wind someone up

■ In jest IN FUN, as a joke, tongue in cheek, playfully, jokingly, light-heartedly, facetiously, flippantly, frivolously, for a laugh.

Jester ▶ **noun** ① (historical) a court jester: (COURT) FOOL, court jester, clown; *archaic* merry andrew ② the class jester JOKER, comedian, comic, humorist, wag, wit, prankster, jokester, clown, buffoon; *informal* card, case, caution, hoot,

scream, laugh, wisecracker, barrel of laughs, *Austral/NZ informal* hard case.

Jet 1 ▶ **noun** ① a jet of water STREAM, spurt, squirt, spray, spout, gush, rush, surge, burst ② carburettor jets NOZZLE, head, spout. ③ an executive jet JET PLANE, jetliner, aircraft, plane; *Brit* aeroplane

▶ **verb** ① they jetted out of Heathrow FLY, travel/go by jet, travel/go by plane. ② puffs of gas jetted out SQUIRT, spurt, shoot, spray, gush, pour, stream, rush, pump, surge, spew, burst.

Jet 2 ▶ **adjective** her glossy jet hair BLACK, jet-black, pitch-black, ink-black, ebony, raven, sable, sooty

Jettison ▶ **verb** ① six aircraft jettisoned their loads DUMP, drop, ditch, discharge, throw out, tip out, unload, throw overboard ② he jettisoned his unwanted papers | the scheme was jettisoned DISCARD, dispose of, throw away/out, get rid of, reject, scrap, axe, abandon, drop, *informal* chuck (away/out), dump, ditch, bin, junk, get shut of, *Brit informal* get shot of, *N Amer informal* trash

—OPPOSITES retain

Jetty ▶ **noun** PIER, landing (stage), quay, wharf, dock, breakwater, mole, groyne, dyke, *N Amer* dockominium, levee

Jewel ▶ **noun** ① priceless jewels GEM, gemstone, (precious) stone, brilliant, baguette, *informal* sparkler, rock, *archaic* bijou See list at GEM ② the jewel of his collection FINEST EXAMPLE/SPECIMEN, showpiece, pride (and joy), cream, crème de la crème, jewel in the crown, nonpareil, glory, prize, boast, pick, ne plus ultra ③ the girl is a jewel TREASURE, angel, paragon, marvel, find, godsend, *informal* one in a million, a star, the tops, *archaic* nonsuch

Jewellery ▶ **noun** JEWELS, gems, gemstones, precious stones, bijouterie, costume jewellery, diamanté, *archaic* bijoux

Jezebel ▶ **noun** IMMORAL WOMAN, seductress, temptress, femme fatale, *informal* tart, vamp, maneater, *N Amer informal* tramp, *Brit informal* scrubber, slapper, slag, dated loose woman, trollop, hussy, *archaic* harlot, strumpet

Jib ▶ **verb** ① the horse jibbed at the final fence STOP (SHORT) AT, balk at, shy at, refuse ② some farmers jib at paying large veterinary bills BAULK AT, fight shy of, recoil from, shrink from, be unwilling, be reluctant, be loath, demur at; *informal* boggle at

—OPPOSITES clear

Jibe ▶ **noun** cruel jibes SNIDE REMARK, cutting remark, taunt, sneer, jeer, insult, barb; *informal* dig, put-down.

▶ **verb** Simon jibed in a sarcastic way. JEER, taunt, mock, scoff, sneer.

Jiffy

■ In a jiffy (informal) (VERY) SOON, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, in a flash, shortly, any second, any minute (now), in no time (at all); *N Amer* momentarily, *informal* in a sec, in a jiff, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, *Brit informal* in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo, *N Amer informal* in a snap, in jig time; dated directly.

Jig ▶ **verb** BOB, jump, spring, skip, hop, prance, bounce, jounce



jiggle ▶ verb ① Barrett *jiggled* his foot. SHAKE, jogle, waggle, wiggle ② Thomas *jiggled* excitedly FIDGET, wriggle, squirm

jilt ▶ verb LEAVE, walk out on, throw over, finish with, break up with, *informal* chuck, ditch, dump, drop, run out on, give someone the push/elbow, give someone the old heave-ho, give someone the big E, *poetic/literary* forsake

jingle ▶ noun ① the jingle of money in the till CLINK, chunk, tinkle, jangle ② the jingle of the bell TINKLE, ring, ding, ping, ting-a-ling, chime, tintinnabulation ③ advertising jingles SLOGAN, catchphrase, ditty, song, rhyme, tune, *N Amer informal* tag line

▶ verb ① her bracelets *jingled* noisily CLINK, chunk, tinkle, jangle ② the bell *jingled* TINKLE, ring, ding, ping, chime

jingoism ▶ noun EXTREME PATRIOTISM, chauvinism, extreme nationalism, xenophobia, hawkishness, militarism, belligerence, bellicosity

jinx ▶ noun the jinx struck six days later CURSE, spell, hoodoo, malediction, the evil eye, black magic, voodoo, bad luck, *N Amer* hex, *archaic* malison

▶ verb the family is *jinxed* CURSE, cast a spell on, put the evil eye on, hoodoo, *Austral* point the bone at, *N Amer* hex, *Austral informal* mozz, put the mozz on

jitters ▶ plural noun (*informal*) NERVOUSNESS, nerves, edginess, uneasiness, anxiety, anxiousness, tension, agitation, restlessness, stage fright, *informal* butterflies (in one's stomach), the willies, collywobblers, the heebie-jeebies, jitteriness, the jim-jams

jittery ▶ adjective (*informal*) NERVOUS, on edge, edgy, tense, anxious, nervy, ill at ease, uneasy, keyed up, overwrought, on tenterhooks, worried, apprehensive, *informal* with butterflies in one's stomach, like a cat on a hot tin roof, twitchy, jumpy, uptight, het up, in a tizz/tizzy, *Brit informal* strung up, like a cat on hot bricks, *N Amer informal* spooky, squirrely, antsy, *Austral/NZ informal* toey; *dated* overstrung
-OPPOSITES calm

job ▶ noun ① my job involves a lot of travelling POSITION (OF EMPLOYMENT), post, situation, appointment, occupation, profession, trade, career, (line of) work, métier, craft, vocation, calling, vacancy, opening, *Austral informal* grrp, *archaic* employ ② this job will take three months TASK, piece of work, assignment, project, chore, errand, undertaking, venture, operation, enterprise, business ③ it's your job to protect her: RESPONSIBILITY, duty, charge, task, role, function, mission, *informal* department, pigeon. ④ (*informal*) it was a job to get here on time DIFFICULT TASK, problem, trouble, struggle, strain, trial, bother; *informal* headache, hassle, pain ⑤ (*informal*) a bank job: CRIME, felony, raid, robbery, hold-up, burglary, break-in; *informal* stick-up; *N Amer informal* heist.
-RELATED TERMS vocational.

■ just the job (*Brit informal*) THE VERY THING, just the thing, exactly what's needed, *informal* just what the doctor ordered, just the ticket.

jobless ▶ adjective UNEMPLOYED, out of work, out of a job, unwaged, between jobs, redundant, laid off, *Brit informal* signing on, on the dole, 'resting'; *Austral/NZ informal* on the wallaby track.

-OPPOSITES employed.

jockey ▶ noun RIDER, horseman, horsewoman, equestrian; *Austral informal* hoop

▶ verb ① he *jockeyed* himself into the team MAN OEUVRE, ease, edge, work, steer; inveigle, insinuate, ingratiate, *informal* finagle ② ministers began *jockeying* for position COMPETE, contend, vie, struggle, fight, scramble, jostle

jocular ▶ adjective HUMOROUS, funny, witty, comic, comical, amusing, droll, jokey, hilarious, facetious, tongue-in-cheek, teasing, playful, light-hearted, jovial, cheerful, cheery, merry; *formal* jocose, ludic
-OPPOSITES solemn

jocund ▶ adjective (*formal*). See CHEERFUL sense 1

jog ▶ verb ① he *jogged* along the road RUN SLOWLY, jogtrot, dogtrot, trot, lope ② things are *jogging* along quite nicely CONTINUE, proceed, go on, carry on ③ a hand *jogged* his elbow NUDGE, prod, poke, push, bump, jar ④ something *jogged* her memory STIMULATE, prompt, stir, activate, refresh ⑤ she *jogged* her foot up and down JOGGLE, jiggle, bob, bounce, jolt, jerk

▶ noun he set off along at a jog RUN, jogtrot, dogtrot, trot, lope

jole de vivre ▶ noun GAIETY, cheerfulness, cheeriness, light-heartedness, happiness, joy, joyfulness, high spirits, jollity, joviality, exuberance, ebullience, liveliness, vivacity, verve, effervescence, buoyancy, zest, zestfulness, *informal* pep, zing, *poetic/literary* blitheness
-OPPOSITES sobriety

join ▶ verb ① the two parts of the mould are joined with clay CONNECT, unite, couple, fix, affix, attach, fasten, stick, glue, fuse, weld, amalgamate, bond, append, link, merge, secure, make fast, tie, bind, chain, *formal* conjoin. ② here the path joins a major road MEET, touch, reach, extend to, abut, adjoin, border (on) ③ I'm off to join the search party BECOME A MEMBER OF, help in, participate in, join in, get involved in, contribute to, have a hand in, enlist, join up, sign up, affiliate to, play a part, band together, get together, ally, team up, join forces
-OPPOSITES separate, leave
▶ noun. See JOINT

joint ▶ noun ① a leaky joint in the guttering JOIN, junction, juncture, intersection, link, linkage, connection; weld, seam, *Anatomy* commissure ② the hip joint ARTICULATION ③ the Sunday joint CUT See list at MEAT ④ (*informal*) a classy joint: ESTABLISHMENT, restaurant, bar, club, nightclub ⑤ (*informal*) he rolled a joint CANNABIS CIGARETTE, marijuana cigarette, *informal* spliff, reefer, bomb, bomber, stick

▶ adjective matters of joint interest | a joint effort COMMON, shared, communal, collective; mutual, cooperative, collaborative, concerted, combined, united.

-OPPOSITES separate.

▶ verb she *jointed* the carcass. CUT UP, chop up, butcher, carve.

jointly ▶ adverb TOGETHER, in partnership, in cooperation, cooperatively, in conjunction, in combination, mutually

joke ▶ noun ① they were telling jokes: FUNNY STORY, jest, witticism, quip; pun, play on words; *informal* gag, wisecrack, crack, funny, one-liner, killer, rib-tickler, knee-slapper, thigh-slapper; *N Amer. informal* boffola; rare

blague ② *playing stupid jokes* TRICK, practical joke, prank, stunt, hoax, jape; *informal* leg-pull, spoof ③ (*informal*) he soon became a joke to us LAUGHING STOCK, figure of fun, object of ridicule, Aunt Sally ④ (*informal*) the present system is a joke FARCE, travesty, waste of time, *N Amer informal* shuck

► **verb** ① she joked with the guests TELL JOKES, jest, banter, quip, *informal* wisecrack, josh ② I'm only joking FOOL (ABOUT/AROUND), play a trick, play a (practical) joke, tease, hoax, pull someone's leg, mess about/around, *informal* kid, *Brit informal* have someone on, wind someone up, *N Amer informal* fun, shuck, pull someone's chain

joker ► **noun** HUMORIST, comedian, comedienne, comic, wit, jester, prankster, practical joker, hoaxter, trickster, clown, *informal* card, wise-cracker, wag

jolly ► **adjective** CHEERFUL, happy, cheery, good-humoured, jovial, merry, sunny, joyful, joyous, light-hearted, in high spirits, bubbly, exuberant, ebullient, cock-a-hoop, gleeful, mirthful, genial, fun-loving, *informal* chipper, chirpy, perky, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, *formal* jocund, jocose, *dated* gay, *poetic/literary* gladsome, blithe, blithesome

—OPPOSITES miserable

► **verb** (*informal*) he tried to jolly her along ENCOURAGE, urge, coax, cajole, persuade

► **adverb** (*Brit informal*) a jolly good idea See VERY adverb

jolt ► **verb** ① the train jolted the passengers to one side PUSH, thrust, jar, bump, knock, bang, shake, joggle, jog ② the car jolted along BUMP, bounce, jerk, rattle, lurch, shudder, judder, jounce ③ she was jolted out of her reverie STARTLE, surprise, shock stun, shake, take aback, astonish, astound, amaze, stagger, stop someone in their tracks, *informal* rock, floor, knock sideways, *Brit informal* knock for six

► **noun** ① a series of sickening jolts BUMP, bounce, shake, jerk, lurch ② he woke up with a jolt START, jerk, jump ③ the sight of the dagger gave him a jolt FRIGHT, the fright of one's life, shock, scare, surprise, *informal* turn

jostle ► **verb** ① she was jostled by noisy students BUMP INTO/AGAINST, knock into/against, bang into, cannon into, plough into, jolt, push, shove, elbow, mob ② I jostled my way to the exit PUSH, thrust, barge, shove, force, elbow, shoulder, bulldoze ③ people jostled for the best position STRUGGLE, vie, jockey, scramble

jot ► **verb** I've jotted down a few details WRITE, note, make a note of, take down, put on paper, scribble, scrawl

► **noun** not a jot of evidence IOTA, scrap, shred, whit, grain, crumb, ounce, (little) bit, jot or tittle, speck, atom, particle, scintilla, trace, hint, *informal* smudgen, tad, *Austral/NZ informal* skerrick, *archaic* scruple

journal ► **noun** ① a medical journal PERIODICAL, magazine, gazette, digest, review, newsietter, news-sheet, bulletin; newspaper, paper, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly ② he keeps a journal DIARY, daily record, log, logbook, chronicle, *N Amer* daybook.

journalism ► **noun** ① a career in journalism. THE NEWSPAPER BUSINESS, the press, the fourth estate; *Brit* Fleet Street ② his incisive style of journalism: REPORTING, writing, reportage, feature

writing, news coverage, articles, reports, features, pieces, stories

journalist ► **noun** REPORTER, correspondent, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, newsman, newswoman, columnist, writer, commentator, reviewer, investigative journalist, *Brit* pressman; *N Amer* legman, wireman, *Austral* roundsman, *informal* news hound, hack, hackette, stringer, journo, *N Amer informal* newsy

Journey ► **noun** his journey round the world TRIP, expedition, tour, trek, voyage, cruise, ride, drive, crossing, passage, flight, travels, wandering, globetrotting, odyssey, pilgrimage, *archaic* peregrination

► **verb** they journeyed south TRAVEL, go, voyage, sail, cruise, fly, hike, trek, ride, drive, make one's way, go on a trip/expedition, tour, *archaic* peregrinate

joust (*historical*) ► **verb** knights jousted with lances TOURNEY, fight, spar, clash, *historical* tilt

► **noun** a medieval joust TOURNAMENT, tourney, combat, contest, fight, *historical* tilt

Jovial ► **adjective** CHEERFUL, jolly, happy, cheery, good-humoured, convivial, genial, good-natured, friendly, amiable, affable, sociable, outgoing, smiling, merry, sunny, joyful, joyous, high-spirited, exuberant, *informal* chipper, chirpy, perky, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, *formal* jocund, jocose, *dated* gay, *poetic/literary* glad-some, blithe, blithesome

—OPPOSITES miserable

joy ► **noun** ① whoops of joy DELIGHT, great pleasure, joyfulness, jubilation, triumph, exultation, rejoicing, happiness, gladness, glee, exhilaration, exuberance, elation, euphoria, bliss, ecstasy, rapture, enjoyment, felicity, joie de vivre, *formal* jocundity, jouissance ② it was a joy to be with her (SOURCE OF) PLEASURE, delight, treat, thrill, *informal* buzz, kick ③ (*Brit informal*) we still had no joy SUCCESS, satisfaction, luck, successful result

—OPPOSITES misery, trial

joyful ► **adjective** ① his joyful mood CHEERFUL, happy, jolly, merry, sunny, joyous, light-hearted, in good spirits, bubbly, exuberant, ebullient, cock-a-hoop, cheery, smiling, mirthful, radiant, jubilant, overjoyed, thrilled, ecstatic, euphoric, blissful, on cloud nine/seven, elated, delighted, gleeful, jovial, genial, good-humoured, full of the joys of spring, *informal* chipper, chirpy, peppy, over the moon, on top of the world, *Austral/NZ informal* wrapped, *dated* gay, *formal* jocund, *poetic/literary* glad-some, blithe, blithesome ② joyful news PLEASING, happy, good, cheering, gladdening, welcome, heart-warming, *poetic/literary* glad-some ③ a joyful occasion HAPPY, cheerful, merry, jolly, festive, joyous

—OPPOSITES sad, distressing

joyless ► **adjective** ① a joyless man GLOOMY, melancholy, morose, lugubrious, glum, sombre, saturnine, sullen, dour, humourless ② a joyless room DEPRESSING, cheerless, gloomy, dreary, bleak, dispiriting, drab, dismal, desolate, austere, sombre, unwelcoming, uninviting, inhospitable, *poetic/literary* drear

—OPPOSITES cheerful, welcoming.

Joyous ► **adjective**. See JOYFUL senses 1, 3

jubilant ► **adjective** OVERJOYED, exultant, triumphant, joyful, rejoicing, cock-a-hoop, ex-

uberant, elated, thrilled, gleeful, euphoric, ecstatic, enraptured, in raptures, walking on air, in seventh heaven, on cloud nine, *informal* over the moon, on top of the world, on a high, *N Amer informal* wiggled out; *Austral informal* wrapped
-OPPOSITES despondent

Jubilation ► **noun** EXULTATION, joy, joyousness, elation, euphoria, ecstasy, rapture, glee, gleefulness, exuberance

Jubilee ► **noun** ANNIVERSARY, commemoration, celebration, festival, jamboree, festivities, revelry

Judas ► **noun** TRAITOR, betrayer, back-stabber, double-crosser, turncoat, quisling, renegade

Judge ► **noun** ① the judge sentenced him to five years' justice, magistrate, recorder, sheriff, *N Amer* jurist, *Brit informal* beak ② a panel of judges will select the winner ADJUDICATOR, arbiter, assessor, evaluator, appraiser, examiner, moderator, mediator

► **verb** ① I judged that she was simply exhausted FORM THE OPINION, conclude, decide, consider, believe, think, deem, view, deduce, gather, infer, gauge, estimate, guess, surmise, conjecture, regard as, look on as, take to be, rate as, class as, *informal* reckon, figure ② the case was judged by a tribunal TRY, hear, adjudicate, decide, give a ruling/verdict on ③ she was judged innocent of murder ADJUDGE, pronounce, decree, rule, find ④ the competition will be judged by Alan Amey ADJUDICATE, arbitrate, mediate, moderate ⑤ entries were judged by a panel of experts' ASSESS, appraise, evaluate, examine, review

Judgement ► **noun** ① his temper could affect his judgement DISCERNMENT, acumen, shrewdness, astuteness, (common) sense, perception, perspicacity, percipience, acuity, discrimination, wisdom, wit, judiciousness, prudence, caninness, sharpness, sharp-wittedness, powers of reasoning, reason, logic, *informal* nous, savvy, horse sense, gumption, *Brit informal* common; *N Amer informal* smarts ② a court judgement VERDICT, decision, adjudication, ruling, pronouncement, decree, finding, sentence ③ critical judgement ASSESSMENT, evaluation, appraisal, review, analysis, criticism, critique ④ a judgement on them for their wickedness PUNISHMENT, retribution, penalty

■ against one's better judgement RELUCTANTLY, unwillingly, grudgingly

■ in my judgement IN MY OPINION, to my mind, to my way of thinking, I believe, I think, as I see it, in my estimation

Judgemental ► **adjective** CRITICAL, censorious, condemnatory, disapproving, disparaging, deprecating, negative, overcritical, hypercritical

Judicial ► **adjective** LEGAL, juridical, judicatory, official

Judicious ► **adjective** WISE, sensible, prudent, politic, shrewd, astute, canny, sagacious, commonsensical, sound, well advised, well judged, discerning, percipient, intelligent, smart, *N Amer informal* heads-up
-OPPOSITES ill-advised

Jug ► **noun** PITCHER, ewer, crock, jar, urn; carafe, flask, flagon, decanter; *N Amer* creamer, *historical* amphora, jorum

Juggle ► **verb** MISREPRESENT, tamper with, falsify, distort, alter, manipulate, rig, massage, fudge; *informal* fix, doctor; *Brit. informal* fiddle.

Juice ► **noun** ① the juice from two lemons LIQUID, fluid, sap, extract. ② cooking juices. LIQUID, liquor ③ (informal) he ran out of juice See PETROL.

Juicy ► **adjective** ① a juicy peach: SUCCULENT, tender, moist, ripe, archaic mellow. ② (informal) juicy gossip VERY INTERESTING, fascinating, sensational, lurid, scandalous, racy, risqué, spicy; *informal* hot ③ (informal) juicy profits. LARGE, substantial, sizeable, generous, lucrative, profitable, *informal* fat, tidy
-OPPOSITES dry, dull

Jumble ► **noun** ① the books were in a jumble UNTIDY HEAP, clutter, muddle, mess, confusion, disarray, disarrangement, tangle, hotchpotch, mishmash, miscellany, motley collection, mixed bag, medley, farrago, *N Amer* hodge-podge ② (Brit) bags of jumble. JUNK, bric-a-brac, *Brit* lumber

► **verb** the photographs are all jumbled up MIX UP, muddle up, disarrange, disorganize, disorder, put in disarray

Jumbo ► **adjective** (informal) See HUGE

Jump ► **verb** ① the cat jumped off his lap | Flora began to jump about LEAP, spring, bound, hop, skip, caper, dance, prance, frolic, cavort ② he jumped the fence VAULT (OVER), leap over, clear, sail over, hop over, hurdle. ③ pre-tax profits jumped RISE, go up, shoot up, soar, surge, clumb, increase, *informal* skyrocket ④ the noise made her jump START, jerk, jolt, flinch, recoil, *informal* jump out of one's skin ⑤ Polly jumped at the chance ACCEPT EAGERLY, leap at, welcome with open arms, seize on, snap up, grab, pounce on ⑥ (informal) he jumped the red light GO NORE, disregard, drive through, overshoot, *informal* run

► **noun** ① the short jump across the gully LEAP, spring, vault, bound, hop ② the horse cleared the last jump OBSTACLE, barrier, fence, hurdle ③ a jump in profits RISE, leap, increase, upsurge, upswing, *informal* hike ④ I woke up with a jump START, jerk, involuntary movement, spasm

■ jump the gun (informal) ACT PREMATURELY, act too soon, be over-hasty, be precipitate; *informal* be ahead of oneself

■ jump to it (informal) HURRY UP, get a move on, be quick, *informal* get cracking, shake a leg, look lively, look sharp, pull one's finger out; *Brit informal* get one's skates on, stir one's stumps; *N Amer informal* get a wiggle on, *Austral/NZ informal* get a wriggle on, dated make haste

Jumper (Brit) ► **noun** SWEATER, pullover, jersey, *informal* woolly

Jumpy ► **adjective** (informal) ① he was tired and jumpy. NERVOUS, on edge, edgy, tense, nervy, anxious, ill at ease, uneasy, restless, fidgety, keyed up, overwrought, on tenterhooks, *informal* a bundle of nerves, jittery, like a cat on a hot tin roof, uptight, het up, in a tizz/tizzy, *Brit informal* strung up, like a cat on hot bricks, *N Amer informal* spooky, squirrely, antsy; *Austral/NZ informal* toey ② jumpy black-and-white footage JERKY, jolting, lurching, bumpy, jarring, fitful, convulsive.
-OPPOSITES calm.

Junction ► **noun** ① the junction between the roof and the wall JOIN, joint, intersection, bond, seam, connection, juncture; *Anatomy* commissure. ② the junction of the two rivers: CONFLUENCE, convergence, meeting point, conflux, juncture ③ turn right at the next junction: CROSSROADS,



intersection, interchange, T-junction, turn, turn-off, exit, *Brit* roundabout; *N Amer* turnout, cloverleaf

juncture ► **noun** ① at this juncture, I am unable to tell you **POINT (IN TIME)**, time, moment (in time); period, phase ② the juncture of the pipes *See JUNCTION* sense 1 ③ the juncture of the rivers *See JUNCTION* sense 2

jungle ► **noun** ① the Amazon jungle: **TROPICAL FOREST**, (tropical) rainforest ② a jungle of bureaucracy: **COMPLEXITY**, confusion, complication, chaos; labyrinth, maze, tangle, web

junior ► **adjective** ① the junior members of the family **YOUNGER**, youngest ② a junior minister **LOW-RANKING**, lower-ranking, subordinate, lesser, lower, minor, secondary ③ John White junior: **THE YOUNGER**, *Brit* minor, *N Amer* II, the Second -**OPPOSITES** senior, older

junk (*informal*) ► **noun** an attic full of junk **RUBBISH**, clutter, odds and ends, bits and pieces, bric-a-brac, refuse, litter, scrap, waste, debris, detritus, dross, *Brit* lumber, *N Amer* garbage, trash, *Austral/NZ* mullock, *Brit informal* odds and sods

► **verb** junk all the rubbish **THROW AWAY/OUT**, discard, get rid of, dispose of, scrap, toss out, jettison, *informal* chuck (away/out), dump, ditch, bin, get shut of, *Brit informal* get shot of

junket ► **noun** (*informal*) **CELEBRATION**, party, jamboree, feast, festivity, spree, excursion, outing, trip, jaunt, *informal* bash, shindy, shindig, *Brit informal* beanfeast, jolly, bunfight, beano; *Austral informal* jollo

junta ► **noun** **FACTION**, cabal, clique, party, set, ring, gang, league, confederacy, *historical* junto

jurisdiction ► **noun** ① an area under French jurisdiction **AUTHORITY**, control, power, dominion, rule, administration, command, sway, leadership, sovereignty, hegemony ② foreign jurisdictions **TERRITORY**, region, province, district, area, domain, realm

just ► **adjective** ① a just and democratic society **FAIR**, fair-minded, equitable, even-handed, impartial, unbiased, objective, neutral, disinterested, unprejudiced, open-minded, non-partisan, honourable, upright, decent, honest, righteous, moral, virtuous, principled ② a just reward (WELL) **DESERVED**, (well) earned, merited, rightful, due, fitting, appropriate, suitable, *formal* condign, *archaic* meet ③ just criticism **VALID**, sound, well founded, justified, justifiable, warranted, legitimate

-**OPPOSITES** unfair, undeserved, unfair

► **adverb** ① I just saw him **A MOMENT/SECOND AGO**, a short time ago, very recently, not long ago ② she's just right for him **EXACTLY**, precisely, absolutely, completely, totally, entirely, perfectly, utterly, wholly, thoroughly, in all respects, *informal* down to the ground, to a T, dead ③ we just

made it: **NARROWLY**, only just, by a hair's breadth, by the skin of one's teeth, barely, scarcely, hardly, *informal* by a whisker ④ she's just a child: **ONLY**, merely, simply, (nothing) but, no more than. ⑤ the colour's just fantastic: **REALLY**, absolutely, completely, entirely, totally, quite, indeed, truly

► **just about** (*informal*) **NEARLY**, almost, practically, all but, well-nigh, nigh on, virtually, as good as, more or less, to all intents and purposes, *informal* pretty much.

justice ► **noun** ① I appealed to his sense of justice: **FAIRNESS**, justness, fair play, fair-mindedness, equity, equitableness, even-handedness, impartiality, objectivity, neutrality, disinterestedness, honesty, righteousness, morals, morality ② the justice of his case **VALIDITY**, justification, soundness, well-foundedness, legitimacy ③ an order made by the justices **JUDGE**, magistrate, recorder, sheriff, *N Amer* jurist, *Brit informal* beak

justifiable ► **adjective** **VALID**, legitimate, warranted, well founded, justified, just, reasonable; defensible, tenable, supportable, acceptable. -**OPPOSITES** indefensible

justification ► **noun** **GROUND**s, reason, basis, rationale, premise, rationalization, vindication, explanation, defence, argument, apologia, apology, case

justify ► **verb** ① directors must justify the expenditure **GIVE GROUNDS FOR**, give reasons for, give a justification for, explain, give an explanation for, account for, defend, answer for, vindicate. ② the situation justified further investigation. **WAR RANT**, be good reason for, be a justification for.

justly ► **adverb** ① he is justly proud of his achievement **JUSTIFIABLY**, with (good) reason, legitimately, rightly, rightfully, deservedly ② they were treated justly: **FAIRLY**, with fairness, equitably, even-handedly, impartially, without bias, objectively, without prejudice, *informal* fairly and squarely

-**OPPOSITES** unjustifiably

jut ► **verb** **STICK OUT**, project, protrude, bulge out, overhang, obtrude, *archaic* be imminent

juvenile ► **adjective** ① juvenile offenders **YOUNG**, teenage, adolescent, junior, pubescent, pre-pubescent ② juvenile behaviour: **CHILDISH**, immature, puerile, infantile, babyish, jejune, inexperienced, callow, green, unsophisticated, naive, foolish, silly

-**OPPOSITES** adult, mature

► **noun** many victims are juveniles **YOUNG PERSON**, youngster, child, teenager, adolescent, minor, junior, *informal* kid

-**OPPOSITES** adult

juxtapose ► **verb** **PLACE SIDE BY SIDE**, set side by side, mix, compare, contrast.

Kk

kaleidoscopic ► adjective ① *kaleidoscopic shapes* MULTICOLOURED, many-coloured, multi-colour, many-hued, variegated, particoloured, varicoloured, psychedelic, rainbow, polychromatic ② *the kaleidoscopic political landscape* EVER-CHANGING, changeable, shifting, fluid, protean, variable, inconstant, fluctuating, unpredictable, impermanent ③ *the kaleidoscopic world we are living in* MULTIFACETED, varied, complex, intricate, complicated
-OPPOSITES monochrome, constant

kaput (informal) ► adjective the TV's *kaput* BROKEN, malfunctioning, broken-down, inoperative, informal conked out
■ *go kaput* BREAK DOWN, go wrong, stop working, informal conk out

keel ► noun the upturned keel of the boat BASE, bottom (side), underside
■ *keel over* ① *the boat keeled over* CAPSIZE, turn turtle, turn upside down, founder, overturn, turn over, tip over ② *the slightest activity made him keel over* COLLAPSE, faint, pass out, black out, lose consciousness, swoon

keen¹ ► adjective ① *his publishers were keen to capitalize on his success* EAGER, anxious, intent, impatient, determined, ambitious, informal raring, itching, dying ② *a keen birdwatcher* ENTHUSIASTIC, avid, eager, ardent, passionate, fervent, fervid, impassioned, conscientious, committed, dedicated, zealous ③ *they are keen on horses* | *a girl he was keen on* ENTHUSIASTIC, interested, passionate, attracted to, fond of, taken with, smitten with, enamoured of, infatuated with, informal struck on, gone on, mad about, crazy about, nuts about ④ *a keen cutting edge* SHARP, sharpened, honed, razor-sharp ⑤ *keen eyesight* ACUTE, sharp, discerning, sensitive, perceptive, clear ⑥ *a keen mind* ACUTE, penetrating, astute, incisive, sharp, perceptive, piercing, razor-sharp, perspicacious, shrewd, discerning, clever, intelligent, brilliant, bright, smart, wise, canny, perceptive, insightful ⑦ *a keen wind* COLD, icy, freezing, harsh, raw, bitter, penetrating, piercing, biting ⑧ *a keen sense of duty* INTENSE, acute, fierce, passionate, burning, fervent, ardent, strong, powerful
-OPPOSITES reluctant, unenthusiastic

keen² ► verb the bereaved gathered to *keen* LAMENT, mourn, weep, cry, sorrow, grieve, wail, ululate; archaic plain

keenness ► noun ① *the company's keenness to sign a deal* EAGERNESS, willingness, readiness, impatience, enthusiasm, fervour, wholeheartedness, zest, zeal, ardour, passion, avidity ② *the keenness of the blade* SHARPNESS, razor-sharpness. ③ *keenness of hearing* ACUTENESS, sharpness, sensitivity, perceptiveness, clarity ④ *the keenness of his mind* ACUTY, sharpness, incisiveness, astuteness, perspicacity, perceptiveness, shrewdness, insight, cleverness, discernment, intelligence, brightness, brilliance, caniness ⑤ *the keenness of his sense of loss* INTENSITY, acuteness, strength, power, ferocity

keep¹ ► verb ① *you should keep all the old forms* RETAIN (POSSESSION OF), hold on to, keep hold of, not part with, save, store, put by/aside, set aside, *N Amer* set by, informal hang on to, stash away ② *I tried to keep calm* REMAIN, continue to be, stay, carry on being, persist in being ③ *he keeps going on about the murder* PERSIST IN, keep on, carry on, continue, do something constantly ④ *I shan't keep you long* DETAIN, keep waiting, delay, hold up, retard, slow down ⑤ *most people kept the rules* | *he had to keep his promise* COMPLY WITH, obey, observe, conform to, abide by, adhere to, stick to, heed, follow, fulfil, carry out, act on, make good, honour, keep to, stand by ⑥ *keeping the old traditions* PRESERVE, keep alive/up, keep going, carry on, perpetuate, maintain, uphold, sustain ⑦ *the stand where her umbrella was kept* STORE, house, stow, put (away), place, deposit ⑧ *the shop keeps a good stock of parchment* (HAVE IN) STOCK, carry, have (for sale), hold ⑨ *he stole to keep his family* PROVIDE (FOOD) FOR, support, feed, keep alive, maintain, sustain, take care of, look after ⑩ *she keeps rabbits* BREED, rear, raise, farm, own, have as a pet ⑪ *his parents kept a shop* MANAGE, run, own, be the proprietor of ⑫ *God keep you* LOOK AFTER, care for, take care of, mind, watch over, protect, keep safe, preserve, defend, guard ⑬ *today people do not keep the Sabbath* OBSERVE respect, honour, hold sacred, celebrate, mark, commemorate
-OPPOSITES throw away, break, abandon

► noun money to pay for his *keep* MAINTENANCE, upkeep, sustenance, board (and lodging), food, livelihood

■ *for keeps* (informal) FOREVER, for ever and ever, for evermore, for always, for good (and all), permanently, in perpetuity, informal until kingdom come, until doomsday, archaic for aye

■ *keep at* PERSEVERE WITH, persist with, keep going with, carry on with, press on with, work away at, continue with, informal stick at, peg away at, plug away at, hammer away at

■ *keep something back* ① *she kept back some of the money* (KEEP IN) RESERVE, put by/aside, set aside, retain, hold back, keep, hold on to, not part with, *N Amer* set by, informal stash away ② *she kept back the details* CONCEAL, keep secret, keep hidden, withhold, suppress, keep quiet about. ③ *she could hardly keep back her tears* SUPPRESS, stifle, choke back, fight back, hold back/in, repress, keep in check, contain, smother, swallow, bite back

■ *keep from* REFRAIN FROM, stop oneself, restrain oneself from, prevent oneself from, forbear from, avoid

■ *keep someone from something* ① *he could hardly keep himself from laughing*. PREVENT, stop, restrain, hold back ② *keep them from harm* PRESERVE, protect, keep safe, guard, shield, shelter, safeguard, defend

■ *keep something from someone* KEEP SECRET, keep hidden, hide, conceal, withhold; informal keep dark

■ **keep off** ① *keep off private land* STAY OFF, not enter, keep/stay away from, not trespass on ② *Maud tried to keep off political subjects* AVOID, steer clear of, stay away from, evade, sidestep, informal duck ③ *you should keep off alcohol* ABSTAIN FROM, do without, refrain from, give up, forgo, not touch, informal swear off, formal forswear ④ *I hope the rain keeps off* STAY AWAY, hold off, not start, not begin

■ **keep on** ① *they kept on working* CONTINUE, go on, carry on, persist in, persevere in, soldier on, struggle on, keep going ② *the commander kept on about vigilance* TALK CONSTANTLY, talk endlessly, keep talking, go on (and on), rant on, informal harp on, witter on, rabbit on

■ **keep someone on** CONTINUE TO EMPLOY, retain in one's service, not dismiss, not sack

■ **keep on at** NAG, go on at, harp on at, badger, chivy, harass, hound, pester, informal hassle

■ **keep to** ① *I've got to keep to the rules* OBEY, abide by, observe, follow, comply with, adhere to, respect, keep, stick to, be bound by ② *keep to the path* FOLLOW, stick to, stay on ③ *please keep to the point* STICK TO, restrict oneself to, confine oneself to

■ **keep someone under** KEEP IN SUBJECTION, hold down, keep down, subdue, suppress, repress, oppress, informal squash, trample on

■ **keep something up** CONTINUE (WITH), keep on with, keep going, carry on with, persist with, persevere with

■ **keep up with** ① *she walked fast to keep up with him* KEEP PACE WITH, keep abreast of, match, equal ② *he kept up with events at home* KEEP INFORMED ABOUT, keep up to date with, keep abreast of, informal keep tabs on ③ *they kept up with him by Christmas cards* REMAIN IN CONTACT WITH, stay in touch with, maintain contact with, keep up one's friendship with

keep² ► noun *the enemy stormed the keep* FORTRESS, fort, stronghold, tower, donjon, castle, citadel, bastion

keeper ► noun ① *keeper of the archives* CURATOR, custodian, guardian, administrator, overseer, steward, caretaker ② *the keeper of an inn* PROPRIETOR, owner, master/mistress, landlord/landlady ③ *you're not her keeper* GUARDIAN, protector, guard, minder, chaperon/chaperone, carer, nursemaid, nurse

keeping ► noun *the document is in the keeping of the county archivist* SAFE KEEPING, care, custody, charge, possession, trust, protection

■ **in keeping with** CONSISTENT WITH, in harmony with, in accord with, in agreement with, in line with, in character with, compatible with, appropriate to, befitting, suitable for

keepsake ► noun MEMENTO, souvenir, reminder, remembrance, token

keg ► noun BARREL, cask, vat, butt, tun, hoghead, historical firkin

ken ► noun KNOWLEDGE, awareness, perception, understanding, grasp, comprehension, realization, appreciation, consciousness

kernel ► noun ① *the kernel of a nut*, seed, grain, core; nut ② *the kernel of the argument*, ESSENCE, core, heart, essentials, quintessence, fundamentals, basics, nub, gist, substance; informal nitty-gritty ③ *a kernel of truth*, NUCLEUS, germ, grain, nugget

key ► noun ① *I put my key in the lock* door key, latchkey, pass key, master key. ② *the key to the mystery* | *the key to success*, ANSWER, clue, solution, explanation, basis, foundation, requisite, precondition, means, way, route, path, passport, secret, formula ③ *(Music) a minor key* TONE, pitch, timbre, tone colour ④ *an austere intellectual key* STYLE, character, mood, vein, spirit, feel, feeling, flavour, quality, atmosphere

► **adjective** *a key figure* CRUCIAL, central, essential, indispensable, pivotal, critical, dominant, vital, principal, prime, chief, major, leading, main, important, significant

—OPPOSITES peripheral

keyboard ► noun. See list

Keyboard Instruments

accordion
American organ
calliope
carillon
celesta
chamber organ
cinema organ
clavichord
clavicytherium
clavier
computer organ
dulcitone
electric organ
electronic organ
fortepiano
grand piano
Hammond organ
(trademark)
harmonium
harpsichord
mellotron
melodeon

melodica
Moog synthesizer
(trademark)
Novachord
ondes martenot
organ
piano
piano accordion
pianoforte
planola
pipe organ
player-piano
portative organ
positive organ
reed organ
spinet
stylophone
synthesizer
upright piano
virginals
Wurlitzer (trademark)

k

keynote ► noun THEME, salient point, gist, substance, burden, tenor, pith, marrow, essence, heart, core, basis, essential feature/element

keystone ► noun ① *the keystone of the door* CORNERSTONE, central stone, quoin ② *the keystone of the government's policy*, FOUNDATION, basis, linchpin, cornerstone, base, (guiding) principle, core, heart, centre, crux, fundament

kibosh

■ **put the kibosh on** (informal) PUT A STOP TO, stop, halt, put an end to, quash, block, cancel, scotch, thwart, prevent, suppress, informal put paid to, stymie, Brit informal scupper

kick ► verb ① *her attacker kicked her* BOOT, strike with the foot, Brit informal put the boot into ② (informal) *he was struggling to kick his drug habit* GIVE UP, break, abandon, end, stop, cease, desist from, renounce, informal shake, pack in, leave off, quit ③ *the gun kicked hard* RECOIL, spring back

► **noun** ① *a kick on the knee*, BLOW WITH THE FOOT, informal boot ② (informal) *I get a kick out of driving a racing car*, THRILL, excitement, stimulation, tingle; fun, enjoyment, amusement, pleasure, gratification; informal buzz, high, N Amer informal charge ③ (informal) *a drink with a powerful kick*, POTENCY, stimulant effect, strength, power, tang, zest, bite, piquancy, edge, pungency; informal punch ④ (informal) *a health kick*, CRAZE, en-

thusiasm, obsession, mania, passion, fashion, vogue, trend, *informal* fad

■ **kick against** RESIST, rebel against, oppose, struggle/fight against, defy, disobey, reject, spurn

■ **kick someone/something around** (*informal*)

① we are undervalued and get kicked around ABUSE, mistreat, maltreat, push around/about, trample on, take for granted, *informal* boss about/around, walk all over ② they began to kick ideas around DISCUSS, talk over, debate, thrash out, consider, toy with, play with

■ **kick back** (*N Amer informal*) RELAX, unwind, take it easy, rest, slow down, let up, ease up/off, sit back, *N Amer informal* chill out, hang loose

■ **kick off** (*informal*) START, commence, begin, get going, get off the ground, get under way, open, start off, set in motion, launch, initiate, introduce, inaugurate, usher in

■ **kick someone out** (*informal*) EXPEL, eject, throw out, oust, evict, get rid of, axe, dismiss, discharge; *informal* chuck out, send packing, boot out, give someone their marching orders, sack, fire, *Brit informal* turf out, *N Amer informal* give someone the bum's rush

kickback ► **noun** ① the kickback from the gun RECOIL, kick, rebound. ② (*informal*) they paid kickbacks to politicians: BRIBE, payment, inducement; *N Amer* payola, *informal* pay-off, sweetener, back-hander

kick-off ► **noun** (*informal*) BEGINNING, start, commencement, outset, opening.

kid¹ ► **noun** (*informal*) she has three kids: CHILD, youngster, little one, baby, toddler, tot, infant, boy/girl, young person, minor, juvenile, adolescent, teenager, youth, stripling, offspring, son/daughter; *Scottish* bairn; *informal* kiddie, nipper, kiddiewink, shaver, young 'un, *Brit informal* sprog; *N Amer informal* rug rat; *Austral/NZ* ankle-biter, derogatory brat, *poetic/literary* babe

kid² ► **verb** (*informal*) ① I'm not kidding: JOKE, tease, jest, chaff, be facetious, fool about/around, *informal* pull someone's leg, have on, rib; *Brit informal* wind up, *N Amer informal* pull someone's chain, fun, shuck ② why did I kid myself that I'd succeed? DELUDE, deceive, fool, trick, hoodwink, hoax, beguile, dupe, gull; *informal* con, pull the wool over someone's eyes, *poetic/literary* cozen

kidnap ► **verb** ABDUCT, carry off, capture, seize, snatch, take as hostage; *Brit informal* noggle.

kill ► **verb** ① gangs killed twenty-seven people MURDER, take/end the life of, make away with, assassinate, eliminate, terminate, dispatch, finish off, put to death, execute; slaughter, butcher, massacre, wipe out, annihilate, exterminate, liquidate, mow down, shoot down, cut down, cut to pieces; *informal* bump off, polish off, do away with, do in, knock off, top, take out, croak, stiff, blow away, dispose of, *N Amer informal* ice, rub out, waste, whack, scrag, smoke; *poetic/literary* slay ② this would kill all hopes of progress: DESTROY, put an end to, end, extinguish, dash, quash, ruin, wreck, shatter, smash, crush, scotch, thwart; *informal* put paid to, put the kibosh on, stymie; *Brit informal* scupper. ③ we had to kill several hours at the airport: WHILE AWAY, fill (up), occupy, beguile, pass, spend, waste. ④ (*informal*) you must rest or you'll kill yourself: EXHAUST, wear out, tire out, overtax, over-

tire, fatigue, weary, sap, drain, enervate, prostrate, *informal* knock out, shatter; *Brit informal* knacker ⑤ (*informal*) my feet were killing me HURT, cause pain to, torture, torment, cause discomfort to, be painful, be sore, be uncomfortable ⑥ (*informal*) the music kills me every time I hear it OVERWHELM, take someone's breath away, move, stir, stun, amaze, stagger, *informal* bowl over, blow away, knock sideways, blow someone's mind ⑦ the engines were at a low rev to kill the noise MUFFLE, deaden, stifle, dampen, damp down, smother, reduce, diminish, decrease, suppress, tone down, moderate ⑧ a shot to kill the pain ALLEVIATE, assuage, soothe, allay, dull, blunt, deaden, stifle, suppress, subdue ⑨ (*informal*) the message has been killed DELETE, wipe out, erase, remove, destroy, cut (out), cancel, *informal* zap ⑩ (*informal*) Congress killed the bill. VETO, defeat, vote down, rule against, reject, throw out, overrule, overturn, put a stop to, quash, squash ⑪ (*informal*) Noel killed the engine TURN OFF, switch off, stop, shut off/down, cut (out)

—RELATED TERMS -cide

► **noun** ① the hunter's kill: PREY, quarry, victim, bag ② the wolf was moving in for the kill DEATH BLOW, killing, dispatch, finish, end, coup de grâce

killer ► **noun** ① police are searching for the killer MURDERER, assassin, slaughterer, butcher, serial killer, gunman, exterminator, terminator, executioner, *informal* hit man, *poetic/literary* slayer, dated homicide ② a major killer CAUSE OF DEATH, fatal/deadly illness, threat to life

killing ► **noun** a brutal killing MURDER, assassination, homicide, manslaughter, elimination, putting/doing to death, execution, slaughter, massacre, butchery, carnage, bloodshed, extermination, annihilation, *poetic/literary* slaying

► **adjective** ① a killing blow DEADLY, lethal, fatal, mortal, death-dealing, murderous, homicidal, *poetic/literary* deathly ② (*informal*) a killing schedule EXHAUSTING, gruelling, punishing, taxing, draining, wearing, prostrating, crushing, tiring, fatiguing, debilitating, enervating, arduous, tough, demanding, onerous, strenuous, rigorous, *informal* murderous; *Brit informal* knackering ③ (*informal*) the suspense is killing: UNBEARABLE, intolerable, unendurable, insupportable ④ (*informal, dated*) that's absolutely killing: HILARIOUS, hysterically funny, uproarious, riotous, comical, amusing; *informal* priceless, side-splitting.

■ **make a killing** (*informal*) MAKE A LARGE PROFIT, make a/one's fortune, make money, *informal* clean up, make a packet, make a pretty penny; *Brit informal* make a bomb, *N Amer informal* make big bucks

killjoy ► **noun** SPOILSPORT, prophet of doom, *informal* wet blanket, party-pooper, misery; *Austral/NZ informal* wower

kilter

■ **out of kilter** AWRY, off balance, unbalanced, out of order, disordered, confused, muddled, out of tune, out of step.

kin ► **noun** their own kin RELATIVES, relations, family (members), kindred, kith and kin; kinsfolk, kinsmen, kinswomen, people; *informal* folks.

► **adjective** my uncle was kin to the brothers' RELATED, akin, allied, connected with, consanguineous; *formal* cognate.

kind¹ ► **noun** ① all kinds of gifts | the kinds of bird that could be seen SORT, type, variety, style, form, class, category, genre, genus, species, race, breed. ② they were different in kind | the first of its kind CHARACTER, nature, essence, quality, disposition, make-up, type, style, stamp, manner, description, mould, cast, temperament, ilk, *N Amer* stripe

■ **kind of** (informal) RATHER, quite, fairly, somewhat, a little, slightly, a shade, *informal* sort of, a bit, kinda, pretty, a touch, a tad

kind² ► **adjective** she is such a kind and caring person KINDLY, good-natured, kind-hearted, warm-hearted, caring, affectionate, loving, warm, considerate, helpful, thoughtful, obliging, unselfish, selfless, altruistic, good, attentive, compassionate, sympathetic, understanding, big-hearted, benevolent, benign, friendly, neighbourly, hospitable, well meaning, public-spirited, generous, liberal, open-handed, bountiful, beneficent, munificent, benignant, *Brit informal* decent

—OPPOSITES inconsiderate, mean

kind-hearted ► **adjective** KIND, caring, warm-hearted, kindly, benevolent, good-natured, tender, warm, compassionate, sympathetic, understanding, indulgent, altruistic, benign, beneficent, benignant

kindle ► **verb** ① he kindled a fire LIGHT, ignite, set alight, set light to, set fire to, put a match to. ② Elvis kindled my interest in music ROUSE, arouse, wake, awaken, stimulate, inspire, stir (up), excite, evoke, provoke, fire, inflame, trigger, activate, spark off, *poetic/literary* waken, enkindle

—OPPOSITES extinguish

kindliness ► **noun** KINDNESS, benevolence, warmth, gentleness, tenderness, care, humanity, sympathy, compassion, understanding, generosity, charity, kind-heartedness, warm-heartedness, thoughtfulness, solicitousness

kindly ► **adjective** a kindly old lady BENEVOLENT, kind, kind-hearted, warm-hearted, generous, good-natured, gentle, warm, compassionate, caring, loving, benign, well meaning, helpful, thoughtful, considerate, good-hearted, nice, friendly, neighbourly, *Brit informal* decent.

—OPPOSITES unkind, cruel

► **adverb** ① she spoke kindly BENEVOLENTLY, good-naturedly, warmly, affectionately, tenderly, lovingly, compassionately; considerately, thoughtfully, helpfully, obligingly, generously, selflessly, unselfishly, sympathetically. ② kindly explain what you mean PLEASE, if you please, if you wouldn't mind, have the goodness to, *archaic* prithe, pray

—OPPOSITES unkindly, harshly

■ **not take kindly to** RESENT, object to, take umbrage at, take exception to, take offence at, be annoyed by, be irritated by, feel aggrieved about, be upset by.

kindness ► **noun** ① he thanked her for her kindness: KINDLINESS, kind-heartedness, warm-heartedness, affection, warmth, gentleness, concern, care; consideration, considerateness, helpfulness, thoughtfulness, unselfishness, selflessness, altruism, compassion, sympathy, understanding, big-heartedness, benevolence, benignity, friendliness, neighbourliness, hospitality, public-spiritedness; generosity, magnanimity, charitableness; *Brit informal* decency.

② she has done us many a kindness: KIND ACT, good deed, good turn, favour, service

kindred ► **noun** ① his mother's kindred FAMILY, relatives, relations, kin, kith and kin, one's own flesh and blood, kinsfolk, kinsmen, kinswomen, people, *informal* folks. ② ties of kindred KINSHIP, family ties, being related, (blood) relationship, consanguinity, common ancestry

► **adjective** ① industrial relations and kindred subjects RELATED, allied, connected, comparable, similar, like, parallel, associated, analogous, *formal* cognate. ② a kindred spirit LIKE-MINDED, in sympathy, in harmony, in tune, of one mind, on the same wavelength, akin, similar, like, compatible

—OPPOSITES unrelated, alien

king ► **noun** ① the king of France RULER, sovereign, monarch, crowned head, Crown, emperor, prince, potentate, lord. ② (informal) the king of world football STAR, leading light, luminary, superstar, giant, master, *informal* supremo, megastar

■ **a king's ransom** A HUGE AMOUNT, a vast sum, *informal* a (small) fortune, a mint, a packet, a pretty penny, big money, *Brit informal* a bomb, *N Amer informal* big bucks, *Austral informal* big bickies

kingdom ► **noun** ① his kingdom stretched to the sea REALM, domain, dominion, country, empire, land, nation, (sovereign) state, province, territory. ② Henry's little kingdom. DOMAIN, province, realm, sphere, dominion, territory, arena, zone. ③ the plant kingdom DIVISION, category, classification, grouping, group

kingly ► **adjective** ① kingly power ROYAL, regal, monarchical, sovereign, imperial, princely. ② kingly robes REGAL, majestic, stately, noble, lordly, dignified, distinguished, courtly, splendid, magnificent, grand, glorious, rich, gorgeous, resplendent, princely, superb, sumptuous, *informal* splendiferous

kink ► **noun** ① your fishing line should have no kinks in it CURL, twist, twirl, loop, crinkle; knot, tangle, entanglement. ② a kink in the road BEND, corner, dog-leg, twist, turn, curve; *Brit* hairpin bend. ③ there are still some kinks to iron out FLAW, defect, imperfection, problem, complication, hitch, snag, shortcoming, weakness, *informal* hiccup, glitch. ④ their sartorial kinks. PECULIARITY, quirk, idiosyncrasy, eccentricity, oddity, foible, whim, caprice

kinky ► **adjective**, ① (informal) a kinky relationship: PERVERTED, abnormal, deviant, unnatural, depraved, degenerate, perverse; *informal* pervy. ② (informal) kinky underwear PROVOCATIVE, sexy, sexually arousing, erotic, titillating, naughty, indecent, immodest, *Brit informal* saucy. ③ Catriona's long kinky hair CURLY, crimped, curled, curling, frizzy, frizzed, wavy

kinsfolk ► **noun** RELATIVES, relations, kin, kindred, family, kith and kin, kinsmen, kinswomen, people; *informal* folks

kinship ► **noun** ① ties of kinship: RELATIONSHIP, being related, family ties, blood ties, common ancestry, kindred, consanguinity. ② she felt kinship with the others. AFFINITY, sympathy, rapport, harmony, understanding, empathy, closeness, fellow feeling, bond, compatibility; similarity, likeness, correspondence, concordance.

kinsman, kinswoman ► **noun** RELATIVE, relation, family member, cousin, uncle, nephew, aunt, niece

kiosk ► **noun** BOOTH, stand, stall, counter, newsstand

kismet ► **noun** FATE, destiny, fortune, providence, God's will, one's lot (in life), karma, predestination, preordination, predetermination, luck, chance, *poetic/literary* one's dole

kiss ► **verb** ① *he kissed her on the lips* give a kiss to, brush one's lips against, blow a kiss to, air-kiss, *informal* peck, give a smacker to, smooch, canoodle, neck, pet, *Brit informal* snog, *N Amer informal* buss, *informal*, dated spoon, *formal* osculate ② *allow your foot just to kiss the floor* BRUSH (AGAINST), caress, touch (gently), stroke, skim over

► **noun** ① *a kiss on the cheek* air kiss, French kiss, X, *informal* peck, smack, smacker, smooch, *Brit informal* snog, *N Amer informal* buss, *formal* osculation ② *the kiss of the flowers against her cheeks* GENTLE TOUCH, caress, brush, stroke

kit ► **noun** ① *his tool kit* EQUIPMENT, tools, implements, instruments, gadgets, utensils, appliances, tools of the trade, gear, tackle, hardware, paraphernalia, *informal* things, stuff, the necessary, *Military* accoutrements ② (*Brit informal*) *their football kit* CLOTHES, clothing, rig, outfit, dress, costume, garments, attire, garb, gear, get-up, rig-out, *formal* apparel ③ *a model aircraft kit* SET (OF PARTS), DIY kit, do-it-yourself kit, self-assembly set, flat-pack ④ (*informal*) *we packed up all our kit* BELONGINGS, luggage, baggage, paraphernalia, effects, impedimenta, *informal* things, stuff, gear, *Brit informal* clobber

■ **kit someone/something out** EQUIP, fit (out/up), furnish, supply, provide, issue, dress, clothe, array, attire, rig out, deck out, *informal* fix up

kitchen ► **noun** kitchenette, kitchen-diner, cooking area, galley, cookhouse, *N Amer* cookery

kittenish ► **adjective** PLAYFUL, light-hearted, skittish, lively; coquettish, flirtatious, frivolous, flippant, superficial, trivial, shallow, silly, *informal* flirty, dizzy, *poetic/literary* frolicsome

—OPPOSITES SERIOUS

knack ► **noun** ① *a knack for making money* | it takes practice to acquire the knack GIFT, talent, flair, genius, instinct, faculty, ability, capability, capacity, aptitude, aptness, bent, forte, facility, TECHNIQUE, method, trick, skill, art, expertise, *informal* the hang of something ② *he has a knack of getting injured at the wrong time* TENDENCY, propensity, habit, proneness, liability, predisposition

knackered ► **adjective** (*Brit informal*) ① *you look absolutely knackered* See EXHAUSTED sense 1 ② *the computer was knackered* See BROKEN sense 3

knapsack ► **noun** RUCKSACK, backpack, haversack, pack, kitbag

knave ► **noun** (*archaic*). See SCOUNDREL

knavery ► **noun** (*archaic*). See VILLAINY

knavish ► **adjective** (*archaic*). See ROGUISH sense 1

knead ► **verb** ① *kneading the dough*: PUMMEL, work, pound, squeeze, shape, mould ② *she*

kneaded the base of his neck MESSAGE, press, manipulate, rub

kneel ► **verb** FALL TO ONE'S KNEES, get down on one's knees, genuflect, *historical* kowtow

knell ► **noun** (*poetic/literary*) ① *the knell of the ship's bell* TOLL, tolling, dong, resounding, reverberation, death knell, *archaic* tocsin ② *this sounded the knell for the project* (BEGINNING OF THE) END, death knell, death warrant

knickers (*Brit*) ► **plural noun** UNDERPANTS, briefs, French knickers, camiknickers; underwear, lingerie, underclothes, undergarments, *Brit* pants, *informal* panties, undies, *Brit informal* knicks, smalls, dated drawers, *historical* bloomers, pantalettes

knick-knack ► **noun** ORNAMENT, novelty, gewgaw, bibelot, trinket, trifle, bauble, gimcrack, curio, memento, souvenir, *N Amer* kickshaw, *N Amer informal* tchotchke, *archaic* gaud, whim-wham, bijou

knife ► **noun** a sharp knife CUTTING TOOL, blade, cutter, carver See list

► **verb** *the victims had been knifed* STAB, hack, gash, run through, slash, lacerate, cut, pierce, spike, impale, transfix, bayonet, spear

Knives and Daggers

athame	lancet
bistoury	machete
bayonet	misericord
bolo	panga
bowie knife	paperknife
bread knife	parang
butter knife	penknife
butterfly knife	pocket knife
carver	poniard
carving knife	pruning knife
case knife	sai
clasp knife	scalpel
cleaver	scramasax
commando knife	sheath knife
craft knife	skean-dhu
dagger	Stanley knife
dirk	(trademark)
drawknife	steak knife
fish knife	stiletto
flensing knife	Swiss Army knife
flesher	(trademark)
flick knife	switchblade
Frenchman	table knife
hunting knife	tanto
jackknife	ulu
kirpan	utility knife
kris	X-acto knife
kukri	(trademark)

knight ► **noun** *knight in armour*: CAVALIER, cavalryman, horseman, lord, noble, nobleman; *historical* chevalier, paladin, banneret.

■ **knight in shining armour** KNIGHT ON A WHITE CHARGER, rescuer, saviour, champion, hero, defender, protector, guardian (angel).

knightly ► **adjective** ① *tales of knightly deeds*. GALLANT, noble, valiant, heroic, courageous, brave, bold, valorous; chivalrous, courteous, honourable. ② *the knightly classes*: UPPER-CLASS, well born, noble, aristocratic; *archaic* gentle. —OPPOSITES ignoble, low-born.

knit ▶ **verb** ① *disparate regions began to knit together* UNITE, unify, come together, draw together, become closer, bond, fuse, coalesce, merge, meld, blend ② *we expect broken bones to knit* HEAL, mend, join, fuse ③ *Marcus knitted his brows* FURROW, tighten, contract, gather, wrinkle

▶ **noun** *silky knits in pretty shades* KNITTED GARMENT, woollen, sweater, pullover, jersey, cardigan, *Bnt jumper, informal woolly, Bnt informal cardy* See list

Knitting Stitches

cable stitch	plain stitch	slip stitch
garter stitch	purl stitch	stocking stitch
loop stitch	ribbing	trellis stitch
moss stitch	shell stitch	

knob ▶ **noun** ① *a black bill with a knob at the base* LUMP, bump, protuberance, protrusion, bulge, swelling, knot, node, nodule, ball, *informal boss* ② *the knobs on the radio* DIAL, button ③ *she turned the knob on the door* DOORKNOB, (door) handle ④ *a few knobs of butter* NUGGET, lump, pat, ball, dollop, piece, *N Amer informal gob*

knock ▶ **verb** ① *he knocked on the door* BANG, tap, rap, thump, pound, hammer, strike, hit, beat. ② *she knocked her knee on the table* BUMP, bang, hit, strike, crack, injure, hurt, bruise, *informal bash, thwack* ③ *he knocked into an elderly man* COLLIDE WITH, bump into, bang into, be in collision with, run into, crash into, smash into, plough into, *N Amer impact, informal bash into* ④ *(informal) I'm not knocking the company* See CRITICIZE

▶ **noun** ① *a sharp knock at the door* TAP, rap, rattle, knocking, bang, banging, pounding, hammering, drumming, thump, thud ② *the casing is tough enough to withstand knocks* BUMP, blow, bang, jolt, jar, shock, collision, crash, smash, impact ③ *a knock on the ear* BLOW, bang, hit, slap, smack, crack, punch, cuff, thump, box, *informal clip, clout, wallop, thwack, belt, bash* ④ *(informal) this isn't a knock on Dave* See CRITICISM sense 1 ⑤ *life's hard knocks* SETBACK, reversal, defeat, failure, difficulty, misfortune, bad luck, mishap, (body) blow, disaster, calamity, disappointment, sorrow, trouble, hardship, *informal kick in the teeth*

■ **knock about/around** (*informal*) ① *knocking around the Mediterranean* WANDER AROUND, roam around, rove around, range over, travel around, journey around, voyage around, drift around, potter around, *informal gad about, gallivant around* ② *she knocks around with artists* AS SOCIATE, consort, keep company, go around, mix, socialize, be friends, be friendly, *informal hobnob, hang out, run around, pal around*

■ **knock someone/something about/around** BEAT (UP), batter, hit, punch, thump, thrash, slap, maltreat, mistreat, abuse, ill-treat, assault, attack; *N Amer beat up on; informal rough up, do over, give someone a hiding, clobber, clout, bash, belt, whack, wallop*

■ **knock something back** (*informal*) SWALLOW, gulp down, drink up, quaff, guzzle, slug; *informal down, swig, swill (down), toss off, N Amer informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up)*

■ **knock someone down** FELL, floor, flatten, bring down, knock to the ground; knock over, run over/down

■ **knock something down** ① *the building was knocked down* DEMOLISH, pull down, tear down, destroy; raze (to the ground), level, flatten, bulldoze. ② *(informal) the firm has knocked down its prices* REDUCE, lower, cut, decrease, drop, put down, mark down, *informal slash*

■ **knock off** (*informal*) STOP WORK, finish (working), clock off, leave work

■ **knock someone off** (*informal*) See KILL verb sense 1

■ **knock something off** ① (*Bnt informal*) *someone knocked off the video* See STEAL verb sense 1

② (*informal*) *we expect you to knock off three stories a day* PRODUCE, make, turn out, create, construct, assemble, put together, complete, finish ③ (*informal*) *knock off 10% from the bill* DEDUCT, take off/away, subtract, dock

■ **knock it off!** (*informal*) STOP IT, *informal cut it out, give it a rest, leave off, pack it in, lay off; Bnt informal give over*

■ **knock someone out** ① *I hit him and knocked him out* KNOCK UNCONSCIOUS, knock senseless, floor, prostrate, *informal lay out, put out cold, KO, kayo* ② *England was knocked out* ELIMINATE, beat, defeat, vanquish, overwhelm, trounce

③ (*informal*) *walking that far knocked her out* EXHAUST, wear out, tire (out), overtire, fatigue, weary, drain, *informal do in, take it out of, fag out, Bnt informal knacker, N Amer informal poop*

④ (*informal*) *the view knocked me out* OVERWHELM, stun, stupefy, amaze, astound, astonish, stagger, take someone's breath away, impress, dazzle, enchant, entrance, *informal bowl over, flabbergast, knock sideways, blow away, Bnt informal knock for six*

■ **knock up** (*Bnt informal*) WARM UP, practise, hit a ball around

■ **knock someone up** ① (*Bnt informal*) *we were knocked up at five in the morning* WAKE (UP), awaken, call, rouse, arouse, get out of bed, get up, *poetic/literary waken* ② (*informal*) *he knocked her up* MAKE PREGNANT, impregnate, *informal put in the family way, Bnt informal get in the club, archaic get with child*

■ **knock something up** (*Bnt informal*) MAKE QUICKLY, prepare hastily, build rapidly, whip up, rig up, throw together, cobble together, improvise, contrive, *informal rustle up*

knockout ▶ **noun** ① *the match was won by a knockout* STUNNING BLOW, finishing blow, coup de grâce, *informal KO, kayo* ② (*informal*) *she's a knockout!* BEAUTY, vision, picture, sensation, dream, *informal stunner, dish, looker, good-looker, peach, cracker, Bnt informal smasher* ③ (*informal*) *a technical knockout* MASTERPIECE, sensation, marvel, wonder, triumph, success, feat, coup, master stroke, tour de force

knoll ▶ **noun** *she walked up the grassy knoll* HILLOCK, mound, rise, hummock, hill, hump, tor, bank, ridge, elevation, *Scottish brae, formal eminence*

knot ▶ **noun** ① *tie a small knot* TIE, twist, loop, join, fastening, bond; tangle, entanglement. See list ② *a knot in the wood* NODULE, gnarl, node, lump, knob, swelling, gall, protuberance, bump, *archaic knar* ③ *a small knot of people* CLUSTER, group, band, huddle, bunch, circle, ring, gathering, company, crowd, throng

▶ **verb** *their scarves were knotted round their throats* TIE (UP), fasten, secure, bind, do up



Knots

<p> bend Blackwall hitch blood knot bow bowknot bowline bowline on the bight carrick bend cat's paw clinch knot clove hitch diamond knot Englishman's tie figure-of-eight knot fisherman's bend fisherman's knot granny knot half hitch hangman's knot harness hitch hawser bend Hercules knot hitch loop knot love knot Matthew Walker mesh knot </p>	<p> overhand knot prusik reef knot rolling hitch round turn and two half hitches running bowline running knot sailor's knot sheepshank sheet bend shroud-knot slip knot slippery hitch square knot surgeon's knot swab hitch thumb knot timber hitch true-love knot Turk's head wall knot wale knot water knot weaver's knot Windsor knot </p>
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knotted ▶ **adjective** TANGLED, tangly, knotty, entangled, matted, snarled, unkempt, uncombed, tousled, *informal* mussed up

knotty ▶ **adjective** ① a knotty legal problem COMPLEX, complicated, involved, intricate, convoluted, involuted; difficult, hard, thorny, taxing, awkward, tricky, problematic, troublesome ② knotty roots GNARLED, knotted, knurled, nodular, knobbly, lumpy, bumpy ③ a knotty piece of thread KNOTTED, tangled, tangly, twisted, entangled, snarled, matted
—OPPOSITES straightforward

know ▶ **verb** ① she doesn't know I'm here BE AWARE, realize, be conscious, be informed, notice, perceive, see, sense, recognize; *informal* savvy, latch on ② I don't know his address HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF, be informed of, be apprised of, *formal* be cognizant of. ③ do you know the rules BE FAMILIAR WITH, be conversant with, be acquainted with, have knowledge of, be versed in, have mastered, have a grasp of, understand, comprehend, have learned, have memorized, *informal* be clued up on ④ I don't know many people here. BE ACQUAINTED WITH, have met, be familiar with; be friends with, be friendly with, be on good terms with, be close to, be intimate with, *Scottish* ken, *informal* be thick with ⑤ he had known better times: EXPERIENCE, go through, live through, undergo, taste ⑥ my brothers don't know a saucepan from a frying pan: DISTINGUISH, tell (apart), differentiate, discriminate, recognize, pick out, identify

know-all ▶ **noun** (*informal*) WISEACRE, *informal* smart alec, wise guy, smarty, smarty-pants; *Brit* *informal* clever clogs, clever Dick; *N Amer* *informal* know-it-all

know-how ▶ **noun** (*informal*) KNOWLEDGE, expertise, skill, skilfulness, expertness, proficiency, understanding, mastery, technique; ability, capability, competence, capacity, adept-

ness, dexterity, deftness, aptitude, adroitness, ingenuity, faculty, *informal* savvy

knowing ▶ **adjective** ① a knowing smile: SIGNIFICANT, meaningful, eloquent, expressive, suggestive, ARCH, sly, mischievous, impish, teasing, playful ② she's a very knowing child SOPHISTICATED, worldly, worldly-wise, urbane, experienced, knowledgeable, well informed, enlightened, shrewd, astute, canny, sharp, wily, perceptive ③ a knowing infringement of the rules DE LIBERATE, intentional, conscious, calculated, wilful, done on purpose, premeditated, preceived, planned ~

knowingly ▶ **adverb** DELIBERATELY, intentionally, consciously, wittingly, on purpose, by design, premeditatedly, wilfully

knowledge ▶ **noun** ① his knowledge of history | technical knowledge UNDERSTANDING, comprehension, grasp, command, mastery, expertise, skill, proficiency, expertness, accomplishment, adeptness, capacity, capability, *informal* know-how ② people anxious to display their knowledge LEARNING, erudition, education, scholarship, schooling, wisdom ③ he slipped away without my knowledge AWARENESS, consciousness, realization, cognition, apprehension, perception, appreciation, *formal* cognizance ④ an intimate knowledge of the countryside FAMILIARITY, acquaintance, conversance, intimacy ⑤ inform the police of your knowledge INFORMATION, facts, intelligence, news, reports, *informal* info, gen
—OPPOSITES ignorance

knowledgeable ▶ **adjective** ① a knowledgeable old man WELL INFORMED, learned, well read, (well) educated, erudite, scholarly, cultured, cultivated, enlightened ② he is knowledgeable about modern art ACQUAINTED, familiar, conversant, au courant, au fait; having a knowledge of, up on, up to date with, abreast of, *informal* clued up, genned up, *Brit* *informal* switched on
—OPPOSITES ill-informed

known ▶ **adjective** ① a known criminal RECOGNIZED, well known, widely known, noted, celebrated, notable, notorious, acknowledged, self-confessed, declared, overt ② the known world FAMILIAR, known about, well known, studied, investigated

knuckle

■ **knuckle under** SURRENDER, submit, capitulate, give in/up, yield, give way, succumb, climb down, back down, admit defeat, lay down one's arms, throw in the towel/sponge; *informal* quit, raise the white flag

kowtow ▶ **verb** ① they kowtowed to the Emperor PROSTRATE ONESELF, bow (down before), genuflect, do/make obeisance, fall on one's knees before, kneel before. ② she didn't have to kowtow to a boss: GROVEL, be obsequious, be servile, be sycophantic, fawn on, bow and scrape, toady, truckle, abase oneself, humble oneself; curry favour with, dance attendance on, make up to, ingratiate oneself with; *informal* crawl, creep, suck up, lick someone's boots; *Austral./NZ* *informal* smooch to.

kudos ▶ **noun** PRESTIGE, cachet, glory, honour, status, standing, distinction, prestigiousness, fame, celebrity; admiration, respect, esteem, acclaim, praise, credit.

label ▶ **noun** ① the price is clearly stated on the label TAG, ticket, tab, sticker, marker, docket, chit, chitty ② a designer label BRAND (NAME), trade name, trademark, make, logo. ③ the label the media came up with for me DESIGNATION, description, tag, name, epithet, nickname, title, sobriquet, pet name, cognomen, formal denomination, appellation

▶ **verb** ① label each jar with the date TAG, put labels on, tab, ticket, mark, docket ② tests labelled him an underachiever CATEGORIZE, classify, class, describe, designate, identify, mark, stamp, brand, condemn, pigeonhole, stereotype, typecast, call, name, term, dub, nickname

laborious ▶ **adjective** ① a laborious job ARDUOUS, hard, heavy, difficult, strenuous, gruelling, punishing, exacting, tough, onerous, burdensome, back-breaking, trying, challenging, tiring, fatiguing, exhausting, wearying, wearing, taxing, demanding, wearisome, tedious, boring, archaic toilsome ② Doug's laborious style LABOURED, strained, forced, contrived, affected, stiff, stilted, unnatural, artificial, overwrought, heavy, ponderous, convoluted
-OPPOSITES easy, effortless

labour ▶ **noun** ① manual labour (HARD) WORK, toil, exertion, industry, drudgery, effort, donkey work, menial work, informal slog, grind, sweat, elbow grease, *Bnt* informal graft, poetic/literary travail, toil ② the conflict between capital and labour WORKERS, employees, workmen, workforce, staff, working people, blue-collar workers, labourers, labour force, proletariat ③ the labours of Hercules TASK, job, chore, mission, assignment See list ④ a difficult labour CHILDBIRTH, birth, delivery, nativity, contractions, labour pains, formal parturition, poetic/literary travail; dated confinement; archaic lying-in, accouchement, childbed
-OPPOSITES rest, management

▶ **verb** ① a project on which he had laboured for many years WORK (HARD), toil, slave (away), grind away, struggle, strive, exert oneself, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/slave, informal slog away, plug away, peg away; *Bnt* informal graft, poetic/literary travail, archaic toil ② Newcastle laboured to break down their defence. STRIVE, struggle, endeavour, work, try hard, make every effort, do one's best, do one's utmost, do all one can, give one's all, go all out, fight, put oneself out, apply oneself, exert oneself, informal bend/lean over backwards, pull out all the stops ③ there is no need to labour the point OVEREMPHASIZE, belabour, overstress, overdo, strain, overplay, make too much of, exaggerate, dwell on, harp on (about) ④ Rex was labelling under a misapprehension: SUFFER FROM, be a victim of, be deceived by, be misled by.

laboured ▶ **adjective** ① laboured breathing STRAINED, difficult, forced, laborious. ② a rather laboured joke: CONTRIVED, strained, stilted, forced, unnatural, artificial, overdone, ponderous, over-elaborate, laborious, unconvincing, overwrought

The Labours of Hercules

the slaying of the Nemean lion
the slaying of the Lernaean hydra
the capture of the hind of Ceryneia
the capture of the wild boar of Erymanthus
the cleansing of the Augean stables
the shooting of the Stymphalian birds
the capture of the Cretan bull
the capture of the horses of Diomedes
the taking of the girdle of Hippolyte
the capture of the cattle of Geryon
the recovery of the golden apples of Hesperides
the taking of Cerberus

labourer ▶ **noun** WORKMAN, worker, working man, labouring man, manual worker, unskilled worker, blue-collar worker, (hired) hand, roustabout, drudge, menial, coolie, *Austral/NZ* rouseabout, *Bnt* dated navvy

labyrinth ▶ **noun** ① a labyrinth of little streets MAZE, warden, network, complex, web, entanglement ② the labyrinth of conflicting regulations TANGLE, web, morass, jungle, confusion, entanglement, convolution, jumble, mishmash, archaic perplexity

labyrinthine ▶ **adjective** ① labyrinthine corridors MAZE-LIKE, winding, twisting, serpentine, meandering, wandering, rambling ② a labyrinthine system COMPLICATED, intricate, complex, involved, tortuous, convoluted, involuted, tangled, elaborate, confusing, puzzling, mystifying, bewildering, baffling

lace ▶ **noun** ① a dress trimmed with white lace openwork, lacework, tatting, passementerie, bobbinet, needlepoint (lace), filet, bobbin lace, pillow lace, duchesse lace, guipure, rosaline ② brown shoes with laces SHOELACE, bootlace, shoestring, lacing, thong, tie; archaic latchet

▶ **verb** ① he laced up his running shoes FASTEN, do up, tie up, secure, knot ② he laced his fingers into mine ENTWINE, intertwine, twine, entangle, interweave, link, braid, plait ③ tea laced with rum: FLAVOUR, mix (in), blend, fortify, strengthen, stiffen, season, spice (up), enrich, liven up, doctor, adulterate, informal spike ④ her brown hair was laced with grey STREAK, stripe, striate, line

-OPPOSITES untie

■ **lace into** (informal) ① Danny laced into him See SET ON at SET ② the newspaper laced into the prime minister See CRITICIZE

lacerate ▶ **verb** CUT (OPEN), gash, slash, tear, rip, rend, shred, score, scratch, scrape, graze, wound, injure, hurt

laceration ▶ **noun** ① the laceration of her hand CUTTING (OPEN), gashing, slashing, tearing, ripping, scratching, scraping, grazing, wounding, injury. ② a bleeding laceration. GASH, cut, wound, injury, tear, slash, scratch, scrape, abrasion, graze

lachrymose ▶ **adjective** (formal) ① she gets quite lachrymose at the mention of his name TEARFUL,

weeping, crying, with tears in one's eyes, close to tears, on the verge of tears, sobbing, snivelling, whimpering, emotional, sad, doleful, maudlin, miserable, forlorn, *informal* weepy, *poetic/literary* dolorous ② a *lachrymose* novel **TRAGIC**, sad, poignant, moving, heart-rending, tear-jerking, mawkish, sentimental, *Brit informal* soppy

—OPPOSITES cheerful, comic

lack ▶ **noun** a lack of cash **ABSENCE**, want, need, deficiency, dearth, insufficiency, shortage, shortfall, scarcity, paucity, unavailability, scarceness, deficit, *formal* exiguity

—OPPOSITES abundance

▶ **verb** she's immature and lacks judgement **BE WITHOUT**, be in need of, need, be lacking, require, want, be short of, be deficient in, be bereft of, be low on, be pressed for, have insufficient, *informal* be strapped for

—OPPOSITES have, possess

lackadaisical ▶ **adjective** CARELESS, lazy, lax, unenthusiastic, half-hearted, lukewarm, indifferent, unconcerned, casual, offhand, blasé, insouciant, relaxed, apathetic, lethargic, listless, sluggish, spiritless, passionless, *informal* laid-back, couldn't-care-less, easy going

—OPPOSITES enthusiastic

lackey ▶ **noun** ① lackeys helped them from their carriage **SERVANT**, flunkey, footman, manservant, valet, steward, butler, equerry, retainer, attendant, houseboy, domestic, *Brit informal* skivvy, *archaic* scullion ② a rich man's lackey **TOADY**, flunkey, sycophant, flatterer, minion, doormat, stooge, hanger-on, lickspittle, tool, puppet, instrument, pawn, subordinate, underling, *informal* yes-man, bootlicker

lacking ▶ **adjective** ① proof was lacking **ABSENT**, missing, non-existent, unavailable ② the advocate general found the government lacking **DEFICIENT**, defective, inadequate, wanting, flawed, faulty, insufficient, unacceptable, imperfect, inferior ③ the game was lacking in atmosphere **WITHOUT**, devoid of, bereft of, deficient in, low on, short on, in need of

—OPPOSITES present, plentiful

lacklustre ▶ **adjective** UNINSPIRED, uninspiring, unimaginative, dull, humdrum, colourless, characterless, bland, insipid, vapid, flat, dry, lifeless, tame, prosaic, spiritless, lustreless, boring, monotonous, dreary, tedious

—OPPOSITES inspired

laconic ▶ **adjective** ① his laconic comment **BRIEF**, concise, terse, succinct, short, pithy, epigrammatic, aphoristic, gnomic ② their laconic press officer **TACITURN**, uncommunicative, reticent, quiet, reserved, silent, unforthcoming, brusque

—OPPOSITES verbose, loquacious

lad ▶ **noun** (*informal*) ① a young lad of eight **BOY**, schoolboy, youth, youngster, juvenile, stripling, *informal* kid, nipper, whippersnapper, *Scottish informal* laddie, derogatory brat ② a hard-working lad (**YOUNG**) **MAN**, *informal* guy, fellow, geezer, *Brit informal* chap, bloke, *N Amer informal* dude, hombre; *Austral/NZ informal* digger

ladder ▶ **noun** ① she climbed down the ladder steps, set of steps *See list* ② the academic ladder: **HIERARCHY**, scale, grading, ranking, pecking order

laden ▶ **adjective** **LOADED**, burdened, weighed down, overloaded, piled high, fully charged,

full, filled, packed, stuffed, crammed, *informal* chock-full, chock-a-block

la-di-da ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) **SNOBBISH**, pretentious, affected, mannered, pompous, conceited, haughty, *informal* snooty, stuck-up, high and mighty, hoity-toity, uppity, snotty, *Brit informal* posh, toffee-nosed

—OPPOSITES common

ladle ▶ **verb** he was ladling out the contents of the pot **SPOON OUT**, scoop out, dish up/out, serve

▶ **noun** a soup ladle **SPOON**, scoop, dipper, bailer

lady ▶ **noun** ① several ladies were present **WOMAN**, female, *Scottish & N English* lass, lassie, *Brit informal* bird, bint, *N Amer informal* dame, broad, jane, *Austral/NZ informal* sheila, *poetic/literary* maid, damsel, *archaic* wench ② lords and ladies **NOBLE WOMAN**, duchess, countess, peeress, viscountess, baroness, *archaic* gentlewoman

ladylike ▶ **adjective** GENTEEL, polite, refined, well bred, cultivated, polished, decorous, proper, respectable, seemly, well mannered, cultured, sophisticated, elegant, *Brit informal* posh

—OPPOSITES coarse

lag ▶ **verb** **FALL BEHIND**, straggle, fall back, trail (behind), hang back, not keep pace, bring up the rear

—OPPOSITES keep up

laggard ▶ **noun** **STRAGGLER**, loiterer, lingerer, dawdler, sluggard, snail, idler, loafer, *informal* lazybones, slacker, slowcoach, *N Amer informal* slowpoke

lagoon ▶ **noun** inland sea, bay, lake, bight, pool, *Scottish* loch, *Anglo-Irish* lough, *N Amer* bayou

laid-back ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) **RELAXED**, easy-going, equable, free and easy, casual, nonchalant, insouciant, unexcitable, imperturbable, unruffled, blasé, cool, calm, (cool, calm, and collected), unperturbed, unflustered, unworried, unconcerned, leisurely, unhurried, stoical, phlegmatic, tolerant, *informal* unflappable

—OPPOSITES uptight

laid up ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) **BEDRIDDEN**, confined to bed, on the sick list, housebound, incapacitated, injured, disabled, ill, sick, unwell, poorly, ailing, indisposed

—OPPOSITES healthy, active

lair ▶ **noun** ① the lair of a large python **DEN**, burrow, hole, tunnel, cave *See list at ANIMAL* ② a villain's lair **HIDEAWAY**, hiding place, hideout, refuge, sanctuary, haven, shelter, retreat, *informal* hidey-hole

laissez-faire ▶ **noun** laissez-faire is based on self-interest **FREE ENTERPRISE**, free trade, non-intervention, free-market capitalism, market forces

lake ▶ **noun** **POND**, pool, tarn, reservoir, lagoon, waterhole, inland sea, *Scottish* loch, lochan, *Anglo-Irish* lough; *N Amer* bayou, pothole (lake); *poetic/literary* mere. *See list*

—RELATED TERMS lacustrine.

lam ▶ **verb** (*informal*). *See HIT verb sense 1.*

lambaste ▶ **verb** **CRITICIZE**, chastise, censure, take to task, harangue, rail at, rant at, fulminate against, upbraid, scold, reprimand, rebuke, chide, reprove, admonish, berate; *informal* lay into, pitch into, tear into, give someone a dressing-down, carpet, tell off, bawl out; *Brit*

Largest Natural Lakes

LAKE	LOCATION
Baikal	Siberia
Balkhash	Kazakhstan
Bangweulu	Zambia
Chad	Chad/Niger/Nigeria
Erie	Canada/USA
Eyre	Australia
Great Bear	Canada
Great Slave	Canada
Huron	USA/Canada
Ladoga	Russia
Maracaibo	Venezuela
Michigan	USA
Nicaragua	Nicaragua
Nyasa	Malawi/Tanzania/Mozambique
Onega	Russia
Ontario	Canada/USA
Patos	Brazil
Superior	USA/Canada
Tanganyika	Zaire/Burundi/Tanzania/Zambia
Titicaca	Peru/Bolivia
Tonle Sap	Cambodia
Victoria	Uganda/Tanzania/Kenya
Winnipeg	Canada

informal tick off, have a go at, *N Amer informal* chew out, *formal* castigate, excoriate

lame ▶ **adjective** ① the mare was lame **LIMPING**, hobbling, crippled, disabled, incapacitated, *informal* gammy, *dated* game, *archaic* halt ② a lame excuse **FEEBLE**, weak, thin, flimsy, poor, unconvincing, implausible, unlikely
—**OPPOSITES** convincing

lament ▶ **noun** ① the widow's laments **WAIL**, wailing, lamentation, moan, moaning, weeping, crying, sob, sobbing, keening ② a lament for the dead **DIRGE**, requiem, elegy, threnody, monody, *Insh* keen, *Scottish & Insh* coronach, *formal* epicidium

▶ **verb** ① the mourners lamented **MOURN**, grieve, sorrow, wail, weep, cry, sob, keen, beat one's breast, *archaic* plain ② he lamented the modernization of the buildings **BEMOAN**, bewail, complain about, deplore, protest against, object to, oppose, fulminate against, inveigh against, denounce
—**OPPOSITES** celebrate

lamentable ▶ **adjective** **DEPLORABLE**, regrettable, terrible, awful, wretched, woeful, dire, disastrous, desperate, grave, appalling, dreadful, egregious, intolerable, pitiful, shameful, sorrowful, unfortunate
—**OPPOSITES** wonderful

lamentation ▶ **noun** **WEeping**, wailing, crying, sobbing, moaning, lament, keening, grieving, mourning

lamp ▶ **noun** **LIGHT**, lantern, torch, flashlight, beacon

lampoon ▶ **verb** he was mercilessly lampooned. **SATIRIZE**, mock, ridicule, make fun of, caricature, burlesque, parody, take off, guy, rag, tease; *informal* send up.

▶ **noun** a lampoon of student life: **SATIRE**, burlesque, parody, skit, caricature, impersonation, travesty, mockery, squib, pasquinade; *informal* send-up, take-off, spoof.

lance ▶ **noun** a knight with a lance: **SPEAR**, pike, javelin, harpoon

▶ **verb** the boil was lanced **CUT (OPEN)**, slit, incise, puncture, prick, pierce

land ▶ **noun** ① Lyme Park has 1323 acres of land | publicly owned land **GROUNDS**, fields, open space, property, acres, acreage, estate, lands, real estate; countryside, rural area, green belt, *historical* demesne ② fertile land **SOIL**, earth, loam, topsoil, humus ③ many people are leaving the land **THE COUNTRYSIDE**, the country, rural areas ④ Tunisia is a land of variety **COUNTRY**, nation, (nation) state, realm, kingdom, province, region, area, domain ⑤ the lookout sighted land to the east **TERRA FIRMA**, dry land, coast, coastline, shore

—**RELATED TERMS** terrestrial

▶ **verb** ① Allied troops landed in France **DISEMBARK**, go ashore, debark, alight, get off ② the ship landed at Le Havre **BERTH**, dock, moor, (drop) anchor, tie up, put in ③ their plane landed at Chicago **TOUCH DOWN**, make a landing, come in to land, come down ④ a bird landed on the branch **PERCH**, settle, come to rest, alight ⑤ (informal) Nick landed the job of editor **OBTAIN**, get, acquire, secure, be appointed to, gain, net, win, achieve, attain, bag, carry off, *informal* swing, *Brit informal* blag ⑥ (informal) that habit landed her in trouble **BRING**, lead, cause to be in ⑦ (informal) they landed her with the bill **BURDEN**, saddle, encumber, *informal* dump something on someone, *Brit informal* lumber ⑧ (informal) John landed a punch on Brian's chin **INFLECT**, deal, deliver, administer, dispense, mete out, *informal* fetch
—**OPPOSITES** sail, take off

■ **land up** **FINISH UP**, find oneself, end up, *informal* wind up, fetch up, show up, roll up, blow in

landing ▶ **noun** ① a forced landing **ALIGHTING**, touchdown, *informal* greaser ② the ferry landing **HARBOUR**, berth, dock, jetty, landing stage, pier, quay, wharf, slipway
—**OPPOSITES** take-off.

landlady, landlord ▶ **noun** ① the landlord of the pub **PUBLICAN**, licensee, innkeeper, pub-owner, bar-keeper, hotel-keeper, hotelier, restaurateur, manager, manageress ② the landlady had objected to the noise **PROPERTY OWNER**, proprietor, proprietress, lessor, householder, landowner
—**OPPOSITES** tenant

landmark ▶ **noun** ① the spire is a landmark for ships **MARKER**, mark, indicator, beacon ② one of London's most famous landmarks **MONUMENT**, distinctive feature, prominent feature ③ (historical) the landmarks which separated the two states **BOUNDARY MARKER**, boundary line, boundary fence ④ the ruling was hailed as a landmark. **TURNING POINT**, milestone, watershed, critical point

landscape ▶ **noun** **SCENERY**, countryside, topography, country, terrain, outlook, view, prospect, aspect, vista, panorama, perspective, sweep

landslide ▶ **noun** ① floods and landslides: **LANDSLIP**, mudslide; avalanche ② the Labour landslide: **DECISIVE VICTORY**, overwhelming majority, triumph

lane ▶ **noun** ① country lanes: **BYROAD**, byway track, road, street; alley, alleyway. ② cycle lanes

| a three-lane highway **TRACK**, way, course, road division

language ► **noun** ① the structure of language: **SPEECH**, writing, communication, conversation, speaking, talking, talk, discourse, words, vocabulary ② the English language **TONGUE**, mother tongue, native tongue, informal lingo See lists ③ the booklet is written in simple, everyday language **WORDING**, phrasing, phraseology, style, vocabulary, terminology, expressions, turns of phrase, parlance, form/mode of expression, usages, locutions, idiolect, choice of words, speech, dialect, patois, slang, idioms, jargon, argot, cant, informal lingo.
-RELATED TERMS linguistic

Language Groups and Families

Afro-Asiatic	Micronesian
Algonquian	Mongolic
Altaic	Mon-Khmer
Anatolian	Mosan
Araucanian	Munda
Arawakan	Muskogean
Athabaskan	Na-Dene
Austro-Asiatic	Nahuatl
Austronesian	Niger-Congo
Baltic	Nilo-Saharan
Balto-Slavic	Nilotic
Bantu	Ob-Ugrian
Benue-Congo	Otomanguean
Caddoan	Pama-Nyungan
Cariban	Papuan
Caucasian	Penutian
Celtic	Piman
Chadic	Polynesian
Charl-Nile	Rhaeto-Romance
Chibchan	Romance
Cushitic	Salish
Dagestanian	Samoyedic
Dardic	Sanskritic
Dravidian	Scandinavian
Eskimo-Aleut	Semitic
Ethiopic	Shona
Finnic	Sinitic
Finno-Ugric	Sino-Tibetan
Germanic	Sintu
Gur	Slouan
Hellenic	Slavic
Illyrian	Sotho
Indic	Sudanic
Indo-European	Tagalic
Indo-Iranian	Tanoan
Indonesian	Tai
Iranian	Tibeto-Burman
Iroquoian	Tungusic
Italic	Tupi-Guarani
Kanuri	Turanian
Kartvelian	Turkic
Keresan	Ugric
Khoisan	Ural-Altaic
Kwa	Uralic
Lenapi	Uto-Aztecan
Malayo-Polynesian	Voltaic
Mande	Wakashan
Mayan	Yuman
Melanesian	

languid ► **adjective** ① a languid wave of the hand. **RELAXED**, unhurried, languorous, slow, listless, lethargic, sluggish, lazy, idle, indolent, apathetic

ic, informal laid-back, archaic otiose ② languid days in the sun **LEISURELY**, languorous, relaxed, restful, lazy. ③ she was pale and languid **SICKLY**, weak, faint, feeble, frail, delicate, tired, weary, fatigued

-OPPOSITES energetic

languish ► **verb** ① the plants languished and died **WEAKEN**, deteriorate, decline, go downhill, wither, droop, wilt, fade, waste away ② the general is now languishing in prison **WASTE AWAY**, rot, be abandoned, be neglected, be forgotten, suffer, experience hardship ③ (archaic) she still languished after Richard **PINE FOR**, yearn for, ache for, long for, sigh for, grieve for, mourn
-OPPOSITES thrive

languor ► **noun** ① the sultry languor that was stealing over her **LASSITUDE**, lethargy, listlessness, torpor, fatigue, weariness, sleepiness, drowsiness, laziness, idleness, indolence, inertia, sluggishness, apathy ② the languor of a hot day **STILLNESS**, tranquillity, calm, calmness, oppressiveness, heaviness
-OPPOSITES vigour

lank ► **adjective** ① lank, greasy hair **LIMP**, lifeless, lustreless, dull, straggling, straight, long ② his lank figure See **LANKY**

lanky ► **adjective** **TALL**, **THIN**, slender, slim, lean, lank, skinny, spindly, spare, gangling, gangly, gawky, rangy
-OPPOSITES stocky

lap¹ ► **noun** Henry sat on his gran's lap **KNEE**, knees, thighs

■ in the lap of the gods **OUT OF ONE'S HANDS**, beyond one's control, in the hands of fate

■ live in the lap of luxury **BE VERY RICH**, want for nothing, informal live the life of Riley, *N Amer* informal live high on the hog

lap² ► **noun** a race of eight laps **CIRCUIT**, leg, circle, revolution, round

► **verb** ① she lapped the other runners **OVERTAKE**, outstrip, leave behind, pass, go past, catch up, with ② (poetic/literary) he was lapped in blankets **WRAP**, swathe, envelop, enfold, swaddle

lap³ ► **verb** ① waves lapped against the sea wall **SPLASH**, wash, swish, slosh, break, beat, strike, dash, roll, poetic/literary plash. ② the dog lapped water out of a puddle **DRINK**, lick up, sup, swallow, slurp, gulp

■ lap something up **RELISH**, revel in, savour, delight in, wallow in, glory in, enjoy

lapse ► **noun** ① a lapse of concentration **FAILURE**, failing, slip, error, mistake, blunder, fault, omission, informal slip-up ② his lapse into petty crime **DECLINE**, fall, falling, slipping, drop, deterioration, degeneration, backsliding, regression, retrogression, descent, sinking, slide ③ a lapse of time **INTERVAL**, gap, pause, interlude, lull, hiatus, break; passage, course, passing

► **verb** ① the planning permission has lapsed: **EXPIRE**, become void, become invalid, run out ② do not let friendships lapse. (COME TO AN) **END**, cease, stop, terminate, pass, fade, wither, die. ③ morality has lapsed. **DETERIORATE**, decline, fall (off), drop, worsen, degenerate, go downhill, backslide, regress, retrogress, get worse, sink, wane, slump; informal go to pot, go to the dogs ④ she lapsed into silence: **REVERT**, relapse, drift, slide, slip, sink.

lapsed ► **adjective** ① a lapsed Catholic: **NON-PRACTISING**, backsliding, apostate; formal quondam.

Languages

INDO-EUROPEAN LANGUAGES

Afrikaans
Anglo-Saxon/Old English (extinct)
Albanian
Ancient Greek
Armenian
Assamese
Avestan (extinct)
Baluchi
Belorussian
Bengali
Bhili
Bhojpuri
Bihari
Breton
Bulgarian
Cape Dutch
Catalan
Cornish
Croatian
Czech
Danish
Dutch
English
Faeroese
Flemish
French
Frisian
Friulian
Galician
Gaulish (extinct)
German
Gothic (extinct)
Gujarati
Gurkhal
Hindi
Hindustani
Hittite (extinct)
Icelandic
Iranian/Persian/Farsi
Insh
Italian
Kashmiri
Kashubian
Konkani/Goanese
Kurdish
Latin
Ladino/Judezmo
Lahnda
Latin (extinct)
Latvian
Lithuanian
Low German
Luwian (extinct)
Lycian (extinct)
Lydian (extinct)
Macedonian
Magahi
Malthi
Maldivian
Manx
Marathi/Mahratti
Marwari
Modern Greek
Moldavian
Nepali
Norm (extinct)

Norwegian
Occitan
Old Church Slavonic (extinct)
Old Norse (extinct)
Old Prussian (extinct)
Orly
Ossetian
Paharia
Pahlavi (extinct)
Pali (extinct)
Pashto
Phrygian (extinct)
Pictish (extinct)
Polish
Portuguese
Prakrit (extinct)
Provençal
Punjabi/Gurmukhi
Romanian
Romansh
Romany
Russian
Sanskrit (extinct)
Scottish Gaelic
Serbian
Shelta
Sindhi
Sinhalese
Slovak
Slovenian
Sogdian (extinct)
Sorbian/Wendish
Spanish
Swedish
Swiss German
Tajik
Tocharian A and B (both extinct)

Ukrainian

Urdu

Welsh

Yiddish

FINNO-UGRIC LANGUAGES

Estonian
Finnish
Hungarian/Magyar
Khanty/Ostyak
Komi/Zyrian
Lappish/Sami
Mansi/Vogul
Mordvin
Udmurt/Votyak

OTHER URALIC LANGUAGES

Mari/Cheremis
Nenets
Samoyed
Selkup

TURKIC (ALTAIC) LANGUAGES

Azerbaijani
Bashkir
Chagatal (extinct)
Chuvash

Gagauz
Karachay-Balka
Karakalpak
Kazakh
Kyrgyz
Orkhon (extinct)
Tatar
Turkish
Turkmen
Uighu
Uzbek
Yakut

OTHER ALTAIC LANGUAGES

Buryat
Even
Evenki/Tungus
Kalmyk
Khalkha
Manchu
Mongolian

LANGUAGES OF THE CAUCASUS

Abkhaz
Adyghe
Armenian
Avar
Azerbaijani
Chechen
Circassian
Georgian
Ingush
Kabardian
Karachay-Balkar
Mingrelian
Ossetian

DRAVIDIAN LANGUAGES

Brahui
Gond
Kannada
Malayalam
Tamil
Telugu

SINO-TIBETAN LANGUAGES

Burmese
Chin
Chinese
Dzongkha
Garo
Gurung
Karen
Kuki
Lao/Laotian
Lepcha
Manipuri
Mizo
Naga
Shan
Tamang
Thai
Tibetan

SEMITIC LANGUAGES

Akkadian (extinct)
Arabic
Aramaic
Assyrian
Babylonian (extinct)
Chaldean
Hebrew
Maltese
Phoenician (extinct)
Syriac (extinct)
Ugaritic (extinct)

AFRICAN LANGUAGES

Bambara
Bemba
Berber
Bushman
Congolese
Coptic
Ewe
Fula
Fulani
Fulfulde
Ge'ez
Hausa
Klirundi
Kongo/Kikongo
Kru
Kung
Limba
Lingala
Lozi
Luganda
Luo
Mallinke
Mandinka
Mende
More/Mooré
Nama
Ndebele/Sindebele
Ngbandi
Nguni
Nubian
Nuer
Nupe
Oromo
Pedi/Sepedi
Sango
Senufo
Sesotho
Setswana
Shangaan
Shona
Songhai
Soninke
Susu
Swahili/Kiswahili
Swazi/Siswati
Tamashek
Tigre
Tigrinya
Tonga
Tswana/Setswana
Turkana
Xhosa
Yao
Yoruba
Zande

Languages (cont.)

Zulu
AUSTRO-ASIATIC LANGUAGES
 Khmer
 Mon
 Munda
 Nicobarese
 Palaung
 Santali
 Vietnamese/Annamese
 Wa

AUSTRONESIAN (MALAYO-POLYNESIAN) LANGUAGES

Achinese
 Bahasa Indonesia
 Bajau
 Balinese
 Batak
 Bikol
 Bugis
 Cham
 Chamorro
 Dayak
 Dusun
 Fijian
 Hawaiian
 Hiligaynon

Iban
 Ibanag
 Ilocano
 Javanese
 Kayan
 Kenyah
 Madurese
 Makasarese
 Malagasy
 Malay
 Maori
 Marquesan
 Melanesian
 Minangkabau
 Pampangan
 Pangasinan
 Rarotongan
 Samoan
 Sundanese
 Tagalog
 Tahitian
 Tongan

NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES
 See NORTH AMERICAN INDIAN PEOPLES.

ESKIMO-ALEUT LANGUAGES

Aleut (*virtually extinct*)

Inuktitut/Inupiaq
 Yupik

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN INDIAN LANGUAGES

Araucanian
 Aymara
 Black Carib (*extinct*)
 Carib/Gallibi
 Guaraní
 Guaycuru
 Island Carib (*extinct*)
 Jivaro
 Quechua
 Quiché
 Taino (*extinct*)
 Ticuna
 Tupi
 Wapishana
 Warao

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES

Adnyamathanha
 Aranda/Arunta
 Nyungar
 Pintupi
 Warlpiri
 Yindjibarndi

Yuwaalaray

PIDGINS AND CREOLES

Chinook jargon (*extinct*)
 Bislama/Beach-la-Mar
 Gullah
 Hiri Motu
 Krio
 Neo-Melanesian/Tok
 Pisin
 Papamentu

LANGUAGES OF NO KNOWN AFFINITY

Ainu (*virtually extinct*)
 Basque
 Chukchi
 Dani
 Etruscan (*extinct*)
 Elamite (*extinct*)
 Hmong/Miao/Meo
 Korean
 Japanese
 Sumerian (*extinct*)

ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGES

Esperanto
 Ido
 Volapük

② a lapsed season ticket EXPIRED, void, invalid, out of date

—OPPOSITES practising, valid

larceny ► noun THEFT, stealing, robbery, pilfering, thieving, burglary, housebreaking, breaking and entering, *informal* filching, swiping. *Brit informal* nicking, pinching, *formal* peculation

larder ► noun PANTRY, (food) store, (food) cupboard, cooler, scullery, *Brit* buttery, *archaic* spence

large ► adjective ① a large house | large numbers of people BIG, great, huge, sizeable, substantial, immense, enormous, colossal, massive, mammoth, vast, prodigious, tremendous, gigantic, giant, monumental, stupendous, gargantuan, elephantine, titanic, mountainous, monstrous, towering, tall, high; mighty, voluminous, king-size, giant-size, *informal* jumbo, whopping (great), thumping (great), mega, humongous, monster, astronomical, *Brit informal* whacking (great), ginormous ② a large red-faced man: BIG, burly, heavy, tall, bulky, thickset, chunky, strapping, hulking, hefty, muscular, brawny, solid, powerful, sturdy, strong, rugged, fat, plump, overweight, chubby, stout, meaty, fleshy, portly, rotund, flabby, paunchy, obese, corpulent, *informal* hunky, beefy, tubby, pudgy; *Brit informal* podgy, fubby; *N. Amer informal* zaftig, corn-fed. ③ a large supply of wool. ABUNDANT, copious, plentiful, ample, liberal, generous, lavish, bountiful, bumper, boundless, good, considerable, superabundant, *poetic/literary* plentiful ④ the measure has large economic implications: WIDE-REACHING, far-reaching, wide, sweeping, large-scale, broad, extensive, comprehensive, exhaustive.

—RELATED TERMS macro-, mega-

—OPPOSITES small, meagre

■ **at large** ① fourteen criminals are still at large AT LIBERTY, free, (on the) loose, on the run, fugitive, *N. Amer informal* on the lam ② society at large AS A WHOLE, generally, in general ③ (dated) he spoke at large IN DETAIL, exhaustively, at length, extensively

■ **by and large** ON THE WHOLE, generally, in general, all things considered, all in all, for the most part, in the main, as a rule, overall, almost always, mainly, mostly, on average, on balance.

largely ► adverb MOSTLY, mainly, to a large/great extent, chiefly, predominantly, primarily, principally, for the most part, in the main, usually, typically, commonly

large-scale ► adjective ① a large-scale programme EXTENSIVE, wide-ranging, far-reaching, comprehensive, exhaustive, mass, nationwide, global ② a large-scale map ENLARGED, blown-up, magnified

largesse ► noun ① Tupper took advantage of his friend's largesse GENEROSITY, liberality, munificence, bounty, bountifulness, beneficence, altruism, charity, philanthropy, magnanimity, benevolence, charitableness, open-handedness, kindness, big-heartedness, *formal* benefaction ② distributing largesse to the locals: GIFTS, presents, handouts, grants, aid; patronage, sponsorship, backing, help; *historical* alms.

—OPPOSITES meanness.

lark (*informal*) ► noun ① we were just having a bit of a lark: FUN, amusement, laugh, giggle, joke; escapade, prank, trick, jape, practical joke; *informal* leg-pull; (larks) antics, high jinks, horse-

play, mischief, tomfoolery, *informal* shenanigans, monkey business; *Brit informal* monkey tricks, dated sport. ② I've got this snowboarding lark sussed. **ACTIVITY**, hobby, pastime, task, *informal* business, caper.

► **verb** he's always larking about: **FOOL ABOUT/AROUND**, play tricks, make mischief, monkey about/around, clown about/around, have fun, skylark, *informal* mess about/around; *Brit informal* muck about/around

lascivious ► **adjective** **LECHEROUS**, lewd, lustful, licentious, libidinous, saucy, lubricious, prurient, dirty, smutty, naughty, suggestive, indecent, ribald; *informal* horny; *Brit informal* randy, *formal* concupiscent

lash ► **verb** ① he lashed her repeatedly **WHIP**, flog, beat, thrash, horsewhip, scourge, birch, switch, belt, strap, cane, strike, hit, *informal* wallop, whack, lam, larrup, give someone a (good) hiding, *N Amer informal* whale. ② rain lashed the window panes **BEAT AGAINST**, dash against, pound, batter, strike, hit, knock. ③ the tiger began to lash his tail **SWISH**, flick, twitch, whip. ④ fear lashed them into a frenzy **PROVOKE**, incite, arouse, excite, agitate, stir up, whip up, work up. ⑤ two boats were lashed together **FASTEN**, bind, tie (up), tether, hitch, knot, rope, make fast

► **noun** ① he brought the lash down upon the prisoner's back **WHIP**, horsewhip, switch, scourge, thong, flail, strap, birch, cane, *historical* knout, cat-o'-nine-tails, cat. ② twenty lashes **STROKE**, blow, hit, strike, welt, thwack, thump, *informal* wallop, whack, *archaic* stripe

■ **lash out** ① the president lashed out at the opposition **CRITICIZE**, chastise, censure, attack, condemn, denounce, lambaste, harangue, pillory, berate, upbraid, rebuke, reproach, *informal* lay into; *formal* castigate. ② Norman lashed out at Terry with a knife **HIT OUT**, strike, let fly, take a swing, set upon/about, turn on, round on, attack; *informal* lay into, tear into, pitch into. ③ (informal) they lashed out on a taxi **SPEND LAVISHLY**, be extravagant, *informal* splash out, splurge, shell out, squander money, waste money, fritter money away

lass ► **noun** (Scottish & *N English*) **GIRL**, young woman, young lady, *Scottish* lassie, *Irish* colleen, *informal* chick, *girlie*, *Brit informal* bird, bint, *N Amer informal* dame, babe, doll, gal, broad, *Austral/NZ informal* sheila; *poetic/literary* maid, maiden, damsel, *archaic* wench

lassitude ► **noun** **LETHARGY**, listlessness, weariness, languor, sluggishness, tiredness, fatigue, torpor, lifelessness, apathy
—**OPPOSITES** vigour

last¹ ► **adjective** ① the last woman in the queue **REARMOST**, hindmost, endmost, at the end, at the back, furthest (back), final, ultimate. ② Rembrandt spent his last years in Amsterdam **CLOSING**, concluding, final, ending, end, terminal; later, latter. ③ I'd be the last person to say any thing against him: **LEAST LIKELY**, most unlikely, most improbable, least suitable, most unsuitable, most inappropriate, least appropriate. ④ we met last year: **PREVIOUS**, preceding, prior, former. ⑤ this was his last chance **FINAL**, only remaining
—**OPPOSITES** first, early, next.

► **adverb** the candidate coming last is eliminated: **AT THE END**, at/in the rear.

► **noun** the most important business was left to the last:

END, ending, finish, close, conclusion, finale, termination.

—**OPPOSITES** beginning

■ **at last** **FINALLY**, in the end, eventually, ultimately, at long last, after a long time, in (the fullness of) time

■ **the last word** ① that's my last word **FINAL DECISION**, definitive statement, conclusive comment. ② she was determined to have the last word **CONCLUDING REMARK**, final say, closing statement. ③ the last word in luxury and efficiency: **THE BEST**, the peak, the acme, the epitome, the latest, the pinnacle, the apex, the apogee, the ultimate, the height, the zenith, the nonpareil, the *crème de la crème*; *archaic* the nonsuch

last² ► **verb** ① the hearing lasted for six days **CONTINUE**, go on, carry on, keep on/going, proceed, take, stay, remain, persist. ② how long will he last as manager? **SURVIVE**, endure, hold on/out, keep going, persevere, *informal* stick it out, hang on, hack it. ③ the car is built to last **ENDURE**, wear well, stand up, bear up, *informal* go the distance

last-ditch ► **adjective** **LAST-MINUTE**, last-chance, eleventh-hour, last-resort, desperate, final, *informal* last-gasp

lasting ► **adjective** **ENDURING**, long-lasting, long-lived, abiding, continuing, long-term, surviving, persisting, permanent, durable, constant, stable, established, secure, long-standing, unchanging, irreversible, immutable, eternal, undying, everlasting, unending, never-ending, unfading, changeless, indestructible, unceasing, unwavering, unflinching

—**OPPOSITES** ephemeral

lastly ► **adverb** **FINALLY**, in conclusion, to conclude, to sum up, to end, last, ultimately
—**OPPOSITES** firstly

latch ► **noun** he lifted the latch **FASTENING**, catch, fastener, clasp

► **verb** Jess latched the back door **FASTEN**, secure, make fast

late ► **adjective** ① the train was late **BEHIND TIME**, behind schedule, behindhand, tardy, running late, overdue, delayed. ② her late husband **DEAD**, departed, lamented, passed on/away; *formal* deceased. ③ the late government **PREVIOUS**, preceding, former, past, prior, earlier, sometime, one-time, ex-, erstwhile, *formal* quondam
—**OPPOSITES** punctual, early.

► **adverb** ① she had arrived late **BEHIND SCHEDULE**, behind time, behindhand, belatedly, tardily, at the last minute. ② I was working late: **AFTER (OF FICE) HOURS**, overtime. ③ I won't have you staying out late **LATE AT NIGHT**, *informal* till all hours

■ **of late** **RECENTLY**, lately, latterly

lately ► **adverb** **RECENTLY**, of late, latterly, in recent times.

lateness ► **noun** **UNPUNCTUALITY**, tardiness, delay.

latent ► **adjective** **DORMANT**, untapped, unused, undiscovered, hidden, concealed, invisible, unseen, undeveloped, unrealized, unfulfilled, potential.

later ► **adjective** a later chapter: **SUBSEQUENT**, following, succeeding, future, upcoming, to come, ensuing, next; *formal* posterior; *archaic* after
—**OPPOSITES** earlier.

► **adverb** ① later, the film rights were sold: **SUBSEQUENTLY**, eventually, then, next, later on, after

this/that, afterwards, at a later date, in the future, in due course, by and by, in a while, in time ② *two days later a letter arrived* AFTERWARDS, later on, after (that), subsequently, following, *formal* thereafter

lateral ▶ **adjective** ① *lateral movements* SIDEWAYS, sidewise, sideward, edgewise, edgewise, oblique. ② *lateral thinking* UNORTHODOX, inventive, creative, imaginative, original, innovative

latest ▶ **adjective** MOST RECENT, newest, just out, just released, fresh, (bang) up to date, up to the minute, state-of-the-art, current, modern, contemporary, fashionable, in fashion, in vogue; *informal* in, with it, trendy, hip, hot, happening, cool

—OPPOSITES old

lather ▶ **noun** ① *a rich, soapy lather* FOAM, froth, suds, soapsuds, bubbles, *poetic/literary* spume ② *the mare was covered with lather* SWEAT, perspiration ③ (*informal*) *Dad was in a right lather* PANIC, fluster, fret, fuss, fever, *informal* flap, sweat, tizzy, dither, twitter, state, stew, *N Amer informal* twit, *poetic/literary* pother

latitude ▶ **noun** ① *Toronto shares the same latitude as Nice* parallel ② *he gave them a lot of latitude* FREEDOM, scope, leeway, (breathing) space, flexibility, liberty, independence, free rein, licence, room to manoeuvre, freedom of action

—OPPOSITES longitude, restriction

latter ▶ **adjective** ① *the latter half of the season* LATER, closing, end, concluding, final, latest, most recent ② *Russia chose the latter option* LAST-MENTIONED, second, last, later

—OPPOSITES former

latter-day ▶ **adjective** MODERN, present-day, current, contemporary

latterly ▶ **adverb** ① *latterly, she had been in more pain* RECENTLY, lately, of late, in recent times ② *latterly he worked as a political editor* ULTIMATELY, finally, towards the end

lattice ▶ **noun** GRID, latticework, fretwork, open framework, openwork, trellis, trelliswork, network, mesh

laud ▶ **verb** (*formal*) PRAISE, extol, hail, applaud, acclaim, commend, sing the praises of, speak highly of, lionize, eulogize, rhapsodize over/about, *informal* rave about, *archaic* magnify, panegyrtize.

—OPPOSITES criticize

laudable ▶ **adjective** PRAISEWORTHY, commendable, admirable, meritorious, worthy, deserving, creditable, estimable, exemplary

—OPPOSITES shameful

laudation ▶ **noun** (*formal*) PRAISE, honour, applause, acclaim, acclamation, commendation, admiration, homage, distinction, approval, credit, kudos, glory, esteem, approbation, tribute, congratulations, plaudits; *formal* encomium

laudatory ▶ **adjective** COMPLIMENTARY, congratulatory, praising, extolling, adulatory, commendatory, approbatory, flattering, celebratory, eulogizing, panegyric, *informal* glowing; *formal* encomiastic

—OPPOSITES disparaging

laugh ▶ **verb** ① *he started to laugh excitedly* CHUCKLE, chortle, guffaw, giggle, titter, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, burst out laughing, roar/hoot with laughter, dissolve into laughter, split one's sides, be doubled up; *informal* be in

stitches, be rolling in the aisles, crease up, fall about, crack up ② *people laughed at his theories* RIDICULE, mock, deride, scoff at, jeer at, sneer at, jibe at, make fun of, poke fun at, scorn, lampoon, satirize, parody, *informal* send up, take the mick out of, pooh-pooh; *Austral/NZ informal* poke mullock at

▶ **noun** ① *he gave a short laugh* CHUCKLE, chortle, guffaw, giggle, titter, tee-hee, snigger, snicker, roar/hoot of laughter, shriek of laughter, belly laugh ② (*informal*) *he was a right laugh* JOKER, wag, wit, clown, jester, prankster, character, *informal* card, case, caution, hoot, scream, riot, barrel of laughs, *Austral/NZ informal* hard case ③ (*informal*) *I entered the contest for a laugh* JOKE, prank, piece of fun, jest, escapade, caper, practical joke, *informal* lark

■ **laugh something off** DISMISS, make a joke of, make light of, shrug off, brush aside, scoff at, *informal* pooh-pooh

laughable ▶ **adjective** ① *the idea that nuclear power is safe is laughable* RIDICULOUS, ludicrous, absurd, risible, preposterous, foolish, silly, idiotic, stupid, nonsensical, crazy, insane, outrageous, *informal* cock-eyed, *Brit informal* daft ② *if it wasn't so tragic, it'd be laughable* AMUSING, funny, humorous, hilarious, uproarious, comical, comic, farcical

laughing stock ▶ **noun** FIGURE OF FUN, dupe, butt, stooge, Aunt Sally, *informal* fall guy

laughter ▶ **noun** ① *the sound of laughter* LAUGHING, chuckling, chortling, guffawing, giggling, tittering, sniggering, *informal* hysterics ② *a source of laughter* AMUSEMENT, entertainment, humour, mirth, merriment, gaiety, hilarity, jollity, jocularly, fun

launch ▶ **verb** ① *he launched the boat* SET AFLOAT, put to sea, put into the water ② *they've launched the shuttle* SEND INTO ORBIT, blast off, take off, lift off ③ *a chair was launched at him* THROW, hurl, fling, pitch, lob, let fly, fire, shoot, *informal* chuck, heave, sling ④ *the government launched a new campaign* SET IN MOTION, get going, get under way, start, commence, begin, embark on, initiate, inaugurate, set up, organize, introduce, bring into being, *informal* kick off ⑤ *he launched into a tirade* START, commence, burst into

launder ▶ **verb** WASH (AND IRON), clean, dry-clean

laundry ▶ **noun** ① *a big pile of laundry*. (DIRTY) WASHING, dirty clothes ② *the facilities include a laundry* WASHROOM, laundry room, launderette, *N Amer trademark* laundromat.

laurels ▶ **plural noun** HONOURS, tributes, praise, plaudits, accolades, kudos, acclaim, acclamation, credit, glory, honour, distinction, fame, renown, prestige, recognition; *informal* brownie points, *formal* laudation.

lavatory ▶ **noun** TOILET, WC, water closet, (public) convenience, cloakroom, powder room, urinal, privy, latrine, jakes; *N Amer* washroom, bathroom, rest room, men's/ladies' room, commode, comfort station, *Nautical* head, *informal* little girls'/boys' room, smallest room; *Brit informal* loo, bog, the Ladies, the Gents, khazi, lav; *N Amer informal* can, john; *Austral/NZ informal* dunny; *archaic* closet, garderobe.

lavish ▶ **adjective** ① *lavish parties* SUMPTUOUS, luxurious, gorgeous, costly, expensive, opulent,



grand, splendid, rich, fancy, *informal* posh. ② *he was lavish with his hospitality*: GENEROUS, liberal, bountiful, open-handed, unstinting, unsparing, free, munificent, extravagant, prodigal ③ *lavish amounts of champagne*: ABUNDANT, copious, plentiful, liberal, prolific, generous, *poetic/literary* plentiful

—OPPOSITES meagre, frugal

► **verb** *she lavished money on her children*: GIVE FREELY, spend generously, heap, shower

law ► **noun** ① *the law of the land* RULES AND REGULATIONS, body of laws, constitution, legislation, legal code. ② *a new law was passed*: REGULATION, statute, enactment, act, bill, decree, edict, rule, ruling, resolution, dictum, command, order, directive, pronouncement, proclamation, dictate, diktat, fiat, by-law, *N Amer formal* ordinance ③ *a career in the law*: THE LEGAL PROFESSION, the bar ④ *I'll take you to law!* LITIGATION, legal action, lawsuit, justice ⑤ (*informal*) *on the run from the law* See POLICE **noun** ⑥ *the laws of the game* RULE, regulation, principle, convention, instruction, guideline ⑦ *a moral law* PRINCIPLE, rule, precept, directive, injunction, commandment, belief, creed, credo, maxim, tenet, doctrine, canon

—RELATED TERMS legal

law-abiding ► **adjective** HONEST, lawful, righteous, honourable, upright, upstanding, good, decent, virtuous, moral, dutiful, obedient, compliant, disciplined

—OPPOSITES criminal

lawbreaker ► **noun** CRIMINAL, felon, wrongdoer, malefactor, evil-doer, offender, transgressor, miscreant, villain, rogue, ruffian, *Law* malfeasant, infractor, *informal* crook, con, jailbird

law court ► **noun** COURT, court of law/justice, tribunal

—RELATED TERMS judicial, juridical

lawful ► **adjective** ① *a verdict of lawful killing* LEGITIMATE, legal, licit, just, permissible, permitted, allowable, allowed, rightful, sanctioned, authorized, warranted, within the law, *informal* legit ② *a lawful political organization* LAW-ABIDING, righteous, good, decent, virtuous, moral, orderly, well behaved, peaceful, dutiful, obedient, compliant, disciplined

—OPPOSITES illegal, criminal

lawless ► **adjective** ① *a lawless rabble*: ANARCHIC, disorderly, ungovernable, unruly, disruptive, rebellious, insubordinate, riotous, mutinous ② *lawless activities*: ILLEGAL, unlawful, lawbreaking, illicit, illegitimate, criminal, felonious, villainous, miscreant; *informal* crooked, shady, bent

—OPPOSITES orderly, legal

lawlessness ► **noun** ANARCHY, disorder, chaos, unruliness, criminality, crime

lawsuit ► **noun** (LEGAL) ACTION, suit (at law), case, (legal/judicial) proceedings, litigation, trial

lawyer ► **noun** SOLICITOR, legal practitioner, legal adviser, member of the bar, barrister, advocate, counsel, Queen's Counsel, QC, *N. Amer.* attorney, counselor(-at-law); *informal* brief

lax ► **adjective** SLACK, slipshod, negligent, remiss, careless, heedless, unmindful, sloppy, slapdash, offhand, casual; easy-going, lenient, permissive, liberal, indulgent, overindulgent

—OPPOSITES strict

laxative ► **noun** PURGATIVE, evacuant, *Medicine* aperient, cathartic See list

Laxatives

(bitter) aloes
cascara
castor oil
colocynth
croton oil
Epsom salts
gamboge
Glauber's salt(s)
glycerol
Gregory powder
Ipecacuanha
jalap
lactulose

liquid paraffin
magnesia
manna
Milk of Magnesia
(trademark)
mineral oil
phenolphthalein
psyllium
scammony
Sedlitz powder
senna
syrup of figs

lay¹ ► **verb** ① *Curtis laid the newspaper on the table* PUT (DOWN), place, set (down), deposit, rest, situate, locate, position, stow, shove, *informal* stick, dump, park, plonk, *Brit informal* bung ② *the act laid the foundation for the new system*: SET IN PLACE, set out/up, establish ③ *I'll lay money that Michelle will be there* BET, wager, gamble, stake, risk, venture; give odds, speculate, *informal* punt ④ *they are going to lay charges* BRING (FORWARD), press, prefer, lodge, register, place, file ⑤ *he laid the blame at the Prime Minister's door* ASSIGN, attribute, ascribe, allot, attach, hold someone responsible/accountable, find guilty, pin the blame on ⑥ *we laid plans for the next voyage* DEVISE, arrange, make (ready), prepare, work out, hatch, design, plan, scheme, plot, conceive, put together, draw up, produce, develop, formulate, *informal* cook up. ⑦ *this will lay a new responsibility on the court*. IMPOSE, apply, entrust, vest, place, put, inflict, encumber, saddle, charge, burden. ⑧ *the eagles laid two eggs* PRODUCE, *Zoology* oviposit

■ **lay something aside** ① *farmers laying aside areas for conservation* PUT ASIDE, put to one side, keep, save ② *producers must lay aside their conservatism* ABANDON, cast aside, reject, renounce, repudiate, disregard, forget, discard; *poetic/literary* forsake ③ *protesters led the government to lay the plans aside* DEFER, shelve, suspend, put on ice, mothball, set aside, put off/aside, *informal* put on the back burner.

■ **lay something bare** REVEAL, disclose, divulge, show, expose, exhibit, uncover, unveil, unmask, make a clean breast of, make known, make public.

■ **lay something down** ① *he laid down his glass*: PUT DOWN, set down, place down, deposit, rest; *informal* dump, plonk down; *Brit informal* bung down. ② *they were forced to lay down their weapons*. RELINQUISH, surrender, give up, yield, cede, disarm, give in, submit, capitulate ③ *the ground rules have been laid down*. FORMULATE, stipulate, set down, draw up, frame, prescribe, ordain, dictate, decree; enact, pass, decide, determine, impose, codify. ④ *laying down wine*. STORE, put into store, keep.

■ **lay down the law** ORDER SOMEONE ABOUT/AROUND, tell someone what to do, ride roughshod over someone; *informal* boss someone about/around, throw one's weight about/around, push someone about/around.

■ **lay eyes on** (informal) SEE, spot, observe, regard, view, catch sight of, informal clap/set eyes on, poetic/literary behold, espy, descry

■ **lay hands on** ① wait till I lay my hands on you! CATCH, lay/get hold of, get one's hands on, seize, grab, grasp, capture ② it's not easy to lay your hands on decent champagne OBTAIN, acquire, get, come by, find, locate, discover, unearth, uncover, pick up, procure, get one's hands on, get possession of, buy, purchase ③ the pastor laid hands on the children BLESS, consecrate, confirm, ordain

■ **lay something in** STOCK UP WITH/ON, stockpile, store (up), amass, hoard, stow (away), put aside/away/by, garner, collect, squirrel away, informal salt away, stash (away)

■ **lay into** (informal) ① a policeman laying into a protestor See ASSAULT verb sense 1 ② he laid into her with a string of insults See CRITICIZE

■ **lay it on thick** (informal) EXAGGERATE, overdo it, embellish the truth, flatter, praise, informal pile it on, sweet-talk, soft-soap

■ **lay off** (informal) GIVE UP, stop, refrain from, abstain from, desist from, cut out, informal pack in, leave off, quit

■ **lay someone off** MAKE REDUNDANT, dismiss, let go, discharge, give notice to, informal sack, fire, give someone their cards, give someone their marching orders, give someone the boot/push, give someone the (old) heave-ho

■ **lay something on** PROVIDE, supply, furnish, line up, organize, prepare, produce, make available, informal fix up

■ **lay someone out** (informal) KNOCK OUT/DOWN, knock unconscious, fell, floor, flatten, informal KO, kayo, Brit informal knock for six

■ **lay something out** ① Robyn laid the plans out on the desk SPREAD OUT, set out, display, exhibit ② a paper laying out our priorities OUTLINE, sketch out, rough out, detail, draw up, formulate, work out, frame, draft ③ (informal) he had to lay out £70 See PAY verb sense 2

■ **lay waste** DEVASTATE, wipe out, destroy, demolish, annihilate, raze, ruin, wreck, level, flatten, ravage, pillage, sack, despoil

lay² ► adjective ① a lay preacher NON-CLERICAL, non-ordained, secular, temporal, formal laic ② a lay audience NON-PROFESSIONAL, amateur, non-specialist, non-technical, untrained, unqualified

layabout ► noun IDLER, good-for-nothing, loafer, lounge, shirker, sluggard, laggard, slugabed, malingeringer; informal skiver, waster, slacker, lazybones, Austral/NZ informal bludger, poetic/literary wastrel

layer ► noun COATING, sheet, coat, film, covering, blanket, skin, thickness

layman ► noun. See LAYPERSON senses 1, 2

lay-off ► noun REDUNDANCY, dismissal, discharge, informal sacking, firing, the sack, the boot, the axe, the elbow
—OPPOSITES recruitment

layout ► noun ① the layout of the house ARRANGEMENT, geography, design, organization, plan, map. ② the magazine's layout DESIGN, arrangement, presentation, style, format, structure, organization, composition, configuration

layperson ► noun ① a prayer book for laypeople. UNORDAINED PERSON, member of the congregation, layman, laywoman. ② engineering sounds

highly specialized to the layperson NON-EXPERT, layman, non-professional, amateur, non-specialist

laze ► verb RELAX, unwind, idle, do nothing, loaf (around/about), lounge (around/about), loil (around/about), lie (around/about), take it easy, informal hang around/round, veg (out), N Amer informal bum (around)

lazy ► adjective (BONE) IDLE, indolent, slothful, work-shy, shiftless, inactive, sluggish, lethargic, remiss, negligent, slack, lax, lackadaisical, archaic otiose
—OPPOSITES industrious

lazybones ► noun (informal) IDLER, loafer, layabout, lounge, good-for-nothing, do-nothing, shirker, sluggard, laggard, slugabed, informal skiver, waster, slacker, Austral/NZ informal bludger, poetic/literary wastrel

leach ► verb DRAIN, filter, percolate, filtrate, strain

lead¹ ► verb ① Michelle led them into the house GUIDE, conduct, show (the way), lead the way, usher, escort, steer, pilot, shepherd, accompany, see, take ② he led us to believe they were lying CAUSE, induce, prompt, move, persuade, influence, drive, condition, make, incline, dispose, predispose ③ this might lead to job losses RESULT IN, cause, bring on/about, give rise to, be the cause of, make happen, create, produce, occasion, effect, generate, contribute to, promote, provoke, stir up, spark off, arouse, foment, instigate, involve, necessitate, entail, formal effectuate ④ he led a march to the city centre BE AT THE HEAD/FRONT OF, head, spearhead ⑤ she led a coalition of radicals BE THE LEADER OF, be the head of, preside over, head, command, govern, rule, be in charge of, be in command of, be in control of, run, control, be at the helm of, administer, organize, manage, reign over, be in power over; informal head up ⑥ Rangers were leading at half-time BE AHEAD, be winning, be (out) in front, be in the lead, be first ⑦ the champion was leading the field BE AT THE FRONT OF, be first in, be ahead of, head, outrun, outstrip, outpace, leave behind, draw away from, outdo, outclass, beat, informal leave standing ⑧ I just want to lead a normal life EXPERIENCE, have, live, spend
—OPPOSITES follow

► noun ① I was in the lead early on LEADING POSITION, first place, van, vanguard, ahead, in front, winning ② they took the lead in the personal computer market FIRST POSITION, forefront, primacy, dominance, superiority, ascendancy, pre-eminence, supremacy, advantage, upper hand, whip hand. ③ sixth-formers should give a lead to younger pupils EXAMPLE, (role) model, exemplar, paradigm ④ playing the lead LEADING ROLE, star/starring role, title role, principal part, principal character, male lead, female lead, leading man, leading lady ⑤ a Labrador on a lead LEASH, tether, cord, rope, chain ⑥ detectives were following up a new lead: CLUE, pointer, hint, tip, tip-off, suggestion, indication, sign; (leads) evidence, information.

► adjective the lead position LEADING, first, top, foremost, front, head; chief, principal, premier
■ **lead something off** BEGIN, start (off), commence, open; informal lack off
■ **lead someone on** DECEIVE, mislead, delude, hoodwink, dupe, trick, fool, pull the wool over

someone's eyes, tease, flirt with, *informal* string along, lead up the garden path, take for a ride

■ **lead the way** ① he led the way to the kitchen GUIDE, conduct, show the way ② Britain is leading the way in aerospace technology TAKE THE INITIATIVE, break (new) ground, blaze a trail, prepare the way

■ **lead up to** PREPARE THE WAY FOR, pave the way for, lay the groundwork for, set the scene for, work round/up to, approach the subject of

lead² ► **noun** a lead-lined box.

—RELATED TERMS plumbic, plumbous, plumb-

leaden ► **adjective** ① his eyes were leaden with sleep DULL, heavy, weighty, listless, lifeless ② he moved on leaden feet SLUGGISH, heavy, lumbering, slow ③ leaden prose BORING, dull, unimaginative, uninspired, monotonous, heavy, laboured, wooden ④ a leaden sky GREY, greyish, black, dark, cloudy, gloomy, overcast, dull, murky, sunless, louring, oppressive, threatening, poetic/literary tenebrous

leader ► **noun** ① the leader of the Democratic Party CHIEF, head, principal, commander, captain, controller, superior, headman, chairman, chairwoman, chairperson, chair, (managing) director, MD, manager, superintendent, supervisor, overseer, administrator, employer, master, mistress, president, premier, governor, monarch, sovereign, *informal* boss, skipper, gaffer, guv'nor, number one, numero uno, honcho, *N Amer* *informal* sachem, padrone See list at RULER ② a world leader in the use of video conferencing PIONEER, front runner, innovator, trail-blazer, ground-breaker, trendsetter, torch-bearer, originator, initiator, founder, architect —OPPOSITES follower, supporter

leadership ► **noun** ① the leadership of the Conservative Party HEADSHIP, directorship, premiership, governorship, governance, administration, captaincy, control, ascendancy, rule, command, power, dominion ② firm leadership GUIDANCE, direction, control, management, superintendence, supervision, organization, government

leading ► **adjective** ① he played the leading role in his team's victory MAIN, chief, major, prime, most significant, principal, foremost, key, central, focal, paramount, dominant, essential ② the leading industrialized countries MOST POWERFUL, most important, greatest, chief, pre-eminent, principal, dominant. ③ last season's leading scorer TOP, highest, best, first, front, lead, unparalleled, matchless, star —OPPOSITES subordinate, minor

leaf ► **noun** ① sycamore leaves FROND, leaflet, flag, *Botany* cotyledon, blade, bract ② a sheaf of loose leaves PAGE, sheet, folio —RELATED TERMS foliaceous.

► **verb** he leafed through the documents FLICK, flip, thumb, skim, browse, glance, riffle, scan, run one's eye over, peruse.

■ **turn over a new leaf** REFORM, unprove, mend one's ways, make a fresh start, change for the better, *informal* go straight

leaflet ► **noun** PAMPHLET, booklet, brochure, handbill, circular, flyer, handout, bulletin, *N Amer* folder, dodger

league ► **noun** ① a league of nations: ALLIANCE, confederation, confederacy, federation, union, association, coalition, consortium, affiliation,

guild, cooperative, partnership, fellowship, syndicate, consociation ② we won the league last year CHAMPIONSHIP, competition, contest ③ the store is not in the same league CLASS, group, category, level

► **verb** they leagued together with other companies ALLY, join forces, join together, unite, band together, affiliate, combine, amalgamate, confederate, team up, join up

■ **In league with** COLLABORATING WITH, cooperating with, in alliance with, allied with, conspiring with, hand in glove with, *informal* in cahoots with

leak ► **verb** ① oil leaking from the tanker SEEP (OUT), escape, ooze (out), emanate, issue, drip, dribble, drain, bleed ② the tanks are leaking gasoline DISCHARGE, exude, emit, release, drip, dribble, ooze, secrete ③ civil servants leaking information DISCLOSE, divulge, reveal, make public, tell, impart, pass on, relate, communicate, expose, broadcast, publish, release, let slip, bring into the open, *informal* blab, let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans, blow the gaff

► **noun** ① check that there are no leaks in the bag HOLE, opening, puncture, perforation, gash, slit, nick, rent, break, crack, fissure, rupture ② a gas leak DISCHARGE, leakage, leaking, oozing, seeping, seepage, drip, escape ③ leaks to the media DISCLOSURE, revelation, expose

leaky ► **adjective** LEAKING, dripping, cracked, split, punctured, perforated —OPPOSITES watertight

lean¹ ► **verb** ① Polly leaned against the door REST, recline, be supported ② trees leaning in the wind SLANT, incline, bend, tilt, be at an angle, slope, tip, list ③ he leans towards existentialist philosophy TEND, incline, gravitate, have a preference for, have a penchant for, be partial to, have a liking for, have an affinity with ④ a strong shoulder to lean on DEPEND, be dependent, rely, count, bank, have faith in, trust ⑤ (*informal*) I got leaned on by villains INTIMIDATE, coerce, browbeat, bully, pressurize, threaten, put pressure on, *informal* twist someone's arm, put the frighteners on, put the screws on

lean² ► **adjective** ① a tall, lean man SLIM, thin, slender, spare, wiry, lanky ② a lean harvest MEAGRE, sparse, poor, mean, inadequate, insufficient, paltry, deficient, insubstantial ③ lean times UNPRODUCTIVE, unfruitful, arid, barren, hard, bad, difficult, tough, impoverished, poverty-stricken —OPPOSITES fat, abundant, prosperous

leaning ► **noun** INCLINATION, tendency, bent, proclivity, propensity, penchant, predisposition, predilection, partiality, preference, bias, attraction, liking, fondness, taste

leap ► **verb** ① he leapt over the gate JUMP (OVER), vault (over), spring over, bound over, hop (over), hurdle, clear. ② Claudia leapt to her feet SPRING, jump (up), bound, dart ③ we leapt to the rescue RUSH, hurry, hasten ④ she leapt at the chance ACCEPT EAGERLY, grasp (with both hands), grab, take advantage of, seize (on), jump at ⑤ don't leap to conclusions. FORM HASTILY, reach hurriedly; hurry, hasten, jump, rush ⑥ profits leapt by 55%. INCREASE RAPIDLY, soar, rocket, skyrocket, shoot up, escalate

► **noun** ① an easy leap. JUMP, vault, spring, bound, hop, skip. ② a leap of 33%. SUDDEN RISE, surge, upsurge, upswing, upturn

■ **In/by leaps and bounds** RAPIDLY, swiftly, quickly, speedily

learn ▶ **verb** ① **learning a foreign language** ACQUIRE A KNOWLEDGE OF, acquire skill in, become competent in, become proficient in, grasp, master, take in, absorb, assimilate, digest, familiarize oneself with; study, read up on, be taught, have lessons in; *informal* get the hang of, get clued up about. ② *she learnt the poem by heart* MEMORIZE, learn by heart, commit to memory, learn parrot-fashion, get off/down pat, *archaic* con ③ *he learned that the school would shortly be closing* DISCOVER, find out, become aware, be informed, hear (tell); gather, understand, ascertain, establish, *informal* get wind of the fact; *Brit informal* suss out

learned ▶ **adjective** SCHOLARLY, erudite, well educated, knowledgeable, widely read, well informed, lettered, cultured, intellectual, academic, literary, bookish, highbrow, studious; *informal* brainy, *formal* sapient
—OPPOSITES ignorant

learner ▶ **noun** BEGINNER, trainee, apprentice, pupil, student, novice, newcomer, starter, probationer, tyro, fledgling, neophyte, *N Amer* tenderfoot; *N Amer informal* greenhorn
—OPPOSITES veteran

learning ▶ **noun** ① **a centre of learning** STUDY, studying, education, schooling, tuition, teaching, academic work, research, investigation ② **the astonishing range of his learning** SCHOLARSHIP, knowledge, education, erudition, intellect, enlightenment, illumination, book learning, information, understanding, wisdom; *formal* edification.
—OPPOSITES ignorance

lease ▶ **noun** a 15-year lease LEASEHOLD, rental/hire agreement, charter, rental, tenancy, tenure, period of occupancy
—RELATED TERMS lessor, lessee
—OPPOSITES freehold

▶ **verb** ① **the film crew leased a large hangar** RENT, hire, charter ② **they leased the mill to a reputable family** RENT (OUT), let (out), hire (out), sublet, sublease

leash ▶ **noun** ① **keep your dog on a leash** LEAD, tether, rope, chain, strap, restraint. ② *he found himself off the parental leash* CONTROL, restraint, check, curb, rein, discipline.

▶ **verb** ① *she leashed the dog* PUT THE LEASH ON, put the lead on, tether, tie up, secure, restrain ② *the ire in her face was barely leashed* CURB, control, keep under control, check, restrain, hold back, suppress

■ **straining at the leash** EAGER, impatient, anxious, enthusiastic; *informal* itching, dying

least ▶ **determiner** I have not the least idea what this means SLIGHTEST, smallest, minutest, tiniest, littlest

■ **at least** AT THE MINIMUM, no/not less than, more than

leather ▶ **noun** a leather jacket: SKIN, hide. See list.

▶ **verb** *he caught me and leathered me*: BEAT, strap, belt, thrash, flog, whip, horsewhip, birch, cane, strike, hit; *informal* wallop, whack, tan someone's hide, give someone a (good) hiding

leathery ▶ **adjective** ① **leathery skin**: ROUGH, rugged, wrinkled, wrinkly, furrowed, lined, wizened, weather-beaten, callous, gnarled. ② *lea-*

Types of Leather

buckskin	doeskin	pigskin
buff	goatskin	ponyskin
calfskin	kid	rawhide
careskin	kidskin	Russia leather
chamois	mocha	roan
chrome	morocco	shagreen
leather	nappa	sheepskin
cordovan	Nubuck	suede
cowhide	oxhide	whit leather
crocodile	patent	
deerskin	leather	

they sides of beef TOUGH, hard, gristly, chewy, stringy

leave ▶ **verb** ① *I left the hotel*: DEPART FROM, go (away) from, withdraw from, retire from, take oneself off from, exit from, take one's leave of, pull out of, quit, be gone from, decamp from, disappear from, vacate, absent oneself from, say one's farewells/goodbyes, make oneself scarce, *informal* push off, shove off, clear out/off, cut and run, split, vamoose, scoot, make tracks, up sticks; *Brit informal* sling one's hook ② *the next morning we left for Leicester* SET OFF, head, make, set sail. ③ *he's left his wife* ABANDON, desert, cast aside/off, jilt, leave in the lurch, leave high and dry, throw over, *informal* dump, ditch, chuck, drop, walk/run out on, *poetic/literary* forsake ④ *he left his job in November* RESIGN FROM, retire from, step down from, withdraw from, pull out of, give up, *informal* quit ⑤ *she left her handbag on a bus* LEAVE BEHIND, forget, lose, mislay. ⑥ *I thought I'd leave it to the experts* ENTRUST, hand over, pass on, refer, delegate. ⑦ *he left her £100,000* BEQUEATH, will, endow, hand down, make over, *Law* demise, devise ⑧ *the speech left some feelings of disappointment* CAUSE, produce, generate, give rise to

—OPPOSITES arrive

■ **leave someone in the lurch** LEAVE IN TROUBLE, let down, leave stranded, leave high and dry, abandon, desert

■ **leave off** (*informal*) STOP, cease, finish, desist from, keep from, break off, lay off, give up, discontinue, refrain from, eschew; *informal* quit, knock off, jack in, swear off; *formal* forswear

■ **leave someone/something out** ① *Adam left out the address*: MISS OUT, omit, fail to include, overlook, forget, skip, miss, jump ② *he was left out of the England squad*: EXCLUDE, omit, drop, pass over.

leave ▶ **noun** ① *the judge granted leave to appeal* PERMISSION, consent, authorization, sanction, warrant, dispensation, approval, clearance, blessing, agreement, backing, assent, acceptance, licence, acquiescence; *informal* the go-ahead, the green light, the OK, the rubber stamp ② *he was on leave*: HOLIDAY, vacation, break, time off, furlough, sabbatical, leave of absence; *informal* hols, vac ③ *I will now take my leave of you*: DEPARTURE, leaving, leave-taking, parting, withdrawal, exit, farewell, goodbye.

leaven ▶ **noun** leaven is added to the dough. LEAVENING, fermentation agent, raising agent.

▶ **verb** ① *yeast leavens the bread*: RAISE, make rise, puff up, expand. ② *formal proceedings leavened by*

humour. PERMEATE, infuse, pervade, imbue, suffuse, enliven, liven up, invigorate, energize, electrify, ginger up, perk up, brighten up, season, spice; *informal* buck up, pep up.

leavings ► **plural noun** RESIDUE, remainder, remains, remnants, leftovers, scrapings, scraps, oddments, odds and ends, rejects, dregs, refuse, rubbish

lecher ► **noun** LECHEROUS MAN, libertine, womanizer, debauchee, rake, roué, profligate, wanton, loose-liver, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario, Romeo, *informal* lech, dirty old man, goat, wolf, *formal* fornicator

lecherous ► **adjective** LUSTFUL, licentious, lascivious, libidinous, prurient, lewd, salacious, lubricious, debauched, dissolute, wanton, dissipated, degenerate, depraved, dirty, filthy, *informal* randy, horny, goatish, *formal* concupiscent
-OPPOSITES chaste

lecture ► **noun** ① a lecture on children's literature SPEECH, talk, address, discourse, disquisition, presentation, oration, lesson ② Dave got a severe lecture. SCOLDING, chiding, reprimand, rebuke, reproof, reproach, upbraiding, berating, admonishment, *informal* dressing-down, telling-off, talking-to, tongue-lashing, *formal* castigation

► **verb** ① lecturing on the dangers of drugs GIVE A LECTURE/TALK, talk, make a speech, speak, give an address, discourse, hold forth, declaim, expatiate, *informal* spout, sound off ② she lectures at Dublin University. TEACH, tutor, give instruction, give lessons. ③ he was lectured by the headmaster: SCOLD, chide, reprimand, rebuke, reprove, reproach, upbraid, berate, chastise, admonish, lambaste, haul over the coals, take to task, *informal* give someone a dressing-down, give someone a talking-to, tell off, bawl out, *Brit informal* tick off, carpet. *formal* castigate

lecturer ► **noun** ① the lecturer is a journalist (PUBLIC) SPEAKER, speech-maker, orator ② a lecturer in economics UNIVERSITY/COLLEGE TEACHER, tutor, reader, scholar, don, professor, fellow, academic, academician, preceptor, *formal* pedagogue.

ledge ► **noun** SHELF, sill, mantel, mantelpiece, shelving, projection, protrusion, overhang, ridge, prominence

ledger ► **noun** (ACCOUNT) BOOK, record book, register, log; records, books, balance sheet, financial statement

lee ► **noun** SHELTER, protection, cover, refuge, safety, security

leech ► **noun** PARASITE, bloodsucker, passenger; *informal* scrounger, sponger, freeloader

leer ► **verb** Henry leered at her. OGLE, look lasciviously, look suggestively, eye, *informal* give someone a/the once-over, lech after/over

► **noun** a sly leer: LECHEROUS LOOK, lascivious look, ogle; *informal* the once-over

leery ► **adjective** WARY, cautious, careful, guarded, chary, suspicious, distrustful, worried, anxious, apprehensive

lees ► **plural noun** SEDIMENT, dregs, deposit, grounds, residue, remains, silt, sludge, *technical* residuum; *poetic/literary* druff; *archaic* grouts

leeway ► **noun** FREEDOM, scope, latitude, space, room, liberty, flexibility, licence, free hand, free rein.

left ► **adjective** LEFT-HAND, sinistral, *Nautical* port, *Nautical, archaic* larboard, *Heraldry* sinister.

-RELATED TERMS laevo-, sinistro-

-OPPOSITES right, starboard.

left-handed ► **adjective** ① a left-handed golfer sinistral, *informal* southpaw. ② a left-handed compliment BACKHANDED, ambiguous, equivocal, double-edged, dubious, indirect, cryptic, ironic, sardonic, insincere, hypocritical
-OPPOSITES right-handed

leftover ► **noun** ① a leftover from the 60s: RESIDUE, survivor, vestige, legacy ② put the leftovers in the fridge LEAVINGS, uneaten food, remainder, scraps, remnants, remains, excess, surplus

► **adjective** leftover food REMAINING, left, uneaten, unconsumed, excess, surplus, superfluous, unused, unwanted, spare

left-wing ► **adjective** SOCIALIST, communist, leftist, Labour, Marxist-Leninist, Bolshevik, Trotskyite, Maoist; *informal* commie, lefty, red, pink
-OPPOSITES right-wing, conservative

leg ► **noun** ① Lee broke his leg: (LOWER) LIMB, shank, *informal* peg, pin, *archaic* member. ② a table leg: UPRIGHT, support, prop ③ the first leg of a European tour: PART, stage, portion, segment, section, phase, stretch, lap

► **give someone a leg up** HELP/ASSIST SOMEONE, give someone assistance, lend someone a helping hand, give someone a boost, give someone a flying start.

► **leg it** (*informal*) ① if the dog starts growling, leg it! RUN (AWAY), flee, make off, make a break for it, escape, hurry, *informal* hightail it, hotfoot it, make a run for it, cut and run, skedaddle, vamoose, show a clean pair of heels, split, scoot, scam, *Brit informal* scarper ② legging it around London WALK, march, tramp, trek, trudge, plod, wander, go on foot, go on Shanks's pony

► **on its last legs** ① my car is on its last legs. DI LAPIDATED, worn out, rickety, about to fall apart ② a foundry business on its last legs: FAILING, about to go bankrupt, near to ruin, going to the wall; *informal* going bust

► **pull someone's leg** TEASE, rag, make fun of, chaff, jest, joke with, play a (practical) joke on, play a trick on, make a monkey out of, hoax, fool, deceive, lead on, hoodwink, dupe, beguile, gull; *informal* kid, have on, rib, take for a ride, take the mickey out of, *Brit informal* wind up, *N Amer informal* put on

► **stretch one's legs** GO FOR A WALK, take a stroll, walk, stroll, move about, get some exercise

legacy ► **noun** ① a legacy from a great aunt: BEQUEST, inheritance, heritage, bequeathal, bestowal, endowment, gift, patrimony, settlement, birthright; *Law, dated* hereditament, *formal* benefaction ② the rancorous legacy of the war CONSEQUENCE, effect, upshot, spin-off, repercussion, aftermath, by-product, result

legal ► **adjective** ① all their actions were legal. LAWFUL, legitimate, licit, within the law, legalized, valid, permissible, permitted, allowable, allowed, above board, admissible, acceptable; authorized, sanctioned, licensed, constitutional, *informal* legit. ② the legal profession: JUDICIAL, juridical, judicatory.

-OPPOSITES criminal.

Legislative Assemblies

COUNTRY	LEGISLATURE	UPPER CHAMBER	LOWER CHAMBER
Andorra	Valleys of Andorra General Council	—	—
Australia	Federal Parliament	Senate	House of Representatives
Austria	National Assembly	Bundesrat	Nationalrat
Belgium	Parliament	Senate	Chamber of Representatives
Bosnia-Herzegovina	National Assembly	Chamber of Peoples	Chamber of Representatives
Brazil	National Congress	Senate	Chamber of Deputies
Bulgaria	National Assembly (Narodno Sobranie)	—	—
Canada	Parliament	Senate	House of Commons
China	National People's Congress	—	—
Croatia	Parliament (Sabor)	Chamber of Counties	House of Representatives
Czech Republic	Parliament	Senate	Chamber of Deputies
Denmark	Folketing	—	—
Egypt	People's Assembly	—	—
Finland	Eduskunta	—	—
France	Parliament	Senate	National Assembly
Germany	Parliament	Bundesrat	Bundestag
Greece	Chamber of Deputies (Vouli)	—	—
Hungary	National Assembly	—	—
Iceland	Althing	—	—
India	Parliament	Rajya Sabha	Lok Sabha
Iran	Consultative Assembly (Majlis)	—	—
Ireland	Oireachtas	Seanad	Dáil Éireann
Israel	Knesset	—	—
Italy	Parliament	Chamber of Deputies	Senate
Japan	Diet	House of Councillors	House of Representatives
Jordan	National Assembly	Council of Ministers	House of Representatives
Kenya	National Assembly	—	—
Malaysia	Parliament	Senate	House of Representatives
Mexico	Congress	Senate	Chamber of Deputies
Morocco	Chamber of Representatives	—	—
Netherlands	Staten-Generaal	First Chamber	Second Chamber
New Zealand	House of Representatives	—	—
Norway	Storting	Lagting	Odelsting
Pakistan	Parliament	Senate	National Assembly
Poland	National Assembly	Senate	Sejm
Russia	Federal Assembly	Federation Council	State Duma
South Africa	Parliament	*National Assembly	National Council of Provinces
Spain	Cortes Generales	Senate	Congress of Deputies
Sweden	Riksdag	—	—
Switzerland	Federal Assembly	Ständerat	Nationalrat
Tunisia	National Assembly	—	—
UK	Parliament	House of Lords	House of Commons
USA	Congress	Senate	House of Representatives

legality ► noun LAWFULNESS, legitimacy, validity, admissibility, permissibility, constitutionality; justice

legalize ► verb MAKE LEGAL, decriminalize, legitimize, legitimize, legitimate, permit, allow, authorize, sanction, license; regularize, normalize; *informal* OK, give the go-ahead to, give the thumbs up to, give the green light to —OPPOSITES prohibit.

legate ► noun ENVOY, emissary, agent, ambassador, representative, nuncio, commissioner, delegate, proxy, deputy, plenipotentiary, messenger.

legatee ► noun BENEFICIARY, inheritor, heir, heirless, recipient; Law devisee; Scottish Law heritor.

legation ► noun ① the British legation: (DIPLOMATIC) MISSION, delegation, deputation, contin-

gent; envoys, delegates, diplomats, aides ② the legations were besieged EMBASSY, consulate.

legend ► noun ① the Arthurian legends MYTH, saga, epic, (folk) tale, (folk) story, fairy tale, fable, mythos, mythus, folklore, lore, mythology, fantasy, oral history, folk tradition ② pop legends: CELEBRITY, star, superstar, icon, phenomenon, luminary, giant; *informal* celeb, megastar ③ the wording of the legend: CAPTION, inscription, dedication, slogan, heading, title, subtitle, sub-heading, rubric. ④ the legend to Figure 5: EXPLANATION, key, guide.

legendary ► adjective ① legendary kings: FABLED, heroic, traditional, fairy-tale, storybook, mythical, mythological. ② a legendary figure in the trade-union movement: FAMOUS, celebrated, famed, renowned, acclaimed, illustrious, esteemed, honoured, exalted, venerable, well known, popular, prominent, distin-

guished, great, eminent, pre-eminent, *formal* lauded

—OPPOSITES historical

legerdemain ▶ *noun* ① *stage magicians practising legerdemain* SLEIGHT OF HAND, conjuring, magic, wizardry; *formal* prestidigitation, rare thaumaturgy ② *a piece of management legerdemain* TRICKERY, cunning, artfulness, craftiness, chicanery, skulduggery, deceit, deception, artifice; *Brit informal* juggery-pokery

legibility ▶ *noun* READABILITY, clarity, clearness, neatness

legible ▶ *adjective* READABLE, easy to read, easily deciphered, clear, plain, neat, intelligible

legion ▶ *noun* ① *a Roman legion* BRIGADE, regiment, battalion, company, troop, division, squadron, squad, platoon, unit ② *the legions of TV cameras* HORDE, throng, multitude, crowd, mass, mob, gang, swarm, flock, herd, score, army

▶ *adjective* *her fans are legion* NUMEROUS, countless, innumerable, incalculable, many, abundant, plentiful, *poetic/literary* myriad

legislate ▶ *verb* MAKE LAWS, pass laws, enact laws, formulate laws

legislation ▶ *noun* LAW, body of laws, rules, rulings, regulations, acts, bills, statutes, enactments, *N Amer formal* ordinances

legislative ▶ *adjective* LAW-MAKING, judicial, juridical, parliamentary, governmental, policymaking. *See list*

legislator ▶ *noun* LAWMAKER, lawgiver, parliamentarian, Member of Parliament, MP, congressman, congresswoman, senator

legitimate ▶ *adjective* ① *the only form of legitimate gambling* LEGAL, lawful, licit, legalized, authorized, permitted, permissible, allowable, allowed, admissible, sanctioned, approved, licensed, statutory, constitutional, *informal* legit ② *the legitimate heir* RIGHTFUL, lawful, genuine, authentic, real, true, proper, authorized, sanctioned, acknowledged, recognized ③ *legitimate grounds for unease* VALID, sound, admissible, acceptable, well founded, justifiable, reasonable, sensible, just, fair, bona fide

—OPPOSITES illegal, invalid

legitimize ▶ *verb* VALIDATE, legitimate, permit, authorize, sanction, license, condone, justify, endorse, support, legalize

—OPPOSITES outlaw

leisure ▶ *noun* the balance between leisure and work FREE TIME, spare time, time off, recreation, relaxation, inactivity, pleasure, *informal* R and R

—OPPOSITES work

■ *at your leisure* AT YOUR CONVENIENCE, when it suits you, in your own (good) time, without haste, unhurriedly

leisurely ▶ *adjective* UNHURRIED, relaxed, easy, gentle, sedate, comfortable, restful, undemanding, slow, lazy

—OPPOSITES hurried

lemon

—RELATED TERMS citrus.

lend ▶ *verb* ① *I'll lend you my towel* LOAN, let someone use; advance; *Brit informal sub* ② *these examples lend weight to his assertions* ADD, impart, give, bestow, confer, provide, supply, furnish, contribute.

—OPPOSITES borrow

■ *lend an ear* LISTEN, pay attention, take notice, be attentive, concentrate, (pay) heed; *informal* be all ears; *archaic* hearken

■ *lend a hand* HELP (OUT), give a helping hand, assist, give assistance, make a contribution, do one's bit, *informal* pitch in, muck in, get stuck in

■ *lend itself to* BE SUITABLE FOR, be suited to, be appropriate for, be applicable for

length ▶ *noun* ① *a length of three or four metres | the whole length of the valley* EXTENT, distance, linear measure, span, reach, area, expanse, stretch, range, scope ② *a considerable length of time* PERIOD, duration, stretch, span ③ *a length of blue silk* PIECE, swatch, measure ④ *MPs criticized the length of the speech* PROTRACTEDNESS, lengthiness, extent, extensiveness, prolixity, wordiness, verbosity, verboseness, long-windedness

■ *at length* ① *he spoke at length* FOR A LONG TIME, for ages, for hours, interminably, endlessly, ceaselessly, unendingly ② *he was questioned at length* THOROUGHLY, fully, in detail, in depth, comprehensively, exhaustively, extensively ③ *his search led him, at length, to Seattle* AFTER A LONG TIME, eventually, in time, finally, at (long) last, in the end, ultimately

■ *go to any length(s)* DO ABSOLUTELY ANY THING, go to any extreme

lengthen ▶ *verb* ① *he lengthened his stride* ELONGATE, make longer, extend, expand, widen, broaden, enlarge. ② *the days are lengthening* GROW/GET LONGER, draw out ③ *you'll need to lengthen the cooking time* PROLONG, make longer, increase, extend, expand, protract, stretch out

—OPPOSITES shorten

lengthy ▶ *adjective* ① *a lengthy civil war* (VERY) LONG, long-lasting, prolonged, extended ② *lengthy discussions* PROTRACTED, overlong, long-drawn-out, verbose, wordy, prolix, long-winded, tedious, boring, interminable

—OPPOSITES short

leniency ▶ *noun* MERCIFULNESS, mercy, clemency, forgiveness, tolerance, forbearance, humanity, charity, indulgence, mildness, pity, sympathy, compassion, understanding

lenient ▶ *adjective* MERCIFUL, clement, forgiving, forbearing, tolerant, charitable, humane, indulgent, easy-going, magnanimous, sympathetic, compassionate

—OPPOSITES severe

lens ▶ *noun*. *See list*

Shapes of Lenses

biconcave
biconvex
concave
concavo-convex

convexo-concave
convex
planoconcave
planoconvex

leper ▶ *noun* (SOCIAL) OUTCAST, pariah, undesirable, persona non grata

leprechaun ▶ *noun* PIXIE, goblin, elf, sprite, fairy, gnome, imp, brownie

lesbian ▶ *noun* HOMOSEXUAL WOMAN, gay woman; *informal* les, lesbo, lezzy, butch, dyke.

—OPPOSITES heterosexual.

▶ *adjective* HOMOSEXUAL, gay; *informal* les, lesbo, lezzy, butch, dyke, queer, bent.

—OPPOSITES straight

lesion ▶ noun WOUND, injury, bruise, abrasion, contusion; ulcer, ulceration, (running) sore, abscess, *Medicine* trauma

less ▶ pronoun the fare is less than £1 A SMALLER AMOUNT, not so/as much as, under, below

—OPPOSITES more

▶ **determiner** there was less noise now NOT SO MUCH, smaller, slighter, shorter, reduced, fewer

▶ **adverb** we must use the car less TO A LESSER DEGREE, to a smaller extent, not so/as much

▶ **preposition** list price less 10 per cent MINUS, subtracting, excepting, without

—OPPOSITES plus

lessen ▶ verb ① exercise lessens the risk of heart disease REDUCE, make less/smaller, minimize, decrease, allay, assuage, alleviate, attenuate, palliate, ease, dull, deaden, blunt, moderate, mitigate, dampen, soften, tone down, dilute, weaken ② the pain began to lessen GROW LESS, grow smaller, decrease, diminish, decline, subside, abate, fade, die down/off, let up, ease off, tail off, drop (off/away), fall, dwindle, ebb, wane, recede ③ his behaviour lessened him in their eyes. DIMINISH, degrade, discredit, devalue, belittle

—OPPOSITES increase

lesser ▶ adjective ① a lesser offence LESS IMPORTANT, minor, secondary, subsidiary, marginal, ancillary, auxiliary, supplementary, peripheral, inferior, insignificant, unimportant, petty ② you look down at us lesser mortals SUBORDINATE, minor, inferior, second-class, subservient, lowly, humble

—OPPOSITES greater, superior

lesson ▶ noun ① a maths lesson. CLASS, session, seminar, tutorial, lecture, period (of instruction/teaching) ② they should be industrious at their lessons EXERCISES, assignments, school work, homework ③ reading the lesson in assembly BIBLE READING, scripture, text, reading ④ Stuart's accident should be a lesson to all parents WARNING, deterrent, caution; example, exemplar, message, moral.

lest ▶ conjunction (JUST) IN CASE, for fear that, in order to avoid

let ▶ verb ① let him sleep for now. ALLOW, permit, give permission to, give leave to, authorize, sanction, grant the right to, license, empower, enable, entitle, assent to, consent to, agree to, acquiesce in, tolerate, countenance, give one's blessing to, give assent to, give someone/something the nod, *informal* give the green light to, give the go-ahead to, give the thumbs up to, OK, *formal* accede to, *archaic* suffer. ② Wilcox opened the door to let her through ALLOW TO GO, permit to pass; make way for ③ they've let their flat: RENT (OUT), let out, lease, hire (out), sublet, sublease

—OPPOSITES prevent, prohibit.

■ **let someone down** FAIL (TO SUPPORT), fall short of expectation, disappoint, disillusion, abandon, desert, leave stranded, leave in the lurch

■ **let something down** LENGTHEN, make longer

■ **let fly** ① he let fly with a brick: HURL, fling, throw, propel, pitch, lob, toss, launch; shoot, fire, blast, *informal* chuck, sling, heave. ② she let fly at Geoffrey: LOSE ONE'S TEMPER WITH, lash out at, scold, chastise, chide, rant at, inveigh

against, rail against, explode, burst out, let someone have it, *informal* carpet, give someone a rocket, tear someone off a strip, *formal* excoriate.

■ **let go** RELEASE (ONE'S HOLD ON), loose/loosen one's hold on, relinquish, *archaic* unhand.

■ **let someone go** MAKE REDUNDANT, dismiss, discharge, lay off, give notice to, axe, *informal* sack, fire, give someone their cards, give someone their marching orders, send packing, give someone the boot/push, give someone the (old) heave-ho

■ **let someone in** ALLOW TO ENTER, allow in, admit, open the door to, receive, welcome, greet

■ **let someone in on something** INCLUDE, count in, admit, allow to share in, let participate in, inform about, tell about

■ **let something off** DETONATE, discharge, explode, set off, fire off

■ **let someone off** ① (*informal*) I'll let you off this time PARDON, forgive, grant an amnesty to, deal leniently with, be merciful to, have mercy on, acquit, absolve, exonerate, clear, vindicate; *informal* let someone off the hook, *formal* exculpate ② he let me off work EXCUSE FROM, exempt from, spare from.

■ **let on** (*informal*) ① I never let on that I felt anxious. REVEAL, make known, tell, disclose, mention, divulge, let slip, give away, make public, blab, *informal* let the cat out of the bag, give the game away. ② they all let on they didn't hear me PRETEND, feign, affect, make out, make believe, simulate.

■ **let something out** ① I let out a cry of triumph UTTER, emit, give (vent to), produce, issue, express, voice, release ② she let out that he'd given her a lift home REVEAL, make known, tell, disclose, mention, divulge, let slip, give away, let it be known, blurt out

■ **let someone out** RELEASE, liberate, (set) free, let go, discharge; set/turn loose, allow to leave

■ **let up** (*informal*) ① the rain has let up ABATE, lessen, decrease, diminish, subside, relent, slacken, die down/off, ease (off), tail off, ebb, wane, dwindle, fade, stop, cease, finish. ② you never let up, do you? RELAX, ease up/off, slow down, pause, break (off), take a break, rest, stop, *informal* take a breather ③ I promise I'll let up on him TREAT LESS SEVERELY, be more lenient with, be kinder to; *informal* go easy on

let-down ▶ noun DISAPPOINTMENT, anticlimax, comedown, non-event, fiasco, setback, blow; *informal* washout, damp squib.

lethal ▶ adjective FATAL, deadly, mortal, death-dealing, life-threatening, murderous, killing, poisonous, toxic, noxious, venomous, dangerous, destructive, harmful, pernicious; *poetic/literary* deathly, noxious, *archaic* baneful

—OPPOSITES harmless, safe

lethargic ▶ adjective SLUGGISH, inert, inactive, slow, torpid, lifeless, languid, listless, lazy, idle, indolent, shiftless, slothful, apathetic, weary, tired, fatigued

lethargy ▶ noun SLUGGISHNESS, inertia, inactivity, inaction, slowness, torpor, torpidity, lifelessness, listlessness, languor, languidness, laziness, idleness, indolence, shiftlessness, sloth, apathy, passivity, weariness, tiredness, lassitude, fatigue, *poetic/literary* hebetude.

—OPPOSITES vigour, energy

letter ▶ **noun** ① *capital letters* (ALPHABETICAL) CHARACTER, sign, symbol, mark, figure, rune, *Linguistics* grapheme See lists at ALPHABET, PHONETIC ② *she received a letter* (WRITTEN) MESSAGE, (written) communication, note, line, missive, dispatch, correspondence, news, information, intelligence, word, post, mail, *formal* epistle ③ *a man of letters* (BOOK) LEARNING, scholarship, erudition, education, knowledge; intellect, intelligence, enlightenment, wisdom, sagacity, culture

—RELATED TERMS epistolary

■ **to the letter** STRICTLY, precisely, exactly, accurately, closely, faithfully, religiously, punctiliously, literally, verbatim, in every detail

lettered ▶ **adjective** LEARNED, erudite, academic, (well) educated, well read, widely read, knowledgeable, intellectual, well schooled, enlightened, cultured, cultivated, scholarly, bookish, highbrow, studious

—OPPOSITES ill-educated.

let-up ▶ **noun** (informal) ABATEMENT, lessening decrease, diminishing, diminution, decline, relenting, remission, slackening, weakening, relaxation, dying down, easing off, tailing off, dropping away/off, respite, break, interval, hiatus, suspension, cessation, stop, pause

level ▶ **adjective** ① *a smooth and level surface* FLAT, smooth, even, uniform, plane, flush, plumb ② *he kept his voice level* UNCHANGING, steady, unvarying, even, uniform, regular, constant, invariable, unaltering, calm, unemotional, composed, equable, unruffled, serene, tranquil ③ *the scores were level* EQUAL, even, drawn, tied, all square, neck and neck, level pegging, on a par, evenly matched, *informal* even-stein(s) ④ *his eyes were level with hers* ALIGNED, on the same level as, on a level, at the same height as, in line

—OPPOSITES uneven, unsteady, unequal

▶ **noun** ① *the post is at research-officer level* RANK, standing, status, position, echelon, degree, grade, gradation, stage, standard, rung, class, stratum, group, grouping, set, classification ② *a high level of employment* QUANTITY, amount, extent, measure, degree, volume, size, magnitude, intensity, proportion ③ *the level of water is rising* HEIGHT, highness, altitude, elevation ④ *the sixth level* FLOOR, storey, deck.

▶ **verb** ① *tilt the tin to level the mixture* MAKE LEVEL, level out/off, make even, even off/out, make flat, flatten, smooth (out), make uniform ② *bulldozers levelled the building* RAZE (TO THE GROUND), demolish, flatten, topple, destroy, tear down, knock down, pull down, bulldoze ③ *he levelled his opponent with a single blow* KNOCK DOWN/OUT, knock to the ground, lay out, prostrate, flatten, floor, fell, *informal* KO, kayo ④ *Carl levelled the score* EQUALIZE, make equal, equal, even (up), make level. ⑤ *he levelled his pistol at me*: AIM, point, direct, train, focus, turn ⑥ (informal) *I knew you'd level with me*: BE FRANK, be open, be honest, be above board, tell the truth, tell all, hide nothing, be straightforward, *informal* be upfront.

■ **on the level** (informal) GENUINE, straight, honest, above board, fair, true, sincere, straightforward; *informal* upfront; *N. Amer. informal* on the up and up.

level-headed ▶ **adjective** SENSIBLE, practical, realistic, prudent, pragmatic, wise, reasonable, rational, mature, judicious, sound, sober, businesslike, no-nonsense, composed, calm, (cool, calm, and collected), confident, well balanced, equable, cool-headed, self-possessed, having one's feet on the ground, *informal* unflappable, together

—OPPOSITES excitable

lever ▶ **noun** ① *you can insert a lever and prise the rail off* CROWBAR, bar, jemmy ② *he pulled the lever* HANDLE, grip, pull, switch

▶ **verb** *he levered the door open* PRISE, force, wrench, pull, wrest, heave, *N. Amer.* pry, *informal* jemmy

leverage ▶ **noun** ① *the long handles provide increased leverage* GRIP, purchase, hold, support, anchorage, force, strength ② *they have significant leverage in negotiations* INFLUENCE, power, authority, weight, sway, pull, control, say, dominance, advantage, pressure, *informal* clout, muscle, teeth

levitate ▶ **noun** FLOAT, rise (into the air), hover, be suspended, glide, hang, fly, soar up

levity ▶ **noun** LIGHT-HEARTEDNESS, high spirits, vivacity, liveliness, cheerfulness, cheeriness, humour, gaiety, fun, jocularity, hilarity, frivolity, frivolousness, amusement, mirth, laughter, merriment, glee, comedy, wit, wittiness, jollity, joviality

—OPPOSITES seriousness

levy ▶ **verb** ① *a proposal to levy VAT on fuel* IMPOSE, charge, exact, raise, collect, tax ② (archaic) *levying troops* CONSCRIPT, call up, enlist, mobilize, rally, muster, marshal, recruit, raise, *US* draft.

▶ **noun** ① *the levy of taxation* IMPOSITION, raising, collection, *formal* exaction ② *the levy on spirits* TAX, tariff, toll, excise, duty, imposition, impost, *formal* mulct ③ (archaic) *not shire levies, but professional soldiers* CONSCRIPTS, troops, (armed) forces, army, militia

lewd ▶ **adjective** ① *a lewd old man*. LECHEROUS, lustful, licentious, lascivious, dirty, prurient, salacious, lubricious, libidinous, lickerish, debauched, depraved, degenerate, decadent, dissipated, dissolute, perverted, *informal* horny, *Brit informal* randy, *formal* concupiscent ② *a lewd song*: VULGAR, crude, smutty, dirty, filthy, obscene, pornographic, coarse, off colour, unseemly, indecent, salacious, rude, racy, risqué, naughty, earthy, spicy, bawdy, ribald; *informal* blue, raunchy, X-rated, nudge-nudge, porno; *N. Amer. informal* raw, *euphemistic* adult

—OPPOSITES chaste, clean

lexicon ▶ **noun** DICTIONARY, wordbook, vocabulary list, glossary, word-finder, thesaurus

liability ▶ **noun** ① *journalists' liability for defamation*. ACCOUNTABILITY, (legal) responsibility, answerability; blame, blameworthiness, culpability, guilt, fault. ② *they have big liabilities*: FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS, debts, arrears, dues. ③ *an electoral liability*: HINDRANCE, encumbrance, burden, handicap, nuisance, inconvenience; obstacle, impediment, disadvantage, weakness, shortcoming; millstone round one's neck, albatross, Achilles heel; *archaic* cumber. ④ *their liability to the disease*. SUSCEPTIBILITY, vulnerability, proneness, tendency, predisposition, propensity.

—OPPOSITES immunity, asset

liable ► **adjective** ① *they are liable for negligence* (LEGALLY) RESPONSIBLE, accountable, answerable, chargeable, blameworthy, at fault, culpable, guilty ② *my income is liable to fluctuate wildly* LIKELY, inclined, tending, disposed, apt, predisposed, prone, given ③ *areas liable to flooding* EXPOSED, prone, subject, susceptible, vulnerable, in danger of, at risk of

liaise ► **verb** COOPERATE, work together, collaborate, communicate, network, interface, link up

liaison ► **noun** ① *the branches work in close liaison* COOPERATION, contact, association, connection, collaboration, communication, alliance, partnership ② *Dave was my White House liaison* INTERMEDIARY, mediator, middleman, contact, link, linkman, linkwoman, linkperson, go-between, representative, agent ③ *a secret liaison* (LOVE) AFFAIR, relationship, romance, attachment, fling, amour, affair of the heart, (romantic) entanglement, *informal* hanky-panky

liar ► **noun** FIBBER, deceiver, perjurer, false witness, fabricator, romancer, fabulist, *informal* storyteller

libation ► **noun** ① *they pour libations into the holy well* (LIQUID) OFFERING, tribute, oblation ② (*humorous*) *would you like a small libation?* (ALCOHOLIC) DRINK, beverage, liquid refreshment, dram, draught, nip, tot, *informal* tipple, *archaic* potation

libel ► **noun** *she sued two newspapers for libel* DEFAMATION (OF CHARACTER), character assassination, calumny, misrepresentation, scandal-mongering, aspersions, denigration, vilification, disparagement, derogation, insult, slander, malicious gossip, traducement, lie, slur, smear, untruth, false report, *informal* mudslinging, bad-mouthing

► **verb** *she alleged the magazine had libelled her* DEFAME, malign, slander, blacken someone's name, sully someone's reputation, speak ill/evil of, traduce, smear, cast aspersions on, drag someone's name through the mud/mire, besmirch, tarnish, taint, tell lies about, stain, vilify, denigrate, disparage, run down, stigmatize, discredit; *N Amer* slur, *formal* derogate, calumniate

libellous ► **adjective** DEFAMATORY, denigratory, vilifying, disparaging, derogatory, slanderous, false, untrue, traducing, maligning, insulting, scurrilous; *formal* calumnious

liberal ► **adjective** ① *the values of a liberal society* TOLERANT, unprejudiced, unbogoted, broad-minded, open-minded, enlightened, permissive, free (and easy), easy-going, libertarian, indulgent, lenient ② *a liberal social agenda* PROGRESSIVE, advanced, modern, forward-looking, forward-thinking, progressivist, enlightened, reformist, radical; *informal* go-ahead ③ *a liberal education* WIDE-RANGING, broad-based, general. ④ *a liberal interpretation of divorce laws* FLEXIBLE, broad, loose, rough, free, general, non-literal, non-specific, imprecise, vague, indefinite. ⑤ *liberal coatings of paint*: ABUNDANT, copious, ample, plentiful, generous, lavish, luxuriant, profuse, considerable, prolific, rich; *poetic/literary* plentiful. ⑥ *they were liberal with their cash*: GENEROUS, open-handed, unsparing, unstinting, ungrudging, lavish, free, munificent, bountiful, beneficent, benevolent, big-hearted, philan-

thropic, charitable, altruistic, unselfish, *poetic/literary* bounteous

—OPPOSITES reactionary, strict, miserly

liberate ► **verb** (SET) FREE, release, let out/go, set/let loose, save, rescue, emancipate, enfranchise, *historical* manumit

—OPPOSITES imprison, enslave

liberation ► **noun** ① *the liberation of prisoners* FREEING, release, rescue, setting free, freedom, liberty, emancipation, *historical* manumission ② *women's liberation* FREEDOM, equality, equal rights, emancipation, enfranchisement

—OPPOSITES confinement, oppression

liberator ► **noun** RESCUER, saviour, deliverer, emancipator, *historical* manumitter

libertine ► **noun** *an unrepentant libertine* PHILANDERER, playboy, rake, roué, Don Juan, Lothario, Casanova, Romeo, lecher, seducer, womanizer, adulterer, debauchee, profligate, wanton, *informal* skirt-chaser, ladykiller, lech, wolf, *formal* fornicator

► **adjective** *libertine sexual intercourse* LICENTIOUS, lustful, libidinous, lecherous, lascivious, lubricious, dissolute, dissipated, debauched, wanton, degenerate, depraved, promiscuous, lewd, prurient, salacious, intemperate, lickensh, *informal* loose, fast, goatish, *formal* concupiscent

liberty ► **noun** ① *personal liberty* FREEDOM, independence, free rein, license, self-determination, free will, latitude ② *the essence of British liberty* INDEPENDENCE, freedom, autonomy, sovereignty, self government, self rule, self determination, civil liberties, human rights ③ *the liberty to go where one pleases* RIGHT, birthright, prerogative, entitlement, privilege, permission, sanction, authorization, authority, licence

—OPPOSITES constraint, slavery

■ **at liberty** ① *he was at liberty for three months* FREE, (on the) loose, at large, unconfined, escaped, out ② *your great aunt was at liberty to divide her estate how she chose* FREE, permitted, allowed, authorized, able, entitled, eligible

■ **take liberties** ACT WITH FAMILIARITY, show disrespect act with impropriety, act indecorously, be impudent, act with impertinence, take advantage, exploit

libidinous ► **adjective** LUSTFUL, lecherous, lascivious, lewd, carnal, salacious, prurient, licentious, libertine, lubricious, dissolute, debauched, depraved, degenerate, decadent, dissipated, wanton, promiscuous, lickensh, *informal* horny, goatish, wolfish, *Brit informal* randy, *formal* concupiscent

libido ► **noun** SEX DRIVE, sexual appetite, (sexual) desire, passion, sexiness, sensuality, sexuality, lust, lustfulness, *informal* horniness, *Brit informal* randiness; *formal* concupiscence

licence ► **noun** ① *a driving licence* PERMIT, certificate, document, documentation, authorization, warrant, certification, credentials; pass, papers. ② *teachers had licence to administer beatings*. PERMISSION, authority, right, a free hand, leave, authorization, entitlement, privilege, prerogative; liberty, freedom, power ③ *they manufacture footwear under licence*: FRANCHISE, permission, consent, sanction, warrant, warranty, charter. ④ *the army have too much licence*: FREEDOM, liberty, free rein, latitude, independence, scope, impunity, carte blanche ⑤ *poetic licence*. DISREGARD FOR THE FACTS, IN-

ventiveness, invention, creativity, imagination, fancy, freedom, looseness ⑥ *the licence of the age* LICENTIOUSNESS, dissoluteness, dissipation, debauchery, immorality, impropriety, decadence, intemperateness, excess, excessiveness, lack of restraint

license ▶ **verb** PERMIT, allow, authorize, grant/give authority to, grant/give permission to, certify, empower, entitle, enable, give approval to, let, qualify, sanction
—OPPOSITES ban

licentious ▶ **adjective** DISSOLUTE, dissipated, debauched, degenerate, immoral, naughty, wanton, decadent, depraved, sinful, corrupt, lustful, lecherous, lascivious, libidinous, prurient, lubricious, lewd, promiscuous, lickensh, formal concupiscent
—OPPOSITES moral

licit ▶ **adjective** LEGITIMATE, permissible, admissible, allowable, permitted, allowed, sanctioned, authorized, warranted, lawful, legal, statutory, legalized, licensed, informal legit
—OPPOSITES forbidden

lick ▶ **verb** ① *the spaniel licked his face* pass one's tongue over, touch with one's tongue, tongue, lap, slurp ② *flames licking round the coal* FLICKER, play, flit, dance ③ (informal) *they licked the home side 3-0* See DEFEAT verb sense 1 ④ (informal) *the government have inflation licked* OVERCOME, get the better of, find an answer/solution to, conquer, beat, control, master, curb, check

▶ **noun** (informal) ① *a lick of paint* DAB, bit, drop, dash, spot, touch, splash, informal smidgen ② *they ran up at a fair lick* SPEED, rate, pace, tempo, informal clip

licking ▶ **noun** (informal) ① *Arsenal took a licking* DEFEAT, beating, trouncing, thrashing, informal hiding, pasting, hammering, drubbing, *N Amer informal shellacking* ② *Ray got the worst licking of his life* THRASHING, beating, flogging, whipping, informal wallowing, hiding, pasting, lathering, *N Amer informal whaling*

lid ▶ **noun** the lid of a saucepan COVER, top, cap, covering

■ **put a/the lid on** (informal) STOP, control, end, put an end/stop to, put paid to

■ **lift the lid off/on** (informal) EXPOSE, reveal, make known, make public, bring into the open, disclose, divulge, informal spill the beans, blow the gaff, blab

lie¹ ▶ **noun** *loyalty had made him tell lies* UNTRUTH, falsehood, fib, fabrication, deception, invention, (piece of) fiction, falsification, (little) white lie, half-truth, exaggeration, informal tall story, whopper, *Brit informal porky (pie)*

—RELATED TERMS mendacious

—OPPOSITES truth

▶ **verb** *he had lied to the police* TELL AN UNTRUTH, LIE, fib, dissemble, dissimulate, tell a white lie, perjure oneself, commit perjury, informal lie through one's teeth, formal forswear oneself

■ **give the lie to** DISPROVE, contradict, negate, deny, refute, rebut, controvert, belie, invalidate, discredit, debunk, challenge, call into question, informal shoot full of holes, shoot down (in flames), formal confute, gainsay

lie² ▶ **verb** ① *he was lying on a bed*: RECLINE, lie down/back, be recumbent, be prostrate, be supine, be prone, be stretched out, sprawl, rest,

repose, lounge, loll ② *her handbag lay on a chair* BE PLACED, be situated, be positioned, rest. ③ *lying on the border of Switzerland and Austria* BE SITUATED, be located, be placed, be found, be sited ④ *his body lies in a crypt* BE BURIED, be interred, be laid to rest, rest, be entombed ⑤ *the difficulty lies in building real quality into the products* CONSIST, be inherent, be present, be contained, exist, reside
—OPPOSITES stand

■ **lie heavy on** TROUBLE, worry, bother, torment, oppress, nag, prey on one's mind, plague, niggle at, gnaw at, haunt, informal bug

■ **lie low** HIDE (OUT), go into hiding, conceal oneself, keep out of sight, go to earth/ground, informal hole up, *Brit informal, dated* lie doggo

liege ▶ **noun** (LIEGE) LORD, feudal lord, overlord, master, chief, superior, baron, monarch, sovereign, historical suzerain, seigneur

lieutenant ▶ **noun** DEPUTY, second in command, right-hand man/woman, number two, assistant, aide, informal sidekick

life ▶ **noun** ① *the joy of giving life to a child* EXISTENCE, being, living, animation, sentence, creation, viability ② *threats to life on the planet* LIVING BEINGS/CREATURES, the living, human/animal/plant life, fauna, flora, ecosystems, human beings, humanity, humankind, mankind, man ③ *an easy life* WAY OF LIFE/LIVING, lifestyle, situation, fate, lot. ④ *the last nine months of his life* LIFETIME, life span, days, time on earth, existence ⑤ *the life of a Parliament* DURATION, lifetime, existence ⑥ *he is full of life* VIVACITY, animation, liveliness, vitality, verve, high spirits, exuberance, zest, buoyancy, enthusiasm, energy, vigour, dynamism, elan, gusto, brio, bounce, spirit, fire, (hustle and) bustle, movement, informal oomph, pizzazz, pep, zing, zip, vim ⑦ *the life of the party* MOVING SPIRIT, (vital) spirit, life force, lifeblood, heart, soul ⑧ *more than 1,500 lives were lost in the accident* PERSON, human being, individual, soul ⑨ *a life of Chopin* BIOGRAPHY, autobiography, life story/history, profile, chronicle, account, portrait, informal biog, bio ⑩ *I'll miss you, but that's life* THE WAY OF THE WORLD, the way things go, the human condition, fate, destiny, providence, kismet, karma, fortune, luck, chance, informal the way the cookie crumbles

—RELATED TERMS animate, bio-

—OPPOSITES death

■ **come to life** ① *the sounds of a barracks coming to life* BECOME ACTIVE, come alive, wake up, awaken, arouse, rouse, stir, poetic/literary waken ② *the carved angel suddenly came to life* BECOME ANIMATE, come alive

■ **for dear life** DESPERATELY, with all one's might, with might and main, for all one is worth, as fast/hard as possible, like the devil.

■ **give one's life** ① *he would give his life for her* DIE (TO SAVE), lay down one's life, sacrifice oneself, offer one's life. ② *he gave his life to the company* DEDICATE ONESELF, devote oneself, give oneself, surrender oneself

life-and-death ▶ **adjective** VITAL, of vital importance, crucial, critical, urgent, pivotal, momentous, important, key, serious, grave, significant, informal earth-shattering, formal of great moment.

—OPPOSITES trivial.

lifeblood ► **noun** LIFE (FORCE), essential constituent, driving force, vital spark, inspiration, stimulus, essence, crux, heart, soul, core

life-giving ► **adjective** VITALIZING, animating, energizing, invigorating, stimulating, life-preserving, life-sustaining

lifeless ► **adjective** ① a lifeless body. DEAD, departed, perished, gone, no more, passed on/away, stiff, cold, (as) dead as a doornail, formal deceased ② a lifeless rag doll INANIMATE, without life, inert, insentient ③ a lifeless landscape BARREN, sterile, bare, desolate, stark, arid, infertile, uncultivated, uninhabited, bleak, colourless, characterless, soulless ④ a lifeless performance LACKLUSTRE, spiritless, apathetic, torpid, lethargic, dull, monotonous, boring, tedious, dreary, unexciting, expressionless, emotionless, colourless, characterless ⑤ lifeless hair LANK, lustreless

—OPPOSITES alive, animate, lively

lifelike ► **adjective** REALISTIC, true to life, representational, faithful, exact, precise, detailed, vivid, graphic, natural, naturalistic
—OPPOSITES unrealistic

lifelong ► **adjective** LASTING, long-lasting, long-term, constant, stable, established, steady, enduring, permanent
—OPPOSITES ephemeral

lifestyle ► **noun** WAY OF LIFE/LIVING, life, situation, fate, lot, conduct, behaviour, customs, habits, ways, mores

lifetime ► **noun** ① he made an exceptional contribution during his lifetime LIFESPAN, life, days, duration of life, one's time (on earth), existence, one's career ② the lifetime of workstations DURATION, (active) life, life expectancy, functioning period, period of effectiveness/usefulness ③ it would take a lifetime ALL ONE'S LIFE, a very long time, an eternity, years (on end), aeons, informal ages (and ages), an age

lift ► **verb** ① lift the pack on to your back RAISE, hoist, heave, haul up, uplift, heft, raise up/aloft, upraise, elevate, hold high, pick up, grab, take up, scoop up, snatch up, winch up, jack up, lever up, informal hump, poetic/literary upheave ② the news lifted his spirits. BOOST, raise, buoy up, elevate, cheer up, perk up, uplift, brighten up, ginger up, gladden, encourage, stimulate, revive; informal buck up ③ they lift their game on big occasions. IMPROVE, boost, enhance, revitalize, upgrade, ameliorate ④ the fog had lifted CLEAR, rise, disperse, dissipate, disappear, vanish, dissolve ⑤ the ban has been lifted: CANCEL, remove, withdraw, revoke, rescind, annul, void, discontinue, end, stop, terminate ⑥ lifting carrots DIG UP, pick, pull up, root out, unearth ⑦ the RAF lifted them to safety AIRLIFT, transport by air, fly ⑧ he lifted his voice: AMP LIFY, raise, make louder, increase. ⑨ (informal) he lifted sections from a 1986 article. PLAGIARIZE, pirate, copy, reproduce, poach; informal crib, rip off. ⑩ (informal) she lifted a wallet. See STEAL verb sense 1

—OPPOSITES drop, put down

► **noun** ① Alice went up in the lift: ELEVATOR, pater-noster (lift), dumb waiter ② give me a lift up: PUSH, hoist, heave, thrust, shove. ③ he gave me a lift to the airport: (CAR) RIDE, run, drive. ④ that goal will give his confidence a real lift: BOOST, fillip, stimulus, impetus, encouragement, spur, push;

improvement, enhancement, informal shot in the arm

■ **lift off** TAKE OFF, become airborne, take to the air, take wing; be launched, blast off

light¹ ► **noun** ① the light of candles ILLUMINATION, brightness, luminescence, luminosity, shining, gleaming, gleam, brilliance, radiance, lustre, glowing, glow, blaze, glare, dazzle, sunlight, moonlight, starlight, lamplight, firelight, ray of light, beam of light, poetic/literary effulgence, refulgence, lambency ② there was a light on in the hall LAMP, wall light, headlight, headlamp, sidelight, street light, floodlight; lantern, torch, flashlight ③ have you got a light? MATCH, (cigarette) lighter. ④ we'll be driving in the light DAY LIGHT (HOURS), daytime, day, natural light, sunlight ⑤ he saw the problem in a different light ASPECT, angle, slant, approach, interpretation, viewpoint, standpoint, context, hue, complexion ⑥ light dawned on Loretta UNDERSTANDING, enlightenment, illumination, comprehension, insight, awareness, knowledge ⑦ an eminent legal light EXPERT, authority, master, leader, guru, leading light, luminary ⑧ he served his party loyally according to his lights TALENT, skill, ability, intelligence, intellect, knowledge, understanding

—RELATED TERMS photo-, lumin-

—OPPOSITES darkness

► **verb** Alan lit a fire SET ALIGHT, set light to, set burning, set on fire, set fire to, put/set a match to, ignite, kindle, spark (off), archaic enkindle
—OPPOSITES extinguish

► **adjective** ① a light breakfast room BRIGHT, full of light, well lit, well illuminated, sunny ② light pastel shades LIGHT-COLOURED, light-toned, pale, pale-coloured, pastel ③ light hair FAIR, light-coloured, blond(e), golden, flaxen.

—OPPOSITES dark, gloomy

■ **bring something to light** REVEAL, disclose, expose, uncover, show up, unearth, dig up/out, bring to notice, identify, hunt out, nose out

■ **come to light** BE DISCOVERED, be uncovered, be unearthed, come out, become known, become apparent, appear, materialize, emerge

■ **in the light of** TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION/ACCOUNT, considering, bearing in mind, taking note of, in view of

■ **light up** the dashboard lit up BECOME BRIGHT, brighten, lighten, shine, gleam, flare, blaze, glint, sparkle, shimmer, glisten, scintillate

■ **light something up** ① a flare lit up the night sky MAKE BRIGHT, brighten, illuminate, lighten, throw/cast light on, shine on, irradiate; poetic/literary illumine. ② her enthusiasm lit up her face ANIMATE, irradiate, brighten, cheer up, enliven.

■ **throw/cast/shed light on** EXPLAIN, elucidate, clarify, clear up, interpret.

light² ► **adjective** ① it's light and portable EASY TO LIFT, not heavy, lightweight; easy to carry, portable. ② a light cotton robe: FLIMSY, lightweight, insubstantial, thin, delicate, floaty, gauzy, gossamer, diaphanous. ③ she is light on her feet: NIMBLE, agile, lithe, limber, lissom, graceful; light-footed, fleet-footed, quick, quick-moving, spry, sprightly, informal twinkle-toed; poetic/literary fleet, lightsome. ④ a light soil: FRIABLE, sandy, easily dug, workable, crumbly, loose. ⑤ a light dinner: SMALL, modest, simple, easily digested. ⑥ light duties: EASY, simple, undemanding, untaxing; informal cushy. ⑦ his eyes gleamed with light mockery: GENTLE, mild, moderate, slight; playful, light-

hearted. ① **light reading**: ENTERTAINING, lightweight, diverting, undemanding, middle-of-the-road; frivolous, superficial, trivial ② **a light heart**: CAREFREE, light-hearted, cheerful, cheery, happy, merry, jolly, blithe, bright, sunny; buoyant, bubbly, jaunty, bouncy, breezy, optimistic, positive, upbeat, ebullient, doted gay ⑩ **this is no light matter**: UNIMPORTANT, insignificant, trivial, trifling, petty, inconsequential, superficial ⑪ **light footsteps**: GENTLE, delicate, soft, dainty, faint, indistinct. ⑫ **her head felt light**: DIZZY, giddy, light-headed, faint, vertiginous, informal woozy ⑬ (archaic) **light women**: PROMISCUOUS, loose, wanton
—OPPOSITES heavy

light³

■ **light into** (N Amer informal) ① **we started lighting into our attackers**: See SET ON at SET¹ ② **my father lit into me for being late**: See SCOLD verb

■ **light on/upon**: COME ACROSS, chance on, hit on, happen on, stumble on/across, blunder on, find, discover, uncover, come up with

lighten¹ ▶ verb ① **the sky was beginning to lighten**: BECOME/GROW LIGHTER, brighten ② **the first touch of dawn lightened the sky**: MAKE LIGHTER, make brighter, brighten, light up, illuminate, throw/cast light on, shine on, irradiate, poetic/literary illumine ③ **he used lemon juice to lighten his hair**: WHITEN, make whiter, bleach, blanch, make paler, fade, wash out, decolorize
—OPPOSITES darken

lighten² ▶ verb ① **lightening the burden of taxation**: MAKE LIGHTER, lessen, reduce, decrease, diminish, ease, alleviate, mitigate, allay, relieve, palliate, assuage ② **an attempt to lighten her spirits**: CHEER (UP), brighten, gladden, hearten, perk up, lift, ginger up, enliven, boost, buoy (up), uplift, revive, restore, revitalize
—OPPOSITES increase, depress

light-fingered ▶ adjective THIEVING, stealing, pilfering, shoplifting, dishonest, informal sticky-fingered, crooked
—OPPOSITES honest

light-footed ▶ adjective NIMBLE, light on one's feet, agile, graceful, lithe, spry, sprightly, limber, lissom, swift, fast, quick, quick-moving, fleet-footed, informal twinkle-toed, poetic/literary fleet
—OPPOSITES clumsy

light-headed ▶ adjective DIZZY, giddy, faint, light in the head, muzzy, vertiginous; informal woozy

light-hearted ▶ adjective CAREFREE, cheerful, cheery, happy, merry, glad, playful, jolly, jovial, joyful, gleeful, ebullient, high-spirited, lively, blithe, bright, sunny, buoyant, vivacious, bubbly, jaunty, bouncy, breezy, entertaining, amusing, diverting, informal chirpy, upbeat, doted gay
—OPPOSITES miserable.

lightly ▶ adverb ① **Maisie kissed him lightly on the cheek**: SOFTLY, gently, faintly, delicately. ② **season very lightly**: SPARINGLY, slightly, sparsely, moderately, delicately. ③ **he has got off lightly**: WITHOUT SEVERE PUNISHMENT, easily, leniently, mildly. ④ **her views are not to be dismissed lightly**: CARELESSLY, airily, heedlessly, without consideration, uncaringly, indifferently, unthinkingly, thoughtlessly, flippantly, breezily, frivolously.
—OPPOSITES hard, heavily.

lightweight ▶ adjective ① **a lightweight jacket**: THIN, light, flimsy, insubstantial, summery ② **lightweight entertainment**: TRIVIAL, insubstantial, superficial, shallow, unintellectual, undemanding, frivolous, of little merit/value
—OPPOSITES heavy

like¹ ▶ verb ① **I rather like Colonel Maitland**: BE FOND OF, be attached to, have a soft spot for, have a liking for, have regard for, think well of, admire, respect, esteem, be attracted to, fancy, find attractive, be keen on, be taken with, informal take a shine to, rate ② **Maisie likes veal** | **she likes gardening**: ENJOY, have a taste for, have a preference for, have a liking for, be partial to, find/take pleasure in, be keen on, find agreeable, have a penchant/passion for, find enjoyable, appreciate, love, adore, relish, informal have a thing about, be into, be mad about/for, be hooked on, go a bundle on ③ **feel free to say what you like**: CHOOSE, please, wish, want, see/think fit, care to, will ④ **how would she like it if someone did that to her?**: FEEL ABOUT, regard, think about, consider
—OPPOSITES hate

like² ▶ preposition ① **you're just like a teacher**: SIMILAR TO, the same as, identical to. ② **the figure landed like a cat**: IN THE SAME WAY/MANNER AS, in the manner of, in a similar way to ③ **cities like Birmingham**: SUCH AS, for example, for instance, in particular, namely, viz ④ **Richard sounded mean, which isn't like him**: CHARACTERISTIC OF, typical of, in character with
—RELATED TERMS -esque, -ish

▶ **noun** we shan't see his like again: EQUAL, match, equivalent, counterpart, twin, parallel, formal compeer

▶ **adjective** a like situation: SIMILAR, much the same, comparable, corresponding, resembling, alike, analogous, parallel, equivalent, cognate, related, kindred, identical, same, matching
—OPPOSITES dissimilar

likeable ▶ adjective PLEASANT, nice, friendly, agreeable, affable, amiable, genial, personable, charming, popular, good-natured, engaging, appealing, endearing, convivial, congenial, winning, delightful, enchanting, lovable, adorable, sweet, informal darling, lovely
—OPPOSITES unpleasant

likelihood ▶ noun PROBABILITY, chance, prospect, possibility, likeliness, odds, feasibility, risk, threat, danger, hope, promise

likely ▶ adjective ① **it seemed likely that a scandal would break**: PROBABLE, (distinctly) possible, to be expected, odds-on, plausible, imaginable; expected, anticipated, predictable, predicted, foreseeable, informal on the cards ② **a likely explanation**: PLAUSIBLE, reasonable, feasible, acceptable, believable, credible, tenable, conceivable. ③ **a likely story!**: UNLIKELY, implausible, unbelievable, incredible, untenable, unacceptable, inconceivable ④ **a likely-looking place**: SUITABLE, appropriate, apposite, fit, fitting, acceptable, right; promising, hopeful. ⑤ **a likely lad**: PROMISING, talented, gifted; informal up-and-coming
—OPPOSITES improbable, unbelievable.

▶ **adverb** he was most likely dead: PROBABLY, in all probability, presumably, no doubt, doubtlessly; informal (as) like as not.

liken ▶ verb COMPARE, equate, draw an analogy between, draw a parallel between, link, associate, bracket together

—OPPOSITES contrast

likeness ▶ **noun** ① *her likeness to Anne is quite uncanny* RESEMBLANCE, similarity, correspondence, analogy, uniformity, conformity ② *the likeness of a naked woman* SEMBLANCE, guise, appearance, (outward) form, shape, image ③ *a likeness of the last president* REPRESENTATION, image, depiction, portrayal, picture, drawing, sketch, painting, portrait, photograph, study, statue, sculpture

—OPPOSITES dissimilarity

likewise ▶ **adverb** ① *an ambush was out of the question, likewise poison* ALSO, in addition, too, as well, to boot, besides, moreover, furthermore ② *encourage your family and friends to do likewise* THE SAME, similarly, correspondingly, in the same way, in similar fashion

liking ▶ **noun** FONDNESS, love, affection, penchant, attachment, enjoyment, appreciation, taste, passion, preference, partiality, predilection, desire, fancy, inclination

lilt ▶ **noun** CADENCE, rise and fall, inflection, intonation, rhythm, swing, beat, pulse, tempo

limb ▶ **noun** ① *his sore limbs* ARM, LEG, appendage, archaic member. ② *the limbs of the tree* BRANCH, bough. ③ *local job centres act as limbs of the Ministry* SECTION, branch, offshoot, arm, wing, subdivision, department, division

■ **out on a limb** ① *the portrayal of Scotland as being out on a limb* ISOLATED, segregated, set apart, separate, cut off, solitary ② *the government would not go out on a limb* IN A PRECARIOUS POSITION, vulnerable, informal sticking one's neck out

limber ▶ **adjective** I have to practise to keep myself limber. LITHE, supple, nubile, lissom, flexible, fit, agile, acrobatic, loose-jointed, loose-limbed

—OPPOSITES stiff

■ **limber up** WARM UP, loosen up, get into condition, get into shape, practise, train, stretch

limbo ▶ **noun** unbaptized infants are thought to live in limbo non-existence, void, oblivion

■ **in limbo** IN ABEYANCE, unattended to, unfinished, suspended, deferred, postponed, put off, pending, on ice, in cold storage; unresolved, undetermined, up in the air, informal on the back burner, on hold

limelight ▶ **noun** THE FOCUS OF ATTENTION, public attention/interest, media attention, the public eye, the glare of publicity, prominence, the spotlight

—OPPOSITES obscurity

limit ▶ **noun** ① *the city limits* BOUNDARY (LINE), border, bound, partition line, frontier, edge, demarcation line; perimeter, outside, outline, confine, periphery, margin, rim. ② *a limit of 4,500 supporters* MAXIMUM, ceiling, limitation, upper limit, restriction, check, control, restraint. ③ *resources are stretched to the limit*: UT-MOST, breaking point, greatest extent. ④ (informal) *that really is the limit!* THE LAST STRAW, (more than) enough; informal the end, it.

▶ **verb** *the pressure to limit costs*: RESTRICT, curb, cap, (hold in) check, restrain, put a brake on, freeze, peg; regulate, control, govern, delimit.

limitation ▶ **noun** ① *a limitation on the number of newcomers* RESTRICTION, curb, restraint, control, check; impediment, obstacle, obstruction, bar, barrier, block, deterrent. ② *he is aware of his own limitations* IMPERFECTION, flaw, defect,

failing, shortcoming, weak point, deficiency, failure, frailty, weakness, foible

—OPPOSITES increase, strength

limited ▶ **adjective** ① *limited resources* RESTRICTED, finite, little, tight, slight, in short supply, short, meagre, scanty, sparse, insubstantial, deficient, inadequate, insufficient, paltry, poor, minimal. ② *the limited powers of the council*: RESTRICTED, curbed, checked, controlled, restrained, delimited, qualified

—OPPOSITES ample, boundless

limitless ▶ **adjective** BOUNDLESS, unbounded, unlimited, illimitable, infinite, endless, never-ending, unending, everlasting, untold, immeasurable, bottomless, fathomless; unceasing, interminable, inexhaustible, constant, perpetual

limp¹ ▶ **verb** *she limped out of the house* HOBBLE, walk with a limp, walk lamely/unevenly, walk haltingly, falter

▶ **noun** *walking with a limp* LAMENESS, hobble, uneven gait, Medicine claudication

limp² ▶ **adjective** ① *a limp handshake* SOFT, flaccid, loose, slack, lax, floppy, drooping, droopy, sagging. ② *we were all limp with exhaustion* TIRED, fatigued, weary, exhausted, worn out, lethargic, listless, spiritless, weak. ③ *a limp and lacklustre speech* UNINSPIRED, uninspiring, insipid, flat, lifeless, vapid

—OPPOSITES firm, energetic

limpid ▶ **adjective** ① *a limpid pool* CLEAR, transparent, glassy, crystal clear, crystalline, translucent, pellucid, unclouded. ② *his limpid writing* LUCID, clear, plain, understandable, intelligible, comprehensible, coherent, explicit, unambiguous, simple, vivid, sharp, crystal clear; formal perspicuous

—OPPOSITES opaque

line¹ ▶ **noun** ① *he drew a line through the name* dash, rule, bar, score, underline, underscore, stroke, slash, solidus, stripe, strip, band, belt, technical stria, striation, Bnt oblique. ② *there were lines round her eyes* WRINKLE, frown, crease, crinkle, crow's foot. ③ *the classic lines of the exterior* CONTOUR, outline, configuration, shape, figure, delineation, profile. ④ *he headed the ball over the line* | *the county line*: BOUNDARY (LINE), limit, border, borderline, bounding line, frontier, demarcation line, dividing line, edge, margin, perimeter. ⑤ *behind enemy lines* POSITION, formation, front (line); trenches. ⑥ *he put the washing on the line* CORD, rope, string, cable, wire, thread, twine, strand. ⑦ *a line of soldiers* FILE, rank, column, string, train, procession, row, queue; Bnt informal crocodile. ⑧ *a line of figures*: COLUMN, row. ⑨ *a long line of crass decisions* SERIES, sequence, succession, chain, string, set, cycle. ⑩ *the line of flight of some bees*: COURSE, route, track, path, way, run. ⑪ *they took a very tough line with the industry* | *the party line*: COURSE (OF ACTION), procedure, technique, tactic, tack; policy, practice, approach, plan, programme, position, stance, philosophy. ⑫ *her own line of thought*: COURSE, direction, drift, tack, tendency, trend. ⑬ (informal) *don't give me that line!* PATTERN, story, piece of fiction, fabrication, informal spiel. ⑭ *he couldn't remember his lines*: WORDS, part, script, speech. ⑮ *their line of work*: (LINE OF) BUSINESS, (line of) work, field, trade, occupation, employment, profession, job, career, walk of life; speciality, forte, province, department, sphere, area (of expertise). ⑯ *a new line of col-*

ogne: BRAND, kind, sort, type, variety, make
 ⑦ **a noble line:** ANCESTRY, family, parentage, birth, descent, lineage, extraction, genealogy, roots, origin, background; stock, bloodline, pedigree. ⑧ **the opening line of the poem.** SENTENCE, phrase, clause, utterance; passage, extract, quotation, quote, citation. ⑨ **I should drop Ralph a line:** NOTE, letter, card, postcard, message, communication, missive, memorandum; correspondence, word; *informal* memo; *formal* epistle

—RELATED TERMS linear.

► **verb** ① **her face was lined with age:** FURROW, wrinkle, crease, mark with lines. ② **the driveway was lined by poplars:** BORDER, edge, fringe, bound, rim

■ **draw the line at** STOP SHORT OF, refuse to accept, balk at; object to, take issue with, take exception to.

■ **in line** ① **the poor stood in line for food.** IN A QUEUE, in a row, in a file ② **the adverts are in line with the editorial style:** IN AGREEMENT, in accord, in accordance, in harmony, in step, in compliance. ③ **in line with the bullseye** IN ALIGNMENT, aligned, level, at the same height, abreast, side by side. ④ **the referee kept him in line:** UNDER CONTROL, in order, in check

■ **in line for** A CANDIDATE FOR, in the running for, on the shortlist for, being considered for

■ **lay it on the line** SPEAK FRANKLY/HONESTLY, pull no punches, be blunt, not mince one's words, call a spade a spade; *informal* give it to someone straight.

■ **line up** FORM A QUEUE/LINE, get into rows/columns, queue up, fall in, *Military* dress; *Brit informal* form a crocodile

■ **line someone/something up** ① **they lined them up and shot them** ARRANGE IN LINES, put in rows, arrange in columns, align, range; *Military* dress ② **we've lined up an all-star cast.** ASSEMBLE, get together, organize, prepare, arrange, pre-arrange, fix up, lay on; book, schedule, timetable

■ **on the line** AT RISK, in danger, endangered, imperilled.

■ **too the line** CONFORM, obey/observe the rules, comply with the rules, abide by the rules

line² ► **verb** **a cardboard box lined with a blanket-cover,** put a lining in, interline, face, back, pad

■ **line one's pockets** (*informal*) MAKE MONEY, accept bribes, embezzle money; *informal* feather one's nest, graft, be on the make

lineage ► **noun** ANCESTRY, family, parentage, birth, descent, line, extraction, derivation, genealogy, roots, origin, background; stock, bloodline, breeding, pedigree.

lineaments ► **plural noun** (*poetic/literary*) (DISTINCTIVE) FEATURES, distinguishing characteristics, hallmarks, properties, traits; form, outline, configuration, physiognomy

lined¹ ► **adjective** ① **lined paper:** RULED, feint, striped, banded. ② **his lined face:** WRINKLED, wrinkly, furrowed, wizened.
 —OPPOSITES plain, smooth.

lined² ► **adjective** **lined curtains:** COVERED, backed, interlined; faced, padded.

liner ► **noun** ① **a luxury liner:** SHIP, ocean liner, passenger vessel, boat. ② **her eyes were ringed**

with *liner* EYELINER, eye pencil, kohl (pencil); lipliner

line-up ► **noun** ① **a star-studded line-up:** LIST OF PERFORMERS, cast, bill, programme. ② **United's line-up.** LIST OF PLAYERS, team, squad, side. ③ **a long line-up of customers:** QUEUE, line, row, column.

linger ► **verb** ① **the crowd lingered for a long time** WAIT (AROUND), stay (put), remain, loiter, dawdle, dally, take one's time; *informal* stick around, hang around/round, hang on, *archaic* tarry. ② **the infection can linger for many years:** PERSIST, continue, remain, stay, endure, carry on, last, keep on/up.
 —OPPOSITES vanish.

lingerie ► **noun** WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR, underclothes, underclothing, undergarments, nightwear, nightclothes, *informal* undies, frillies, underthings, unmentionables; *Brit informal* smalls.

lingering ► **adjective** ① **lingering doubts.** REMAINING, surviving, persisting, abiding, nagging, niggling. ② **a slow, lingering death:** PROTRACTED, prolonged, long-drawn-out, long-lasting.

lingo ► **noun** (*informal*) ① **I can't speak the lingo** LANGUAGE, tongue, dialect ② **computer lingo** JARGON, terminology, slang, argot, cant, patter, mumbo-jumbo; *informal* -ese, -speak, gobbledegook.

linguistic ► **adjective** SEMANTIC, lingual, rhetorical, verbal.

lining ► **noun** BACKING, interlining, facing, padding, liner

link ► **noun** ① **a chain of steel links:** LOOP, ring, connection, connector, coupling, joint. ② **the links between transport and the environment:** CONNECTION, relationship, association, linkage, tie-up. ③ **their links with the labour movement:** BOND, tie, attachment, connection, relationship, association, affiliation. ④ **one of the links in the organization:** COMPONENT, constituent, element, part, piece.

► **verb** ① **four boxes were linked together:** JOIN, connect, fasten, attach, bind, unite, combine, amalgamate, clamp, secure, fix, tie, couple, yoke. ② **the evidence linked him with the body:** ASSOCIATE, connect, relate, join, bracket.

lion ► **noun** ① **a lion ready to attack.** big cat, king of the beasts, lioness. ② **a lion amongst men:** HERO, man of courage, brave man; conqueror, champion, conquering hero. ③ **the lions of the symphony hall.** CELEBRITY, dignitary, VIP, luminary, star, superstar, big name, leading light; *informal* big shot/noise, celeb, megastar.
 —RELATED TERMS leonine.

■ **beard the lion in his den** DEFY DANGER, face up to danger, confront/brave danger.

■ **the lion's share** MOST, the majority, the larger part/number, the greater part/number, more than half, the bulk.

lionhearted ► **adjective** BRAVE, courageous, valiant, gallant, intrepid, valorous, fearless, bold, daring; stout-hearted, stalwart, heroic, doughty, plucky; *informal* gutsy, spunky.
 —OPPOSITES cowardly.

lionize ► **verb** CELEBRATE, fête, glorify, honour, exalt, acclaim, admire, praise, extol, applaud, hail, venerate, eulogize; *formal* laud; *archaic* panegyryze.
 —OPPOSITES vilify.

lip ▶ **noun** ① *the lip of the crater* EDGE, rim, brim, border, verge, brink ② (*informal*) I'll have no more of your lip! INSOLENCE, impertinence, impudence, cheek, rudeness, audacity, effrontery, disrespect, presumptuousness, *informal* mouth, *Brit informal* sauce, backchat

—RELATED TERMS labial, labio-

■ **keep a stiff upper lip** KEEP CONTROL OF ONESELF, not show emotion, appear unaffected, *informal* keep one's cool

liquefy ▶ **verb** MAKE/BECOME LIQUID, condense, liquidize, melt, deliquesce

liquid ▶ **adjective** ① *liquid fuels* FLUID, liquefied, melted, molten, thawed, dissolved, *Chemistry* hydrous ② *her liquid eyes* CLEAR, limpid, crystal clear, crystalline, pellucid, unclouded ③ *a liquid voice* PURE, clear, mellifluous, dulcet, mel-low, sweet, sweet-sounding, soft, melodious, harmonious, rare mellifluent ④ *liquid assets* CONVERTIBLE, disposable, usable, spendable —OPPOSITES solid

▶ **noun** a vat of liquid FLUID, moisture, wet, wetness; liquor, solution, juice

liquidate ▶ **verb** ① *the company was liquidated* CLOSE DOWN, wind up, put into liquidation, dissolve, disband ② *he liquidated his share portfolio* CONVERT (TO CASH), cash in, sell off/up ③ *liquidating the public debt*: PAY (OFF), pay in full, settle, clear, discharge, square, honour ④ (*informal*) *they were liquidated in bloody purges* See KILL verb sense 1

liquidize ▶ **verb** PURÉE, cream, liquefy, blend

liquor ▶ **noun** ① *alcoholic liquor* ALCOHOL, spirits, (alcoholic) drink, intoxicating liquor, intoxicant, *informal* booze, hard stuff, grog, hooch See list at ALCOHOL ② *strain the liquor into the sauce* STOCK, broth, bouillon, juice, liquid

lissom ▶ **adjective** SUPPLE, lithe, limber, graceful, flexible, loose-limbed, agile, nimble, slim, slender, thin, willowy, sleek, trim

list¹ ▶ **noun** a list of the world's wealthiest people CATALOGUE, inventory, record, register, roll, file, index, directory, listing, checklist, enumeration

▶ **verb** the accounts are listed alphabetically RECORD, register, make a list of, enter, itemize, enumerate, catalogue, file, log, minute, categorize, inventory, classify, group, sort, rank, alphabetize, index

list² ▶ **verb** the boat listed to one side LEAN (OVER), tilt, tip, heel (over), careen, cant, pitch, incline, slant, slope, bank

listen ▶ **verb** ① *are you listening carefully?* HEAR, pay attention, be attentive, attend, concentrate, keep one's ears open, prick up one's ears, *informal* be all ears, pin back one's ears, *poetic/literary* hark, *archaic* hearken ② *policy-makers should listen to popular opinion*: PAY ATTENTION, take heed, heed, take notice, take note, mind, mark, bear in mind, take into consideration/account

■ **listen in** EAVESDROP, spy, overhear, tap, wiretap, bug, monitor.

listless ▶ **adjective** LETHARGIC, enervated, spiritless, lifeless, vigourless; languid, languorous, inactive, inert, sluggish, torpid.

—OPPOSITES energetic

litany ▶ **noun** ① *repeating the litany* PRAYER, invocation, supplication, devotion, *archaic* orison. ② *a litany of complaints* RECITAL, recitation, repe-

tition, enumeration, list, listing, catalogue, inventory.

literacy ▶ **noun** ABILITY TO READ AND WRITE, reading/writing proficiency; (book) learning, education, scholarship, schooling.

literal ▶ **adjective** ① *the literal sense of the word 'dreadful'* STRICT, factual, plain, simple, exact, straightforward; unembellished, undistorted, objective, correct, true, truthful, accurate, genuine, authentic ② *a literal translation*. WORD-FOR-WORD, verbatim, letter-for-letter, exact, precise, faithful, close, strict, accurate; *formal* literalism ③ *his literal, unrhymed manner*. LITERAL-MINDED, down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, nonsense, unsentimental, prosaic, unimaginative, pedestrian, uninspired, uninspiring.

—OPPOSITES figurative, loose

▶ **noun** (*Brit*) William corrected two literals MISPRINT, error, mistake, (slip) of the pen, typographical/typing error/mistake, corrigendum, erratum, *informal* typo, howler

literally ▶ **adverb** VERBATIM, word for word, letter for letter, exactly, precisely, faithfully, closely, strictly, accurately, *formal* literalism

literary ▶ **adjective** ① *literary works* WRITTEN, poetic, artistic, dramatic ② *her literary friends* SCHOLARLY, learned, intellectual, cultured, erudite, bookish, highbrow, lettered, academic, cultivated, well read, widely read, (well) educated ③ *literary language* FORMAL, written, poetic, dramatic, elaborate, ornate, flowery

literate ▶ **adjective** (WELL) EDUCATED, well read, widely read, scholarly, learned, knowledgeable, lettered, cultured, cultivated, sophisticated, well informed

—OPPOSITES ignorant

literature ▶ **noun** ① *English literature* WRITTEN WORKS, writings, (creative) writing, literary texts, compositions See lists here and at NOVEL, PLAY, POEM. ② *the literature on prototype theory* PUBLICATIONS, published writings, texts, reports, studies ③ *election literature* PRINTED MATTER, brochures, leaflets, pamphlets, circulars, flyers, handouts, handbills, mailshots, bulletins, documentation, publicity, blurb, notices, *informal* bumf

lithe ▶ **adjective** AGILE, graceful, supple, limber, lithesome, loose-limbed, nimble, deft, flexible, lissom

—OPPOSITES clumsy.

litigant ▶ **noun** LITIGATOR, opponent (in law), contender, disputant, plaintiff, claimant, complainant, petitioner, appellant, respondent

litigation ▶ **noun** (LEGAL/JUDICIAL) PROCEEDINGS, (legal) action, lawsuit, legal dispute, (legal) case, suit (at law), prosecution, indictment.

litter ▶ **noun** ① *never drop litter*: RUBBISH, refuse, junk, waste, debris, scraps, leavings, fragments, detritus, *N Amer* trash, garbage. ② *the litter of glasses around her*: CLUTTER, jumble, muddle, mess, heap, disorder, untidiness, confusion, disarray; *informal* shambles. ③ *a litter of kittens*: BROOD, family; young, offspring, progeny; *Law* issue ④ *straw for use as litter*: (ANIMAL) BEDDING, straw. ⑤ *a horse-drawn litter*: SEDAN CHAIR, palanquin, stretcher.

▶ **verb** clothes littered the floor: MAKE UNTIDY, mess up, make a mess of, clutter up, be strewn about, be scattered about; *informal* make a shambles of; *poetic/literary* bestrew.

Literary Schools, Movements, and Groups

See also THEATRE.

Acmelism	neoclassicism
Aesthetic Movement	neo-realism
Angry Young Men	Neue Sachlichkeit
Augustans	occultism
beat generation	Parnassians
Bloomsbury group	Pléiade, la
Cavalier poets	postmodernism
classicism	post-structuralism
Dadaism	pre-Raphaelitism
existentialism	pre-Romanticism
expressionism	primitivism
futurism	realism
Georgian poets	Renaissance humanism
Harlem Renaissance	Romanticism
Imagism	Russian formalism
kailyard school	Scottish Chaucerians
Lake poets	social realism
Liverpool poets	socialist realism
magic/magical realism	structuralism
mannerism	Sturm und Drang
medievalism	surrealism
metaphysical poets	symbolism
minimalism	transcendentalism
modernism	verismo
Movement, the	vorticism
naturalism	

little ▶ **adjective** ① a little writing desk SMALL, small-scale, compact, mini, miniature, tiny, minute, minuscule; toy, baby, pocket, undersized, dwarf, midget, *Scottish* wee, *informal* teeny-weeny, teeny-weeny, itty-bitsy, tiddly, half-pint, *Brit* *informal* titchy, dinky, *N Amer* *informal* vest-pocket ② a little man SHORT, small, slight, petite, diminutive, tiny, elfin, dwarfish, midget, pygmy, Lilliputian, *Scottish* wee, *informal* teeny-weeny, pint-sized ③ my little sister YOUNG, younger, junior, small, baby, infant. ④ I was a bodyguard for a little while BRIEF, short, short-lived, fleeting, momentary, transitory, transient, fast, quick, hasty, cursory ⑤ a few little problems MINOR, unimportant, insignificant, trivial, trifling, petty, paltry, inconsequential, nugatory.

—OPPOSITES big, large, elder, important
▶ **determiner** they have little political influence. HARDLY ANY, not much, slight, scant, limited, restricted, modest, little or no, minimal, negligible

—OPPOSITES considerable

▶ **adverb** ① he is little known as a teacher HARDLY, barely, scarcely, not much, (only) slightly ② this disease is little seen nowadays RARELY, seldom, infrequently, hardly (ever), scarcely (ever), not much

—OPPOSITES well, often.

■ a little ① add a little water SOME, a small amount of, a bit of, a touch of, a soupçon of, a dash of, a taste of, a spot of, a shade of, a suggestion of, a trace of, a hint of, a suspicion of, a drizzle of, a splash of, a pinch of, a sprinkling of, a speck of; *informal* a smidgen of, a tad of. ② after a little, Oliver came in: A SHORT TIME, a little while, a bit, an interval, a short period; a minute, a moment, a second, an instant; *informal* a sec, a mo, a jiffy. ③ this reminds me a little of the Adriatic SLIGHTLY, faintly, remotely, vaguely, somewhat, a little bit, quite, to some degree

■ **little by little** GRADUALLY, slowly, by degrees, by stages, step by step, bit by bit, progressively; subtly, imperceptibly

liturgical ▶ **adjective** CEREMONIAL, ritual, solemn, church

liturgy ▶ **noun** RITUAL, worship, service, ceremony, rite, observance, celebration, sacrament, tradition, custom, practice, rubric, *formal* ordinance

live¹ ▶ **verb** ① the greatest mathematician who ever lived: EXIST, be alive, be, have life, breathe, draw breath, walk the earth ② I live in London: RESIDE, have one's home, have one's residence, be settled; be housed, lodge, inhabit, occupy, populate, *Scottish* stay, *formal* dwell, be domiciled ③ they lived quietly PASS/SPEND ONE'S LIFE, have a lifestyle, behave, conduct oneself; *formal* comport oneself ④ she had lived a difficult life: EXPERIENCE, spend, pass, lead, have, go through, undergo ⑤ Freddy lived by his wits SURVIVE, make a living, earn one's living, eke out a living, subsist, support oneself, sustain oneself, make ends meet, keep body and soul together ⑥ you should live a little ENJOY ONE SELF, enjoy life, have fun, live life to the full

—OPPOSITES die, be dead

■ **live it up** (*informal*) LIVE EXTRAVAGANTLY, live in the lap of luxury, live in clover, carouse, revel, enjoy oneself, have a good time, go on a spree, roister, *informal* party, push the boat out, paint the town red, have a ball, make whoopee, *N Amer* *informal* live high on/off the hog, *archaic* wassail

■ **live off/on** SUBSIST ON, feed on/off, eat, consume

live² ▶ **adjective** ① live bait. LIVING, alive, having life, breathing, animate, sentient ② a live performance IN THE FLESH, personal, in person, not recorded. ③ a live rail. ELECTRIFIED, charged, powered, active, *informal* hot ④ live coals. (RED) HOT, glowing, aglow, burning, alight, flaming, aflame, blazing, ignited, on fire, *poetic/literary* afire ⑤ a live grenade UNEXPLODED, explosive, active, unstable, volatile ⑥ live issue TOPICAL, current, of current interest, controversial, burning, pressing, important

—OPPOSITES dead, inanimate, recorded

■ **live wire** (*informal*) ENERGETIC PERSON, *informal* fireball, human dynamo, powerhouse, life and soul of the party

livelihood ▶ **noun** (SOURCE OF) INCOME, means of support, living, subsistence, keep, maintenance, sustenance, nourishment, daily bread, bread and butter, job, work, employment, occupation

livelong ▶ **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) ENTIRE, whole, total, complete, full, continuous

lively ▶ **adjective** ① a lively young woman ENERGETIC, active, animated, dynamic, full of life, outgoing, spirited, high-spirited, vivacious, enthusiastic, vibrant, buoyant, exuberant, effervescent, cheerful; bouncy, bubbly, perky, sparkling, zestful, *informal* full of beans, chirpy, chipper, peppy. ② a lively bar BUSY, crowded, bustling, buzzing; vibrant, boisterous, jolly, festive; *informal* hopping ③ a lively debate: HEATED, vigorous, animated, spirited, enthusiastic, forceful, exciting, interesting, memorable. ④ a lively portrait of the local community: VIVID, colourful, striking, graphic, bold, strong ⑤ he bowled at a lively pace: BRISK, quick, fast, rapid, swift,

speedy, smart, *informal* nippy, snappy ① *the press is making things lively for the Government.* AWK WARD, tricky, difficult, challenging, eventful, exciting, busy, *informal* hairy
-OPPOSITES quiet, dull

liven

■ **liven up** BRIGHTEN UP, cheer up, perk up, revive, rally, pick up, bounce back, *informal* buck up

■ **liven someone/something up** BRIGHTEN UP, cheer up, enliven, animate, raise someone's spirits, perk up, spice up, ginger up, make lively, wake up, invigorate, revive, refresh, vivify, galvanize, stimulate, stir up, get going, *informal* buck up, pep up

liver

-RELATED TERMS hepatic.

livery ► **noun** UNIFORM, regalia, costume, dress, attire, garb, clothes, clothing, outfit, suit, garments, ensemble; *informal* get-up, gear, kit; *formal* apparel; *archaic* raiment, vestments

livid ► **adjective** ① (*informal*) Mum was absolutely livid. See FURIOUS sense 1 ② a livid bruise. PURPLISH, bluish, dark, discoloured, purple, greyish-blue, bruised, angry

living ► **noun** ① she cleaned floors for a living LIVE LIHOOD, (source of) income, means of support, subsistence, keep, maintenance, sustenance, nourishment, daily bread, bread and butter, job, work, employment, occupation. ② healthy living: WAY OF LIFE, lifestyle, way of living, life, conduct, behaviour, activities, habits

► **adjective** ① living organisms. ALIVE, live, having life, animate, sentient; breathing, existing, existent, *informal* alive and kicking ② a living language: CURRENT, contemporary, present, in use, active, surviving, extant, persisting, remaining, existing, in existence. ③ a living image of the man: EXACT, faithful, true to life, authentic
-OPPOSITES dead, extinct

living room ► **noun** SITTING ROOM, lounge, front room, reception room, family room

lizard

-RELATED TERMS saurian.

load ► **noun** ① MacDowell's got a load to deliver CARGO, freight, consignment, delivery, shipment, goods, merchandise; pack, bundle, parcel; lorryload, truckload, shipload, boatload, vanload, *archaic* lading. ② (*informal*) I bought a load of clothes: A LOT, a great deal, a large amount/quantity, an abundance, a wealth, a mountain, many, plenty; *informal* a heap, a mass, a pile, a stack, a ton, lots, heaps, masses, piles, stacks, tons. ③ a heavy teaching load COMMITMENT, responsibility, duty, obligation, charge, burden; trouble, worry, strain, pressure.

► **verb** ① we quickly loaded the van: FILL (UP), pack, lade, charge, stock, stack. ② Larry loaded boxes into the jeep: PACK, stow, store, stack, bundle, place, deposit, put away ③ loading the committee with responsibilities: BURDEN, weigh down, saddle, charge; overburden, overwhelm, encumber, tax, strain, trouble, worry. ④ Richard loaded Marshal with honours: REWARD, ply, regale, shower ⑤ he loaded a gun: PRIME, charge, prepare to fire/use. ⑥ load the cassette into the camcorder: INSERT, put, place, slot. ⑦ the dice are loaded against him: BIAS, rig, fix; weight.

loaded ► **adjective** ① a loaded freight train: FULL, filled, laden, packed, stuffed, crammed, brim-

ming, stacked; *informal* chock-full, chock-a-block ② a loaded gun: PRIMED, charged, ready to fire ③ (*informal*) they are all loaded See RICH sense 1 ④ loaded dice BIASED, rigged, fixed; weighted ⑤ a politically loaded word: CHARGED, emotive, sensitive, delicate

loaf ► **noun** ① a loaf of bread See list at BREAD ② (*Brit informal*) use your loaf See HEAD noun sense 2

loaf ► **verb** he was just loafing around: LAZE, lounge, loll, idle, waste time, *informal* hang around/round, *Brit informal* hang about, mooch about/around; *N Amer informal* bum around

loafer ► **noun** IDLER, layabout, good-for-nothing, lounging, shirker, sluggard, laggard, slugged, *informal* skiver, slacker, slob, lazybones

loan ► **noun** a loan of £7,000: CREDIT, advance, mortgage, overdraft; lending, moneylending; *Brit informal* sub

► **verb** ① he loaned me his flat LEND, advance, give credit; give on loan, lease, charter, hire, *Brit informal* sub ② the majority of exhibits have been loaned. BORROW, receive/take on loan.
-OPPOSITES borrow.

loath ► **adjective** RELUCTANT, unwilling, disinclined, ill-disposed, against, averse, opposed, resistant
-OPPOSITES willing.

loathe ► **verb** HATE, detest, abhor, execrate, have a strong aversion to, feel repugnance towards, not be able to bear/stand, be repelled by; *formal* abominate
-OPPOSITES love.

loathing ► **noun** HATRED, hate, detestation, abhorrence, abomination, execration, odium, antipathy, dislike, hostility, animosity, ill feeling, bad feeling, malice, animus, enmity, aversion, repugnance.

loathsome ► **adjective** HATEFUL, detestable, abhorrent, repulsive, odious, repugnant, repellent, disgusting, revolting, sickening, abominable, despicable, contemptible, reprehensible, execrable, damnable; vile, horrible, nasty, obnoxious, gross, foul; *informal* horrid, yucky, *poetic/literary* noisome.

lob ► **verb** THROW, toss, fling, pitch, hurl, pelt, sling, launch, propel; *informal* chuck, bung, heave

lobby ► **noun** ① the hotel lobby. ENTRANCE (HALL), hallway, hall, vestibule, foyer, reception area ② the anti-hunt lobby: PRESSURE GROUP, interest group, ginger group, movement, campaign, crusade, lobbyists, supporters; faction, camp.

► **verb** ① readers are urged to lobby their MPs SEEK TO INFLUENCE, try to persuade, bring pressure to bear on, importune, sway, petition, solicit, appeal to, pressurize. ② a group lobbying for better rail services: CAMPAIGN, crusade, press, push, ask, call, demand, promote, advocate, champion.

local ► **adjective** ① the local council: COMMUNITY, district, neighbourhood, regional, city, town, municipal, provincial, village, parish. ② a local restaurant: NEIGHBOURHOOD, nearby, near, at hand, close by; accessible, handy, convenient ③ a local infection: CONFINED, restricted, contained, localized.
-OPPOSITES national.

► **noun** ① complaints from the locals: LOCAL PERSON, native, inhabitant, resident, parishioner. ② (*Brit informal*) a pint in the local. See PUB.

—OPPOSITES outsider.

locale ► **noun** PLACE, site, spot, area, position, location, setting, scene, venue, background, backdrop, environment; neighbourhood, district, region, locality.

locality ► **noun** ① the locality of the property: POSITION, location, whereabouts, place, situation, spot, point, site, scene, setting. ② other schools in the locality VICINITY, neighbourhood, area, district, region, informal neck of the woods

localize ► **verb** LIMIT, restrict, confine, contain, circumscribe, concentrate, delimit
—OPPOSITES generalize, globalize.

locate ► **verb** ① spotter planes locate the shoals FIND, discover, pinpoint, detect, track down, run to earth, unearth, sniff out, smoke out, search out, ferret out, uncover. ② a company located near Pittsburgh: SITUATE, site, position, place, base; put, build, establish, found, station, install, settle

location ► **noun** POSITION, place, situation, site, locality, locale, spot, whereabouts, point, scene, setting, area, environment; bearings, orientation, venue, address, technical locus

lock¹ ► **noun** the lock on the door: BOLT, catch, fastener, clasp, bar, hasp, latch See list

► **verb** ① he locked the door: BOLT, fasten, bar, secure, seal, padlock, latch, chain ② she locked her wrists together. JOIN, interlock, link, mesh, engage, unite, connect, yoke, mate, couple. ③ the wheels locked: BECOME STUCK, stick, jam, become/make immovable, become/make rigid ④ he locked her in an embrace CLASP, clench, grasp, embrace, hug, squeeze.

—OPPOSITES unlock, open, separate, divide

■ **lock someone out** KEEP OUT, shut out, refuse entrance to, deny admittance to, exclude, bar, debar, ban.

■ **lock someone up** IMPRISON, jail, incarcerate, intern, send to prison, put behind bars, put under lock and key, put in chains, clap in irons, cage, pen, coop up, informal send down, put away, put inside.

lock² ► **noun** a lock of hair TRESS, tuft, curl, ringlet, hank, strand, wisp, snippet.

Locks

barrel lock	rim lock
Chubb lock (trademark)	shackle lock
combination lock	snap-lock
cylinder lock	spring lock
D-lock	stock-lock
double lock	time lock
drawback lock	twist-lock
lever-tumbler lock	tumbler lock
mortise lock	U-lock
night latch	warded lock
padlock	Yale lock (trademark)
radial pin-tumbler lock	

locker ► **noun** CUPBOARD, cabinet, chest, safe, box, case, coffer; compartment, storeroom.

lock-up ► **noun** ① drunks were put in the lock-up overnight: JAIL, prison, cell, detention centre; N Amer jailhouse; informal slammer, jug, stir, clink; Brit informal nick; N Amer informal cooler, can; Brit informal, dated quod, chokey. ② they stored spare furniture in a lock-up: STOREROOM, store, warehouse, depository; garage.

locomotion ► **noun** MOVEMENT, motion, moving; travel, travelling, mobility, motility, walking, ambulation, running; progress, progression, passage; formal perambulation.

locomotive ► **noun**. See list at TRAIN

lodge ► **noun** ① the porter's lodge: GATEHOUSE, cottage. ② a hunting lodge: HOUSE, cottage, cabin, chalet, Brit shooting box ③ a beaver's lodge: DEN, lair, hole, sett; retreat, haunt, shelter ④ a Masonic lodge. SECTION, branch, wing, hall, clubhouse, meeting room; N Amer chapter.

► **verb** ① William lodged at our house: RESIDE, board, stay, live, have lodgings, have rooms, put up, be quartered, stop, N Amer room; informal have digs; formal dwell, be domiciled, sojourn; archaic abide. ② they were lodged at an inn ACCOMMODATE, put up, take in, house, board, billet, quarter, shelter ③ the government lodged a protest SUBMIT, register, enter, put forward, advance, lay, present, tender, proffer, put on record, record, table, file ④ the money was lodged in a bank: DEPOSIT, put, bank; stash, store, stow, put away, squirrel away. ⑤ the bullet lodged in his back: BECOME FIXED, embed itself, become embedded, become implanted, get/become stuck, stick, catch, become caught, wedge

lodger ► **noun** BOARDER, paying guest, PG, tenant, N Amer roomer

lodging ► **noun** ACCOMMODATION, rooms, chambers, living quarters, place to stay, a roof over one's head, housing, shelter, informal digs, pad; formal abode, residence, dwelling, dwelling place, habitation.

lofty ► **adjective** ① a lofty tower: TALL, high, giant, towering, soaring, sky-scraping ② lofty ideals NOBLE, exalted, high, high-minded, worthy, grand, fine, elevated ③ a lofty post in the department: EMINENT, prominent, leading, distinguished, illustrious, celebrated, elevated, esteemed, respected. ④ lofty disdain HAUGHTY, arrogant, disdainful, supercilious, condescending, patronizing, scornful, contemptuous, self-important, conceited, snobbish, informal stuck-up, snooty, snotty, Brit informal toffee-nosed.
—OPPOSITES low, short, base, lowly, modest.

log ► **noun** ① a fallen log: BRANCH, trunk, piece of wood, (logs) timber, firewood. ② a log of phone calls: RECORD, register, logbook, journal, diary, minutes, chronicle, daybook, record book, ledger, account, tally.

► **verb** ① all complaints are logged REGISTER, record, make a note of, note down, write down, jot down, put in writing, enter, file, minute ② the pilot had logged 95 hours: ATTAIN, achieve, chalk up, make, do, go, cover.

loggerheads

■ **at loggerheads** IN DISAGREEMENT, at odds, at variance, wrangling, quarrelling, locking horns, at daggers drawn, in conflict, fighting, at war; informal at each other's throats.

logic ► **noun** ① this case appears to defy all logic: REASON, judgement, logical thought, rationality, wisdom, sense, good sense, common sense, sanity; informal horse sense. ② the logic of their argument: REASONING, line of reasoning, rationale, argument, argumentation. ③ the study of logic: SCIENCE OF REASONING, science of deduction, science of thought, dialectics, argumentation; formal ratiocination.

logical ▶ **adjective** ① *information displayed in a logical fashion*: REASONED, well reasoned, rational, sound, cogent, well thought out, valid, coherent, clear, well organized, systematic, orderly, methodical, analytical, consistent, objective, informal joined-up ② *the logical outcome*: NATURAL, reasonable, sensible, understandable, predictable, unsurprising, only to be expected, most likely, likeliest, obvious
-OPPOSITES illogical, irrational, unlikely, surprising.

logistics ▶ **plural noun** ORGANIZATION, planning, plans, management, arrangement, administration, orchestration, coordination, execution, handling, running

logo ▶ **noun** EMBLEM, trademark, device, symbol, design, sign, mark, insignia, crest, seal, coat of arms, shield, badge, motif, monogram, colophon.

loiter ▶ **verb** ① *he loitered at bus stops*: LINGER, wait, skulk; loaf, lounge, idle, laze, waste time, informal hang around/round; *Brit informal* hang about, mooch about/around, archaic tarry ② *they loitered along the river bank*: DAWDLE, dally, stroll, amble, saunter, meander, drift, potter, take one's time; *informal* dilly-dally, mosey, tootle; *Brit informal* mooch

loll ▶ **verb** ① *he lolled in an armchair*: LOUNGE, sprawl, drape oneself, stretch oneself; slouch, slump; laze, luxuriate, put one's feet up, lean back, recline, relax, take it easy ② *her head lolled to one side*: HANG (LOOSELY), droop, dangle, sag, drop, flop

lone ▶ **adjective** ① *a lone police officer*: SOLITARY, single, solo, unaccompanied, unescorted, alone, by oneself/itself, sole, companionless, detached, isolated, unique, lonely. ② *a lone parent*: SINGLE, unmarried, unattached, partnerless, husbandless, wifeless, separated, divorced, widowed.

loneliness ▶ **noun** ① *his loneliness was unbearable*: ISOLATION, friendlessness, abandonment, rejection, unpopularity, *N Amer* lonesomeness ② *the enforced loneliness of a prison cell*: SOLITARI-NESS, solitude, lack of company, aloneness, separation ③ *the loneliness of the village*: ISOLATION, remoteness, seclusion.

lonely ▶ **adjective** ① *I felt very lonely*: ISOLATED, alone, friendless, with no one to turn to, forsaken, abandoned, rejected, unloved, unwanted; *N Amer* lonesome ② *the lonely life of a writer*: SOLITARY, unaccompanied, lone, by oneself/itself, companionless ③ *a lonely road*: DESERTED, uninhabited, unfrequented, unpopulated, desolate, isolated, remote, out of the way, secluded, off the beaten track, in the back of beyond, godforsaken, *informal* in the middle of nowhere.
-OPPOSITES popular, sociable, crowded.

loner ▶ **noun** RECLUSE, introvert, lone wolf, hermit, solitary, misanthrope, outsider; *historical* anchorite.

long¹ ▶ **adjective** *a long silence*: LENGTHY, extended, prolonged, extensive, protracted, long-lasting, long-drawn(-out), spun out, dragged out, seemingly endless, lingering, interminable.
-OPPOSITES short, brief.

■ **before long** SOON, shortly, presently, in the near future, in a little while, by and by, in a minute, in a moment, in a second; *informal* anon, in a jiffy, *Brit. informal* in a tick, in two

ticks, in a mo, *dated* directly; *poetic/literary* ere long

long² ▶ **verb** *I longed for the holidays*: YEARN, pine, ache, hanker for/after, hunger, thirst, itch, be eager, be desperate, crave, dream of, set one's heart on, *informal* have a yen, be dying

longing ▶ **noun** *a longing for the countryside*: YEARNING, pining, craving, ache, burning, hunger, thirst, hankering, *informal* yen, itch

▶ **adjective** *a longing look*: YEARNING, pining, craving, hungry, thirsty, hankering, wistful, covetous

long-lasting ▶ **adjective** ENDURING, lasting, abiding, long-lived, long-running, long-established, long-standing, lifelong, deep-rooted, time-honoured, traditional, permanent

-OPPOSITES short-lived, ephemeral

long-lived ▶ **adjective**. See LONG-LASTING

long-standing ▶ **adjective** WELL ESTABLISHED, long-established, time-honoured, traditional, age-old; abiding, enduring, long-lived, surviving, persistent, prevailing, perennial, deep-rooted, long-term, confirmed
-OPPOSITES new, recent

long-suffering ▶ **adjective** PATIENT, forbearing, tolerant, uncomplaining, stoical, resigned, easy-going, indulgent, charitable, accommodat-ing, forgiving
-OPPOSITES impatient, complaining

long-winded ▶ **adjective** VERBOSE, wordy, lengthy, long, overlong, prolix, prolonged, protracted, long-drawn-out, interminable, discursive, diffuse, rambling, tortuous, meandering, repetitious, *informal* windy, *Brit. informal* waffly
-OPPOSITES concise, succinct, laconic.

look ▶ **verb** ① *Mrs Wright looked at him*: GLANCE, gaze, stare, gape, peer, peep, peek, take a look, watch, observe, view, regard, examine, inspect, eye, scan, scrutinize, survey, study, contemplate, consider, take in, ogle; *informal* take a gander, rubberneck, give someone/something a/the once-over, get a load of, *Brit informal* take a dekkko, take a butcher's, take a shift, clock, gawp; *N Amer informal* eyeball; *poetic/literary* behold ② *her room looked out on Broadway*: COMMAND A VIEW OF, face, overlook, front. ③ *they looked shocked*: SEEM (TO BE), appear (to be), have the appearance/air of being, give the impression of being, give every appearance/indication of being, strike someone as being.
-OPPOSITES ignore.

▶ **noun** ① *have a look at this report*: GLANCE, view, examination, study, inspection, observation, scan, survey, peep, peek, glimpse, gaze, stare; *informal* eyeful, gander, look-see, once-over, squint, recce; *Brit. informal* shufti, dekkko, gawp, butcher's. ② *the look on her face*: EXPRESSION, mien. ③ *that rustic look*: APPEARANCE, air, aspect, bearing, cast, manner, mien, demeanour, facade, impression, effect. ④ *this season's look*: FASHION, style, vogue, mode.

■ **look after** TAKE CARE OF, care for, attend to, minister to, tend, mind, keep an eye on, keep safe, be responsible for, protect; nurse, babysit, childmind.

■ **look back on** REFLECT ON, think back to, remember, recall, reminisce about.

■ **look down on** DISDAIN, scorn, regard with contempt, look down one's nose at, sneer at, despise.

■ **look for** SEARCH FOR, hunt for, try to find, seek, cast about/around/round for, try to track down, forage for, scout out, quest for/after

■ **look forward to** AWAIT WITH PLEASURE, eagerly anticipate, lick one's lips over, be unable to wait for, count the days until

■ **look into** INVESTIGATE, enquire into, ask questions about, go into, probe, explore, follow up, research, study, examine, *informal* check out, give something a/the once-over; *N Amer informal* scope out

■ **look like** RESEMBLE, bear a resemblance to, look similar to, take after, have the look of, have the appearance of, remind one of, make one think of; *informal* be the spitting image of, be a dead ringer for

■ **look on/upon** REGARD, consider, think of, deem, judge, see, view, count, reckon

■ **look out** BEWARE, watch out, mind out, be on (one's) guard, be alert, be wary, be vigilant, be careful, take care, be cautious, pay attention, take heed, keep one's eyes open/peeled, keep an eye out, watch your step

■ **look something over** INSPECT, examine, scan, cast an eye over, take stock of, vet, view, look through, peruse, run through, read through, *informal* take a dekho at, give something a/the once-over, *N Amer* check out, *N Amer informal* eyeball

■ **look to** ① we must look to the future CONSIDER, think about, turn one's thoughts to, focus on, take heed of, pay attention to, attend to, address, mind, heed ② they look to the government for help: TURN TO, resort to, have recourse to, fall back on, rely on

■ **look up** IMPROVE, get better, pick up, come along/on, progress, make progress, make headway, perk up, rally, take a turn for the better

■ **look someone up** (*informal*) VISIT, pay a visit to, call on, go to see, look in on; *N Amer.* visit with, go see, *informal* drop in on.

■ **look up to** ADMIRE, have a high opinion of, think highly of, hold in high regard, regard highly, rate highly, respect, esteem, value.

lookalike ► **noun** DOUBLE, twin, clone, duplicate, exact likeness, replica, copy, facsimile, Doppelgänger, *informal* spitting image, dead ringer, dead spit

lookout ► **noun** ① he saw the smoke from the lookout: OBSERVATION POST, lookout point, lookout station, lookout tower, watchtower. ② the lookout sighted sails. WATCHMAN, watch, guard, sentry, sentinel, picket; *historical* vedette. ③ (*informal*) it would be a poor lookout for her: OUTLOOK, prospect, chance of success, future ④ (*Brit informal*) that's your lookout. PROBLEM, concern, business, affair, responsibility, worry, *informal* pigeon.

■ **be on the lookout/keep a lookout** KEEP WATCH, keep an eye out, keep one's eyes peeled, keep a vigil, be alert, be on the qui vive.

loom ► **verb** ① ghostly shapes loomed out of the fog: EMERGE, appear, come into view, take shape, materialize, reveal itself. ② the church loomed above him: SOAR, tower, rise, rear up; overhang, overshadow, dominate. ③ without reforms, disaster looms: BE IMMINENT, be on the horizon, impending, threaten, brew, be just around the corner.

loop ► **noun** a loop of rope: COIL, hoop, ring, circle, noose, oval, spiral, curl, bend, curve, arc,

twirl, whorl, twist, hook, zigzag, helix, convolution, incurvation.

► **verb** ① Dave looped rope around their hands COIL, wind, twist, snake, wreath, spiral, curve, bend, turn ② he looped the cables together FASTEN, tie, join, connect, knot, bind

loophole ► **noun** MEANS OF EVASION, means of avoidance, ambiguity, omission, flaw, inconsistency, discrepancy.

loose ► **adjective** ① a loose floorboard: NOT FIXED IN PLACE, not secure, unsecured, unattached, detached, unfastened, wobbly, unsteady, movable ② she wore her hair loose: UNTIED, unpinned, unbound, hanging free, down, flowing. ③ there's a wolf loose FREE, at large, at liberty, on the loose, escaped, unconfined, untied, unchained, untethered ④ a loose interpretation VAGUE, indefinite, inexact, imprecise, approximate; broad, general, rough; liberal ⑤ a loose jacket BAGGY, generously cut, slack, roomy, oversized, shapeless, bagging, sagging, sloppy. ⑥ (*dated*) a loose woman PROMISCUOUS, of easy virtue, fast, wanton, unchaste, immoral; licentious, dissolute, *N Amer informal* roundheeled, *dated* fallen, derogatory whorish, sluttish
-OPPOSITES secure, literal, narrow, tight, chaste

► **verb** ① the hounds have been loosed. FREE, set free, unloose, turn loose, set loose, let loose, let go, release, untie, unchain, unfasten, unleash ② the fingers loosed their hold RELAX, slacken, loosen; weaken, lessen, reduce, diminish, moderate ③ Brian loosed off a shot FIRE, discharge, shoot, let go, let fly with
-OPPOSITES confine, tighten

■ **at a loose end** WITH NOTHING TO DO, unoccupied, unemployed, at leisure, idle, adrift, with time to kill, bored, twiddling one's thumbs, kicking one's heels

■ **break loose** ESCAPE, make one's escape, get away, get free, break free, free oneself.

■ **let loose.** See LOOSE verb sense 1

■ **on the loose** FREE, at liberty, at large, escaped, on the run, fugitive, *N Amer informal* on the lam

loose-limbed ► **adjective** SUPPLE, limber, lithe, lissom, willowy, agile, nimble

loosen ► **verb** ① you simply loosen two screws MAKE SLACK, slacken, unstick, unfasten, detach, release, disconnect, undo, unclasp, unlatch, unbolt. ② her fingers loosened: BECOME SLACK, slacken, become loose, let go, ease, work loose, work free ③ Philip loosened his grip WEAKEN, relax, slacken, loose, lessen, reduce, moderate, diminish ④ you need to loosen up. RELAX, unwind, ease up/off, *informal* let up, hang loose, lighten up, go easy.
-OPPOSITES tighten

loot ► **noun** a bag full of loot BOOTY, spoils, plunder, stolen goods, contraband, pillage; *informal* swag, hot goods, ill-gotten gains, boodle.

► **verb** troops looted the cathedral. PLUNDER, pillage, despoil, ransack, sack, raid, rifle, rob, burgle, strip, clear out.

lop ► **verb** CUT, chop, hack, saw, hew, slash, axe, prune, sever, clip, trim, snip, dock, crop.

lope ► **verb** STRIDE, run, bound; lollipop.

lopsided ► **adjective** CROOKED, askew, awry, off-centre, uneven, out of true, out of line, asymmetrical, tilted, at an angle, aslant, slant-

ing, squint, Scottish agley; *informal* cock-eyed; *Brit informal* skew-whiff, wonky

—OPPOSITES even, level, balanced.

loquacious ▶ *adjective* TALKATIVE, voluble, communicative, expansive, garrulous, unrestrained, chatty, gossipy, gossiping; *informal* having the gift of the gab, gabby, gassy; *Brit informal* able to talk the hind legs off a donkey.

—OPPOSITES reticent, taciturn

loquacity ▶ *noun* TALKATIVENESS, volubility, expansiveness, garrulousness, garrulity, chattiness; *informal* the gift of the gab.

—OPPOSITES reticence, taciturnity

lord ▶ *noun* ① *lords and ladies*: NOBLE, nobleman, peer, aristocrat, patrician, grandee, seigneur ② *It is my duty to obey my lord's wishes.* MASTER, ruler, leader, chief, superior, monarch, sovereign, king, emperor, prince, governor, commander, suzerain, liege, liege lord ③ *let us pray to our Lord: God, the Father, the Almighty, Jehovah, the Creator, JESUS CHRIST, the Messiah, the Saviour, the Son of God, the Redeemer, the Lamb of God, the Prince of Peace, the King of Kings.* ④ *a press lord*: MAGNATE, tycoon, mogul, captain, baron, king; industrialist, proprietor; *informal* big shot, honcho; *derogatory* fat cat.

—OPPOSITES commoner, servant, inferior.

■ **lord it over someone** ORDER ABOUT/AROUND, dictate to, ride roughshod over, pull rank on, tyrannize, have under one's thumb, be overbearing, put on airs, swagger; *informal* boss about/around, walk all over, push around, throw one's weight about/around

lordly ▶ *adjective* ① *lordly titles* NOBLE, aristocratic, princely, kingly, regal, royal, imperial, courtly, stately; magnificent, majestic, grand, august ② *in lordly tones* IMPERIOUS, arrogant, haughty, self-important, swaggering; supercilious, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, condescending, patronizing, superior; dictatorial, authoritarian, peremptory, autocratic; *informal* bossy, high and mighty, snooty, uppity, hoity-toity; *Brit informal* toffee-nosed

—OPPOSITES lowly, humble

lore ▶ *noun* ① *Arthurian legend and lore.* MYTHOLOGY, myths, legends, stories, traditions, folklore, oral tradition, mythos, mythus ② *cricket lore: KNOWLEDGE, learning, wisdom; informal* know-how, how-tos

lorry ▶ *noun* TRUCK, wagon, van, juggernaut, trailer; articulated lorry, heavy-goods vehicle, HGV; *dated* pantechnicon. See **list** at **VEHICLE**

lose ▶ *verb* ① *I've lost my watch:* MISLAY, misplace, be unable to find, lose track of, leave (behind), fail to keep/retain, fail to keep sight of. ② *he's lost a lot of blood.* BE DEPRIVED OF, suffer the loss of; no longer have. ③ *he lost his pursuers:* ESCAPE FROM, evade, elude, dodge, avoid, give someone the slip, shake off, throw off, throw off the scent; leave behind, outdistance, outstrip, outrun. ④ *they lost their way:* STRAY FROM, wander from, depart from, go astray from, fail to keep to. ⑤ *you've lost your opportunity:* NEGLECT, waste, squander, fail to grasp, fail to take advantage of, let pass, miss, forfeit; *informal* pass up, lose out on. ⑥ *they always lose at football:* BE DEFEATED, be beaten, suffer defeat, be the loser, be conquered, be vanquished, be trounced, be worsted; *informal* come a cropper, go down, take a licking, be bested.

—OPPOSITES find, regain, seize, win.

■ **lose out** BE DEPRIVED OF AN OPPORTUNITY, fail to benefit, be disadvantaged, be the loser

■ **lose out on** BE UNABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, fail to benefit from; *informal* miss out on.

■ **lose out to** BE DEFEATED BY, be beaten by, suffer defeat at the hands of, lose to, be conquered by, be vanquished by, be trounced by, be worsted by, be beaten into second place by, *informal* go down to, be bested by.

loser ▶ *noun* ① *the loser still gets the silver medal:* DEFEATED PERSON, also-ran, runner-up. ② (*informal*) *he's a complete loser:* FAILURE, non-achiever, underachiever, ne'er-do-well, dead loss, write-off, has-been; *informal* flop, non-starter, no-hoper, washout, lemon.

—OPPOSITES winner, success

loss ▶ *noun* ① *the loss of the documents:* MISLAYING, misplacement, forgetting ② *loss of earnings* DEPRIVATION, disappearance, privation, forfeiture, diminution, erosion, reduction, depletion ③ *the loss of her husband:* DEATH, dying, demise, passing (away/on), end, quietus; bereavement, formal decease; *archaic* expiry. ④ *British losses in the war:* CASUALTY, fatality, victim, dead, missing; death toll, number killed/dead/wounded ⑤ *a loss of £15,000.* DEFICIT, debit, debt, indebtedness, deficiency

—OPPOSITES recovery, profit.

■ **at a loss** BAFFLED, nonplussed, mystified, puzzled, perplexed, bewildered, bemused, at sixes and sevens, confused, dumbfounded, stumped, stuck, blank; *informal* clueless, flummoxed, bamboozled, fazed, floored, beaten, *N Amer informal* discombobulated.

lost ▶ *adjective* ① *her lost keys* MISSING, mislaid, misplaced, vanished, disappeared, gone missing/astray, forgotten, nowhere to be found; absent, not present, strayed. ② *I think we're lost:* OFF COURSE, off track, disorientated, having lost one's bearings, going round in circles, adrift, at sea, stray, astray ③ *a lost opportunity:* MISSED, forfeited, neglected, wasted, squandered, gone by the board, *informal* down the drain. ④ *lost traditional values:* BYGONE, past, former, one-time, previous, old, olden, departed, vanished, forgotten, consigned to oblivion, extinct, dead, gone ⑤ *lost species and habitats:* EXTINCT, died out, defunct, vanished, gone; DESTROYED, wiped out, ruined, wrecked, exterminated, eradicated. ⑥ *a lost cause:* HOPELESS, beyond hope, futile, forlorn, failed, beyond remedy, beyond recovery ⑦ *lost souls:* DAMNED, fallen, irredeemable, irreclaimable, irretrievable, past hope, past praying for, condemned, cursed, doomed, excommunicated; *poetic/literary* accursed. ⑧ *lost in thought:* ENGROSSED, absorbed, rapt, immersed, deep, intent, engaged, wrapped up.

—OPPOSITES current, saved.

lot ▶ *pronoun* a lot of money | lots of friends: A LARGE AMOUNT, a fair amount, a good/great deal, a great quantity, quantities, an abundance, a wealth, a profusion, plenty; many, a great many, a large number, a considerable number, numerous, scores; *informal* hundreds, thousands, millions, billions, loads, masses, heaps, a pile, piles, oodles, stacks, scads, reams, wads, pots, oceans, a mountain, mountains, miles, tons, zillions, more — than one can shake a stick at; *Brit informal* a shedload.

lashings; *N Amer informal* gobs, a bunch, gazillions

—OPPOSITES a little, not much, a few, not many

► **adverb** *I work in pastels a lot:* A GREAT DEAL, a good deal, to a great extent, much, often, frequently, regularly.

—OPPOSITES a little, not much.

► **noun** ① (*informal*) *what do your lot think?* GROUP, set, crowd, circle, band, crew; *informal* bunch, gang, mob; *Brit informal* shower. ② *the books were auctioned as a number of lots* ITEM, article; batch, set, collection, group, bundle, quantity, assortment, parcel. ③ *his lot in life.* FATE, destiny, fortune, doom, situation, circumstances, state, condition, position, plight, predicament ④ (*N Amer*) *some youngsters playing ball in a vacant lot* PATCH OF GROUND, piece of ground, plot, area, tract, parcel, *N Amer* plat

■ **draw/cast lots** DECIDE RANDOMLY, spin/toss a coin, throw dice, draw straws

■ **throw in one's lot with** JOIN FORCES WITH, join up with, form an alliance with, ally with, align oneself with, link up with, make common cause with

lotion ► **noun** OINTMENT, cream, salve, balm, rub, emollient, moisturizer, lubricant, unguent, liniment, embrocation.

lottery ► **noun** ① *a national lottery.* RAFFLE, (prize) draw, sweepstake, sweep, tombola, pools ② *the race is something of a lottery* GAMBLE, speculation, game of chance, matter of luck

loud ► **adjective** ① *loud music* NOISY, blaring, booming, deafening, roaring, thunderous, thundering, ear-splitting, ear-piercing, piercing, carrying, clearly audible; lusty, powerful, forceful, stentorian; *Music* forte, fortissimo ② *loud complaints* VOCIFEROUS, clamorous, insistent, vehement, emphatic, urgent. ③ *a loud T-shirt* GARISH, gaudy, flamboyant, lurid, glaring, showy, ostentatious, vulgar, tasteless; *informal* flash, flashy, naff, kitsch, tacky

—OPPOSITES quiet, soft, gentle, sober, tasteful

loudly ► **adverb** AT HIGH VOLUME, at the top of one's voice, noisily, deafeningly, thunderously, piercingly; stridently, lustily, powerfully, forcefully, *Music* forte, fortissimo; *informal* as if to wake the dead.

—OPPOSITES quietly, softly.

loudmouth ► **noun** (*informal*) BRAGGART, boaster, blusterer, swaggerer; *informal* blabbermouth, big mouth; *N. Amer informal* blowhard.

loudspeaker ► **noun** SPEAKER, monitor, woofer, tweeter; loudhailer, megaphone, public address system, PA (system); *informal* squawk box

lounge ► **verb** *he just lounges in his room:* LAZE, lie, loll, lie back, lean back, recline, stretch oneself, drape oneself, relax, rest, repose, take it easy, put one's feet up, unwind, luxuriate; sprawl, slump, slouch, flop; loaf, idle, do nothing.

► **noun** *she sat in the lounge:* LIVING ROOM, sitting room, front room, drawing room, morning room, reception room, salon, family room; *dated* parlour

lour, lower ► **verb** SCOWL, frown, look sullen, glower, glare, give someone black looks, look daggers, look angry; *informal* give someone dirty looks.

—OPPOSITES smile.

louring, lowering ► **adjective** OVERCAST, dark, leaden, grey, cloudy, clouded, gloomy, threatening, menacing, promising rain.

—OPPOSITES sunny, bright.

lousy (*informal*) ► **adjective** ① *a lousy film* See AWFUL sense 2. ② *the lousy, double-crossing snake!* See DESPICABLE ③ *I felt lousy* See ILL adjective sense 1

■ **be lousy with.** See CRAWL sense 3

lout ► **noun** RUFFIAN, hooligan, thug, boor, oaf, hoodlum, rowdy; *informal* tough, roughneck, bruiser, yahoo, lug; *Brit informal* yob, yobbo

—OPPOSITES smoothie, gentleman.

loutish ► **adjective** UNCOUTH, rude, impolite, unmannerly, ill-mannered, ill-bred, coarse; thug-gish, boorish, oafish, uncivilized, wild, rough; *informal* slobbish; *Brit informal* yobbish

—OPPOSITES polite, well behaved

lovable ► **adjective** ADORABLE, dear, sweet, cute, charming, darling, lovely, likeable, delightful, captivating, enchanting, engaging, bewitching, pleasing, appealing, winsome, winning, fetching, endearing.

—OPPOSITES hateful, loathsome.

love ► **noun** ① *his friendship with Helen grew into love* DEEP AFFECTION, fondness, tenderness, warmth, intimacy, attachment, endearment, devotion, adoration, doting, idolization, worship, passion, ardour, desire, lust, yearning, infatuation, besottedness ② *her love of fashion.* LIKING, enjoyment, appreciation, taste, delight, relish, passion, zeal, appetite, zest, enthusiasm, keenness, fondness, soft spot, weakness, bent, leaning, proclivity, inclination, disposition, partiality, predilection, penchant. ③ *their love for their fellow human beings* COMPASSION, care, caring, regard, solicitude, concern, friendliness, friendship, kindness, charity, goodwill, sympathy, kindness, altruism, unselfishness, philanthropy, benevolence, fellow feeling, humanity ④ *he was her one true love* BELOVED, loved one, love of one's life, dear, dearest, dear one, darling, sweetheart, sweet, angel, honey, lover, innamorato, innamorata, amour; *archaic* paramour ⑤ *their love will survive* RELATIONSHIP, love affair, romance, liaison, affair of the heart, amour ⑥ *my mother sends her love* BEST WISHES, regards, good wishes, greetings, kind/kindest regards

—RELATED TERMS amatory, phil-

—OPPOSITES hatred.

► **verb** ① *she loves him dearly* CARE VERY MUCH FOR, feel deep affection for, hold very dear, adore, think the world of, be devoted to, dote on, idolize, worship; be in love with, be infatuated with, be smitten with, be besotted with; *informal* be mad/crazy/nuts/wild/potty about, have a pash on, carry a torch for. ② *Laura loved painting:* LIKE VERY MUCH, delight in, enjoy greatly, have a passion for, take great pleasure in, derive great pleasure from, relish, savour; have a weakness for, be partial to, have a soft spot for, have a taste for, be taken with; *informal* get a kick out of, have a thing about, be mad/crazy/nuts/wild/potty about, be hooked on, go a bundle on, get off on, get a buzz out of.

—OPPOSITES hate.

■ **fall in love with** BECOME INFATUATED WITH, give/lose one's heart to; *informal* fall for, be bowled over by, be swept off one's feet by, develop a crush on.

Lovers (Real and Fictional)

Anna Karenina and Leon Vronski
 Antony and Cleopatra
 Beatrice and Benedick
 Bonnie and Clyde
 Byron and Lady Caroline Lamb
 Charles II and Nell Gwyn
 Chopin and George Sand
 Dante and Beatrice
 Daphnis and Chloe
 Darby and Joan
 David and Bathsheba
 Diana, Princess of Wales and Dodi Fayed
 Dido and Aeneas
 Edward VIII and Wallis Simpson
 Elizabeth Barrett and Robert Browning
 Eros and Psyche
 Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas
 Harlequin and Columbine
 Heathcliff and Cathy
 Héloïse and Abelard

Henry Miller and Anaïs Nin
 Hero and Leander
 Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall
 Jane Eyre and Edward Rochester
 Joe Orton and Kenneth Halliwell
 Ingrid Bergman and Roberto Rossellini
 Madame Butterfly and Lt Pinkerton
 Lady Chatterley and Mellors
 Lancelot and Guinevere
 Lord Nelson and Lady Hamilton
 Napoleon and Josephine
 Orpheus and Eurydice
 Oscar Wilde and Lord Alfred Douglas
 Othello and Desdemona
 Paolo and Francesca
 Paris and Helen
 Pelléas and Mélisande
 Petrarch and Laura

Porgy and Bess
 Pyramus and Thisbe
 Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor
 Rimbaud and Verlaine
 Robin Hood and Maid Marian
 Romeo and Juliet
 Rosalind and Orlando
 Samson and Delilah
 Scarlett O'Hara and Rhett Butler
 Superman (Clark Kent) and Lois Lane
 Tristan and Isolde
 Troilus and Cressida
 Venus and Adonis
 Virginia Woolf and Vita Sackville-West
 W. B. Yeats and Maud Gonne
 W. H. Auden and Christopher Isherwood

■ **in love with** INFATUATED WITH, besotted with, enamoured of, smitten with, consumed with desire for, captivated by, bewitched by, enthralled by, entranced by, devoted to, doting on; *informal* mad/crazy/nuts/wild/potty about.

love affair ► **noun** ① *he had a love affair with a teacher.* RELATIONSHIP, affair, romance, liaison, affair of the heart, affaire de cœur, intrigue, fling, amour, involvement, romantic entanglement, flirtation, dalliance, *Brit informal* carry-on ② *a love affair with the motor car* ENTHUSIASM, mania, devotion, passion.

loveless ► **adjective** PASSIONLESS, unloving, unfeeling, heartless, cold, icy, frigid
 —OPPOSITES loving, passionate

lovelorn ► **adjective** LOVESICK, unrequited in love, crossed in love, spurned, jilted, rejected, pining, moping

lovely ► **adjective** ① *a lovely young woman* BEAUTIFUL, pretty, attractive, good-looking, appealing, handsome, adorable, exquisite, sweet, personable, charming, enchanting, engaging, winsome, seductive, gorgeous, alluring, ravishing, glamorous; *Scottish & N English* bonny, *informal* tasty, knockout, stunning, drop-dead gorgeous, *Brit informal* smashing, fit, *N Amer informal* cute, foxy; *poetic/literary* beauteous, *archaic* comely, fair ② *a lovely view* SCENIC, picturesque, pleasing, easy on the eye; magnificent, stunning, splendid. ③ (*informal*) *we had a lovely day.* DELIGHTFUL, very pleasant, very nice, very agreeable, marvellous, wonderful, sublime, superb, fine, magical; *informal* terrific, fabulous, heavenly, divine, amazing, glorious.
 —OPPOSITES ugly, horrible.

lover ► **noun** ① *she had a secret lover.* BOYFRIEND, GIRLFRIEND, lady-love, beloved, love, darling, sweetheart, innamorata, innamorato; mistress, partner, significant other; *informal* bit on the side, bit of fluff, toy boy, fancy man, fancy woman; *dated* beau; *archaic* swain, concubine, paramour. See list. ② *a dog lover.* DEVOTEE, admirer, fan, enthusiast, aficionado; *informal* buff, freak, nut.

—RELATED TERMS -phile.

lovesick ► **adjective** LOVELOORN, pining, languishing, longing, yearning, infatuated, frustrated

loving ► **adjective** AFFECTIONATE, fond, devoted, adoring, doting, solicitous, demonstrative, caring, tender, warm, warm-hearted, close; amorous, ardent, passionate, amatory.
 —OPPOSITES cold, cruel

low ¹ ► **adjective** ① *a low fence.* SHORT, small, little, squat, stubby, stunted, dwarf, shallow ② *she was wearing a low dress.* LOW-CUT, skimpy, revealing, plunging. ③ *low prices* CHEAP, economical, moderate, reasonable, modest, bargain, bargain-basement, rock-bottom ④ *supplies were low.* SCARCE, scanty, scant, skimpy, meagre, sparse, few, little, paltry, reduced, depleted, diminished ⑤ *low quality.* INFERIOR, substandard, poor, bad, low-grade, below par, second-rate, unsatisfactory, deficient, defective ⑥ *of low birth* HUMBLE, lowly, low-ranking, plebeian, proletarian, peasant, poor, common, ordinary ⑦ *low expectations* UNAMBITIOUS, unaspiring, modest ⑧ *a low opinion.* UNFAVOURABLE, poor, bad, adverse, negative. ⑨ *a rather low thing to have done.* DESPICABLE, contemptible, reprehensible, lamentable, disgusting, shameful, mean, abject, unworthy, shabby, uncharitable, base, dishonourable, unprincipled, ignoble, sordid; nasty, cruel, foul, bad; *informal* rotten, low-down; *Brit informal* beastly; *dated* dastardly; *archaic* scurvy. ⑩ *low comedy.* UNCOUTH, uncultured, unsophisticated, rough, rough-hewn, unrefined, tasteless, crass, common, vulgar, coarse, crude ⑪ *a low voice.* QUIET, soft, faint, gentle, muted, subdued, muffled, hushed, quietened, whispered, stifled, murmured. ⑫ *a low note.* BASS, low-pitched, deep, rumbling, booming, sonorous. ⑬ *she was feeling low.* DEPRESSED, dejected, despondent, downhearted, downcast, low-spirited, down, morose, miserable, dismal, heavy-hearted, mournful, forlorn, woebegone, crestfallen, dispirited; without energy, enervated, flat, sapped, weary; *informal* down in the mouth, down in the dumps, fed up, blue.

—OPPOSITES high, expensive, plentiful, superior, noble, favourable, admirable, decent, exalted, loud, cheerful, lively.

► **noun** *the dollar fell to an all-time low*. NADIR, low point, lowest point, lowest level, depth, rock bottom

—OPPOSITES high

low² ► **verb** *cattle were lowing*; MOO, bellow.

lowbrow ► **adjective** MASS-MARKET, tabloid, popular, intellectually undemanding, lightweight, accessible, unpretentious; uncultured, unsophisticated, trashy, philistine, simplistic. *Brit* downmarket, *informal* dumbled-down, rubbishy

—OPPOSITES highbrow, intellectual.

low-down (*informal*) ► **adjective** *a low-down trick* UNFAIR, mean, despicable, reprehensible, contemptible, lamentable, disgusting, shameful, low, unworthy, shabby, base, dishonourable, unprincipled, sordid, underhand, *informal* rotten, dirty. *Brit* *informal* beastly, *dated* dastardly, *archaic* scurvy.

—OPPOSITES kind, honourable

► **noun** *he gave us the low-down* FACTS, information, story, data, facts and figures, intelligence, news, *informal* info, rundown, the score, the gen, the latest, the word, the dope

lower¹ ► **adjective** ① *the lower house of parliament* SUBORDINATE, inferior, lesser, junior, minor, secondary, lower-level, subsidiary, subservient ② *her lower lip* BOTTOM, bottommost, nether, under; underneath, further down, beneath. ③ *a lower price* CHEAPER, reduced, cut, slashed
—OPPOSITES upper, higher, increased

lower² ► **verb** ① *she lowered the mask* MOVE DOWN, let down, take down, haul down, drop, let fall. ② *lower your voice* SOFTEN, modulate, quieten, hush, tone down, muffle, turn down, mute ③ *they are lowering their prices* REDUCE, decrease, lessen, bring down, mark down, cut, slash, axe, diminish, curtail, prune, pare (down) ④ *the water level lowered*: SUBSIDE, fall (off), recede, ebb, wane, abate, die down, let up, moderate, diminish, lessen. ⑤ *don't lower yourself to their level*. DEGRADE, debase, demean, abase, humiliate, downgrade, discredit, shame, dishonour, disgrace; belittle, cheapen, devalue, (*lower oneself*) stoop, sink, descend
—OPPOSITES raise, increase.

lower³ ► **verb** *he lowered at her* See LOUR.

low-grade ► **adjective** POOR-QUALITY, inferior, substandard, second-rate; shoddy, cheap, reject, trashy, gimcrack; *Brit* *informal* duff, ropy, two-penny-halfpenny, rubbishy; *N Amer* *informal* two-bit, bum, cheapjack.
—OPPOSITES top-quality, first-class.

low-key ► **adjective** RESTRAINED, modest, understated, muted, subtle, quiet, low-profile, inconspicuous, unostentatious, unobtrusive, discreet, toned-down.
—OPPOSITES ostentatious, obtrusive.

lowly ► **adjective** HUMBLE, low, low-born, low-bred, low-ranking, plebeian, proletarian; common, ordinary, plain, average, modest, simple; inferior, ignoble, subordinate, obscure.
—OPPOSITES aristocratic, exalted.

loyal ► **adjective** FAITHFUL, true, devoted; constant, steadfast, staunch, dependable, reliable, trusted, trustworthy, trusty, dutiful, dedicated,

unchanging, unwavering, unswerving, patriotic

—OPPOSITES treacherous

loyalty ► **noun** ALLEGIANCE, faithfulness, obedience, adherence, homage, devotion; steadfastness, staunchness, true-heartedness, dependability, reliability, trustiness, trustworthiness, duty, dedication, commitment, patriotism, *historical* fealty.

—OPPOSITES treachery.

lozenge ► **noun** ① *the pattern consists of overlapping lozenges* DIAMOND, rhombus. ② *a throat lozenge*: PASTILLE, drop, cough sweet, jujube, *dated* cachou

lubricant ► **noun** GREASE, oil, lubrication, lubricator, emollient, lotion, unguent, *informal* lube

lubricate ► **verb** ① *lubricate the washer with silicone grease*: OIL, GREASE, wax, polish. ② *oil money lubricates an elaborate system of patronage* FACILITATE, ease, smooth the way for, oil the wheels of.

—OPPOSITES impede

lucid ► **adjective** ① *a lucid description*. INTELLIGIBLE, comprehensible, understandable, cogent, coherent, articulate, clear, transparent, plain, simple, vivid, sharp, straightforward, unambiguous, graphic, *formal* perspicuous. ② *he was not lucid enough to explain* RATIONAL, sane, in one's right mind, in possession of one's faculties, compos mentis, able to think clearly, balanced, clear-headed, sober, sensible; *informal* all there

—OPPOSITES confusing, confused

luck ► **noun** ① *with luck you'll make it*. GOOD FOR TUNE, good luck; fluke, stroke of luck, *informal* lucky break. ② *I wish you luck*: SUCCESS, prosperity, good fortune, good luck. ③ *it is a matter of luck whether it hits or misses*: FORTUNE, fate, destiny, lot, stars, karma, kismet; fortuity, serendipity; chance, accident, a twist of fate, *Austral / NZ* *informal* mozzle.

—OPPOSITES bad luck, misfortune

■ **In luck** FORTUNATE, lucky, blessed with good luck, born under a lucky star, successful, having a charmed life, *Brit* *informal* jammy

■ **out of luck** UNFORTUNATE, unlucky, luckless, hapless, unsuccessful, cursed, jinxed, ill-fated; *informal* down on one's luck; *poetic/literary* star-crossed

luckily ► **adverb** FORTUNATELY, happily, providentially, opportunely, by good fortune, as luck would have it, propitiously; mercifully, thankfully.

—OPPOSITES unfortunately.

luckless ► **adjective** UNLUCKY, unfortunate, unsuccessful, hapless, out of luck, cursed, jinxed, doomed, ill-fated; *informal* down on one's luck, *poetic/literary* star-crossed.

—OPPOSITES lucky.

lucky ► **adjective** ① *the lucky winner*: FORTUNATE, in luck, blessed, blessed with good luck, favoured, born under a lucky star, charmed; successful, prosperous; born with a silver spoon in one's mouth; *Brit* *informal* jammy. ② *a lucky escape*: PROVIDENTIAL, fortunate, advantageous, timely, opportune, serendipitous, expedient, heaven-sent, auspicious; chance, fortuitous, fluky, accidental.

—OPPOSITES unfortunate.



lucrative ▶ **adjective** PROFITABLE, profit-making, gainful, remunerative, moneymaking, paying, high-income, well paid, bankable; rewarding, worthwhile; thriving, flourishing, successful, booming.

—OPPOSITES unprofitable.

lucre ▶ **noun** MONEY, cash, funds, capital, finances, riches, wealth, spoils, ill-gotten gains, Mammon; *informal* dough, bread, loot, moolah, *Brit informal* dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks, wonga, ackers, the ready, readies, *archaic* pelf.

ludicrous ▶ **adjective** ABSURD, ridiculous, farcical, laughable, risible, preposterous, foolish, mad, insane, idiotic, stupid, inane, silly, asinine, nonsensical; *informal* crazy, *rare* densible

—OPPOSITES sensible

lug ▶ **verb** CARRY, lift, bear, heave, hoist, shoulder, manhandle, haul, drag, tug, tow, transport, move, convey, shift; *informal* hump, tote, schlep, *Scottish informal* humph

luggage ▶ **noun** BAGGAGE, bags, suitcases, cases, trunks *See also* BAG *noun* sense 2

lugubrious ▶ **adjective** MOURNFUL, gloomy, sad, unhappy, doleful, glum, melancholy, woeful, miserable, woebegone, forlorn, long-faced, sombre, solemn, serious, sorrowful, morose, dour, cheerless, joyless, dismal, funereal, sepulchral, *informal* down in the mouth, *poetic/literary* dolorous

—OPPOSITES cheerful

lukewarm ▶ **adjective** ① *lukewarm coffee* TEPID, slightly warm, warmish, blood-warm, at skin temperature, at room temperature, *chambré* ② *a lukewarm response*. INDIFFERENT, cool, halfhearted, apathetic, unenthusiastic, tepid, offhand, lackadaisical, perfunctory, non-committal; *informal* laid-back, unenthused, couldn't-care-less; *rare* Laodicean.

—OPPOSITES hot, cold, enthusiastic

lull ▶ **verb** ① *the sound of the bells lulled us to sleep* SOOTHE, calm, hush, rock to sleep ② *his suspicions were soon lulled* ASSUAGE, allay, ease, alleviate, soothe, quiet, quieten, reduce, diminish, quell, banish, dispel ③ *the noise had lulled* ABATE, die down, subside, let up, moderate, slacken, lessen, dwindle, decrease, diminish.

—OPPOSITES waken, agitate, arouse, intensify

▶ **noun** ① *a lull in the fighting* PAUSE, respite, interval, break, hiatus, suspension, interlude, intermission, breathing space, *informal* let-up, breather. ② *the lull before the storm*. CALM, stillness, quiet, tranquillity, peace, silence, hush.

—OPPOSITES agitation, activity

lullaby ▶ **noun** CRADLE SONG, berceuse

lumber ▶ **verb** elephants lumbered past: LURCH, stumble, trundle, shamble, shuffle, waddle, trudge, clump, stump, plod, tramp, *informal* galumph

lumber ▶ **noun** ① *a spare room packed with lumber*: JUMBLE, clutter, odds and ends, bits and pieces, flotsam and jetsam, cast-offs; refuse, rubbish, litter; *N Amer.* trash; *informal* junk, odds and sods, gubbins, clobber. ② *the lumber trade*: TIMBER, wood.

▶ **verb** (*Brit informal*) *she was lumbered with a husband and child*: BURDEN, saddle, encumber, hamper; load, oppress, trouble, tax; *informal* land, dump something on someone.

—OPPOSITES free.

lumbering ▶ **adjective** CLUMSY, awkward, heavy-footed, slow, blundering, bumbling, inept, maladroit, uncoordinated, ungainly, ungraceful, gauche, lumpish, hulking, ponderous, *informal* clodhopping

—OPPOSITES nimble, agile

luminary ▶ **noun** LEADING LIGHT, guiding light, inspiration, role model, hero, heroine, leader, expert, master, panjandrum; lion, legend, great, giant

—OPPOSITES nobody.

luminous ▶ **adjective** SHINING, bright, brilliant, radiant, dazzling, glowing, gleaming, scintillating, lustrous; luminescent, phosphorescent, fluorescent, incandescent.

—OPPOSITES dark.

lump ▶ **noun** ① *a lump of coal* CHUNK, hunk, piece, mass, block, wedge, slab, cake, nugget, ball, brick, cube, pat, knob, clod, gobbet, dollop, wad, *informal* glob, *N Amer informal* gob. ② *a lump on his head* SWELLING, bump, bulge, protuberance, protrusion, growth, outgrowth, nodule, hump

▶ **verb** *it is convenient to lump them together* COMBINE, put, group, bunch, aggregate, unite, pool, merge, collect, throw, consider together

lump ▶ **verb** (*informal*) *I'm afraid you'll have to lump it* PUT UP WITH, bear, endure, take, tolerate, accept

lumpish ▶ **adjective** ① *lumpish furniture*. CUMBERSOME, unwieldy, heavy, hulking, chunky, bulky, ponderous ② *a lumpish young girl* STUPID, obtuse, dense, dim-witted, dull-witted, slow-witted, slow; lethargic, bovine, sluggish, listless, *informal* thick, dumb, dozey, slow on the uptake, moronic, *Brit informal* dozy

—OPPOSITES elegant, quick-witted, sharp

lumpy ▶ **adjective** ① *a lumpy mattress*. BUMPY, knobbly, bulging, uneven, rough, gnarled ② *lumpy custard* CLOTTED, curdled, congealed, coagulated

lunacy ▶ **noun** ① *originality demands a degree of lunacy*. INSANITY, madness, mental illness, dementia, mania, psychosis, *informal* craziness. ② *the lunacy of gambling*: FOLLY, foolishness, foolhardiness, stupidity, silliness, idiocy, madness, rashness, recklessness, imprudence, irresponsibility, injudiciousness; *informal* craziness; *Brit informal* daftness.

—OPPOSITES sanity, sense, prudence.

lunatic ▶ **noun** *he drives like a lunatic*: MANIAC, madman, madwoman, imbecile, psychopath, psychotic; fool, idiot; eccentric, *informal* loony, nut, nutcase, head case, psycho, moron; *Brit informal* nutter; *N Amer informal* screwball.

▶ **adjective** ① *a lunatic prisoner*. *See* MAD *sense* 1 ② *a lunatic idea*. *See* MAD *sense* 3.

lunch ▶ **noun** MIDDAY MEAL, luncheon; *Brit.* dinner.

lung

—RELATED TERMS pulmonary, pneumo-

lunge ▶ **noun** *Darren made a lunge at his attacker*: THRUST, dive, rush, charge, grab.

▶ **verb** *he lunged at Finn with a knife*: THRUST, dive, spring, launch oneself, rush, make a grab.

lurch ▶ **verb** ① *he lurched into the kitchen*: STAGGER, stumble, wobble, sway, reel, roll, weave, pitch, totter, blunder. ② *the ship lurched*: SWAY,

reel, list, heel, rock, roll, pitch, toss, jerk, shake, judder, flounder, swerve.

lure ▶ **verb** consumers are frequently lured into debt
TEMPT, entice, attract, induce, coax, persuade, inveigle, allure, seduce, win over, cajole, beguile, bewitch, ensnare

—OPPOSITES deter, put off.

▶ **noun** the lure of the stage. TEMPTATION, enticement, attraction, pull, draw, appeal, inducement, allurement, fascination, interest, magnet; *informal* come-on.

lurid ▶ **adjective** ① *lurid food colourings* BRIGHT, brilliant, vivid, glaring, shocking, fluorescent, flaming, dazzling, intense, gaudy, loud ② *the lurid details* SENSATIONAL, sensationalist, exaggerated, over-dramatized, extravagant, colourful, salacious, graphic, explicit, unrestrained, prurient, shocking, gruesome, gory, grisly, *informal* tacky, shock-horror, juicy, full-frontal
—OPPOSITES muted, restrained

lurk ▶ **verb** SKULK, loiter, lie in wait, lie low, hide, conceal oneself, take cover, keep out of sight

luscious ▶ **adjective** ① *luscious fruit* DELICIOUS, succulent, lush, juicy, mouth-watering, sweet, tasty, appetizing, *informal* scrumptious, moreish, scrummy, yummy, *N Amer informal* nummy, *poetic/literary* ambrosial ② *a luscious Swedish beauty* SEXY, sexually attractive, nubile, ravishing, gorgeous, seductive, alluring, sultry, beautiful, stunning, *informal* fanciable, tasty, drop-dead gorgeous, curvy, *Brit informal* fit, *N Amer informal* foxy, cute, *Austral/NZ informal* spunky.
—OPPOSITES unappetizing, plain, scrawny

lush ▶ **adjective** ① *lush vegetation* LUXURIANT, rich, abundant, profuse, exuberant, riotous, prolific, vigorous, dense, thick, rank, rampant, *informal* jungly ② *a lush, ripe peach* SUCCULENT, luscious, juicy, soft, tender, ripe ③ *a lush apartment* LUXURIOUS, de luxe, sumptuous, palatial, opulent, lavish, elaborate, extravagant, fancy, *informal* plush, ritzy, posh, swanky, *Brit informal* swish, *N Amer informal* swank
—OPPOSITES barren, sparse, shrivelled, austere

lust ▶ **noun** ① *his lust for her* SEXUAL DESIRE, sexual appetite, sexual longing, ardour, desire, passion, libido, sex drive, sexuality, biological urge, lechery, lecherousness, lasciviousness; *informal* horniness, the hots, *Brit informal* randiness ② *a lust for power* GREED, desire, craving, covetousness, eagerness, avidity, cupidity, longing, yearning, hunger, thirst, appetite, hankering
—OPPOSITES dread, aversion.

▶ **verb** ① *he lusted after his employer's wife* DESIRE, be consumed with desire for, find sexually attractive, crave, covet, ache for, burn for, pant for; *informal* have the hots for, lech after/over, fancy, have a thung about/for, drool over, have the horn for. ② *she lusted after adventure*: CRAVE, desire, covet, want, wish for, long for, yearn for, dream of, hanker for, hanker after, hunger for, thirst for, ache for.
—OPPOSITES dread, avoid.

lustful ▶ **adjective** LECHEROUS, lascivious, libidinous, licentious, salacious, goatish; wanton, unchaste, impure, naughty, immodest, indecent, dirty, prurient; passionate, sensual, sexy, erotic; *informal* horny, randy, raunchy, *formal* concupiscent.
—OPPOSITES chaste, pure.

lustily ▶ **adverb** HEARTILY, vigorously, loudly, at the top of one's voice, powerfully, forcefully, strongly, *informal* like mad, like crazy.
—OPPOSITES feebly, quietly

lustre ▶ **noun** ① *her hair lost its lustre*: SHEEN, gloss, shine, glow, gleam, shimmer, burnish, polish, patina ② *the lustre of the Milky Way* BRILLIANCE, brightness, radiance, sparkle, dazzle, flash, glitter, glint, gleam, luminosity, luminescence
—OPPOSITES dullness, dark

lustreless ▶ **adjective** DULL, lacklustre, matt, unpolished, tarnished, dingy, dim, dark
—OPPOSITES lustrous, bright

lustrous ▶ **adjective** SHINY, shining, satiny, glossy, gleaming, shimmering, burnished, polished, radiant, bright, brilliant, luminous; dazzling, sparkling, glistering, twinkling
—OPPOSITES dull, dark.

lusty ▶ **adjective** ① *lusty young men* HEALTHY, strong, fit, vigorous, robust, hale and hearty, energetic; rugged, sturdy, muscular, muscly, strapping, hefty, husky, burly, powerful, *informal* beefy, *dated* stalwart ② *lusty singing*: LOUD, vigorous, hearty, strong, powerful, forceful
—OPPOSITES feeble, quiet

luxuriant ▶ **adjective** LUSH, rich, abundant, profuse, exuberant, riotous, prolific, vigorous; dense, thick, rank, rampant, *informal* jungly
—OPPOSITES barren, sparse

luxuriate ▶ **verb** REVEL, bask, delight, take pleasure, wallow, (*luxuriate in*) enjoy, relish, savour, appreciate, *informal* get a kick out of, get a thrill out of
—OPPOSITES dislike

luxurious ▶ **adjective** ① *a luxurious hotel* OPULENT, sumptuous, de luxe, grand, palatial, splendid, magnificent, well appointed, extravagant, fancy; *Brit* upmarket, *informal* plush, posh, classy, ritzy, swanky, *Brit informal* swish, *N Amer informal* swank ② *a luxurious lifestyle* SELF-INDULGENT, sensual, pleasure-loving, pleasure-seeking, epicurean, hedonistic, sybaritic, lotus-eating.
—OPPOSITES plain, basic, abstemious

luxury ▶ **noun** ① *we'll live in luxury* OPULENCE, luxuriousness, sumptuousness, grandeur, magnificence, splendour, lavishness, the lap of luxury, a bed of roses, milk and honey; *informal* the life of Riley ② *a TV is his only luxury*: INDULGENCE, extravagance, self-indulgence, treat, extra, non-essential, frill
—OPPOSITES simplicity, necessity

lying ▶ **noun** she was no good at lying: UNTRUTHFULNESS, fabrication, fibbing, perjury, white lies, falseness, falsity, dishonesty, mendacity, telling stories, invention, misrepresentation, deceit, duplicity, *poetic/literary* perfidy
—OPPOSITES honesty.

▶ **adjective** he was a lying womanizer: UNTRUTHFUL, false, dishonest, mendacious, deceitful, deceiving, duplicitous, double-dealing, two-faced, *poetic/literary* perfidious.
—OPPOSITES truthful.

lynch ▶ **verb** EXECUTE ILLEGALLY, hang; *informal* string up

lyric ▶ **adjective** ① *a lyric poem*: EXPRESSIVE, emotional, deeply felt, personal, subjective, passionate. ② *a lyric soprano*: LIGHT, silvery, clear, sweet.

—OPPOSITES harsh

lyrical ► **adjective** ① *lyrical love poetry* EXPRESSIVE, emotional, deeply felt, personal, subjective, passionate ② *she was lyrical about her success* ENTHUSIASTIC, rhapsodic, effusive, rapturous, ec-

static, euphoric, carried away

—OPPOSITES unenthusiastic

lyrics ► **plural noun** WORDS, libretto, book, text, lines

D

Mm

macabre ► **adjective** ① a macabre ritual GRUESOME, grisly, grim, gory, morbid, ghastly, unearthly, grotesque, hideous, horrific, shocking, dreadful, loathsome, repugnant, repulsive, sickening ② a macabre joke BLACK, weird, unhealthy, informal sick

mace ► **noun** CLUB, cudgel, stick, staff, shillelagh, bludgeon, truncheon, *Brit* life preserver, *N Amer* nightstick, billy, billy club, blackjack, *Brit* informal cosh

macerate ► **verb** PULP, mash, squash, soften, liquefy, soak

Machiavellian ► **adjective** DEVIANT, cunning, crafty, artful, wily, sly, scheming, treacherous, two-faced, tricky, double-dealing, unscrupulous, deceitful, dishonest, poetic/literary perfidious, informal foxy

—OPPOSITES straightforward, ingenuous

machinations ► **plural noun** SCHEMING, plotting, intrigues, conspiracies, ruses, tricks, wiles, stratagems, tactics, manoeuvring

machine ► **noun** ① it is quicker done by machine APPARATUS, appliance, device, contraption, contrivance, mechanism, engine, gadget, tool ② an efficient publicity machine ORGANIZATION, system, structure, arrangement, machinery, informal set-up

—RELATED TERMS mechanical

machinery ► **noun** ① road-making machinery EQUIPMENT, apparatus, plant, hardware, gear, tackle, mechanism, instruments, tools, gadgetry, technology ② the machinery of local government WORKINGS, organization, system, structure, administration, institution, informal set-up

machinist ► **noun** OPERATOR, operative, machine-minder

machismo ► **noun** (AGGRESSIVE) MASCULINITY, toughness, male chauvinism, sexism, laddishness, virility, manliness

macho ► **adjective** a macho, non-caring image (AGGRESSIVELY) MALE, (unpleasantly) masculine, manly, virile, red-blooded, informal butch, laddish

—OPPOSITES wimpish

► **noun** ① he was a macho at heart RED-BLOODED MALE, macho man, muscleman; informal he-man, tough guy ② macho is out See MACHISMO

—OPPOSITES wimp

macintosh ► **noun** RAINCOAT, gabardine, trench coat, waterproof; *Brit* pakamac; *N Amer* slicker; *Brit* informal mac, trademark Burberry, Drizabone

macrocosm ► **noun** ① the law of the macrocosm: UNIVERSE, cosmos, creation, outer space ② the individual is a microcosm of the social macrocosm: SYSTEM, structure, totality, entirety, complex.

—OPPOSITES microcosm.

mad ► **adjective** ① he was killed by his mad brother INSANE, mentally ill, certifiable, deranged, demented, of unsound mind, out of one's mind, not in one's right mind, sick in the head,

crazy, crazed, lunatic, non compos mentis, unhinged, disturbed, raving, psychotic, psychopathic, mad as a hatter, mad as a March hare, away with the fairies, informal mental, off one's head, off one's nut, nuts, nutty, off one's rocker, not right in the head, round the bend, stark staring/raving mad, bats, batty, bonkers, dotty, cuckoo, cracked, loopy, loony, doolally, bananas, loco, dippy, screwy, schizoid, touched, gaga, up the pole, not all there, not right upstairs, *Brit* informal barmy, crackers, barking, barking mad, round the twist, off one's trolley, not the full shilling; *N Amer* informal nutso, out of one's tree, meshuga, wacko, gonzo, *Austral* / *NZ* informal bushed, *NZ* informal porangi, (be mad) informal have a screw loose, have bats in the/one's belfry, *Austral* informal have kangaroos in the/one's top paddock, (go mad) lose one's reason, lose one's mind, take leave of one's senses, informal lose one's marbles, crack up ② (informal) I'm still mad at him. ANGRY, furious, infuriated, irate, raging, enraged, fuming, incensed, seeing red, beside oneself, informal livid, spare, informal, dated in a wax, *Brit* informal aerated, *N Amer* informal sore, poetic/literary wrathful; (go mad) lose one's temper, get in a rage, rant and rave, informal explode, go off the deep end, go ape, flip, flip one's lid; *Brit* informal do one's nut, *N Amer* informal flip one's wig ③ some mad scheme FOOLISH, insane, stupid, lunatic, foolhardy, idiotic, senseless, absurd, impractical, silly, inane, asinine, wild, unwise, imprudent, informal crazy, crackpot, crackbrained, *Brit* informal daft ④ (informal) he's mad about jazz ENTHUSIASTIC, passionate, ardent, fervent, avid, fanatical, devoted to, infatuated with, in love with, hot for, informal crazy, dotty, nuts, wild, hooked on, gone on, *Brit* informal potty, *N Amer* informal nutso ⑤ it was a mad dash to get ready FRENZIED, frantic, frenetic, feverish, hysterical, wild, hectic, manic

—OPPOSITES sane, pleased, sensible, indifferent, calm

■ **like mad** (informal) ① I ran like mad FAST, quickly, rapidly, speedily, hastily, hurriedly ② he had to fight like mad ENERGETICALLY, enthusiastically, madly, furiously, with a will, for all one is worth, passionately, intensely, ardently, fervently, informal like crazy, hammer and tongs, *Brit* informal like billy-o

madcap ► **adjective** ① a madcap scheme RECKLESS, rash, foolhardy, foolish, hare-brained, wild, hasty, imprudent, ill-advised, informal crazy, crackpot, crackbrained ② a madcap comedy ZANY, eccentric, unconventional.

► **noun** she was a bolsterous madcap. ECCENTRIC, crank, madman/madwoman, maniac, lunatic, oddity, character, individual, informal crackpot, oddball, weirdo, loony, nut, *Brit* informal nutter, *N Amer* informal screwball.

madden ► **verb** ① what maddens people most is his vagueness: INFURIATE, exasperate, irritate, incense, anger, enrage, provoke, upset, agitate, vex, irk, make someone's hackles rise, make someone see red; informal aggravate, make

someone's blood boil, make livid, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get someone's back up; *Brit informal* nark; *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off ② they were maddened with pain: *DRIVE MAD*, drive insane, derange, unhinge, unbalance; *informal* drive round the bend

made-up ▶ **adjective** INVENTED, fabricated, trumped up, concocted, fictitious, fictional, false, untrue, specious, spurious, bogus, apocryphal, imaginary, mythical

madhouse ▶ **noun** (*informal*) ① his father is shut up in a madhouse. *MENTAL HOSPITAL*, mental institution, psychiatric hospital, asylum, *informal* nut-house, funny farm, loony bin; dated lunatic asylum. ② the place was a total madhouse *BEDLAM*, mayhem, chaos, pandemonium, uproar, turmoil, disorder, madness, all hell broken loose; *N Amer* three-ring circus

madly ▶ **adverb** ① she was smiling madly: *INSANELY*, deliriously, wildly, like a lunatic; *informal* crazily, barmily ② it was fun, hurtling madly downhill. *FAST*, furiously, hurriedly, quickly, speedily, hastily, energetically, *informal* like mad, like crazy ③ (*informal*) he loved her madly. *INTENSELY*, fervently, wildly, unrestrainedly, to distraction ④ (*informal*) his job isn't madly glamorous: *VERY*, extremely, really, exceedingly, exceptionally, remarkably, extraordinarily, immensely, tremendously, wildly, all that, hugely; *informal* awfully, terribly, terrifically, fantastically –*OPPOSITES* sanely, slowly, slightly

madman, madwoman ▶ **noun** *LUNATIC*, maniac, psychotic, psychopath; *informal* loony, nut, nutcase, head case, psycho; *Brit informal* nutter; *N Amer informal* screwball.

madness ▶ **noun** ① today madness is called mental illness: *INSANITY*, mental illness, dementia, derangement, lunacy, instability; mania, psychosis; *informal* craziness ② it would be madness to do otherwise: *FOLLY*, foolishness, idiocy, stupidity, insanity, lunacy, silliness; *informal* craziness ③ it's absolute madness in here *BEDLAM*, mayhem, chaos, pandemonium, uproar, turmoil, disorder, all hell broken loose, *N Amer* three-ring circus –*OPPOSITES* sanity, common sense, good sense, calm

maelstrom ▶ **noun** ① a maelstrom in the sea: *WHIRLPOOL*, vortex, eddy, swirl, *poetic/literary* Charibdis. ② the maelstrom of war *TURBULENCE*, tumult, turmoil, disorder, disarray, chaos, confusion, upheaval, pandemonium, bedlam, whirlwind

maestro ▶ **noun** *VIRTUOSO*, master, expert, genius, wizard, prodigy; *informal* ace, whizz, pro, hotshot. –*OPPOSITES* tyro, beginner.

magazine ▶ **noun** *JOURNAL*, periodical, supplement, colour supplement; *informal* glossy, mag, 'zine.

magenta ▶ **adjective** *REDDISH-PURPLE*, purplish-red, crimson, plum, carmine red, fuchsia.

maggot ▶ **noun** *GRUB*, larva.

magic ▶ **noun** ① do you believe in magic? *SORCERY*, witchcraft, wizardry, necromancy, enchantment, the supernatural, occultism, the occult, black magic, the black arts, voodoo, shamanism; charm, hex, spell, jinx; *N Amer* mojo. ② he does magic at children's parties: *CONJURING TRICKS*, sleight of hand, legerdemain, il-

lusion, prestidigitation ③ the magic of the stage: *ALLURE*, attraction, excitement, fascination, charm, glamour ④ a taste of soccer magic: *SKILL*, brilliance, ability, accomplishment, adeptness, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, aptitude, expertise, art, finesse, talent.

▶ **adjective** ① a magic spell. *SUPERNATURAL*, enchanted, occult. ② a magic place. *FASCINATING*, captivating, charming, glamorous, magical, enchanting, entrancing, spellbinding, magnetic, irresistible, hypnotic ③ (*informal*) we had a magic time: *MARVELLOUS*, wonderful, excellent, admirable, *informal* terrific, fabulous, fab, brilliant, brill

magical ▶ **adjective** ① magical incantations: *SUPERNATURAL*, magic, occult, shamanistic, mystical, paranormal, preternatural, other-worldly ② the news had a magical effect. *EXTRAORDINARY*, remarkable, exceptional, outstanding, incredible, phenomenal, unbelievable, amazing, astonishing, astounding, stunning, staggering, marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, sensational, breathtaking, miraculous; *informal* fantastic, fabulous, stupendous, out of this world, terrific, tremendous, brilliant, mind-boggling, mind-blowing, awesome, *poetic/literary* wondrous ③ this magical small land. *ENCHANTING*, entrancing, spellbinding, bewitching, beguiling, fascinating, captivating, alluring, enthralling, charming, attractive, lovely, delightful, beautiful; *informal* dreamy, heavenly, divine, gorgeous –*OPPOSITES* predictable, boring.

magician ▶ **noun** ① *SORCERER*, sorceress, witch, wizard, warlock, enchanter, enchantress, necromancer, shaman ② *CONJUROR*, illusionist, prestidigitator.

magisterial ▶ **adjective** ① a magisterial pronouncement. *AUTHORITATIVE*, masterful, assured, lordly, commanding, assertive. ② his magisterial style of questioning. *DOMINEERING*, dictatorial, autocratic, imperious, overbearing, peremptory, high-handed, arrogant, supercilious, patronizing, *informal* bossy –*OPPOSITES* untrustworthy, humble, hesitant, tentative

magnanimity ▶ **noun** *GENEROSITY*, charity, benevolence, beneficence, big-heartedness, altruism, philanthropy, humanity, chivalry, nobility, clemency, mercy, leniency, forgiveness, indulgence –*OPPOSITES* meanness, selfishness.

magnanimous ▶ **adjective** *GENEROUS*, charitable, benevolent, beneficent, big-hearted, handsome, princely, altruistic, philanthropic, chivalrous, noble; forgiving, merciful, lenient, indulgent, clement. –*OPPOSITES* mean-spirited, selfish.

magnate ▶ **noun** *TYCOON*, mogul, captain of industry, baron, lord, king; industrialist, proprietor; *informal* big shot, honcho; derogatory fat cat.

magnet ▶ **noun** ① you can tell steel by using a magnet: *LODESTONE*; electromagnet, solenoid. ② a magnet for tourists: *ATTRACTION*, focus, draw, lure.

magnetic ▶ **adjective** a magnetic personality: *ALLURING*, attractive, fascinating, captivating, enchanting, enthralling, appealing, charming, prepossessing, engaging, entrancing, seductive, inviting, irresistible, charismatic.

magnetism ▶ noun *his sheer magnetism*. AL LURE, attraction, fascination, appeal, draw, drawing power, pull, charm, enchantment, seductiveness, magic, spell, charisma

magnification ▶ noun ① *optical magnification* ENLARGEMENT, enhancement, increase, augmentation, extension, expansion, amplification, intensification ② *the magnification of marginal details*: EXAGGERATION, overstatement, overemphasis, overplaying, dramatization, colouring, embroidery, embellishment, inflation, hyperbole, aggrandizement, *informal* blowing up (out of all proportion), making a big thing out of something

—OPPOSITES reduction, understatement

magnificence ▶ noun SPLENDOUR, resplendence, grandeur, impressiveness, glory, majesty, nobility, pomp, stateliness, elegance, sumptuousness, opulence, luxury, lavishness, richness, brilliance, dazzle, skill, virtuosity

—OPPOSITES modesty, tawdriness, weakness

magnificent ▶ adjective ① *a magnificent view of the mountains* SPLENDID, spectacular, impressive, striking, glorious, superb, majestic, awesome, awe-inspiring, breathtaking ② *a magnificent apartment overlooking the lake* SUMPTUOUS, resplendent, grand, impressive, imposing, monumental, palatial, stately, opulent, luxurious, lavish, rich, dazzling, beautiful, elegant, *informal* splendid, ritzy, posh ③ *a magnificent performance* MASTERLY, skilful, virtuoso, brilliant

—OPPOSITES uninspiring, modest, tawdry, poor, weak

magnify ▶ verb ① *the lens magnifies the image* ENLARGE, boost, enhance, maximize, increase, augment, extend, expand, amplify, intensify, *informal* blow up ② *the problem gets magnified* EXAGGERATE, overstate, overemphasize, overplay, dramatize, colour, embroider, embellish, inflate, make a mountain out of (a molehill); *informal* blow up (out of all proportion), make a big thing out of

—OPPOSITES reduce, minimize, understate

magnitude ▶ noun ① *the magnitude of the task* IMMENSITY, vastness, hugeness, enormity, size, extent, expanse, greatness, largeness, bigness ② *events of tragic magnitude* IMPORTANCE, import, significance, weight, consequence, mark, notability, note, *formal* moment ③ *a change in magnitude on the Richter scale* VALUE, figure, number, measure, order, quantity, vector, index, indicator ④ *a star of magnitude 4.2* BRIGHTNESS, brilliance, radiance, luminosity

—OPPOSITES smallness, triviality

■ **of the first magnitude** OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE, of the greatest significance, very important, of great consequence, *formal* of great moment.

maid ▶ noun ① *the maid cleared the table*: FEMALE SERVANT, maidservant, housemaid, parlour-maid, lady's maid, chambermaid, maid-of-all-work, domestic; help, cleaner, cleaning woman/lady; *Brit. informal* daily, skivvy, Mrs Mop; *Brit. dated* charwoman, charlady, char, tweeny. ② (*poetic/literary*) *a village maid and her swain*: GIRL, young woman, young lady, lass, miss; *Scottish (wee)* lassie; *poetic/literary* maiden, damsel, nymph; *archaic* wench. ③ (*poetic/literary*) *she was no longer a maid*: VIRGIN, chaste woman, unmarried girl, celibate; *formal* virgo intacta; *poetic/literary* maiden.

maiden ▶ noun (*poetic/literary*). See MAID senses 2, 3

▶ adjective ① *a maiden aunt*: UNMARRIED, spinster, unwed, unwedded, single, husbandless, celibate ② *a maiden voyage*: FIRST, initial, inaugural, introductory, initiatory.

maidenly ▶ adjective VIRGINAL, immaculate, intact, chaste, pure, virtuous; demure, reserved, retiring, decorous, seemingly

—OPPOSITES fast, slatternly

mail ▶ noun *the mail arrived*: POST, letters, correspondence, postal system, postal service, post office, delivery, collection; e-mail; *informal* snail mail, *N Amer* the mails

▶ verb *we mailed the parcels*. SEND, post, dispatch, direct, forward, redirect, ship, e-mail

maim ▶ verb INJURE, wound, cripple, disable, incapacitate, impair, mar, mutilate, lacerate, disfigure, deform, mangle

main ▶ adjective *the main item*: PRINCIPAL, chief, head, leading, foremost, most important, major, ruling, dominant, central, focal, key, prime, master, premier, primary, first, fundamental, supreme, predominant, (most) prominent, pre-eminent, paramount, overriding, cardinal, crucial, critical, pivotal, salient, elemental, essential, staple

—OPPOSITES subsidiary, minor

▶ noun (*poetic/literary*) *the Spanish Main*. SEA, ocean, deep; *informal*, *dated* the drink; *Brit. informal*, *dated* the briny.

■ **in the main**. See MAINLY

mainly ▶ adverb MOSTLY, for the most part, in the main, on the whole, largely, by and large, to a large extent, predominantly, chiefly, principally, primarily; generally, usually, typically, commonly, on average, as a rule, almost always.

mainspring ▶ noun MOTIVE, motivation, impetus, driving force, incentive, impulse, prime mover, reason, fountain, fount, root, generator

mainstay ▶ noun CENTRAL COMPONENT, central figure, centrepiece, prop, linchpin, cornerstone, pillar, bulwark, buttress, chief support, backbone, anchor, foundation, base, staple

mainstream ▶ adjective NORMAL, conventional, ordinary, orthodox, conformist, accepted, established, recognized, common, usual, prevailing, popular

—OPPOSITES fringe

maintain ▶ verb ① *they wanted to maintain peace*. PRESERVE, conserve, keep, retain, keep going, keep alive, keep up, prolong, perpetuate, sustain, carry on, continue. ② *the council maintains the roads* KEEP IN GOOD CONDITION, keep in (good) repair, keep up, service, care for, take good care of, look after. ③ *the costs of maintaining a family* SUPPORT, provide for, keep, sustain, nurture, feed, nourish. ④ *he always maintained his innocence* | *he maintains that he is innocent*. INSIST (ON), declare, assert, protest, affirm, avow, profess, claim, allege, contend, argue, swear (to), hold to; *formal* aver; *rare* asseverate.

—OPPOSITES break, discontinue, neglect, deny.

maintenance ▶ noun ① *the maintenance of peace*: PRESERVATION, conservation, keeping, prolongation, perpetuation, carrying on, continuation, continuance. ② *car maintenance*: UP-



KEEP, service, servicing, repair(s), care, after-care ③ the maintenance of his children SUPPORT, keeping, upkeep, sustenance; nurture, feeding, nourishment ④ absent fathers are forced to pay maintenance FINANCIAL SUPPORT, child support, alimony, provision, keep, subsistence, living expenses.

—OPPOSITES breakdown, discontinuation, neglect

majestic ▶ adjective STATELY, dignified, distinguished, solemn, magnificent, grand, splendid, resplendent, glorious, sumptuous, impressive, august, noble, awe-inspiring, monumental, palatial; statuesque, Olympian, imposing, marvelous, sonorous, resounding, heroic
—OPPOSITES modest, wretched

majesty ▶ noun ① the majesty of the procession STATELINESS, dignity, distinction, solemnity, magnificence, pomp, grandeur, grandness, splendour, resplendence, glory, impressiveness, augustness, nobility. ② the majesty invested in the monarch: SOVEREIGNTY, authority, power, dominion, supremacy

—OPPOSITES modesty, wretchedness

major ▶ adjective ① the major English poets GREATEST, best, finest, most important, chief, main, prime, principal, capital, cardinal, leading, star, foremost, outstanding, first-rate, pre-eminent, arch- ② an issue of major importance CRUCIAL, vital, great, considerable, paramount, utmost, prime ③ a major factor IMPORTANT, big, significant, weighty, crucial, key, sweeping, substantial ④ major surgery SERIOUS, radical, complicated, difficult

—OPPOSITES minor, little, trivial

majority ▶ noun ① the majority of cases LARGER PART/NUMBER, greater part/number, best/better part, most, more than half, bulk, mass, weight, (main) body, preponderance, predominance, generality, lion's share ② a majority in the election (WINNING) MARGIN, superiority of numbers/votes, landslide ③ my son has reached his majority COMING OF AGE, legal age, adulthood, manhood/womanhood, maturity, age of consent

—OPPOSITES minority

make ▶ verb ① he makes models CONSTRUCT, build, assemble, put together, manufacture, produce, fabricate, create, form, fashion, model ② she made me drink it FORCE, compel, coerce, press, drive, pressure, pressurize, oblige, require, have someone do something, prevail on, dragoon, bludgeon, strong-arm, impel, constrain, informal railroad ③ don't make such a noise CAUSE, create, give rise to, produce, bring about, generate, engender, occasion, effect, set up, establish, institute, found, develop, originate, poetic/literary beget ④ she made a little bow PERFORM, execute, give, do, accomplish, achieve, bring off, carry out, effect. ⑤ they made him chairman APPOINT, designate, name, nominate, select, elect, vote in, install; induct, institute, invest, ordain. ⑥ he had made a will: FORMULATE, frame, draw up, devise, make out, prepare, compile, compose, put together; draft, write, pen ⑦ I've made a mistake: PERPETRATE, commit, be responsible for, be guilty of, be to blame for ⑧ he's made a lot of money: ACQUIRE, obtain, gain, get, realize, secure, win, earn, gross, net, clear; bring in, take (in). ⑨ he made tea: PREPARE, get ready, put together, concoct,

cook, dish up, throw together, whip up, brew; informal fix, Brit informal mash ⑩ we've got to make a decision REACH, come to, settle on, determine on, conclude ⑪ she made a short announcement UTTER, give, deliver, give voice to, enunciate, recite, pronounce. ⑫ the sofa makes a good bed BE, act as, serve as, function as, constitute, do duty for ⑬ he'll make the first eleven GAIN A PLACE IN, get into, gain access to, enter, achieve, attain ⑭ he just made his train CATCH, get, arrive/be in time for, arrive at, reach, get to.

—OPPOSITES destroy, lose, miss

▶ noun ① what make is the car? BRAND, marque, label ② a man of a different make from his brother CHARACTER, nature, temperament, temper, disposition, kidney, mould, stamp

■ **make as if/though** FEIGN, pretend, make a show/pretext of, affect, feint, make out, informal put it on

■ **make away with** ① she decided to make away with him KILL, murder, dispatch, eliminate, informal bump off, do away with, do in, do for, knock off, top, croak, stiff, blow away; N Amer informal ice, rub out, smoke, waste; poetic/literary slay ② they made away with the evidence DISPOSE OF, get rid of, destroy, throw away, jettison, ditch, dump; informal do away with

■ **make believe** PRETEND, fantasize, daydream, build castles in the air, build castles in Spain, dream, imagine, play-act, play

■ **make do** SCRAPE BY, scrape along, get by/along, manage, cope, survive, muddle along/through, improvise, make ends meet, keep the wolf from the door, keep one's head above water, informal make out, (make do with) make the best of, get by on, put up with

■ **make for** ① she made for the door GO FOR/TOWARDS, head for/towards, aim for, make one's way towards, move towards, direct one's steps towards, steer a course towards, be bound for, make a beeline for ② constant arguing doesn't make for a happy marriage CONTRIBUTE TO, be conducive to, produce, promote, facilitate, foster; formal conduce to

■ **make it** ① he never made it as a singer SUCCEED, be a success, distinguish oneself, get ahead, make good, informal make the grade, arrive, crack it ② she's very ill—is she going to make it? SURVIVE, come through, pull through, get better, recover.

■ **make love.** See HAVE SEX at SEX.

■ **make off** RUN AWAY/OFF, take to one's heels, beat a hasty retreat, flee, make one's getaway, make a quick exit, run for it, make a run for it, take off, take flight, bolt, make oneself scarce, decamp, do a disappearing act; informal clear off/out, beat it, leg it, cut and run, skedaddle, vamoose, hightail it, hotfoot it, show a clean pair of heels, fly the coop, split, scoot, scam; Brit informal scarper, do a runner; N Amer informal take a powder.

■ **make off with** TAKE, steal, purloin, pilfer, abscond with, run away/off with, carry off, snatch; kidnap, abduct; informal walk away/off with, swipe, filch, snaffle, nab, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', snitch, Brit informal pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock off; N Amer informal heist, glom.

■ **make out (informal)** how did you make out? GET ON/ALONG, fare, do, proceed, go, progress, manage, survive, cope, get by.



■ **make something out** ① *I could just make out a figure in the distance* SEE, discern, distinguish, perceive, pick out, detect, observe, recognize, poetic/literary descry, espy ② *he couldn't make out what she was saying* UNDERSTAND, comprehend, follow, grasp, fathom, work out, make sense of, interpret, decipher, make head or tail of, get, get the drift of, catch ③ *she made out that he was violent* ALLEGE, claim, assert, declare, maintain, affirm, suggest, imply, hint, insinuate, indicate, intimate, impute, *formal* aver ④ *he made out a receipt for \$20* WRITE OUT, fill out, fill in, complete, draw up

■ **make something over to someone** TRANSFER, sign over, turn over, hand over/on/down, give, leave, bequeath, bestow, pass on, assign, consign, entrust, *Law* devolve, convey

■ **make up** *let's kiss and make up* BE FRIENDS AGAIN, bury the hatchet, declare a truce, make peace, forgive and forget, shake hands, become reconciled, settle one's differences, mend fences, call it quits

■ **make something up** ① *exports make up 42% of earnings* COMPRISE, form, compose, constitute, account for ② *Gina brought a friend to make up a foursome* COMPLETE, round off, finish ③ *the pharmacist made up the prescription* PREPARE, mix, concoct, put together ④ *he made up an excuse* INVENT, fabricate, concoct, dream up, think up, hatch, trump up, devise, manufacture, formulate, coin, *informal* cook up ⑤ *she made up her face* APPLY MAKE-UP, COSMETICS TO, powder, rouge, (**make oneself up**) *informal* put on one's face, do/paint one's face, apply one's warpaint, doll oneself up

■ **make up for** ① *she tried to make up for what she'd said* ATONE FOR, make amends for, compensate for, make recompense for, make reparation for, make redress for, make restitution for, expiate ② *job satisfaction can make up for low pay* OFFSET, counterbalance, counteract, compensate for, balance, neutralize, cancel out, even up, redeem

■ **make up one's mind** DECIDE, come to a decision, make/reach a decision, settle on a plan of action, come to a conclusion, reach a conclusion, determine, resolve

■ **make up to** (*informal*) CURRY FAVOUR WITH, cultivate, try to win over, court, ingratiate oneself with, *informal* suck up to, butter up, *N Amer informal* shine up to, *archaic* blandish

■ **make way** MOVE ASIDE, clear the way, make a space, make room, stand back

make-believe ► **noun** *that was sheer make-believe* FANTASY, pretence, daydreaming, imagination, invention, fancy, dream, fabrication, play-acting, charade, masquerade
—OPPOSITES reality

► **adjective** *make-believe adventures* IMAGINARY, imagined, made-up, fantasy, dreamed-up, fanciful, fictitious, fictive, feigned, fake, mock, sham, simulated; *informal* pretend, phoney
—OPPOSITES real, actual

maker ► **noun** CREATOR, manufacturer, constructor, builder, producer, fabricator

makeshift ► **adjective** TEMPORARY, provisional, stopgap, standby, rough and ready, improvised, ad hoc, extempore, thrown together, cobbled together

—OPPOSITES permanent

make-up ► **noun** ① *she used excessive make-up* COSMETICS, maquillage, greasepaint, face paint, *informal* warpaint, slap ② *the cellular make-up of plants* COMPOSITION, constitution, structure, configuration, arrangement, organization, formation ③ *jealousy isn't part of his make-up* CHARACTER, nature, temperament, personality, disposition, mentality, persona, psyche, *informal* what makes someone tick

making ► **noun** ① *the making of cars* MANUFACTURE, mass-production, building, construction, assembly, production, creation, putting together, fabrication, forming, moulding, forging ② *she has the makings of a champion* QUALITIES, characteristics, ingredients, potential, promise, capacity, capability, essentials, essence, beginnings, rudiments, basics, stuff
—OPPOSITES destruction

■ **in the making** *a hero in the making* BUDDING, up and coming, emergent, developing, nascent, potential, promising, incipient

maladjusted ► **adjective** DISTURBED, unstable, neurotic, unbalanced, unhinged, dysfunctional, *informal* mixed up, screwed up, hung up, messed up

—OPPOSITES normal, stable

maladministration ► **noun** (*formal*) MISMANAGEMENT, mishandling, misgovernment, misrule, incompetence, inefficiency, bungling, malpractice, misconduct, *Law* malfeasance, *formal* malversation

—OPPOSITES probity, efficiency

maladroit ► **adjective** BUNGLING, awkward, inept, clumsy, bumbling, incompetent, unskilful, heavy-handed, gauche, tactless, inconsiderate, undiplomatic, unpolitic, *informal* ham-fisted, cack-handed

—OPPOSITES adroit, skilful

malady ► **noun** ILLNESS, sickness, disease, infection, ailment, disorder, complaint, indisposition, affliction, infirmity, *informal* bug, virus, *Brit informal* lurgy, *Austral informal* wog See lists at ILLNESS

malaise ► **noun** UNHAPPINESS, uneasiness, unease, discomfort, melancholy, depression, despondency, dejection, angst, Weltschmerz, ennui, lassitude, listlessness, languor, weariness, indisposition, ailment, infirmity, illness, sickness, disease

—OPPOSITES comfort, well-being

malapropism ► **noun** WRONG WORD, solecism, misuse, misapplication, infelicity, slip of the tongue

malapropos ► **adjective** (*formal*) INAPPROPRIATE, unsuitable, inapposite, infelicitous, inapt, unseemly, inopportune, ill-timed, untimely.

malcontent ► **noun** *a group of malcontents* TROUBLEMAKER, mischief-maker, agitator, dissident, rebel; discontent, complainer, grumbler, moaner, *informal* stirrer, whinger, grouch, belly-acher, *N Amer informal* kvetch

► **adjective** *a malcontent employee* DISAFFECTED, discontented, dissatisfied, disgruntled, unhappy, annoyed, irritated, displeased, resentful; rebellious, dissentient, troublemaking, grumbling, complaining, *informal* browned off, hacked off, fed up, peeved, bellyaching; *Brit informal* cheesed off, brassed off, *N Amer informal* teed off, ticked off

—OPPOSITES happy



male ▶ **adjective** *male sexual jealousy* MASCULINE, virile, manly, macho, red-blooded.

—OPPOSITES female

▶ **noun** *two males walked past* See MAN noun sense 1
—RELATED TERMS andro-.

malediction ▶ **noun** CURSE, damnation, oath, spell; *N Amer* hex, *formal* imprecation; *poetic/literary* anathema, *archaic* execration
—OPPOSITES blessing

malefactor ▶ **noun** WRONGDOER, miscreant, offender, criminal, culprit, villain, lawbreaker, felon, evil-doer, delinquent, sinner, transgressor, *informal* crook, baddy, *Austral informal* crim, *Law* malefactor; *archaic* trespasser

malevolence ▶ **noun** MALICE, hostility, hate, hatred, ill will, enmity, ill feeling, balefulness, venom, rancour, malignity, vindictiveness, viciousness, vengefulness, *poetic/literary* maleficence
—OPPOSITES benevolence

malevolent ▶ **adjective** MALICIOUS, hostile, evil-minded, baleful, evil-intentioned, venomous, evil, malign, malignant, rancorous, vicious, vindictive, vengeful, *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent
—OPPOSITES benevolent

malformation ▶ **noun** DEFORMITY, distortion, crookedness, mishapenness, disfigurement, abnormality, warp

malformed ▶ **adjective** DEFORMED, misshapen, misproportioned, ill-proportioned, disfigured, distorted, crooked, contorted, twisted, wry, warped; abnormal, grotesque, monstrous, *Scottish* thrawn
—OPPOSITES perfect, normal, healthy

malfunction ▶ **verb** *the computer has malfunctioned* CRASH, go wrong, break down, fail, stop working; *informal* conk out, go kaput, fall over, act up, *Brit informal* play up, pack up

▶ **noun** *a computer malfunction* CRASH, breakdown, fault, failure, bug; *informal* glitch

malice ▶ **noun** SPITE, malevolence, ill will, vindictiveness, vengefulness, revenge, malignity, evil intentions, animus, enmity, rancour, *informal* bitchiness, cattiness, *poetic/literary* maleficence
—OPPOSITES benevolence

malicious ▶ **adjective** SPITEFUL, malevolent, evil-intentioned, vindictive, vengeful, malign, mean, nasty, hurtful, mischievous, wounding, cruel, unkind, *informal* bitchy, catty, *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent.
—OPPOSITES benevolent

malign ▶ **adjective** *a malign influence* HARMFUL, evil, bad, baleful, hostile, inimical, destructive, malignant, injurious; *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent.
—OPPOSITES beneficial.

▶ **verb** *he maligned an innocent man*: DEFAME, slander, libel, blacken someone's name/character, smear, vilify, speak ill of, cast aspersions on, run down, traduce, denigrate, disparage, slur, abuse, revile; *informal* bad-mouth, knock, *Brit informal* rubbish, slag off; *formal* derogate, calumniate, *rare* asperse.
—OPPOSITES praise

malignant ▶ **noun** ① *a malignant disease*: VIRULENT, very infectious, invasive, uncontrollable, dangerous, deadly, fatal, life-threatening. ② *a malignant growth*: CANCEROUS; *technical* metastat-

ic ③ *a malignant thought*: SPITEFUL, malicious, malevolent, evil-intentioned, vindictive, vengeful, malign, mean, nasty, hurtful, mischievous, wounding, cruel, unkind, *informal* bitchy, catty, *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent.
—OPPOSITES benign, benevolent

malingering ▶ **verb** PRETEND TO BE ILL, feign/fake illness, sham, shirk, *informal* put it on, *Brit informal* skive, swing the lead; *N Amer informal* gold-brick

malingeringer ▶ **noun** SHIRKER, idler, layabout, *informal* slacker, *Brit informal* skiver, lead-slinger, *N Amer informal* gold brick

mall ▶ **noun** SHOPPING PRECINCT, shopping centre, shopping complex, arcade, Galleria; *N Amer* plaza

malleable ▶ **adjective** ① *a malleable substance* PLIABLE, ductile, plastic, pliant, soft, workable. ② *a malleable young woman* EASILY INFLUENCED, suggestible, susceptible, impressionable, pliable, amenable, compliant, tractable, biddable, complaisant, manipulable, persuadable, like putty in someone's hands
—OPPOSITES hard, intractable

malnutrition ▶ **noun** UNDERNOURISHMENT, malnourishment, poor diet, inadequate diet, unhealthy diet, lack of food.

malodorous ▶ **adjective** FOUL-SMELLING, evil-smelling, fetid, smelly, stinking (to high heaven), reeking, rank, high, putrid, noxious, *informal* stinky, *Brit informal* ruffy, pongy, whiffy, humming; *N Amer informal* funky, *poetic/literary* noisome, mephitic
—OPPOSITES fragrant

malpractice ▶ **noun** WRONGDOING, professional misconduct, breach of ethics, unprofessionalism, unethical behaviour, negligence, carelessness, incompetence

maltrait ▶ **verb** ILL-TREAT, mistreat, abuse, ill-use, misuse, mishandle, knock about/around, hit, beat, strike, manhandle, harm, hurt, persecute, molest, *informal* beat up, rough up, do over.

maltreatment ▶ **noun** ILL-TREATMENT, mistreatment, abuse, ill use, ill usage, misuse, mishandling, violence, harm, persecution, molestation

mammoth ▶ **adjective** HUGE, enormous, gigantic, giant, colossal, massive, vast, immense, mighty, stupendous, monumental, Herculean, epic, prodigious, mountainous, monstrous, titanic, towering, elephantine, king-size(d), gargantuan, Brobdingnagian, *informal* mega, monster, whopping, humongous, bumper, jumbo, astronomical, *Brit informal* whacking, whacking great, ginormous
—OPPOSITES tiny

man ▶ **noun** ① *a handsome man*. MALE, adult male, gentleman; youth; *informal* guy, fellow, geezer, gent; *Brit informal* bloke, chap, lad, cove, *Scottish & Irish informal* bodach; *N Amer informal* dude, hombre; *Austral/NZ informal* digger. ② *all men are mortal*. HUMAN BEING, human, person, mortal, individual, personage, soul. ③ *the evolution of man*: THE HUMAN RACE, the human species, Homo sapiens, humankind, humanity, human beings, humans, people, mankind. See list at HUMAN. ④ *the men voted to go on strike*: WORKER, workman, labourer, hand, blue-collar worker. See also STAFF noun sense 1. ⑤ *have you*

met her new man? **BOYFRIEND**, partner, husband, spouse, lover, admirer, fiancé; common-law husband, live-in lover, significant other, cohabitee, *informal* fancy man, toy boy, sugar daddy, intended; *N Amer informal* squeeze, *dated* beau, steady, young man; *archaic* leman. ⑥ his man brought him a cocktail **MANSERVANT**, valet, gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves, attendant, retainer, page, footman, flunkie, *Military, dated* batman, *N Amer* houseman

—RELATED TERMS male, masculine, virile

► **verb** ① the office is manned from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **STAFF**, crew, occupy, people ② firemen manned the pumps **OPERATE**, work, use, utilize

■ **man to man** **FRANKLY**, openly, honestly, directly, candidly, plainly, forthrightly, without beating about the bush, woman to woman

■ **to a man** **WITHOUT EXCEPTION**, with no exceptions, bar none, one and all, everyone, each and every one, unanimously, as one

manacle ► **verb** **SHACKLE**, fetter, chain, put/clap in irons, handcuff, restrain, secure, *informal* cuff

manacles ► **plural noun** **HANDCUFFS**, shackles, chains, irons, fetters, restraints, bonds, *informal* cuffs, bracelets, *Brit archaic* darbies

manage ► **verb** ① she manages a staff of 80 people **BE IN CHARGE OF**, run, be head of, head, direct, control, preside over, lead, govern, rule, command, superintend, supervise, oversee, administer, organize, conduct, handle, guide, be at the helm of, *informal* head up ② how much work can you manage this week? **ACCOMPLISH**, achieve, do, carry out, perform, undertake, bring about/off, effect, finish, succeed in, contrive, engineer ③ will you be able to manage without him? **COPE**, get along/on, make do, be/fare/do all right, carry on, survive, get by, muddle through/along, fend for oneself, shift for oneself, make ends meet, weather the storm, *informal* make out, hack it ④ she can't manage that horse **CONTROL**, handle, master, cope with, deal with

manageable ► **adjective** ① a manageable amount of work **ACHIEVABLE**, doable, practicable, possible, feasible, reasonable, attainable, viable ② a manageable child. **COMPLIANT**, tractable, pliant, pliable, malleable, biddable, docile, amenable, governable, controllable, accommodating, acquiescent, complaisant, yielding ③ a manageable tool: **USER-FRIENDLY**, easy to use, handy —OPPOSITES difficult, impossible

management ► **noun** ① he's responsible for the management of the firm **ADMINISTRATION**, running, managing, organization, charge, care, direction, leadership, control, governing, governance, ruling, command, superintendence, supervision, overseeing, conduct, handling, guidance, operation. ② workers are in dispute with the management: **MANAGERS**, employers, directors, board of directors, board, directorate, executives, administrators, administration, owners, proprietors, *informal* bosses, top brass.

manager ► **noun** ① the works manager: **EXECUTIVE**, head of department, line manager, supervisor, principal, administrator, head, director, managing director, employer, superintendent, foreman, forewoman, overseer; proprietor; *informal* boss, chief, head honcho, governor; *Brit informal* gaffer, *guy*'nor. ② the band's manager: **ORGANIZER**, controller, comptroller, impresario.

mandate ► **noun** ① he called an election to seek a mandate for his policies: **AUTHORITY**, approval, acceptance, ratification, endorsement, sanction, authorization ② a mandate from the UN: **INSTRUCTION**, directive, decree, command, order, injunction, edict, charge, commission, bidding, ruling, fiat, *formal* ordinance

mandatory ► **adjective** **OBLIGATORY**, compulsory, binding, required, requisite, necessary, essential, imperative —OPPOSITES optional.

manful ► **adjective** **BRAVE**, courageous, bold, plucky, gallant, manly, heroic, intrepid, fearless, stout-hearted, valiant, valorous, dauntless, doughty, resolute, with gritted teeth, determined; *informal* gutsy, spunky —OPPOSITES cowardly.

manfully ► **adverb** **BRAVELY**, courageously, boldly, gallantly, pluckily, heroically, intrepidly, fearlessly, valiantly, dauntlessly, resolutely, determinedly, hard, strongly, vigorously, with might and main, like a Trojan, with all one's strength, to the best of one's abilities, as best one can, desperately

mange ► **noun** **SCABIES**, scab, rash, eruption, skin infection

manger ► **noun** **TROUGH**, feeding trough, fodder rack, feeder, crib

mangle ► **verb** ① the bodies were mangled beyond recognition **MUTILATE**, maim, disfigure, damage, injure, crush, hack, cut up, lacerate, tear apart, butcher, maul ② he's mangling the English language **SPOIL**, ruin, mar, mutilate, make a mess of, wreck, *informal* murder, make a hash of, butcher

mangy ► **adjective** ① a mangy cat **SCABBY**, scaly, scabious, diseased ② a mangy old armchair **SCRUFFY**, moth-eaten, shabby, worn, dirty, squalid, sleazy, seedy, *informal* tatty, the worse for wear, scuzzy, *Brit informal* grotty.

manhandle ► **verb** ① he was manhandled by a gang of youths **PUSH**, shove, jostle, hustle, maltreat, ill-treat, mistreat, maul, molest, *informal* paw, rough up, *N Amer informal* roust. ② we manhandled the piano down the stairs **HEAVE**, haul, push, shove, pull, tug, drag, lug, carry, lift, manoeuvre; *informal* hump.

manhood ► **noun** ① the transition from boyhood to manhood **MATURITY**, sexual maturity, adulthood ② an insult to his manhood **VIRILITY**, manliness, machismo, masculinity, maleness, mettle, spirit, strength, fortitude, determination, bravery, courage, intrepidity, valour, heroism, boldness

mania ► **noun** ① fits of mania. **MADNESS**, derangement, dementia, insanity, lunacy, psychosis, mental illness; delirium, frenzy, hysteria, raving, wildness ② his mania for gadgets: **OBSESSION**, compulsion, fixation, fetish, fascination, preoccupation, passion, enthusiasm, desire, urge, craving; craze, fad, rage; *informal* thing, yen.

maniac ► **noun** ① a homicidal maniac **LUNATIC**, madman, madwoman, psychopath; *informal* loony, fruitcake, nutcase, nut, psycho, head case, headbanger, sicko; *Brit informal* nutter; *N Amer informal* screwball, crazy, meshuggener. ② (informal) a football maniac **ENTHUSIAST**, fan, devotee, aficionado; *informal* freak, fiend, fanatic, nut, buff, addict.

manic ▶ **adjective** ① *a manic grin* MAD, insane, deranged, demented, maniacal, lunatic, wild, crazed, demonic, hysterical, raving, unhinged, unbalanced, *informal* crazy ② *manic activity* FRENZIED, feverish, frenetic, hectic, intense, *informal* hyper, mad
-OPPOSITES sane, calm

manifest ▶ **verb** ① *she manifested signs of depression* DISPLAY, show, exhibit, demonstrate, betray, present, reveal, formal *evinced* ② *strikes manifest had industrial relations* BE EVIDENCE OF, be a sign of, indicate, show, attest, reflect, bespeak, prove, establish, evidence, substantiate, corroborate, confirm, *poetic/literary* betoken
-OPPOSITES hide, inask

▶ **adjective** *his manifest lack of interest* OBVIOUS, clear, plain, apparent, evident, patent, palpable, distinct, definite, blatant, overt, glaring, barefaced, explicit, transparent, conspicuous, undisguised, unmistakable, noticeable, perceptible, visible, recognizable
-OPPOSITES secret

manifestation ▶ **noun** ① *the manifestation of anxiety* DISPLAY, demonstration, show, exhibition, presentation ② *manifestations of global warming* SIGN, indication, evidence, token, symptom, testimony, proof, substantiation, mark, reflection, example, instance ③ *a supernatural manifestation* APPARITION, appearance, materialization, visitation

manifesto ▶ **noun** POLICY STATEMENT, mission statement, platform, programme, declaration, proclamation, pronouncement, announcement

manifold ▶ **adjective** MANY, numerous, multiple, multifarious, legion, diverse, various, several, varied, different, miscellaneous, assorted, sundry, *poetic/literary* myriad, divers

manikin ▶ **noun** MIDGET, dwarf, homunculus, pygmy, Tom Thumb

manipulate ▶ **verb** ① *he manipulated some knobs and levers* OPERATE, work, turn, pull ② *she manipulated the muscles of his back* MASSAGE, rub, knead, feel, palpate ③ *the government tried to manipulate the situation* CONTROL, influence, use/turn to one's advantage, exploit, manoeuvre, engineer, steer, direct, twist someone round one's little finger ④ *they accused him of manipulating the data* FALSIFY, rig, distort, alter, change, doctor, massage, juggle, tamper with, tinker with, interfere with, misrepresent, *informal* cook, fiddle

manipulative ▶ **adjective** SCHEMING, calculating, cunning, crafty, wily, shrewd, devious, designing, conniving, Machiavellian, artful, guileful, slippery, slick, sly, unscrupulous, disingenuous; *informal* foxy

manipulator ▶ **noun** EXPLOITER, user, manoeuvrer, conniver, puppet master, wheeler-dealer; *informal* operator, thimble-rigger

mankind ▶ **noun** THE HUMAN RACE, man, humanity, human beings, humans, Homo sapiens, humankind, people, men and women

manly ▶ **adjective** ① *his manly physique* VIRILE, masculine, strong, all-male, muscular, muscly, strapping, well built, sturdy, robust, rugged, tough, powerful, brawny, red-blooded, vigorous; *informal* hunky. ② *their manly deeds* BRAVE, courageous, bold, valiant, valorous, fearless, plucky, macho, manful, intrepid, daring, heroic, lionhearted, gallant, chivalrous, swashbuck-

ling, adventurous, stout-hearted, dauntless, doughty, resolute, determined, stalwart, *informal* gutsy, spunky

-OPPOSITES effeminate, cowardly

man-made ▶ **adjective** ARTIFICIAL, synthetic, manufactured, imitation, ersatz, simulated, mock, fake, plastic
-OPPOSITES natural, real

mannequin ▶ **noun** ① *mannequins in a shop window* DUMMY, model, figure ② *mannequins on the catwalk* MODEL, fashion model, supermodel, *informal* clothes horse

manner ▶ **noun** ① *it was dealt with in a very efficient manner* WAY, fashion, mode, means, method, system, style, approach, technique, procedure, process, methodology, modus operandi, form ② (*archaic*) *what manner of person is he?* KIND, sort, type, variety, nature, breed, brand, stamp, class, category, genre, order ③ *her rather unfriendly manner* DEMEANOUR, air, aspect, attitude, bearing, cast, behaviour, conduct, mien, formal *comportment* ④ *the life and manners of Victorian society* CUSTOMS, habits, ways, practices, conventions, usages ⑤ *it's bad manners to stare* BEHAVIOUR, conduct, way of behaving, form ⑥ *you ought to teach him some manners* CORRECT BEHAVIOUR, etiquette, social graces, good form, protocol, politeness, decorum, propriety, gentility, civility, Ps and Qs, breeding, *informal* the done thing, *archaic* conveniences

mannered ▶ **adjective** AFFECTED, pretentious, unnatural, artificial, contrived, stilted, stiff, forced, put-on, theatrical, precious, stagy, camp, *informal* pseudo
-OPPOSITES natural

mannerism ▶ **noun** IDIOSYNCRASY, quirk, oddity, foible, trait, peculiarity, habit, characteristic

mannerly ▶ **adjective**. See POLITE sense 1

mannish ▶ **adjective** UNFEMININE, unwomanly, masculine, unladylike, Amazonian, *informal* butch
-OPPOSITES feminine, girlish

manoeuvre ▶ **verb** ① *he manoeuvred the car into the space* STEER, guide, drive, negotiate, navigate, pilot, direct, manipulate, move, work, jockey ② *he manoeuvred things to suit himself* MANIPULATE, contrive, manage, engineer, devise, plan, fix, organize, arrange, set up, orchestrate, choreograph, stage-manage, *informal* wangle ③ *he began manoeuvring for the party leadership* INTRIGUE, plot, scheme, plan, lay plans, conspire, pull strings

▶ **noun** ① *a tricky parking manoeuvre* OPERATION, exercise, activity, move, movement, action ② *diplomatic manoeuvres* STRATAGEM, tactic, gambit, ploy, trick, dodge, ruse, plan, scheme, operation, device, plot, machination, artifice, subterfuge, intrigue ③ *military manoeuvres* TRAINING EXERCISES, exercises, war games, operations

manse ▶ **noun** MINISTER'S HOUSE, vicarage, parsonage, rectory, deanery

manservant ▶ **noun** VALET, attendant, retainer, equerry, gentleman's gentleman, man, Jeeves, steward, butler, footman, flunkie, page, houseboy, lackey; *N. Amer.* houseman; *Military, dated* batman



mansion ▶ **noun** STATELY HOME, hall, seat, manor, manor house, country house, *informal* palace, pile, *formal* residence
—OPPOSITES *hovel*

mantle ▶ **noun** ① a dark green velvet mantle CLOAK, cape, shawl, wrap, stole; *historical* pelisse ② a thick mantle of snow. COVERING, layer, blanket, sheet, veil, curtain, canopy, cover, cloak, pall, shroud ③ the mantle of leadership ROLE, burden, onus, duty, responsibility

▶ **verb** heavy mists mantled the forest COVER, envelop, veil, cloak, curtain, shroud, swathe, wrap, blanket, conceal, hide, disguise, mask, obscure, surround, clothe, *poetic/literary* enshroud.

manual ▶ **adjective** ① manual work: DONE WITH ONE'S HANDS, labouring, physical, blue-collar ② a manual typewriter HAND-OPERATED, hand, non-automatic

▶ **noun** a training manual HANDBOOK, instruction book, instructions, guide, companion, ABC, guidebook, *informal* bible

manufacture ▶ **verb** ① the company manufactures laser printers. MAKE, produce, mass-produce, build, construct, assemble, put together, create, fabricate, prefabricate, turn out, process, engineer ② a story manufactured by the press MAKE UP, invent, fabricate, concoct, hatch, dream up, think up, trump up, devise, formulate, frame, contrive; *informal* cook up

▶ **noun** the manufacture of aircraft engines PRODUCTION, making, manufacturing, mass-production, construction, building, assembly, creation, fabrication, prefabrication, processing.

manufacturer ▶ **noun** MAKER, producer, builder, constructor, creator, factory owner, industrialist, captain/baron of industry.

manure ▶ **noun** DUNG, muck, excrement, droppings, ordure, guano, cowpats, fertilizer, *N Amer informal* cow chips, horse apples

manuscript ▶ **noun** DOCUMENT, text, script, paper, typescript; codex, palimpsest, scroll; autograph, holograph

many ▶ **determiner & adjective** ① many animals were killed NUMEROUS, a great/good deal of, a lot of, plenty of, countless, innumerable, scores of, crowds of, droves of, an army of, a horde of, a multitude of, a multiplicity of, multitudinous, multiple, untold, several, various, sundry, diverse, assorted, multifarious, copious, abundant, profuse, an abundance of, a profusion of; frequent; *informal* lots of, umpteen, loads of, masses of, stacks of, scads of, heaps of, piles of, bags of, tons of, oodles of, dozens of, hundreds of, thousands of, millions of, billions of, zillions of, a slew of, more — than one can shake a stick at; *Brit informal* a shedload of; *N Amer informal* gazillions of; *Austral/NZ informal* a swag of; *poetic/literary* myriad, divers. ② sacrificing the individual for the sake of the many THE PEOPLE, the common people, the masses, the multitude, the populace, the public, the rank and file; *derogatory* the hoi polloi, the common herd, the mob, the proletariat, the riff-raff, the great unwashed, the proles.

—RELATED TERMS multi-, poly-.

—OPPOSITES few.

map ▶ **noun** PLAN, chart, cartogram; road map, A to Z, street plan, guide; atlas, globe; sketch

map, relief map, contour map; Mercator projection, Peters projection; *N Amer* plat, plot.

—RELATED TERMS cartography.

▶ **verb** the region was mapped from the air CHART, plot, delineate, draw, depict, portray

■ **map something out** OUTLINE, set out, lay out, sketch out, trace out, rough out, block out, delineate, detail, draw up, formulate, work out, frame, draft, plan, plot out, arrange, design, programme

mar ▶ **verb** ① an ugly scar marred his features SPOIL, impair, disfigure, detract from, blemish, scar, mutilate, deface, deform ② the celebrations were marred by violence SPOIL, ruin, impair, damage, wreck, harm, hurt, blight, taint, tarnish, sully, stain, pollute, *informal* foul up, *formal* vitiate

—OPPOSITES enhance.

marauder ▶ **noun** RAIDER, plunderer, pillager, looter, robber, pirate, freebooter, bandit, highwayman, rustler, *poetic/literary* brigand; *archaic* buccaneer, corsair, reaver, cateran, mossstrooper

marauding ▶ **adjective** PREDATORY, rapacious, thieving, plundering, pillaging, looting, freebooting, piratical

march ▶ **verb** ① the men marched past STRIDE, walk, troop, step, pace, tread, footslog, slog, tramp, hike, trudge, parade, file, process; *Brit informal* yomp ② she marched in without even knocking STALK, stride, strut, flounce, storm, stomp, sweep ③ time marches on: ADVANCE, progress, move on, roll on.

▶ **noun** ① a 20-mile march: HIKE, trek, tramp, slog, footslog, walk, route march, forced march; *Brit informal* yomp ② police sought to ban the march PARADE, procession, march past, cortège, demonstration, *informal* demo ③ the march of technology: PROGRESS, advance, progression, development, evolution, passage

marches ▶ **plural noun** the Welsh marches BORDERS, boundaries, borderlands, frontiers, *historical* marcher lands

margin ▶ **noun** ① the margin of the lake: EDGE, side, verge, border, perimeter, brink, brim, rim, fringe, boundary, limits, periphery, bound, extremity, *poetic/literary* marge, bourn, skurt. ② there's no margin for error: LEEWAY, latitude, scope, room, room for manoeuvre, space, allowance, extra, surplus ③ they won by a narrow margin: GAP, majority, amount, difference

marginal ▶ **adjective** ① the difference is marginal SLIGHT, small, tiny, minute, insignificant, minimal, negligible ② a very marginal case. BORDERLINE, disputable, questionable, doubtful

marijuana ▶ **noun** CANNABIS, hashish, bhang, hemp, kif, ganja, sinsemilla, skunkweed; *informal* dope, hash, grass, pot, blow, draw, the weed, skunk; *Brit informal* wacky baccy; *N Amer informal* locoweed.

marinate ▶ **verb** SOUSE, soak, steep, immerse, marinade.

marine ▶ **adjective** ① marine plants: SEAWATER, sea, saltwater, oceanic; aquatic; *technical* pelagic, thalassic. ② a marine insurance company: MARITIME, nautical, naval, seafaring, seagoing, ocean-going.

mariner ▶ **noun** SAILOR, seaman, seafarer; *informal* jack tar, tar, sea dog, salt, bluejacket, mate-lot; *N Amer informal* shellback.



marital ▶ **adjective** MATRIMONIAL, married, wedded, conjugal, nuptial, marriage, wedding; *Law* spousal; *poetic/literary* connubial, epithalamic.

maritime ▶ **adjective** ① *maritime law*: NAVAL, marine, nautical, seafaring, seagoing, sea, ocean-going. ② *maritime regions* COASTAL, sea-side, littoral

mark ▶ **noun** ① a dirty mark BLEMISH, streak, spot, fleck, dot, blot, stain, smear, speck, speckle, blotch, smudge, smut, fingermark, fingerprint, bruise, discoloration, birthmark, *informal* splotch, spodge, *technical* stigma, *poetic/literary* smirch ② a punctuation mark SYMBOL, sign, character; diacritic ③ books bearing the mark of a well-known bookseller LOGO, seal, stamp, imprint, symbol, emblem, device, insignia, badge, brand, trademark, monogram, hallmark, logo-type, watermark ④ unemployment passed the three million mark: POINT, level, stage, degree ⑤ a mark of respect: SIGN, token, symbol, indication, badge, emblem, symptom, evidence, proof ⑥ the war left its mark on him IMPRESSION, imprint, traces, effect, impact, influence ⑦ the mark of a civilized society CHARACTERISTIC, feature, trait, attribute, quality, hallmark, badge, stamp, property, indicator ⑧ he got good marks for maths GRADE, grading, rating, score, percentage ⑨ the bullet missed its mark TARGET, goal, aim, bullseye, objective, object, end

▶ **verb** ① be careful not to mark the paintwork. DIS COLOUR, stain, smear, smudge, streak, blotch, blemish, dirty, pockmark, bruise, *informal* splotch, spodge, *poetic/literary* smirch ② her possessions were clearly marked PUT ONE'S NAME ON, name, initial, label, hallmark, watermark, brand ③ I've marked the relevant passages INDICATE, label, flag, tick, show, identify, designate, delineate, denote ④ a festival to mark the town's 200th anniversary CELEBRATE, observe, recognize, acknowledge, keep, honour, solemnize, pay tribute to, salute, commemorate, remember, memorialize ⑤ the incidents marked a new phase in their campaign REPRESENT, signify, be a sign of, indicate, herald ⑥ his style is marked by simplicity and concision. CHARACTERIZE, distinguish, identify, typify, brand, signalize, stamp ⑦ I have a pile of essays to mark ASSESS, evaluate, appraise, correct; *N Amer* grade ⑧ it'll cause trouble, you mark my words! TAKE HEED OF, pay heed to, heed, listen to, take note of, pay attention to, attend to, note, mind, bear in mind, take into consideration

■ **make one's mark** BE SUCCESSFUL, distinguish oneself, succeed, be a success, prosper, get ahead/on, make good; *informal* make it, make the grade, find a place in the sun.

■ **mark something down** REDUCE, decrease, lower, cut, put down, discount, *informal* slash

■ **mark someone out** ① his honesty marked him out from the rest: SET APART, separate, single out, differentiate, distinguish. ② she is marked out for fame: DESTINE, ordain, predestine, preordain.

■ **mark something up** INCREASE, raise, up, put up, hike (up), escalate, *informal* jack up.

■ **of mark** (*dated*) IMPORTANT, distinguished, eminent, pre-eminent, prominent, notable, famous, great, prestigious, of importance, of consequence, of note, of high standing, of distinction.

■ **quick off the mark** ALERT, quick, quick-witted, bright, clever, perceptive, sharp, sharp-

witted, observant, wide awake, on one's toes; *informal* on the ball, quick on the uptake.

■ **wide of the mark** INACCURATE, incorrect, wrong, erroneous, off target, off beam, out, mistaken, misguided, misinformed

marked ▶ **adjective** NOTICEABLE, pronounced, decided, distinct, striking, clear, glaring, blatant, unmistakable, obvious, plain, manifest, patent, palpable, prominent, signal, significant, conspicuous, notable, recognizable, identifiable, distinguishable, discernible, apparent, evident; written all over one
-OPPOSITES imperceptible.

market ▶ **noun** ① SHOPPING CENTRE, marketplace, mart, flea market, bazaar, souk, fair, *archaic* emporium ② there's no market for such goods DEMAND, call, want, desire, need, requirement ③ the market is sluggish TRADE, trading, business, commerce, buying and selling, dealing

▶ **verb** the product was marketed worldwide SELL, retail, vend, merchandise, trade, peddle, hawk, advertise, promote

■ **on the market** ON SALE, (up) for sale, on offer, available, obtainable, *N Amer* on the block.

marksman, markswoman ▶ **noun** SNIPER, sharpshooter, good shot, *informal* crack shot, *N Amer* *informal* deadeye, shootist

maroon ▶ **verb** STRAND, cast away, cast ashore, abandon, leave behind, leave, leave in the lurch, desert, *informal* leave high and dry

marriage ▶ **noun** ① a proposal of marriage (HOLY) MATRIMONY, wedlock ② the marriage took place at St Margaret's WEDDING, wedding ceremony, marriage ceremony, nuptials, union, *archaic* espousal ③ a marriage of jazz, pop, and gospel UNION, alliance, fusion, mixture, mix, blend, amalgamation, combination, merger
-RELATED TERMS conjugal, marital, matrimonial

-OPPOSITES divorce, separation.

married ▶ **adjective** ① a married couple: WEDDED, wed, *informal* spliced, hitched ② married bliss MARITAL, matrimonial, conjugal, nuptial, *Law* spousal, *poetic/literary* connubial
-OPPOSITES single

marrow ▶ **noun** the marrow of his statement ESSENCE, core, nucleus, pith, kernel, heart, quintessence, gist, substance, sum and substance, meat, nub, *informal* nitty-gritty.

marry ▶ **verb** ① the couple married last year: GET/BE MARRIED, wed, be wed, become man and wife, plight/pledge one's troth, *informal* tie the knot, walk down the aisle, take the plunge, get spliced, get hitched, say 'I do'. ② John wanted to marry her: WED, take to wife/husband; *informal* make an honest woman of; *archaic* espouse ③ the show marries poetry with art: JOIN, unite, combine, fuse, mix, blend, merge, amalgamate, link, connect, couple, knit, yoke
-OPPOSITES divorce, separate.

marsh ▶ **noun** SWAMP, marshland, bog, peat bog, swampland, morass, mire, quagmire, slough, fen, fenland, wetland; *N Amer* bayou; *Scottish & N English* moss; *archaic* quag.

marshal ▶ **verb** ① the king marshalled an army: ASSEMBLE, gather together, collect, muster, call together, draw up, line up, align, array, organize, group, arrange, deploy, position, order, dis-



pose; mobilize, rally, round up. ② guests were marshalled to their seats USHER, guide, escort, conduct, lead, shepherd, steer, take.

marshy ▶ adjective BOGGY, swampy, muddy, squelchy, soggy, waterlogged, miry, fenny; *Scottish & N English* mossy; *Ecology* paludal
—OPPOSITES dry, firm.

marsupial ▶ noun. See list

Marsupials

antechinus	opossum
bandicoot	pademelon
bettong	phalanger
bilby	phascogale
brush-tail	planigale
cuscus	possum
dasyure	potoroo
dibbler	pygmy possum
dunnart	quokka
flying phalanger	quoll
glider	rat kangaroo
honey possum	ringtail
kangaroo	rock wallaby
koala	sminthopsis
kowari	Tasmanian devil
kultarr	thylacine (or Tasmanian tiger/wolf)
marsupial cat	Virginia opossum
marsupial mole	wallaby
marsupial mouse	wallaroo
marsupial rat	wombat
mouse opossum	yapok
mulgara	
numbat	

martial ▶ adjective MILITARY, soldierly, soldier-like, army, naval, warlike, fighting, combative, militaristic, *informal* gung-ho. See list

Martial Arts and Combat Sports

aikido	ju-jitsu	sumo
ba gua	karate	wrestling
boxing	kendo	tae kwon do
capoeira	kick-boxing	t'ai chi chu'an
fencing	kung fu	tang soo do
jousting	pa-kua	Thai boxing
judo	Silat	wrestling

martinet ▶ noun DISCIPLINARIAN, slave-driver, stickler for discipline, (hard) taskmaster, authoritarian, tyrant.

martyr ▶ verb PUT TO DEATH, kill, martyrize, burn, burn at the stake, immolate, stone to death, throw to the lions, crucify

martyrdom ▶ noun DEATH, suffering, torture, torment, agony, ordeal; killing, sacrifice, crucifixion, immolation, burning, auto-da-fé, *Christianity* Passion.

marvel ▶ verb she marvelled at their courage: BE AMAZED, be astonished, be surprised, be awed, stand in awe, wonder; stare, gape, goggle, not believe one's eyes/ears, be dumbfounded, *informal* be flabbergasted.

▶ noun the marvels of technology: WONDER, miracle, sensation, spectacle, phenomenon; *informal* something else, something to shout about, eye-opener.

marvellous ▶ adjective ① his solo climb was marvellous AMAZING, astounding, astonishing, awesome, breathtaking, sensational, remarkable, spectacular, stupendous, staggering, stunning; phenomenal, prodigious, miraculous, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable, poetic/literary wondrous ② marvellous weather EXCELLENT, splendid, wonderful, magnificent, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful, too good to be true, *informal* super, great, amazing, fantastic, terrific, tremendous, sensational, heavenly, divine, gorgeous, grand, fabulous, fab, awesome, to die for, magic, ace, wicked, mind-blowing, far out, out of this world, *Brit informal* smashing, brilliant, brill, *N Amer informal* boss, *Austral/NZ informal* beaut, bonzer, *Brit informal, dated* champion, wizard, corking, ripping, spiffing, top-hole, *N Amer informal, dated* swell
—OPPOSITES commonplace, awful

masculine ▶ adjective ① a masculine trait MALE, man's, men's, male-oriented ② a powerfully masculine man VIRILE, macho, manly, all-male, muscular, muscly, strong, strapping, well built, rugged, robust, brawny, powerful, red-blooded, vigorous, *informal* hunky ③ a rather masculine woman MANNISH, unfeminine, unwomanly, unladylike, Amazonian, *informal* butch
—OPPOSITES feminine, effeminate

masculinity ▶ noun VIRILITY, manliness, maleness, machismo, vigour, strength, muscularity, ruggedness, robustness

mash ▶ verb mash the potatoes PULP, crush, purée, cream, smash, squash, pound, beat.

▶ noun first pound the garlic to a mash PULP, purée, mush, paste

mask ▶ noun ① she wore a mask to conceal her face DISGUISE, false face, *historical* domino, visor, *archaic* vizard ② he dropped his mask of good humour PRETENCE, semblance, veil, screen, front, false front, facade, veneer, blind, false colours, disguise, guise, concealment, cover, cover-up, cloak, camouflage

▶ verb poplar trees masked the factory HIDE, conceal, disguise, cover up, obscure, screen, cloak, camouflage, veil

masquerade ▶ noun ① a grand masquerade MASKED BALL, masque, fancy-dress party ② he couldn't keep up the masquerade much longer. PRETENCE, deception, pose, act, front, facade, disguise, dissimulation, cover-up, bluff, play-acting, make-believe, *informal* put-on

▶ verb a woman masquerading as a man PRETEND TO BE, pose as, pass oneself off as, impersonate, disguise oneself as, *formal* personate

Mass ▶ noun EUCHARIST, Holy Communion, Communion, the Lord's Supper.

mass ▶ noun ① a soggy mass of fallen leaves PILE, heap, accumulation, aggregation, accretion, concretion, build-up ② a mass of cyclists CROWD, horde, large group, throng, host, troop, army, herd, flock, drove, swarm, mob, pack, press, crush, flood, multitude. ③ the mass of the population: MAJORITY, greater part/number, best/better part, major part, most, bulk, main body, lion's share. ④ THE COMMON PEOPLE, the populace, the public, the people, the rank and file, the crowd, the third estate; *derogatory* the hoi polloi, the mob, the proletariat, the common herd, the great unwashed. ⑤ (*informal*) masses of food. See LOT pronoun.

m

► **adjective** *mass hysteria* WIDESPREAD, general, wholesale, universal, large-scale, extensive, pandemic

► **verb** *they began massing troops in the region* ASSEMBLE, marshal, gather together, muster, round up, mobilize, rally

massacre ► **noun** ① *a cold-blooded massacre of innocent civilians* SLAUGHTER, wholesale/mass slaughter, indiscriminate killing, mass murder, mass execution, annihilation, liquidation, decimation, extermination, carnage, butchery, bloodbath, bloodletting, pogrom, genocide, ethnic cleansing, holocaust, Shoah, night of the long knives, *poetic/literary* slaying ② (*informal*) *the match was an 8-0 massacre* See ROUT **noun** sense 2

► **verb** ① *thousands were brutally massacred* SLAUGHTER, butcher, murder, kill, annihilate, exterminate, execute, liquidate, eliminate, decimate, wipe out, mow down, cut down, put to the sword, put to death, *poetic/literary* slay ② (*informal*) *they were massacred in the final* See TROUNCE

massage ► **noun** RUB, rub-down, rubbing, kneading, palpation, manipulation, pummeling, shiatsu, reflexology, acupressure, hydro-massage, Swedish massage, osteopathy, effleurage, tapotement, Rolting

► **verb** ① *he massaged her tired muscles* RUB, knead, palpate, manipulate, pummel, work ② *the statistics have been massaged* ALTER, tamper with, manipulate, doctor, falsify, juggle, fiddle with, tinker with, distort, change, rig, interfere with, misrepresent, *informal* fix, cook, fiddle

massive ► **adjective** HUGE, enormous, vast, immense, large, big, mighty, great, colossal, tremendous, prodigious, gigantic, gargantuan, mammoth, monstrous, monumental, giant, towering, elephantine, mountainous, titanic, epic, Herculean, Brobdingnagian, *informal* monster, jumbo, mega, whopping, humongous, hulking, bumper, astronomical, *Brit informal* whacking, ginormous
-OPPOSITES tiny

mast ► **noun** ① *a ship's mast* spar, boom, yard, gaff, foremast, mainmast, topmast, mizzenmast, mizzen, royal mast ② *the mast on top of the building* FLAGPOLE, flagstaff, pole, post, rod, upright; aerial, transmitter, pylon

master ► **noun** ① (*historical*) *he acceded to his master's wishes* LORD, overlord, lord and master, ruler, sovereign, monarch, liege (lord), suzerain ② *the dog's master* OWNER, keeper ③ *a chess master*: EXPERT, adept, genius, past master, maestro, virtuoso, professional, doyen, authority; *informal* ace, pro, wizard, whizz, hotshot, *Brit informal* dab hand; *N Amer informal* maven, crack-erjack ④ *the master of the ship*: CAPTAIN, commander, *informal* skipper ⑤ *the geography master*: TEACHER, schoolteacher, schoolmaster, tutor, instructor, preceptor, *formal* pedagogue ⑥ *their spiritual master*: GURU, teacher, leader, guide, mentor; swami, Maharishi; Roshi.
-OPPOSITES servant, amateur, pupil.

► **verb** ① *I managed to master my fears*: OVERCOME, conquer, beat, quell, quash, suppress, control, overpower, triumph over, subdue, vanquish, subjugate, prevail over, govern, curb, check, bridle, tame, defeat, get the better of, get a grip on, get over; *informal* lick ② *it took ages to master the technique*: LEARN, become proficient in, know inside out, know backwards; pick up,

grasp, understand, *informal* get the hang of.

► **adjective** ① *a master craftsman* EXPERT, adept, proficient, skilled, skilful, deft, dexterous, adroit, practised, experienced, masterly, accomplished, complete, demon, brilliant, *informal* crack, ace, mean, wizard, *N Amer informal* crack-erjack ② *the master bedroom*: PRINCIPAL, main, chief, biggest

masterful ► **adjective** ① *a masterful man*: COM-MANDING, powerful, imposing, magisterial, lordly, authoritative, dominating, domineering, overbearing, overweening, imperious ② *their masterful handling of the situation*: EXPERT, adept, clever, masterly, skilful, skilled, adroit, proficient, deft, dexterous, accomplished, polished, consummate, *informal* crack, ace
-OPPOSITES weak, inept.

masterly ► **adjective**. See MASTERFUL sense 2

mastermind ► **verb** *he masterminded the whole campaign* PLAN, control, direct, be in charge of, run, conduct, organize, arrange, preside over, orchestrate, stage-manage, engineer, manage, coordinate, conceive, devise, originate, initiate, think up, frame, hatch, come up with, *informal* be the brains behind

► **noun** *the mastermind behind the project* GENIUS, mind, intellect, author, architect, organizer, originator, prime mover, initiator, inventor, *informal* brain, brains, bright spark

masterpiece ► **noun** CHEF-D'ŒUVRE, pièce de résistance, masterwork, magnum opus, finest/best work, tour de force

master stroke ► **noun** STROKE OF GENIUS, coup, triumph, coup de maître, tour de force

mastery ► **noun** ① *her mastery of the language* PROFICIENCY, ability, capability, knowledge, understanding, comprehension, familiarity, command, grasp, grip ② *they played with tactical mastery* SKILL, skilfulness, expertise, dexterity, finesse, adroitness, virtuosity, prowess, deftness, proficiency, *informal* know-how. ③ *man's mastery over nature* CONTROL, domination, command, ascendancy, supremacy, pre-eminence, superiority; triumph, victory, the upper hand, the whip hand, rule, government, power, sway, authority, jurisdiction, dominion, sovereignty

masticate ► **verb** CHEW, munch, champ, chomp, crunch, eat; ruminate, chew the cud, *formal* manducate

mat ► **noun** ① *the hall mat* DOORMAT, welcome mat; *N Amer* floorcloth. See list at CARPET. ② *he placed his glass on the mat*: COASTER, beer mat, doily; table mat, place mat; *Brit* drip mat. ③ *a thick mat of hair* MASS, tangle, knot, mop, thatch, shock, mane.

► **verb** *his hair was matted with blood*: TANGLE, entangle, knot, ravel, snarl up.

match ► **noun** ① *a football match* | *a boxing match*: CONTEST, competition, game, tournament, tie, cup tie, event, fixture, trial, test, meet, bout, fight; friendly, (local) derby; play-off, replay, rematch; *archaic* tourney. ② *he was no match for the champion*: EQUAL, rival, equivalent, peer, counterpart; *formal* compeer. ③ *the vase was an exact match of the one she already owned*: LOOKALIKE, double, twin, duplicate, mate, fellow, companion, counterpart, pair; replica, copy; *informal* spitting image, spit and image, dead spit, dead ringer. ④ *a love match*: MARRIAGE, betrothal, relationship, partnership,

union

- **verb** ① *the curtains matched the duvet cover* GO WITH, coordinate with, complement, suit, be the same as, be similar to. ② *did their statements match?* CORRESPOND, be in agreement, tally, agree, match up, coincide, accord, conform, square ③ *no one can match him at chess.* EQUAL, be a match for, measure up to, compare with, parallel, be in the same league as, be on a par with, touch, keep pace with, keep up with, emulate, rival, vie with, compete with, contend with, *informal* hold a candle to
 ■ **match up to** MEASURE UP TO, come up to, meet with, be equal to, be as good as, satisfy, fulfil, answer to

matching ► **adjective** CORRESPONDING, equivalent, parallel, analogous, coordinating, complementary, toning, paired, twin, identical, like, like (two) peas in a pod, alike
 —OPPOSITES different, clashing

matchless ► **adjective** INCOMPARABLE, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare/comparison, unparalleled, unequalled, without equal, peerless, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil, unique, consummate, perfect, rare, transcendent, surpassing, *formal* unexampled

matchmaker ► **noun** MARRIAGE BROKER, shadchan, marriage bureau, dating agency, go-between

- mate** ► **noun** ① (*Brit informal*) *he's gone out with his mates* FRIEND, companion, boon companion, intimate, familiar, confidant, playmate, playfellow, schoolmate, classmate, workmate; *informal* pal, chum, *Brit informal* china, mucker, *N English informal* marra, *N Amer informal* buddy, amigo, compadre, homeboy, archaic compeer ② *she's finally found her ideal mate* PARTNER, husband, wife, spouse, lover, live-in lover, significant other, companion, helpmate, helpmeet, consort, *informal* better half, hubby, missus, missis, *Brit informal* other half, dutch, trouble and strife ③ *I can't find the mate to this sock* MATCH, fellow, twin, companion, pair, other half, equivalent ④ *a plumber's mate* ASSISTANT, helper, apprentice
 ► **verb** *pandas rarely mate in captivity* BREED, couple, copulate

material ► **noun** ① *the decomposition of organic material* MATTER, substance, stuff, medium ② *the materials for a new building.* CONSTITUENT, raw material, element, component ③ *cleaning materials* THINGS, items, articles, stuff, necessities; *Brit informal* gubbins ④ *curtain material:* FABRIC, cloth, textiles *See list at FABRIC.* ⑤ *material for a magazine article.* INFORMATION, data, facts, facts and figures, statistics, evidence, details, particulars, background, notes; *informal* info, gen, dope, low-down
 ► **adjective** ① *the material world:* PHYSICAL, corporeal, tangible, non-spiritual, mundane, worldly, earthly, secular, temporal, concrete, real, solid, substantial. ② *she was too fond of material pleasures:* SENSUAL, physical, carnal, corporal, fleshly, bodily. ③ *information that could be material to the inquiry:* RELEVANT, pertinent, applicable, germane; *apropos*, to the point; vital, essential, key. ④ *the storms caused material damage:* SIGNIFICANT, major, important.
 —OPPOSITES spiritual, aesthetic, irrelevant.

materialistic ► **adjective** CONSUMERIST, acquisitive, money-oriented, greedy; worldly, capitalistic, bourgeois.

materialize ► **verb** ① *the forecast investment boom did not materialize* HAPPEN, OCCUR, come about, take place, come into being, transpire, *informal* come off, *formal* eventuate, *poetic/literary* come to pass ② *Harry materialized at the door* APPEAR, turn up, arrive, make/put in an appearance, present oneself/itself, emerge, surface, reveal oneself/itself, show one's face, pop up, *informal* show up, fetch up, pitch up

materially ► **adverb** SIGNIFICANTLY, greatly, much, very much, to a great extent, considerably, substantially, a great deal, appreciably, markedly, fundamentally, seriously, gravely

maternal ► **adjective** ① *her maternal instincts* MOTHERLY, protective, caring, nurturing, loving, devoted, affectionate, fond, warm, tender, gentle, kind, kindly, comforting ② *his maternal grandparents* ON ONE'S MOTHER'S SIDE, on the distaff side

mathematical ► **adjective** ① *mathematical symbols.* ARITHMETICAL, numerical, statistical, algebraic, geometric, trigonometric *See lists here and at SYMBOL* ② *mathematical precision* RIGOROUS, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious, scientific, strict, precise, exact, accurate, pinpoint, correct, careful, unerring

Branches of Mathematics

algebra
 applied mathematics
 arithmetic
 calculus
 catastrophe theory
 chaos theory
 combinatorics
 conics
 differential calculus
 game theory
 geodesy
 geometry

integral calculus
 mechanics
 nomography
 number theory
 numerical analysis
 probability theory
 pure mathematics
 set theory
 statistics
 topology
 trigonometry



matrimonial ► **adjective** MARITAL, conjugal, married, wedded, nuptial, *Law* spousal; *poetic/literary* connubial.

matrimony ► **noun** MARRIAGE, wedlock, union, nuptials
 —OPPOSITES divorce

matted ► **adjective** TANGLED, tangly, knotted, knotty, tousled, dishevelled, uncombed, unkempt, ratty, *black English* natty.

matter ► **noun** ① *decaying vegetable matter* MATERIAL, substance, stuff ② *the heart of the matter* AFFAIR, business, proceeding, situation, circumstance, event, happening, occurrence, incident, episode, experience; subject, topic, issue, question, point, point at issue, case, concern ③ *it is of little matter now.* IMPORTANCE, consequence, significance, note, import, weight, *formal* moment. ④ *what's the matter?* PROBLEM, trouble, difficulty, complication, upset, worry. ⑤ *the matter of the sermon:* CONTENT, subject matter, text, argument, substance. ⑥ *an infected wound full of matter:* PUS, suppuration, purulence, discharge

► **verb** *it doesn't matter what you wear:* BE IMPORTANT, make any/a difference, be of importance,

be of consequence, signify, be relevant, count; *informal* cut any ice

■ **as a matter of fact** ACTUALLY, in (actual) fact, in point of fact, as it happens, really, believe it or not, in reality, in truth, to tell the truth

■ **no matter** IT DOESN'T MATTER, it makes no difference/odds, it's not important, never mind, don't worry about it

matter-of-fact ► **adjective** UNEMOTIONAL, practical, down-to-earth, sensible, realistic, rational, sober, unsentimental, pragmatic, businesslike, commonsensical, level-headed, hard-headed, no-nonsense, factual, literal, straightforward, plain, unembellished, unvarnished, unadorned

mature ► **adjective** ① a mature woman ADULT, grown-up, grown, fully grown, full-grown, of age, fully developed, in one's prime ② he's very mature for his age SENSIBLE, responsible, adult, level-headed, reliable, dependable, wise, discriminating, shrewd, sophisticated ③ mature cheese RIPE, ripened, mellow, ready to eat/drink ④ on mature reflection, he decided not to go CAREFUL, thorough, deep, considered
-OPPOSITES adolescent, childish

► **verb** ① kittens mature when they are about a year old BE FULLY GROWN, be full-grown, come of age, reach adulthood, reach maturity ② he's matured since he left home GROW UP, become more sensible/adult, blossom ③ leave the cheese to mature RIPEN, mellow, age. ④ their friendship didn't have time to mature DEVELOP, grow, evolve, bloom, blossom, flourish, thrive

maturity ► **noun** ① her progress from childhood to maturity ADULTHOOD, majority, coming of age, manhood/womanhood ② he displayed a maturity beyond his years RESPONSIBILITY, sense, level-headedness, wisdom, discrimination, shrewdness, sophistication

maudlin ► **adjective** ① maudlin self-pity SENTIMENTAL, over-sentimental, emotional, overemotional, tearful; *informal* weepy, *formal* lachrymose ② a maudlin ballad MAWKISH, sentimental, over-sentimental, mushy, slushy, sloppy, *Brit* twee, *informal* schmaltzy, cheesy, corny, toe-curling, *Brit* informal soppy, *N Amer* informal cornball, three-hankie

maul ► **verb** ① he had been mauled by a lion SAVAGE, attack, tear to pieces, lacerate, claw, scratch ② she hated being mauled by men MOLEST, feel, fondle, manhandle, *informal* grope, paw, touch up ③ his book was mauled by the critics See CRITICIZE

maunder ► **verb** ① he maundered on about his problems RAMBLE, prattle, blather, blather, rattle, chatter, jabber, babble; *informal* yak, yatter, *Brit* informal rabbit, witter, waffle, natter, chunter ② she maundered across the road. WANDER, drift, meander, amble, potter; *Brit* informal mooch

mausoleum ► **noun** TOMB, sepulchre, crypt, vault, charnel house, burial chamber, catacomb, undercroft

maverick ► **noun** INDIVIDUALIST, nonconformist, free spirit, unorthodox person, original, eccentric, rebel, dissenter, dissident.
-OPPOSITES conformist.

maw ► **noun** MOUTH, jaws, muzzle; throat, gullet; *informal* trap, chops, kisser; *Brit. informal* gob.

mawkish ► **adjective** SENTIMENTAL, over-sentimental, maudlin, mushy, slushy, sloppy, cloying, sickly, saccharine, sugary, syrupy, nauseating, *Brit* twee; *informal* schmaltzy, weepy, cutesy, lovey-dovey, cheesy, corny, sick-making, toe-curling, *Brit* informal soppy, *N Amer* informal cornball, hokey, three-hankie

maxim ► **noun** SAYING, adage, aphorism, proverb, motto, saw, axiom, apophthegm, dictum, precept, epigram, truism, cliché.

maximum ► **adjective** the maximum amount GREATEST, highest, biggest, largest, top, top-most, most, utmost, maximal.

-OPPOSITES minimum

► **noun** production levels are near their maximum UPPER LIMIT, limit, utmost, uttermost, greatest, most, extremity, peak, height, ceiling, top
-OPPOSITES minimum

maybe ► **adverb** PERHAPS, possibly, conceivably, it could be, it is possible, for all one knows, *N English* happen, *poetic/literary* peradventure, perchance

mayhem ► **noun** CHAOS, disorder, havoc, bedlam, pandemonium, tumult, uproar, turmoil, commotion, all hell broken loose, maelstrom, trouble, disturbance, confusion, riot, anarchy, violence, *informal* madhouse

maze ► **noun** LABYRINTH, complex network, warren, web, tangle, jungle, snarl

meadow ► **noun** FIELD, paddock, pasture, pastureland; *poetic/literary* lea, mead

meagre ► **adjective** ① their meagre earnings. IN ADEQUATE, scanty, scant, paltry, limited, restricted, modest, insufficient, sparse, deficient, negligible, skimpy, slender, poor, miserable, pitiful, puny, miserly, niggardly, beggarly, *informal* measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling, *formal* exiguous ② a tall, meagre man THIN, lean, skinny, spare, scrawny, scraggy, gangling, gangly, spindly, stringy, bony, raw-boned, gaunt, underweight, underfed, undernourished, emaciated, skeletal, cadaverous
-OPPOSITES abundant, fat.

meal ► **noun** snack, feast, banquet, *informal* bite (to eat), spread, blowout, feed, *Brit* informal nosh-up; *formal* repast, collation, *poetic/literary* refection See list

-RELATED TERMS prandial

Meals

afternoon tea	cookout cream tea	picnic
banquet	dinner	safari supper
barbecue	evening meal	smorgasbord
braai/vleis	feast	supper
breakfast	finger buffet	takeaway
brunch	fork supper	tapas
buffet	high tea	tea
burgoo	lunch	TV dinner
clambake	luncheon	wedding breakfast
continental breakfast	midday meal	

mean ► **verb** ① flashing lights mean the road is blocked: SIGNIFY, convey, denote, designate, indicate, connote, show, express, spell out; stand for, represent, symbolize; imply, suggest, intimate, hint at, insinuate, drive at, refer to, allude to; *poetic/literary* betoken. ② she didn't mean

to break it. **INTEND**, aim, plan, design, have in mind, contemplate, purpose, propose, set out, aspire, desire, want, wish, expect ① *he was hit by a bullet meant for a soldier*: **INTEND**, design; destine, predestine ② *the closures will mean a rise in unemployment*: **ENTAIL**, involve, necessitate, lead to, result in, give rise to, bring about, cause, engender, produce ③ *this means a lot to me*: **MATTER**, be important, be significant ④ *a red sky in the morning usually means rain*: **PRESAGE**, portend, foretell, augur, promise, foreshadow, herald, signal, bode, *poetic/literary* betoken, foretoken

mean² ▶ **adjective** ① *he's too mean to leave a tip*: **MISERLY**, niggardly, close-fisted, parsimonious, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like, *informal* tight-fisted, stingy, tight, minny, money-grubbing; *N Amer informal* cheap, *formal* penurious, *archaic* near, niggard ② *a mean trick*: **UNKIND**, nasty, unpleasant, spiteful, malicious, unfair, cruel, shabby, foul, despicable, contemptible, obnoxious, vile, odious, loathsome, base, low, *informal* horrible, horrid, hateful, rotten, low-down, *Brit informal* beastly. ③ *the truth was obvious to even the meanest intelligence*: **INFERIOR**, poor, limited, restricted ④ *her flat was mean and cold*: **SQUALID**, shabby, dilapidated, sordid, seedy, slummy, sleazy, insalubrious, wretched, dismal, dingy, miserable, run down, down at heel, *informal* scruffy, scuzzy, crummy, grungy, *Brit informal* grotty ⑤ *a man of mean birth*: **LOWLY**, humble, ordinary, low, low-born, modest, common, base, proletarian, plebeian, obscure, undistinguished, ignoble; *archaic* baseborn ⑥ (*informal*) *he's a mean cook*. See **EXCELLENT**.
-**OPPOSITES** generous, kind, luxurious, noble

mean³ ▶ **noun** a mean between saving and splashing out **MIDDLE COURSE**, middle way, midpoint, happy medium, golden mean, compromise, balance, median, norm, average

▶ **adjective** the mean temperature **AVERAGE**, median, middle, medial, medium, normal, standard

meander ▶ **verb** ① *the river meandered gently*: **ZIGZAG**, wind, twist, turn, curve, curl, bend, snake ② *we meandered along the path*: **STROLL**, saunter, amble, wander, ramble, drift, maunder; *Scottish* stravaig, *informal* mosey, tootle

meandering ▶ **adjective** ① *a meandering stream*: **WINDING**, windy, zigzag, twisting, turning, curving, serpentine, sinuous, twisty ② *meandering reminiscences*: **RAMBLING**, maundering, circuitous, roundabout, digressive, discursive, indirect, tortuous, convoluted
-**OPPOSITES** straight, succinct

meaning ▶ **noun** ① *the meaning of his remark*: **SIGNIFICANCE**, sense, signification, import, gist, thrust, drift, implication, tenor, message, essence, substance, purport, intention. ② *the word has several different meanings*: **DEFINITION**, sense, explanation, denotation, connotation, interpretation. ③ *my life has no meaning*: **VALUE**, validity, worth, consequence, account, use, usefulness, significance, point. ④ *his smile was full of meaning*: **EXPRESSIVENESS**, significance, eloquence, implications, insinuations.
-**RELATED TERMS** semantic.

▶ **adjective** a meaning look. See **MEANINGFUL** sense 3

meaningful ▶ **adjective** ① *a meaningful remark*: **SIGNIFICANT**, relevant, important, consequential, telling, material, valid, worthwhile. ② *a meaningful relationship*: **SINCERE**, deep, serious, in

earnest, significant, important ③ *a meaningful glance*: **EXPRESSIVE**, eloquent, pointed, significant, meaning, pregnant, speaking, telltale, revealing, suggestive.

-**OPPOSITES** inconsequential.

meaningless ▶ **adjective** ① *a jumble of meaningless words*: **UNINTELLIGIBLE**, incomprehensible, incoherent ② *she felt her life was meaningless*: **FUTILE**, pointless, aimless, empty, hollow, vain, purposeless, valueless, useless, of no use, worthless, senseless, trivial, trifling, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential
-**OPPOSITES** worthwhile

means ▶ **plural noun** ① *the best means to achieve your goal*: **METHOD**, way, manner, mode, measure, technique, expedient, agency, medium, instrument, channel, vehicle, avenue, course, process, procedure ② *she doesn't have the means to support herself*: **MONEY**, resources, capital, income, finance, funds, cash, the wherewithal, assets, *informal* dough, bread; *Brit informal* dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks, ackers ③ *a man of means*: **WEALTH**, riches, affluence, substance, fortune, property, money, capital

■ **by all means** **OF COURSE**, certainly, definitely, surely, absolutely, with pleasure; *N Amer informal* sure thing.

■ **by means of** **USING**, utilizing, employing, through, with the help of; as a result of, by dint of, by way of, by virtue of

■ **by no means** **NOT AT ALL**, in no way, not in the least, not in the slightest, not the least bit, not by a long shot, certainly not, absolutely not, definitely not, on no account, under no circumstances, *Brit* not by a long chalk, *informal* no way

meantime ▶ **adverb**. See **MEANWHILE**

meanwhile ▶ **adverb** ① *meanwhile, I'll stay here*: **FOR NOW**, for the moment, for the present, for the time being, meantime, in the meantime, in the interim, in the interval ② *cook for a further half hour; meanwhile, make the stuffing*: **AT THE SAME TIME**, simultaneously, concurrently, the while

measurable ▶ **adjective** ① *a measurable amount*: **QUANTIFIABLE**, assessable, gaugeable, computable ② *a measurable improvement*: **APPRECIABLE**, noticeable, significant, visible, perceptible, definite, obvious

measure ▶ **verb** ① *they measured the length of the room*: **CALCULATE**, compute, count, meter, quantify, weigh, size, evaluate, assess, gauge, plumb, determine ② *I had better measure my words*: **CHOOSE CAREFULLY**, consider, plan. ③ *she did not need to measure herself against some ideal*: **COMPARE WITH**, pit against, set against, test against, judge by.

▶ **noun** ① *cost-cutting measures*: **ACTION**, act, course (of action), deed, proceeding, procedure, step, means, expedient; manoeuvre, initiative, programme, operation. ② *the Senate passed the measure*: **STATUTE**, act, bill, law, legislation. ③ *the original dimensions were in imperial measure*: **SYSTEM**, standard, units, scale. ④ *use a measure to check the size*: **RULER**, tape measure, rule, gauge, meter, scale, level, yardstick. ⑤ *a measure of egg white*: **QUANTITY**, amount, portion. ⑥ *the states retain a measure of independence*: **CERTAIN AMOUNT**, degree; some ⑦ *sales are the measure of the company's success*: **YARDSTICK**, test, standard, barometer, touchstone, litmus test, criterion,

benchmark ① poetic measure METRE, cadence, rhythm, foot

■ **beyond measure** IMMENSELY, extremely, vastly, greatly, excessively, immeasurably, incalculably, infinitely

■ **for good measure** AS A BONUS, as an extra, into the bargain, to boot, in addition, besides, as well.

■ **get/have the measure of** EVALUATE, assess, gauge, judge, weigh up, understand, fathom, read, be wise to, see through, *informal* have someone's number.

■ **measure something off** MARK OFF, measure out, demarcate, delimit, delineate, outline, describe, define, stake out

■ **measure up** PASS MUSTER, match up, come up to standard, fit/fill the bill, be acceptable, *informal* come up to scratch, make the grade, cut the mustard, be up to snuff

■ **measure someone up** EVALUATE, rate, assess, appraise, judge, weigh up, *informal* size up

■ **measure up to** MEET, come up to, equal, match, bear comparison with, be on a level with, achieve, satisfy, fulfil

measured ▶ adjective ① his measured tread REGULAR, steady, even, rhythmic, rhythmical, unfaltering, slow, dignified, stately, sedate, leisurely, unhurried. ② his measured tones THOUGHTFUL, careful, carefully chosen, studied, calculated, planned, considered, deliberate, restrained

measureless ▶ adjective BOUNDLESS, limitless, unlimited, unbounded, untold, immense, vast, endless, inexhaustible, infinite, illimitable, immeasurable, incalculable
-OPPOSITES limited

measurement ▶ noun ① measurement of the effect is difficult QUANTIFICATION, computation, calculation, mensuration, evaluation, assessment, gauging ② all measurements are given in metric form SIZE, dimension, proportions, magnitude, amplitude, mass, bulk, volume, capacity, extent, value, amount, quantity, area, length, height, depth, weight, width, range

meat ▶ noun ① FLESH, animal flesh See lists ② (archaic) meat and drink FOOD, nourishment, sustenance, provisions, rations, fare, food-stuff(s), provender, daily bread, *informal* grub, eats, chow, nosh, *Brit informal* scoff; *formal* comestibles, *dated* victuals; *poetic/literary* viands, *archaic*

Types of Meat

See also SAUSAGE.

bacon	kidney	pork
beef	lamb	poultry
beefburger	lamb's fry	prosciutto
brawn	lights	rabbit
burger	liver	rissole
chicken	luncheon	salt pork
chitterlings	meat	sidemeat
duck	mince	spam
faggot	mutton	(trademark)
game	offal	steak
gammon	oxtail	sweetbread
goose	ox-tongue	tripe
ham	Parma ham	turkey
hamburger	pâté	veal
hasklet	pig's trotters	venison

Cuts or Joints of Meat

back rib	fricandeau	round steak
baron of beef	gigot	rump
belly	hand	saddle
best end	hock	shank
brisket	hough	shoulder
chateaubriand	knuckle	shin
chine	leg	side
chop	loin	silverside
chuck	neck	sirloin
collar	noisettes	skirt
cutlet	porterhouse	spare rib
entrecôte	steak	T-bone
escalope	rack	tenderloin
fillet	rib	topside
flank	riblets	tournedos
fore rib	round	undercut

commons ③ the meat of the matter SUBSTANCE, pith, marrow, heart, kernel, core, nucleus, nub, essence, essentials, gist, fundamentals, basics, *informal* nitty-gritty

meaty ▶ adjective ① a tall, meaty young man BEEFY, brawny, burly, muscular, muscly, powerful, sturdy, strapping, well built, solidly built, thickset, fleshy, stout ② a good, meaty story INTERESTING, thought-provoking, three-dimensional, stimulating, substantial, satisfying, meaningful, deep, profound

mechanical ▶ adjective ① a mechanical device MECHANIZED, machine-driven, automated, automatic, power-driven, robotic ② a mechanical response AUTOMATIC, unthinking, robotic, involuntary, reflex, knee-jerk, habitual, routine, unemotional, unfeeling, lifeless, perfunctory, cursory, careless, casual
-OPPOSITES manual, conscious

mechanism ▶ noun ① an electrical mechanism MACHINE, piece of machinery, appliance, apparatus, device, instrument, contraption, gadget, *informal* gizmo ② the train's safety mechanism MACHINERY, workings, works, movement, action, gears, components ③ a formal mechanism for citizens to lodge complaints PROCEDURE, process, system, operation, method, technique, means, medium, agency, channel

mechanize ▶ verb AUTOMATE, industrialize, motorize, computerize

medal ▶ noun DECORATION, ribbon, star, badge, laurel, palm, award, honour, *Military slang* fruit salad, *Brit informal* gong

meddle ▶ verb ① don't meddle in my affairs INTERFERE, butt in, intrude, intervene, pry, *informal* poke one's nose in, horn in on, muscle in on, snoop, put/stick one's oar in, *N Amer informal* kibitz ② someone had been meddling with her things: FIDDLE, interfere, tamper, tinker, finger, *Brit informal* muck about/around

meddlesome ▶ adjective INTERFERING, meddling, intrusive, prying, busybody; *informal* nosy, nosy-parker.

mediate ▶ verb ① Austria tried to mediate between the belligerents: ARBITRATE, conciliate, moderate, act as peacemaker, make peace; intervene, step in, intercede, act as an intermediary, liaise. ② a tribunal was set up to mediate disputes. RESOLVE, settle, arbitrate in, umpire, reconcile, referee; mend, clear up; *informal* patch up. ③ he



attempted to mediate a solution to the conflict' NEGOTIATE, bring about, effect, formal effectuate

mediation ► noun ARBITRATION, conciliation, reconciliation, intervention, intercession, good offices; negotiation, shuttle diplomacy

mediator ► noun ARBITRATOR, arbiter, negotiator, conciliator, peacemaker, go-between, middleman, intermediary, moderator, intervenor, intercessor, broker, honest broker, liaison officer; umpire, referee, adjudicator, judge

medicinal ► adjective CURATIVE, healing, remedial, therapeutic, restorative, corrective, health-giving, medical, *archaic* sanative

medicine ► noun MEDICATION, medicament, drug, prescription, dose, treatment, remedy,

Types of Medication

abortifacient
addictive
alpha blocker
anaesthetic
analeptic
analgesic
anaphrodisiac
anodyne
anovulant
antacid
anthelmintic
antibiotic
antibacterial
anticholinergic
anticoagulant
anticonvulsant
antidepressant
antidiarrhoeal
antidote
anti-emetic
anti-epileptic
antifungal
antihistamine
anti-infective
anti-inflammatory
antipruritic
antipsychotic
antipyretic
antiscorbutic
antiseptic
antispasmodic
antitussive
antiviral
anxiolytic
aperient
aphrodisiac
appetite suppressant
arsenical
beta blocker
booster
bronchodilator
caustic
calmative
carminative
cathartic
contraceptive
convulsant
counterirritant
curative
cure-all
decongestant
depressant
diaphoretic
digestive
dilator
diuretic
ecbolic
emetic
euphoriant
evacuant
expectorant
febrifuge
fungicide
germicide
immunosuppressive
laxative
lenitive
mercurial
muscle relaxant
narcotic
nerve
neuroleptic
nootropic
painkiller
palliative
placebo
preventive
prophylactic
psychotomimetic
psychotropic
relaxant
resolvent
restorative
roborent
sedative
sleeping draught
sleeping pill
soporific
sorbefacient
spasmodic
steroid
stimulant
stupefascient
sudatory
sudorific
suppressant
sympatholytic
tonic
tranquilliser
vasoconstrictor
vasodilator
verruifuge

Forms of Medication

balsam	eye drops	pastille
cachet	gargle	pessary
caplet	hypodermic	pill
capsule	inhalant	poultice
collyrium	injectable	powder
cream	linctus	rub
draught	lotion	salve
drench	lozenge	suppository
drip	microcapsule	syrette
drops	nasal spray	tablet
ear drops	nebulizer	
enema	ointment	

Branches of Medicine

See also THERAPY.

anaesthesia	oncology
allopathy	ophthalmology
audiology	orthopaedics
cardiology	orthotics
chiropody	paediatrics
community medicine	parasitology
dermatology	pathology
embryology	pharmacology
endocrinology	physiotherapy
epidemiology	plastic surgery
gastroenterology	psychosurgery
geriatrics	proctology
gynaecology	prosthetics
immunology	psychiatry
laryngology	radiology
nephrology	surgery
neurology	therapeutics
neuropathology	trichopathy
neurosurgery	urology
nuclear medicine	venereology
obstetrics	veterinary medicine



Branches of Alternative and Complementary Medicine

See also THERAPY.

acupressure	herbalism
acupuncture	homeopathy
Alexander technique	hydropathy
aromatherapy	iridology
Ayurveda	McTimoney
Bach flower remedies	chiropactic
balneotherapy	nature cure
Bates method	naturopathy
bioenergetics	neurolinguistic programming
bodywork	organotherapy
bush medicine	osteopathy
chiropactic	psionic medicine
colour therapy	radionics
craniosacral therapy	rebirthing
crystal healing/therapy	reiki
electro-acupuncture	reflexology
eurythmics	Rolling
faith healing	shiatsu
Feldenkrais method	thalassotherapy
Gerson therapy	zone therapy
Hay diet	

cure, nostrum, panacea, cure-all, *archaic* physic.
See lists

—RELATED TERMS pharmaceutical.

medieval ▶ **adjective** ① *medieval times* OF THE MIDDLE AGES, of the Dark Ages, Dark-Age, Gothic ② (*informal*) the plumbing's a bit medieval PRIMITIVE, antiquated, archaic, antique, antediluvian, old-fashioned, out of date, outdated, outmoded, anachronistic, passé, obsolete; *informal* out of the ark; *N Amer informal* horse-and-buggy, clunky

—OPPOSITES modern

mediocre ▶ **adjective** ORDINARY, average, middling, middle-of-the-road, uninspired, undistinguished, indifferent, unexceptional, unexciting, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill, pedestrian, prosaic, lacklustre, forgettable, amateur, amateurish, *informal* OK, so-so, (plain) vanilla, fair-to-middling, no great shakes, not up to much, *Brit informal* not much cop, *N Amer informal* bush-league, *NZ informal* half-pie

—OPPOSITES excellent

meditate ▶ **verb** CONTEMPLATE, think, consider, ponder, muse, reflect, deliberate, ruminate, chew the cud, brood, mull over; be in a brown study, be deep/lost in thought, debate with oneself, pray, *informal* put on one's thinking cap, *formal* cogitate

meditation ▶ **noun** CONTEMPLATION, thought, thinking, musing, pondering, consideration, reflection, deliberation, rumination, brooding, reverie, brown study, concentration, prayer, *formal* cogitation

meditative ▶ **adjective** PENSIVE, thoughtful, contemplative, reflective, musing, ruminative, introspective, brooding, deep/lost in thought, in a brown study, prayerful, *formal* cogitative

medium ▶ **noun** ① *using technology as a medium for job creation* MEANS, method, way, form, agency, avenue, channel, vehicle, organ, instrument, mechanism ② *organisms growing in their natural medium* HABITAT, element, environment, surroundings, milieu, setting, conditions ③ *she consulted a medium* SPIRITUALIST, spiritist, necromancer ④ *a happy medium*, MIDDLE WAY, middle course, middle ground, middle, mean, median, midpoint; compromise, golden mean.

▶ **adjective** *medium height* AVERAGE, middling, medium-sized, middle-sized, moderate, normal, standard

medley ▶ **noun** ASSORTMENT, miscellany, mixture, melange, variety, mixed bag, mix, collection, selection, pot-pourri, patchwork; motley collection, ragbag, gallimaufry, mishmash, hotchpotch, jumble, *N Amer* hodgepodge.

meek ▶ **adjective** SUBMISSIVE, yielding, obedient, compliant, tame, biddable, tractable, acquiescent, deferential, timid, unprotesting, unresisting, like a lamb to the slaughter; quiet, mild, gentle, docile, lamblike, shy, diffident, unassuming, self-effacing.

—OPPOSITES assertive.

meet ▶ **verb** ① *I met an old friend on the train*: ENCOUNTER, meet up with, come face to face with, run into, run across, come across/upon, chance on, happen on, light on, stumble across/on; *informal* bump into ② *she first met Paul at a party* GET TO KNOW, be introduced to, make the acquaintance of. ③ *the committee met on Saturday*: ASSEMBLE, gather, come together, get to-

gether, congregate, convene; *formal* foregather ④ *the place where three roads meet*: CONVERGE, connect, touch, link up, intersect, cross, join ⑤ *he met death bravely* FACE, encounter, undergo, experience, go through, suffer, endure, bear, cope with, handle ⑥ *the announcement was met with widespread hostility* GREET, receive, answer, treat ⑦ *he does not meet the job's requirements*. FULFIL, satisfy, fill, measure up to, match (up to), conform to, come up to, comply with, answer ⑧ *shipowners would meet the cost of oil spills* PAY, settle, clear, honour, discharge, pay off, square

▶ **noun** *an athletics meet* See MEETING sense 5

■ **meet someone halfway**. See HALFWAY

meeting ▶ **noun** ① *he stood up to address the meeting*: GATHERING, assembly, conference, congregation, convention, summit, forum, convocation, conclave, council of war, rally, *N Amer* caucus, *informal* get-together ② *she demanded a meeting with the minister* CONSULTATION, audience, interview ③ *he intrigued her on their first meeting*. ENCOUNTER, contact, appointment, assignation, rendezvous; *poetic/literary* tryst ④ *the meeting of land and sea*: CONVERGENCE, coming together, confluence, conjunction, union, junction, abutment; intersection, T-junction, crossing. ⑤ *an athletics meeting* EVENT, tournament, meet, rally, competition, match, game, contest

megalomania ▶ **noun** DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR, folie de grandeur, thirst for power, self-importance, egotism, conceit, conceitedness

melancholy ▶ **adjective** *a melancholy expression* SAD, sorrowful, unhappy, desolate, mournful, lugubrious, gloomy, despondent, dejected, depressed, downhearted, downcast, disconsolate, glum, miserable, wretched, dismal, morose, woeful, woebegone, doleful, joyless, heavy-hearted, *informal* down in the dumps, down in the mouth, blue

—OPPOSITES cheerful

▶ **noun** *a feeling of melancholy* SADNESS, sorrow, unhappiness, woe, desolation, melancholia, dejection, depression, despondency, gloom, gloominess, misery, *informal* the dumps, the blues

melange ▶ **noun** MIXTURE, medley, assortment, blend, variety, mixed bag, mux, miscellany, selection, pot-pourri, patchwork; motley collection, ragbag, gallimaufry, mishmash, hotchpotch, jumble; *N Amer* hodgepodge.

melee, mêlée ▶ **noun** FRACAS, disturbance, rumpus, tumult, commotion, disorder, fray; brawl, fight, scuffle, struggle, skirmish, free-for-all, tussle; *informal* scrap, set-to, ruction; *N Amer informal* rough house.

mellifluous ▶ **adjective** SWEET-SOUNDING, dulcet, honeyed, mellow, soft, liquid, silvery, soothing, rich, smooth, euphonious, harmonious, tuneful, musical.

—OPPOSITES cacophonous.

mellow ▶ **adjective** ① *the mellow tone of his voice*: DULCET, sweet-sounding, tuneful, melodious, mellifluous; soft, smooth, warm, full, rich. ② *a mellow wine*: FULL-BODIED, mature, well matured, full-flavoured, rich, smooth. ③ *a mellow mood*: GENIAL, affable, amiable, good-humoured, good-natured, amicable, pleasant, relaxed, easy-going; jovial, jolly, cheerful, happy, merry.

melodious ▶ **adjective** TUNEFUL, melodic, musical, mellifluous, dulcet, sweet-sounding, sil-

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very, silvery-toned, harmonious, euphonious, lyrical, *informal* easy on the ear
 -OPPOSITES discordant

melodramatic ▶ **adjective** EXAGGERATED, histrionic, extravagant, over-dramatic, overdone, over-sensational, sensationalized, overemotional, sentimental, theatrical, stagy, actressy; *informal* hammy

melody ▶ **noun** ① *familiar melodies* TUNE, air, strain, theme, song, refrain, piece of music ② *his unique gift for melody* MELODIOUSNESS, tunefulness, lyricism, musicality, euphony

melt ▶ **verb** ① *the snow was beginning to melt* LIQUEFY, thaw, defrost, soften, dissolve, deliquesce ② *his smile melted her heart* SOFTEN, disarm, touch, affect, move ③ *his anger melted away* VANISH, disappear, fade away, dissolve, evaporate, *poetic/literary* evanesce

member ▶ **noun** ① *a member of the club* SUBSCRIBER, associate, fellow, life member, founder member, card-carrying member ② *a member of a mathematical set* CONSTITUENT, element, component, part, portion, piece, unit ③ (*archaic*) *many victims had injured members* LIMB, organ, arm, leg, appendage

membrane ▶ **noun** LAYER, sheet, skin, film, tissue, integument, overlay, *technical* pellicle

memento ▶ **noun** SOUVENIR, keepsake, reminder, remembrance, token, memorial, trophy, relic

memoir ▶ **noun** ① *a touching memoir of her childhood* ACCOUNT, history, record, chronicle, narrative, story, portrayal, depiction, sketch, portrait, profile, biography, monograph ② *he published his memoirs in 1955* AUTOBIOGRAPHY, life story, life, memories, recollections, reminiscences, journal, diary.

memorable ▶ **adjective** UNFORGETTABLE, indelible, catchy, haunting, momentous, significant, historic, notable, noteworthy, important, consequential, remarkable, special, signal, outstanding, extraordinary, striking, vivid, arresting, impressive, distinctive, distinguished, famous, celebrated, renowned, illustrious, glorious

memorandum ▶ **noun** ① *a memorandum from the managing director* MESSAGE, communication, note, e-mail, letter, missive; *informal* memo ② *hasty memoranda and jottings-down* RECORD, minute, note, aide-memoire, reminder

memorial ▶ **noun** ① *the war memorial* MONUMENT, cenotaph, mausoleum, statue, plaque, cairn, shrine; tombstone, gravestone, headstone ② *the Festschrift is a memorial to his life's work* TRIBUTE, testimonial, remembrance, memento.

▶ **adjective** *a memorial service* COMMEMORATIVE, remembrance, commemorating, monumental

memorize ▶ **verb** COMMIT TO MEMORY, remember, learn by heart, get off by heart, learn, learn by rote, become word-perfect in, get off pat; *archaic* con

memory ▶ **noun** ① *she is losing her memory*: ABILITY TO REMEMBER, powers of recall ② *happy memories of her young days*: RECOLLECTION, remembrance, reminiscence; impression. ③ *the town built a statue in memory of him*: COMMEMORATION, remembrance; honour, tribute, recognition, respect. ④ *a computer's memory*: MEMORY BANK, store, cache, disk, RAM, ROM.

-RELATED TERMS mnemonic

menace ▶ **noun** ① *an atmosphere full of menace* THREAT, ominousness, intimidation, warning, ill omen ② *a menace to British society* DANGER, peril, risk, hazard, threat, jeopardy ③ *that child is a menace* NUISANCE, pest, annoyance, plague, torment, troublemaker, mischief-maker, thorn in someone's side/flesh

▶ **verb** ① *the elephants are still menaced by poaching* THREATEN, be a danger to, put at risk, jeopardize, imperil ② *a gang of skinheads menaced local residents* INTIMIDATE, threaten, terrorize, frighten, scare, terrify

menacing ▶ **adjective** THREATENING, ominous, intimidating, frightening, terrifying, alarming, forbidding, black, thunderous, glowering, unfriendly, hostile, sinister, baleful, warning; *formal* minatory

-OPPOSITES friendly

mend ▶ **verb** ① *workmen were mending faulty cabling* REPAIR, fix, put back together, piece together, restore, sew (up), stitch, darn, patch, cobble, rehabilitate, renew, renovate, *informal* patch up ② *'How's Walter?'* 'He'll mend.' GET BETTER, get well, recover, recuperate, improve, be well, be cured, heal ③ *quarrels could be mended by talking* PUT/SET RIGHT, set straight, straighten out, sort out, rectify, remedy, cure, right, resolve, square, settle, put to rights, correct, retrieve, improve, make better ④ *he mended the fire* STOKE (UP), make up, add fuel to

-OPPOSITES break, worsen

mendacious ▶ **adjective** LYING, untruthful, dishonest, deceitful, false, dissembling, insincere, disingenuous, hypocritical, fraudulent, double-dealing, two-faced, two-timing, duplicitous, perjured, untrue, fictitious, falsified, fabricated, fallacious, invented, made up, *euphemistic* economical with the truth, *poetic/literary* perfidious

-OPPOSITES truthful

mendicant ▶ **noun** BEGGAR, tramp, vagrant, vagabond, *N Amer* hobo, *informal* scrounger, sponger, *N Amer informal* bum, mooch, moocher, schnorrer

menial ▶ **adjective** *a menial job* UNSKILLED, lowly, humble, low-grade, low-status, inferior, degrading, routine, humdrum, boring, dull.

▶ **noun** *they were treated like menials* SERVANT, drudge, minion, factotum, lackey, *informal* wage slave, gofer, *Brit informal* dogsbody, skivvy, *N Amer informal* peon, *archaic* scullion

menstruation ▶ **noun** PERIODS, menses, menorrhoea, menstrual cycle, menarche, *informal* the curse, monthlies, one's/the time of the month

mensuration ▶ **noun** MEASUREMENT, measuring, calculation, computation, quantification.

mental ▶ **adjective** ① *mental faculties* INTELLECTUAL, cerebral, brain, rational, cognitive ② *a mental disorder* PSYCHIATRIC, psychological, psychogenic. ③ (*informal*) *he's completely mental*. See MAD sense 1.

-OPPOSITES physical

mentality ▶ **noun** ① *I can't understand the mentality of these people*: WAY OF THINKING, mind set, cast of mind, frame of mind, turn of mind, mind, psychology, mental attitude, outlook, disposition, make-up. ② *a person of limited men-*

talities INTELLECT, intellectual capabilities, intelligence, IQ, (powers of) reasoning, rationality

mentally ► **adverb** IN ONE'S MIND, in one's head, inwardly, intellectually, cognitively

mention ► **verb** ① *don't mention the war* ALLUDE TO, refer to, touch on/upon, bring up, raise, broach, introduce, moot ② *Jim mentioned that he'd met them before* STATE, say, indicate, let someone know, disclose, divulge, reveal ③ *I'll gladly mention your work to my friends* RECOMMEND, commend, put in a good word for, speak well of

► **noun** ① *he made no mention of your request* REFERENCE, allusion, remark, statement, announcement, indication ② *a mention in dispatches* TRIBUTE, citation, acknowledgement, recognition ③ *my book got a mention on the show* RECOMMENDATION, commendation, a good word.

■ **don't mention it** DON'T APOLOGIZE, it doesn't matter, it makes no difference/odds, it's not important, never mind, don't worry

■ **not to mention** IN ADDITION to, as well as, not counting, not including, to say nothing of, aside from, besides

mentor ► **noun** ① *his political mentors* ADVISER, guide, guru, counsellor, consultant, confidant(e) ② *regular meetings between mentor and trainee* TRAINER, teacher, tutor, instructor

menu ► **noun** BILL OF FARE, carte du jour, set menu, table d'hôte

mephitic ► **adjective** (poetic/literary) See MALODOROUS

mercantile ► **adjective** COMMERCIAL, trade, trading, business, merchant, sales

mercenary ► **adjective** ① *mercenary self-interest* MONEY-ORIENTED, grasping, greedy, acquisitive, avaricious, covetous, bribable, venal, materialistic, informal money-grubbing ② *mercenary soldiers* HIRED, paid, bought, professional

► **noun** a group of mercenaries SOLDIER OF FORTUNE, professional soldier, hired soldier, informal hired gun, historical freelance, condottiere

merchandise ► **noun** a wide range of merchandise GOODS, wares, stock, commodities, lines, produce, products

► **verb** a new product that can be easily merchandised PROMOTE, market, sell, retail, advertise, publicize, push, informal hype (up), plug

merchant ► **noun** TRADER, dealer, wholesaler, broker, agent, seller, buyer, buyer and seller, vendor, distributor

merciful ► **adjective** ① *God is merciful* FORGIVING, compassionate, clement, pitying, forbearing, lenient, humane, mild, kind, soft-hearted, tender-hearted, gracious, sympathetic, humanitarian, liberal, tolerant, indulgent, generous, magnanimous, benign, benevolent. ② *a merciful silence fell* WELCOME, blessed.

—OPPOSITES cruel

■ **be merciful** TO HAVE MERCY ON, have pity on, show mercy to, spare, pardon, forgive, be lenient on/to, informal go/be easy on, let off

mercifully ► **adverb** LUCKILY, fortunately, happily, thank goodness/God/heavens.

merciless ► **adjective** RUTHLESS, remorseless, pitiless, unforgiving, unsparing, implacable, inexorable, relentless, inflexible, inhumane, inhuman, unsympathetic, unfeeling, intolerant, rigid, severe, cold-blooded, hard-hearted,

stony-hearted, heartless, harsh, callous, cruel, brutal, barbarous, cut-throat.

—OPPOSITES compassionate

mercurial ► **adjective** VOLATILE, capricious, temperamental, excitable, fickle, changeable, unpredictable, variable, protean, mutable, erratic, quicksilver, inconstant, inconsistent, unstable, unsteady, fluctuating, ever-changing, moody, flighty, wayward, whimsical, impulsive, technical labile

—OPPOSITES stable

mercy ► **noun** ① *he showed no mercy to the others* LENIENCY, clemency, compassion, grace, pity, charity, forgiveness, forbearance, quarter, humanity, soft-heartedness, tender-heartedness, kindness, sympathy, liberality, indulgence, tolerance, generosity, magnanimity, beneficence ② *we must be thankful for small mercies* BLESSING, godsend, boon, favour, piece/stroke of luck

—OPPOSITES ruthlessness, cruelty

■ **at the mercy of** ① *they found themselves at the mercy of the tyrant* IN THE POWER OF, under/in the control of, in the clutches of, under the heel of, subject to ② *he was at the mercy of the elements* DEFENCELESS AGAINST, vulnerable to, exposed to, susceptible to, prey to, (wide) open to

mere ► **adjective** NO MORE THAN, just, only, merely, no better than

merely ► **adverb** ONLY, purely, solely, simply, just, but

meretricious ► **adjective** WORTHLESS, valueless, cheap, tawdry, trashy, Brummagem, tasteless, kitsch, false, artificial, fake, imitation, informal tacky

merge ► **verb** ① *the company merged with a European firm* JOIN (TOGETHER), join forces, amalgamate, unite, affiliate, team up, link (up) ② *the two organizations were merged* AMALGAMATE, bring together, join, consolidate, conflate, unite, unify, combine, incorporate, integrate, link (up), knit, yoke. ③ *the two colours merged* MINGLE, blend, fuse, mix, intermix, intermingle, coalesce, poetic/literary commingle

—OPPOSITES separate

merger ► **noun** AMALGAMATION, combination, union, fusion, coalition, affiliation, unification, incorporation, consolidation, link-up, alliance

—OPPOSITES split

merit ► **noun** ① *composers of outstanding merit* EXCELLENCE, quality, calibre, worth, worthiness, credit, value, distinction, eminence ② *the merits of the scheme* GOOD POINT, strong point, advantage, benefit, value, asset, plus.

—OPPOSITES inferiority, fault, disadvantage

► **verb** *the accusation did not merit a response*: DE SERVE, earn, be deserving of, warrant, rate, justify, be worthy of, be worth, be entitled to, have a right to, have a claim to/on.

meritorious ► **adjective** PRAISEWORTHY, laudable, commendable, admirable, estimable, creditable, worthy, deserving, excellent, exemplary, good.

—OPPOSITES discreditable.

merriment ► **noun** HIGH SPIRITS, high-spiritedness, exuberance, cheerfulness, gaiety, fun, effervescence, verve, buoyancy, levity, zest, liveliness, cheer, joy, joyfulness, joyousness, jolliness, jollity, happiness, gladness, jocularly, conviviality, festivity, merry-making,



revelry, mirth, glee, gleefulness, laughter, hilarity, light-heartedness, amusement, pleasure
-OPPOSITES misery

merry ▶ **adjective** ① *merry throngs of students* CHEERFUL, cheery, in high spirits, high-spirited, bright, sunny, smiling, light-hearted, buoyant, lively, carefree, without a care in the world, joyful, joyous, jolly, convivial, festive, mirthful, gleeful, happy, glad, laughing, *informal* chirpy; *formal* jocund, *dated* gay, *poetic/literary* blithe, blithesome ② (*Brit informal*) *after three beers he began to feel quite merry* TIPSY, mellow, slightly drunk, *Brit informal* tiddly, squiffy.
-OPPOSITES miserable

■ **make merry** HAVE FUN, have a good time, enjoy oneself, have a party, celebrate, carouse, feast, (eat, drink, and be merry), revel, roister, *informal* party, have a ball

merry-go-round ▶ **noun** CAROUSEL; *Brit* roundabout

mesh ▶ **noun** ① *wire mesh* NETTING, net, network, web, webbing, lattice, latticework. ② *a mesh of political intrigue* ENTANGLEMENT, net, tangle, web

▶ **verb** ① *one gear meshes with the input gear* EN GAGE, connect, lock, interlock ② *don't get meshed in the weeds* ENTANGLE, enmesh, snare, trap, catch ③ *our ideas just do not mesh* HARMONIZE, fit together, match, dovetail

mesmerize ▶ **verb** ENTHRAL, spellbind, entrance, dazzle, bewitch, charm, captivate, enchant, fascinate, transfix, grip, hypnotize

mess ▶ **noun** ① *please clear up the mess* UNTIDINESS, disorder, disarray, clutter, shambles, jumble, muddle, chaos, *Brit informal* tip ② *cat mess* EXCREMENT, muck, faeces, excreta ③ *I've got to get out of this mess* PLIGHT, predicament, tight spot/corner, difficulty, trouble, quandary, dilemma, problem, muddle, mix-up, imbroglio, *informal* jam, fix, pickle, stew, hole, scrape ④ *he made a mess of the project* MUDDLE, bungle, *informal* botch, hash, foul-up, *Brit informal* cock-up, *N Amer informal* snafu

■ **make a mess of** MISMANAGE, mishandle, bungle, fluff, spoil, ruin, wreck, *informal* mess up, botch, make a hash of, muck up, *Brit informal* make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of, cock up.

■ **mess about/around** POTTER ABOUT, pass the time, fiddle about/around, foolle about/around, play about/around, fool about/around, fidget, toy, trifle, tamper, tinker, interfere, meddle, monkey (about/around), *informal* piddle about/around, *Brit informal* muck about/around, lark (about/around).

■ **mess something up** ① *he messed up my kitchen* DIRTY; clutter up, disarrange, jumble, dish-evel, rumple, *N Amer informal* muss up, *poetic/literary* befoul. ② (*informal*) *Eddie messed things up* See MAKE A MESS OF

message ▶ **noun** ① *are there any messages for me?* COMMUNICATION, piece of information, news, note, memorandum, memo, e-mail, letter, missive, report, bulletin, communiqué, dispatch. ② *the message of his teaching*: MEANING, sense, import, idea; point, thrust, gist, essence, content, subject (matter), substance, implication, drift, lesson.

■ **get the message** (*informal*) UNDERSTAND, get the point, comprehend, *informal* catch on, latch on, get the picture.

messenger ▶ **noun** MESSAGE-BEARER, postman, courier, runner, dispatch rider, envoy, emissary, agent, go-between, *historical* herald; *archaic* legate

messy ▶ **adjective** ① *messy oil spills* | *messy hair* DIRTY, filthy, grubby, soiled, grimy; mucky, muddy, slimy, sticky, sullied, spotted, stained, smeared, smudged, dishevelled, scruffy, unkempt, rumpled, matted, tousled, bedraggled, tangled, *informal* yucky, *Brit informal* gungy. ② *a messy kitchen* DISORDERLY, disordered, in a muddle, chaotic, confused, disorganized, in disarray, disarranged; untidy, cluttered, in a jumble, *informal* like a bomb's hit it; *Brit informal* shambolic ③ *a messy legal battle* COMPLEX, intricate, tangled, confused, convoluted, unpleasant, nasty, bitter, acrimonious
-OPPOSITES clean, tidy.

metal ▶ **noun**. See lists

Metals and Their Chemical Symbols

aluminium	Al	nickel	Ni
antimony	Sb	niobium	Ni
barium	Ba	platinum	Pt
beryllium	Be	potassium	K
bismuth	Bi	silver	Ag
cadmium	Cd	sodium	Na
calcium	Ca	strontium	Sr
chromium	Cr	tantalum	Ta
cobalt	Co	thallium	Tl
copper	Cu	thorium	Th
gold	Au	tin	Sn
iron	Fe	titanium	Ti
lead	Pb	tungsten/ wolfram	W
lithium	Li	uranium	U
magnesium	Mg	vanadium	V
manganese	Mn	zinc	Zn
mercury	Hg	zirconium	Zr
molybdenum	Mo		

Types of Metal

actinide	lanthanide
alkali metal	noble metal
alkaline earth (metal)	platinum metal
alloy	precious metal
amalgam	rare earth (metal)
base metal	transition metal
heavy metal	

metallic ▶ **adjective** ① *a metallic sound*. TINNY, jangling, jingling, grating, harsh, jarring, dissonant ② *metallic paint* METALLIZED, burnished; shiny, glossy, lustrous

metamorphose ▶ **verb** TRANSFORM, change, mutate, transmute, transfigure, convert, alter, modify, remodel, recast, reconstruct, *humorous* transmogrify; *formal* transubstantiate

metamorphosis ▶ **noun** TRANSFORMATION, mutation, transmutation, change, alteration, conversion, modification, remodelling, reconstruction; *humorous* transmogrification; *formal* transubstantiation.

metaphor ▶ **noun** FIGURE OF SPEECH, image, trope, analogy, comparison, symbol, word painting/picture. See list at RHETORIC



metaphorical ► **adjective** FIGURATIVE, allegorical, symbolic, imaginative, extended
—OPPOSITES literal.

metaphysical ► **adjective** ① metaphysical questions ABSTRACT, theoretical, conceptual, notional, philosophical, speculative, intellectual, academic ② *Good and Evil are inextricably linked in a metaphysical battle* TRANSCENDENTAL, spiritual, supernatural, paranormal

mete

■ **mete something out** DISPENSE, hand out, allocate, allot, apportion, issue, deal out, dole out, dish out, assign, administer

meteor ► **noun** FALLING STAR, shooting star, meteorite, meteoroid, bolide See list

Meteor Showers

April Lyrids

Delta

Aquarids

Eta Aquarids

Geminids

June Lyrids

Leonids

Orionids

Perseids

Quadrantids

Taurids

Ursids

meteoric ► **adjective** RAPID, lightning, swift, fast, quick, speedy, accelerated, instant, sudden, spectacular
—OPPOSITES gradual

meteorologist ► **noun** WEATHER FORECASTER, met officer, weatherman, weatherwoman

method ► **noun** ① they use very old-fashioned methods PROCEDURE, technique, system, practice, routine, *modus operandi*, process, strategy, tactic, plan ② *there's method in his madness* ORDER, orderliness, organization, structure, form, system, logic, planning, design
—OPPOSITES disorder

methodical ► **adjective** ORDERLY, well ordered, well organized, (well) planned, efficient, businesslike, systematic, structured, logical, analytic, disciplined, meticulous, punctilious

meticulous ► **adjective** CAREFUL, conscientious, diligent, scrupulous, punctilious, painstaking, accurate, thorough, studious, rigorous, detailed, perfectionist, fastidious, methodical, particular
—OPPOSITES careless

métier ► **noun** ① *he had another métier besides the priesthood* OCCUPATION, job, work, profession, business, employment, career, vocation, trade, craft, line (of work), *N Amer* specialty ② *television is more my métier*, FORTE, strong point, strength, speciality, talent, bent, *informal* thing, cup of tea.

metre ► **noun**. See list at VERSE

metropolis ► **noun** CAPITAL (CITY), chief town, county town; big city, conurbation, megalopolis; *informal* big smoke, *archaic* wen

mettle ► **noun** ① *a man of mettle* SPIRIT, fortitude, strength of character, moral fibre, steel, determination, resolve, resolution, backbone, grit, courage, courageousness, bravery, valour, fearlessness, daring; *informal* guts, spunk; *Brit. informal* bottle. ② *Frazer was of a very different mettle*: CALIBRE, character, disposition, nature, temperament, personality, make-up, stamp.

mettlesome ► **adjective** SPIRITED, game, gritty, intrepid, fearless, courageous, brave, plucky, daring; tenacious, determined, resolved, resolute, indomitable.

mew ► **verb** ① the cat *mewed* plaintively MIAOW, mewl, cry ② *above them, seagulls mewed*. CRY, screech

mewl ► **verb** WHIMPER, cry, whine, *informal* grizzle, *poetic/literary* pule

miasma ► **noun** (*poetic/literary*) STINK, reek, stench, smell, odour, malodour, *Brit informal* pong, niff, whiff

miasmic, miasmal ► **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) FOUL-SMELLING, fetid, smelly, stinking (to high heaven), reeking, rank, noxious, malodorous, *Brit informal* niffy, pongy, whiffy, *poetic/literary* noisome, mephitic

microbe ► **noun** MICRO-ORGANISM, bacillus, bacterium, virus, germ, *informal* bug

microscopic ► **adjective** TINY, very small, minute, infinitesimal, minuscule, little, micro, diminutive, *Scottish* wee, *informal* teeny, weeny, teeny-weeny, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, *Brit informal* titchy, tiddly
—OPPOSITES huge

midday ► **noun** NOON, twelve noon, high noon, noontide, noonday
—OPPOSITES midnight

middle ► **noun** ① *a shallow dish with a spike in the middle* CENTRE, midpoint, halfway point, dead centre, focus, hub, eye, heart, core, kernel ② *he had a towel round his middle* MIDRIF, waist, belly, stomach, *informal* tummy, tum
—OPPOSITES outside

► **adjective** ① the middle point CENTRAL, mid, mean, medium, medial, median, midway, halfway ② the middle level INTERMEDIATE, intermediary
—RELATED TERMS meso-

middleman ► **noun** INTERMEDIARY, go-between, dealer, broker, agent, factor, wholesaler, distributor

middling ► **adjective** AVERAGE, standard, normal, middle-of-the-road, moderate, ordinary, commonplace, everyday, workaday, tolerable, passable, run-of-the-mill, fair, mediocre, undistinguished, unexceptional, unremarkable, *informal* OK, so-so, bog-standard, fair-to-middling, (plain) vanilla, *NZ informal* half-pie

midget ► **noun** the inhabitants must have been midgets SMALL PERSON, dwarf, homunculus, Lilliputian, manikin, gnome, pygmy, *informal* shrimp

► **adjective** ① *a story about midget matadors* DIMINUTIVE, dwarfish, petite, very small, pygmy, *informal* pint-sized; *N Amer informal* sawn-off ② *a midget camera*: MINIATURE, pocket, dwarf, baby
—OPPOSITES giant

midnight ► **noun** TWELVE MIDNIGHT, the middle of the night, the witching hour
—OPPOSITES midday.

midst (*poetic/literary*) ► **noun** MIDDLE, centre, heart, core, midpoint, kernel, nub, depth(s), thick, (in the midst of) in the course of, halfway through, at the heart/core of.

■ **in our midst** AMONG US, amid us, in our group, with us

midway ► **adverb** HALFWAY, in the middle, at the midpoint, in the centre, part-way, at some point

mien ► **noun** APPEARANCE, look, expression, countenance, aura, demeanour, attitude, air, manner, bearing, *formal* comportment.

miffed ► **adjective** (*informal*). See ANNOYED



might ▶ **noun** STRENGTH, force, power, vigour, energy, brawn, powerfulness, forcefulness

■ **with might and main** WITH ALL ONE'S STRENGTH, as hard as one can, as hard as possible, (with) full force, forcefully, powerfully, strongly, vigorously

mightily ▶ **adverb** ① *he is mightily impressive* EXTREMELY, exceedingly, enormously, immensely, tremendously, hugely, dreadfully, very (much); *informal* awfully, majorly, mega, *N Amer informal* mighty, plumb, *informal, dated* devilish ② *Ann and I laboured mightily* STRENUOUSLY, energetically, powerfully, hard, with all one's might, with might and main, all out, heartily, vigorously, diligently, assiduously, persistently, indefatigably, *informal* like mad, like crazy, *Brit informal* like billy-o

mighty ▶ **adjective** ① *a mighty blow* POWERFUL, forceful, violent, vigorous, hefty, thunderous ② *a mighty warrior* FEARSOME, ferocious, big, tough, robust, muscular, strapping ③ *mighty industrial countries* DOMINANT, influential, strong, powerful, important, predominant ④ *mighty oak trees* HUGE, enormous, massive, gigantic, big, large, giant, colossal, mammoth, immense, *informal* monster, whopping (great), thumping (great), humongous, jumbo-sized), *Brit informal* whacking (great), ginormous
-OPPOSITES feeble, puny, tiny

▶ **adverb** (*N Amer informal*) *I'm mighty pleased to see you* EXTREMELY, exceedingly, enormously, immensely, tremendously, hugely, mightily, very (much), *informal* awfully, dreadfully, majorly, mega, *Brit informal* well, jolly, *N Amer informal* plumb, *informal, dated* devilish, frightfully

migrant ▶ **noun** economic migrants IMMIGRANT, EMIGRANT, nomad, itinerant, traveller, vagrant, transient, rover, wanderer, drifter

▶ **adjective** migrant workers TRAVELLING, wandering, drifting, nomadic, roving, roaming, itinerant, vagrant, transient

migrate ▶ **verb** ① *rural populations migrated to urban areas* RELOCATE, resettle, move (house), emigrate, go abroad, go overseas, *N Amer* pull up stakes, *Brit informal* up sticks, *dated* remove ② *wildebeest migrate across the Serengeti* ROAM, wander, drift, rove, travel (around)

migratory ▶ **adjective** MIGRANT, migrating, moving, travelling

mild ▶ **adjective** ① *a mild tone of voice* GENTLE, tender, soft-hearted, tender-hearted, sensitive, sympathetic, warm, placid, calm, tranquil, serene, peaceable, good-natured, amiable, affable, genial, easy-going ② *a mild punishment* LENIENT, light; compassionate, merciful, humane ③ *he was eyeing her with mild interest* SLIGHT, faint, vague, minimal, nominal, token, feeble ④ *mild weather* WARM, balmy, temperate, clement ⑤ *a mild curry* BLAND, insipid
-OPPOSITES harsh, strong, severe

mildewy ▶ **adjective** MOULDY, mildewed, rotten, decaying

milieu ▶ **noun** ENVIRONMENT, sphere, background, backdrop, setting, context, atmosphere, location, conditions, surroundings, environs

militant ▶ **adjective** militant supporters. AGGRESSIVE, violent, belligerent, bellicose, vigorous, forceful, active, fierce, combative, pugnacious, radical, extremist, extreme, zealous, fanatical

▶ **noun** the demands of the militants: ACTIVIST, extremist, radical, young Turk, zealot.

militaristic ▶ **adjective** WARMONGERING, warlike, martial, hawkish, pugnacious, combative, aggressive, belligerent, bellicose, *informal* gung-ho

-OPPOSITES peaceable

military ▶ **adjective** military activity FIGHTING, service, army, armed, defence, martial

-OPPOSITES civilian

▶ **noun** the military took power (ARMED) FORCES, services, militia, army, navy, air force, marines

militate ▶ **verb** TEND TO PREVENT, work against, hinder, discourage, prejudice, be detrimental to

milk ▶ **noun**. See list at DRINK

-RELATED TERMS dairy, lactic

▶ **verb** ① *Pam was milking the cows* DRAW MILK FROM, express milk from ② *milk a little of the liquid* DRAW OFF, siphon (off), pump off, tap, drain, extract ③ *milking rich clients* EXPLOIT, take advantage of, cash in on, suck dry, *informal* bleed, squeeze, fleece

milksop ▶ **noun** NAMBY-PAMBY, coward, weakling, *informal* drip, mummy's boy, sissy, jellyfish, wimp, *Brit informal* wet, big girl's blouse, *N Amer informal* pantywaist, pussy, *archaic* poltroon

milky ▶ **adjective** PALE, white, milk-white, whitish, off-white, cream, creamy, chalky, pearly, nacreous, ivory, alabaster

-OPPOSITES swarthy

mill ▶ **noun** ① *a steel mill* FACTORY, (processing) plant, works, workshop, shop, foundry, industrial unit ② *a pepper mill* GRINDER, quern, crusher

▶ **verb** the wheat is milled into flour GRIND, pulverize, powder, granulate, pound, crush, press, *technical* comminute, triturate, *archaic* bray, levigate

■ **mill around/about** THRONG, swarm, seethe, crowd

millstone ▶ **noun** BURDEN, encumbrance, dead weight, cross to bear, albatross, duty, obligation, liability, misfortune, *archaic* cumber

mime ▶ **noun** a mime of someone fencing DUMB SHOW, pantomime

▶ **verb** she mimed picking up a phone ACT OUT, pantomime, gesture, simulate, represent, indicate by dumb show

mimic ▶ **verb** ① *she mimicked his accent* IMITATE, copy, impersonate, do an impression of, ape, caricature, parody, lampoon, burlesque, *informal* send up, take off, spoof; *archaic* monkey ② *most hoverflies mimic wasps* RESEMBLE, look like, have the appearance of, simulate, *N Amer informal* make like

▶ **noun** he was a superb mimic IMPERSONATOR, impressionist, imitator, mimicker; parodist, caricaturist, lampooner, lampoonist; *informal* copycat; *historical* zany, *archaic* ape

▶ **adjective** they were waging mimic war SIMULATED, mock, imitation, make-believe, sham; *informal* pretend, copycat

mimicry ▶ **noun** IMITATION, imitating, impersonation, copying, aping; *archaic* apery.

minatory ▶ **adjective** (formal) MENACING, threatening, baleful, intimidating, admonitory, warning, cautionary, rare munacious, comminatory



mince ▶ **verb** ① mince the meat and onions GRIND, chop up, cut up, dice; *N Amer* hash ② she minced out of the room WALK AFFECTEDLY, *N Amer* informal sashay

■ **not mince (one's) words** TALK STRAIGHT, not beat about the bush, call a spade a spade, speak straight from the shoulder, pull no punches, *informal* tell it like it is, *N Amer* *informal* talk turkey.

mincing ▶ **adjective** AFFECTED, dainty, effeminate, niminy-piminy, pretentious; *informal* camp, sissy; *Brit* *informal* poncey

mind ▶ **noun** ① a good teacher must stretch pupils' minds BRAIN, intelligence, intellect, intellectual capabilities, brains, brainpower, wits, understanding, reasoning, judgement, sense, head, *informal* grey matter, brainbox, brain cells, *Brit* *informal* loaf, *N Amer* *informal* smarts ② he kept his mind on the job ATTENTION, thoughts, concentration, attentiveness ③ the tragedy affected her mind. SANITY, mental faculties, senses, wits, reason, reasoning, judgement, *informal* marbles. ④ his words stuck in her mind MEMORY, recollection ⑤ a great mind INTELLECT, thinker, brain, scholar, academic ⑥ I've a mind to complain INCLINATION, desire, wish, urge, notion, fancy, intention, will ⑦ of the same mind OPINION, way of thinking, outlook, attitude, view, viewpoint, point of view

—RELATED TERMS mental

▶ **verb** ① do you mind if I smoke? CARE, object, be bothered, be annoyed, be upset, take offence, disapprove, dislike it, look askance, *informal* give/care a damn, give/care a toss, give/care a hoot, give/care a rap ② mind the step! BE CAREFUL OF, watch out for, look out for, beware of, be on one's guard for, be wary of ③ mind you wipe your feet: BE/MAKE SURE (THAT), see (that); remember to, don't forget to ④ her husband was minding the baby. LOOK AFTER, take care of, keep an eye on, attend to, care for, tend ⑤ mind what your mother says PAY ATTENTION TO, heed, pay heed to, attend to, take note/notice of, note, mark, listen to, be mindful of; obey, follow, comply with, *archaic* regard

■ **be in two minds** BE UNDECIDED, be uncertain, be unsure, hesitate, waver, vacillate, dither, *Brit* haver, hum and haw, *informal* dilly-dally, shilly-shally

■ **bear/keep in mind** REMEMBER, note, be mindful of, take note of, *formal* take cognizance of.

■ **cross one's mind** OCCUR TO ONE, enter one's mind/head, strike one, hit one, dawn on one

■ **give someone a piece of one's mind.** See REPRIMAND verb

■ **have something in mind** THINK OF, contemplate, intend, plan, propose, desire, want, wish

■ **mind out** TAKE CARE, be careful, watch out, look out, beware, be on one's guard, be wary

■ **never mind** ① never mind the cost DON'T BOTHER ABOUT, don't worry about, disregard, forget ② never mind, it's all right now. DON'T APOLOGIZE, forget it, don't worry about it, it doesn't matter

■ **out of one's mind** ① you must be out of your mind! See MAD sense 1. ② I've been out of my mind with worry FRANTIC, beside oneself, distraught, in a frenzy.

■ **put someone in mind of** REMIND OF, recall, conjure up, suggest; RESEMBLE, look like.

■ **to my mind** IN MY OPINION, in my view, as I see it, personally, in my estimation, in my book, if you ask me.

mindful ▶ **adjective** AWARE, conscious, sensible, alive, alert, acquainted, heedful, wary, chary, *informal* wise, hip, *formal* cognizant, regardful
—OPPOSITES heedless.

mindless ▶ **adjective** ① a mindless idiot STUPID, idiotic, brainless, imbecilic, imbecile, asinine, witless, foolish, empty-headed, slow-witted, obtuse, feather-brained, doltish; *informal* dumb, pig-ignorant, brain-dead, cretinous, moronic, thick, birdbrained, pea-brained, dopey, dim, half-witted, dippy, fat-headed, boneheaded, *N Amer* *informal* chowderheaded ② mindless acts of vandalism UNTHINKING, thoughtless, senseless, gratuitous, wanton, indiscriminate, unreasoning ③ a mindless task. MECHANICAL, automatic, routine; tedious, boring, monotonous, brainless, mind-numbing

■ **mindless of** INDIFFERENT TO, heedless of, unaware of, unmindful of, careless of, blind to

mine ▶ **noun** ① a coal mine PIT, excavation, quarry, workings, diggings, strip mine, *Brit* opencast mine, *N Amer* open-pit mine ② a mine of information RICH SOURCE, repository, store, storehouse, reservoir, gold mine, treasure house, treasury, reserve, fund, wealth, stock ③ he was killed by a mine See list at BOMB

▶ **verb** ① the iron ore was mined from shallow pits QUARRY, excavate, dig (up), extract, remove, strip-mine ② medical data was mined for relevant statistics SEARCH, delve into, scour, scan, read through, survey. ③ the entrance to the harbour had been mined DEFEND WITH MINES, lay with mines.

miner ▶ **noun** PITMAN, digger, collier, faceworker, haulier, tunneler; *dated* hewer

mineral ▶ **noun.** See list

mingle ▶ **verb** ① fact and fiction are skilfully mingled in his novels MIX, blend, intermingle, intermix, interweave, interlace, combine, merge, fuse, unite, join, amalgamate, meld, mesh, *poetic/literary* commingle, *archaic* commix ② wedding guests mingled in the marquee SOCIALIZE, circulate, fraternize, get together, associate with others, *informal* hobnob

—OPPOSITES separate

miniature ▶ **adjective** a miniature railway SMALL-SCALE, mini, tiny, little, small, minute, baby, toy, pocket, dwarf, pygmy, minuscule, diminutive; *Scottish* wee, *N Amer* vest-pocket; *informal* teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, eensy, eensy-weensy; *Brit* *informal* titchy, tiddly

—OPPOSITES giant.

minimal ▶ **adjective** VERY LITTLE, minimum, the least (possible); nominal, token, negligible.
—OPPOSITES maximum.

minimize ▶ **verb** ① the aim is to minimize costs. KEEP DOWN, keep at/to a minimum, reduce, decrease, cut down, lessen, curtail, diminish, prune; *informal* slash. ② we should not minimize his contribution: BELITTLE, make light of, play down, underestimate, underrate, downplay, under-value, understate; *informal* pooh-pooh; *archaic* hold cheap; *rare* misprize.

—OPPOSITES maximize, exaggerate.



Minerals

See also GEM, ROCK.

actinolite	chabazite	fluorspar	kunzite	pleiomite	stishovite
agate	chalcedony	fool's gold	kyanite	pigeonite	strontianite
alabaster	chalcopyrite	forsterite	labradorite	pitchblende	syhite
albite	chiastolite	gadolinite	lazurite	plagioclase	taic
allanite	chlorite	galena	leucite	pyrargyrite	tantalite
andalusite	chloritoid	gamet	lepidocrocite	pyrites	tennantite
andradite	chromite	garnierite	lepidolite	pyrolusite	tetrahedrite
anhydrite	chrysoberyl	geyserite	limonite	pyromorphite	thenardite
anorthite	chrysocolla	gibbsite	magnetite	pyroxene	topaz
antigorite	chrysoprase	glauconite	magnetite	pymhotite	tourmaline
apatite	chrysotile	glaucofane	malachite	quartz	tremolite
apophyllite	cinnabar	goethite	manganite	realgar	trona
aragonite	clinopyroxene	graphite	marcasite	rhodochrosite	tungstite
arsenopyrite	coemanite	greenockite	mica	rhodonite	tyuyamunite
asbestos	columbite	grossular	microcline	riebeckite	ulexite
augite	cordierite	gypsum	millierite	rock salt	uraninite
autunite	corundum	haematite	mimetite	rutile	vanadinite
aventurine	covellite	halite	molybdenite	sanidine	vermiculite
azurite	crocidolite	hemimorphite	monazite	sard	vesuvianite
baddeleyite	crocolite	hiddenite	montmorillonite	scheelite	vivianite
baryte	cryolite	hornblende	muscovite	serpentine	willemitte
bastnaesite	cummingtonite	hydroxyapatite	natron	siderite	witherite
bentonite	cuprite	hypersthene	nepheline	sillimanite	wollastonite
beryl	diamond	iddingsite	nephrite	skutterudite	wollastonite
bloodstone	diopside	idocrase	oligoclase	smaltite	wulfenite
Blue John	diopase	illite	olivine	smectite	wurzite
biotite	dolomite	limenite	onyx	smithsonite	xenotime
borax	dumortierite	ilvaite	opal	smoky quartz	zeolite
bornite	emery	jadeite	orpiment	sodalite	zincite
brucite	enargite	jacinth	orthoclase	sphalerite	zircon
bytownite	enstatite	jargoon	orthopyroxene	sphene	zoisite
cairngorm	epidote	jasper	pentland	spinel	
calcite	fayalite	kainite	periclase	spodumene	
camallite	feldspar	kaolinite	peridot	staurolite	
camotite	ferberite	kernite	perovskite	teatite	
cassiterite	fluorite	kieserite	phlogopite	stibnite	

minimum ► noun costs will be kept to the minimum LOWEST LEVEL, lower limit, bottom level, rock bottom, least, lowest, slightest
—OPPOSITES maximum

► adjective the minimum amount of effort MINIMAL, least, smallest, least possible, slightest, lowest, minutest

minion ► noun UNDERLING, henchman, flunkie, lackey, hanger-on, follower, servant, hireling, vassal, stooge, informal yes-man, bootlicker, Brit informal poodle, N Amer informal suck-up

minister ► noun ① a government minister MEMBER OF THE GOVERNMENT, cabinet minister, secretary of state, undersecretary ② a minister of religion CLERGYMAN, clergywoman, cleric, ecclesiastic, pastor, vicar, rector, priest, parson, father, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of God, churchman, churchwoman; curate, chaplain, informal reverend, padre, Holy Joe sky pilot; Austral informal jossier. See list at PRIEST ③ the British minister in Egypt: AMBASSADOR, chargé d'affaires, plenipotentiary, envoy, emissary, diplomat, consul, representative; archaic legate.

► verb doctors were ministering to the injured: TEND, care for, take care of, look after, nurse, treat, attend to, see to, administer to, help, assist

ministrations ► plural noun ATTENTION, treatment, help, assistance, aid, care, services.

ministry ► noun ① the ministry for foreign affairs: (GOVERNMENT) DEPARTMENT, bureau, agency, office ② he's training for the ministry. HOLY ORDERS, the priesthood, the cloth, the church ③ the ministry of Jesus TEACHING, preaching, evangelism. ④ Gladstone's first ministry PERIOD OF OFFICE, term (of office), administration

minor ► adjective ① a minor problem SLIGHT, small, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, inconsiderable, subsidiary, negligible, trivial, trifling, paltry, petty, N Amer nickel-and-dime, informal piffling, piddling ② a minor poet LITTLE KNOWN, unknown, lesser, unimportant, insignificant, obscure, N Amer minor-league, informal small-time, N Amer informal two-bit ③ (Brit) Smith minor JUNIOR, younger
—OPPOSITES major, important.

► noun the heir to the throne was a minor: CHILD, infant, youth, adolescent, teenager, boy, girl, informal kid, kiddie
—OPPOSITES adult

minstrel ► noun (historical) MUSICIAN, singer, balladeer; historical troubadour, jongleur, poetic/literary bard

mint ► noun ① COINAGE FACTORY, money factory. ② (informal) the bank made a mint out of the deal A VAST SUM OF MONEY, a king's ransom, millions, billions; informal a (small) fortune, a tidy sum, a bundle, a packet, a pile; Brit informal a bomb, big money; N Amer informal big bucks; Austral informal

big bickies, motser

► **adjective** in mint condition: BRAND NEW, pristine, perfect, immaculate, unblemished, undamaged, unmarked, unused, first-class, excellent

► **verb** ① the shilling was minted in 1742 COIN, stamp, strike, cast, forge, manufacture ② the slogan had been freshly minted: CREATE, invent, make up, think up, dream up

minuscule ► **adjective** TINY, minute, microscopic, very small, little, micro, diminutive, miniature, baby, dwarf; *Scottish wee, informal teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, eensy, eensy-weensy, tiddly, Brt informal titchy*

—OPPOSITES huge

minute¹ ► **noun** ① it'll only take a minute MOMENT, short time, little while, second, bit, instant, *informal sec, jiffy, Brt informal tick, mo, two ticks* ② at that minute, Tony walked in POINT (IN TIME), moment, instant, juncture ③ their objection was noted in the minutes RECORD(S), proceedings, log, notes, transcript, summary, résumé

■ at the minute (*Brt informal*) AT PRESENT, at the moment, now, currently

■ in a minute VERY SOON, in a moment/second/instant, in a trice, shortly, any minute (now), in a short time, in (less than) no time, before long, *N Amer momentarily, informal anon, in a jiffy, in two shakes, before you can say Jack Robinson, Brt informal in a tick, in a mo, in two ticks, N Amer informal in a snap, poetic/literary ere long*

■ this minute AT ONCE, immediately, directly, this second, instantly, straight away, right away/now, forthwith, *informal pronto, straight off, right off, toot sweet; poetic/straight*

■ up to the minute LATEST, newest, up to date, modern, fashionable, smart, chic, stylish, all the rage, in vogue; *informal trendy, with it, in*

■ wait a minute BE PATIENT, wait a moment/second, just a moment/minute/second, hold on, *informal hang on, hold your horses, Brt informal hang about*

minute² ► **adjective** ① minute particles TINY, minuscule, microscopic, very small, little, micro, diminutive, miniature, baby, toy, dwarf, pygmy, Lilliputian, *Scottish wee, informal teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, eensy, eensy-weensy, Brt informal titchy, tiddly* ② a minute chance of success NEGLIGIBLE, slight, infinitesimal, minimal, insignificant, inappreciable ③ minute detail EXHAUSTIVE, painstaking, meticulous, rigorous, scrupulous, punctilious, detailed

—OPPOSITES huge

minutely ► **adverb** EXHAUSTIVELY, painstakingly, meticulously, rigorously, scrupulously, punctiliously, in detail.

minutiae ► **plural noun** DETAILS, niceties, finer points, particulars, trivia, trivialities

minx ► **noun** TEASE, seductress, coquette, slut, Lolita; *informal floozie, tart, vamp; Brt informal scrubber, slapper, N Amer informal tramp; dated hussy, archaic strumpet, trollop*

miracle ► **noun** ① Christ's first miracle: SUPERNATURAL PHENOMENON, mystery, prodigy. ② Germany's economic miracle. WONDER, marvel, sensation, phenomenon.

miraculous ► **adjective** ① the miraculous help of St Blaise SUPERNATURAL, preternatural, inexplicable, unaccountable, magical ② a miraculous escape: AMAZING, astounding, remarkable, extraordinary, incredible, unbelievable, sensational, *informal mind-boggling, mind-blowing*

mirage ► **noun** OPTICAL ILLUSION, hallucination, phantasmagoria, apparition, fantasy, chimera, vision, figment of the imagination, *poetic/literary phantasm*

mire ► **noun** ① it's a mire out there: SWAMP, bog, morass, quagmire, slough; swampland, wetland, marshland ② her horse was spattered with mire MUD, slime, dirt, filth, muck ③ struggling to pull Russia out of the mire MESS, difficulty, plight, predicament, tight spot, trouble, quandary, muddle, *informal jam, fix, pickle, hot water*

► **verb** ① Frank's horse got mired in a bog BOG DOWN, sink (down) ② the children were mired DIRTY, soil, muddy, *poetic/literary begrime* ③ he has become mired in lawsuits ENTANGLE, tangle up, embroil, catch up, mix up, involve

mirror ► **noun** ① a quick look in the mirror LOOKING GLASS, reflecting surface, full-length mirror, hand mirror, wing mirror, rear-view mirror, *Brt glass* ② the Frenchman's life was a mirror of his own REFLECTION, twin, replica, copy, match, parallel.

—RELATED TERMS catoptric, specular

► **verb** pop music mirrored the mood of desperation REFLECT, match, reproduce, imitate, simulate, copy, mimic, echo, parallel, correspond to

mirth ► **noun** MERRIMENT, high spirits, mirthfulness, cheerfulness, cheeriness, hilarity, glee, laughter, gaiety, buoyancy, blitheness, euphoria, exhilaration, light-heartedness, joviality, joy, joyfulness, joyousness

—OPPOSITES misery

mirthful ► **adjective** MERRY, high-spirited, gleeful, cheerful, cheery, jocular, buoyant, euphoric, exhilarated, elated, light-hearted, jovial, joyous, jolly, festive

mirthless ► **adjective** HUMOURLESS, unamused, grim, sour, surly, dour, sullen, sulky, gloomy, mournful, melancholy, doleful, miserable, grumpy

—OPPOSITES cheerful.

miry ► **adjective** MUDDY, slushy, slimy, swampy, marshy, boggy, squelchy, waterlogged

misadventure ► **noun** ACCIDENT, problem, difficulty, misfortune, mishap, setback, reversal (of fortune), stroke of bad luck, blow, failure, disaster, tragedy, calamity, woe, trial, tribulation, catastrophe.

misanthrope ► **noun** HATER OF MANKIND, cynic; recluse, hermit, *informal grouch, grump, historical anchorite*

misanthropic ► **adjective** ANTISOCIAL, unsociable, unfriendly, reclusive, uncongenial, cynical, jaundiced

misapply ► **verb** MISUSE, mishandle, misemploy, abuse, distort, garble, warp, misinterpret, misconstrue, misrepresent.

misapprehend ► **verb** MISUNDERSTAND, misinterpret, misconstrue, misconceive, mistake, misread, get the wrong idea about, take something the wrong way.



misapprehension ▶ noun MISUNDERSTANDING, misinterpretation, misreading, misjudgement, misconception, misbelief, the wrong idea, false impression, delusion

misappropriate ▶ verb EMBEZZLE, expropriate, steal, thief, pilfer, pocket, help oneself to, make off with, *informal* swipe, filch, rip off, snatch, *Brit informal* pinch, nick, whip, knock off, *formal* peculate

misappropriation ▶ noun EMBEZZLEMENT, expropriation, stealing, theft, thieving, pilfering, *formal* peculation

misbegotten ▶ adjective ① a *misbegotten* scheme ILL-CONCEIVED, ill-advised, badly planned, badly thought-out, hare-brained ② you *misbegotten* hound! CONTEMPTIBLE, despicable, wretched, miserable, confounded, *informal* infernal, damned, flaming, *dated* cursed, accursed ③ (archaic) *misbegotten* children See ILLEGITIMATE sense 2

misbehave ▶ verb BEHAVE BADLY, be misbehaved, be naughty, be disobedient, get up to mischief, get up to no good, be bad-mannered, be rude, *informal* carry on, act up

misbehaviour ▶ noun BAD BEHAVIOUR, misconduct, naughtiness, disobedience, mischief, mischievousness, bad/poor manners, rudeness, *informal* acting-up

misbelief ▶ noun FALSE BELIEF, delusion, illusion, fallacy, error, mistake, misconception, misapprehension

miscalculate ▶ verb MISJUDGE, make a mistake (about), calculate wrongly, estimate wrongly, overestimate, underestimate, overvalue, undervalue, go wrong, err, be wide of the mark

miscalculation ▶ noun ERROR OF JUDGEMENT, misjudgement, mistake, overestimate, underestimate

miscarriage ▶ noun ① she's had a miscarriage (SPONTANEOUS) ABORTION, stillbirth ② the miscarriage of the project FAILURE, foundering, ruin, ruination, collapse, breakdown, thwarting, frustration, undoing, non-fulfilment, mismanagement

miscarry ▶ verb ① the shock caused her to miscarry LOSE ONE'S BABY, have a miscarriage, abort, have a (spontaneous) abortion ② our plan miscarried GO WRONG, go awry, go amiss, be unsuccessful, be ruined, fail, misfire, abort, founder, come to nothing, fall through, fall flat, *informal* flop, go up in smoke
—OPPOSITES succeed

miscellaneous ▶ adjective VARIOUS, varied, different, assorted, mixed, sundry, diverse, disparate; diversified, motley, multifarious, heterogeneous, *poetic/literary* divers.

miscellany ▶ noun ASSORTMENT, mixture, mélange, blend, variety, mixed bag, mix, medley, diversity, collection, selection, assemblage, pot-pourri, mishmash, hotchpotch, ragbag, salmagundi, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum, *N Amer* hodgepodge.

mischance ▶ noun ACCIDENT, misfortune, mishap, misadventure, setback, disaster, tragedy, calamity, catastrophe, reversal, upset, blow, bad luck, ill fortune.

mischief ▶ noun ① the boys are always getting up to mischief NAUGHTINESS, bad behaviour, misbe-

haviour, mischievousness, misconduct, disobedience; pranks, tricks, larks, capers, nonsense, devilry, funny business, *informal* monkey business, shenanigans, hanky-panky, *Brit informal* monkey tricks, carryings-on, jiggery-pokery ② the mischief in her eyes IMPISHNESS, roguishness, devilment ③ (informal) you'll do yourself a mischief HARM, hurt, injury, damage

mischievous ▶ adjective ① a mischievous child NAUGHTY, badly behaved, misbehaving, disobedient, troublesome, full of mischief; rascally, roguish ② a mischievous smile PLAYFUL, teasing, wicked, impish, roguish, arch ③ a mischievous allegation MALICIOUS, malevolent, spiteful, venomous, poisonous, evil-intentioned, evil, baleful, vindictive, vengeful, vitriolic, rancorous, malign, malignant, pernicious, mean, nasty, harmful, hurtful, cruel, unkind, *informal* bitchy, catty, *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent.
—OPPOSITES well behaved

misconceive ▶ verb MISUNDERSTAND, misinterpret, misconstrue, misapprehend, mistake, misread, miscalculate, err, be mistaken, get the wrong idea

misconception ▶ noun MISAPPREHENSION, misunderstanding, mistake, error, misinterpretation, misconstruction, misreading, misjudgement, misbelief, miscalculation, false impression, illusion, fallacy, delusion

misconduct ▶ noun ① allegations of misconduct WRONGDOING, unlawfulness, lawlessness, crime, felony, criminality, sin, sinfulness, unprofessionalism, unethical behaviour, malpractice, negligence, impropriety, *formal* maladministration, malversation ② misconduct in the classroom MISBEHAVIOUR, bad behaviour, misdeeds, misdemeanours, disorderly conduct, mischief, naughtiness, rudeness

misconstruction ▶ noun MISUNDERSTANDING, misinterpretation, misapprehension, misconception, misreading, misjudgement, misbelief, miscalculation, false impression

misconstrue ▶ verb MISUNDERSTAND, misinterpret, misconceive, misapprehend, mistake, misread, be mistaken about, get the wrong idea about, get it/someone wrong

miscreant ▶ noun CRIMINAL, culprit, wrongdoer, malefactor, offender, villain, lawbreaker, evil-doer, delinquent, reprobate, *Law* malefactor

misdeed ▶ noun WRONGDOING, wrong, evil deed, crime, felony, misdemeanour, misconduct, offence, error, transgression, sin, *archaic* trespass

misdemeanour ▶ noun WRONGDOING, evil deed, crime, felony, misdeed, misconduct, offence, error, peccadillo, transgression, sin, *archaic* trespass

miser ▶ noun PENNY-PINCHER, pinchpenny, niggard, cheese-parer, Scrooge, *informal* sknflunt, meanie, money-grubber, cheapskate; *N Amer informal* tightwad
—OPPOSITES spendthrift.

miserable ▶ adjective ① I'm too miserable to eat UNHAPPY, sad, sorrowful, dejected, depressed, downcast, downhearted, down, despondent, disconsolate, wretched, glum, gloomy, dismal, melancholy, woebegone, doleful, forlorn, heartbroken; *informal* blue, down in the mouth/dumps. ② their miserable surroundings. DREARY,



dismal, gloomy, drab, wretched, depressing, grim, cheerless, bleak, desolate, poor, shabby, squalid, seedy, dilapidated ① *miserable weather UNPLEASANT*, disagreeable, depressing, wet, rainy, stormy; *informal rotten* ② *a miserable old grouch GRUMPY*, sullen, gloomy, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, dour, surly, sour, glum, moody, unsociable, saturnine, lugubrious, irritable, churlish, cantankerous, crotchety, cross, crabby, grouchy, testy, peevish, crusty, waspish ③ *miserable wages INADEQUATE*, meagre, scanty, paltry, small, poor, pitiful, niggardly, *informal measly*, stingy, pathetic, *formal* exiguous ④ *all that fuss about a few miserable pounds WRETCHED*, confounded, *informal* blithering, flaming, blessed, damned, blasted, *dated* accursed -OPPOSITES cheerful, lovely

miserliness ▶ *noun* MEANNESS, niggardliness, close-fistedness, closeness, parsimony, parsimoniousness, *informal* stinginess, tight-fistedness, *N Amer* cheapness, *archaic* nearness

miserly ▶ *adjective* ① *his miserly great-uncle MEAN*, niggardly, parsimonious, close, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, grasping, Scrooge-like, *informal* stingy, tight, tight-fisted, *N Amer informal* cheap, *archaic* near ② *the prize is a miserly £300 MEAGRE*, inadequate, paltry, negligible, miserable, pitiful, niggardly, beggarly, *informal* measly, stingy, pathetic, *formal* exiguous -OPPOSITES generous.

misery ▶ *noun* ① *periods of intense misery UNHAPPINESS*, distress, wretchedness, suffering, anguish, anxiety, angst, torment, pain, grief, heartache, heartbreak, despair, despondency, dejection, depression, desolation, gloom, melancholy, melancholia, woe, sadness, sorrow, *informal* the dumps, the blues, *poetic/literary* *dolour* ② *the miseries of war AFFLICTION*, misfortune, difficulty, problem, ordeal, trouble, hardship, deprivation, pain, sorrow, trial, tribulation, woe ③ (*Brit informal*) *he's a real old misery KILLJOY*, dog in the manger, spoilsport, *informal* sourpuss, grouch, grump, party-pooper -OPPOSITES contentment, pleasure

misfire ▶ *verb* GO WRONG, go awry, be unsuccessful, fail, founder, fall through/flat, backfire, *informal* flop, go up in smoke

misfit ▶ *noun* NONCONFORMIST, eccentric, maverick, individualist, square peg in a round hole, *informal* oddball, weirdo, freak, *N Amer informal* screwball

misfortune ▶ *noun* PROBLEM, difficulty, setback, trouble, adversity, stroke of bad luck, reversal (of fortune), misadventure, mishap, blow, failure, accident, disaster, sorrow, misery, woe, trial, tribulation

misgiving ▶ *noun* QUALM, doubt, reservation, suspicion, distrust, mistrust, lack of confidence, second thoughts, trepidation, scepticism, unease, uneasiness, anxiety, apprehension, disquiet

misguided ▶ *adjective* ① *the policy is misguided ERRONEOUS*, fallacious, unsound, misplaced, misconceived, ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, inappropriate, unwise, injudicious, imprudent. ② *you are quite misguided MISINFORMED*, misled, labouring under a misapprehension, wrong, mistaken, deluded.

mishandle ▶ *verb* ① *the officer mishandled the situation. BUNGLE*, fluff, make a mess of, mis-

manage, spoil, ruin, wreck; *informal* botch, make a hash of, mess up, muck up; *Brit informal* make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of ② *he mishandled his wife BULLY*, persecute, ill-treat, mistreat, maltreat, abuse, knock about/around, hit, beat, *informal* beat up ③ *the equipment could be dangerous if mishandled. MISUSE*, abuse, handle/treat roughly

mishap ▶ *noun* ACCIDENT, trouble, problem, difficulty, setback, adversity, reversal (of fortune), misfortune, blow, failure, disaster, tragedy, catastrophe, calamity

mishmash ▶ *noun* JUMBLE, confusion, hotch-potch, ragbag, patchwork, farrago, assortment, medley, miscellany, mixture, melange, blend, mix, pot-pourri, conglomeration, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum, salmagundi, *N Amer* hodge-podge

misinform ▶ *verb* MISLEAD, misguide, give wrong information, delude, take in, deceive, lie to, hoodwink, *informal* lead up the garden path, take for a ride, *N Amer informal* give someone a bum steer

misinformation ▶ *noun* DISINFORMATION, false/misleading information, lie, fib, *N Amer informal* bum steer

misinterpret ▶ *verb* MISUNDERSTAND, misconceive, misconstrue, misapprehend, mistake, misread, confuse, take amiss, be mistaken, get the wrong idea

misjudge ▶ *verb* GET THE WRONG IDEA ABOUT, get wrong, judge incorrectly, estimate wrongly, be wrong about, miscalculate, misread, overestimate, underestimate, overvalue, undervalue, underrate

mislay ▶ *verb* LOSE, misplace, put in the wrong place, be unable to find, forget the whereabouts of -OPPOSITES find

mislead ▶ *verb* DECEIVE, delude, take in, lie to, fool, hoodwink, throw off the scent, pull the wool over someone's eyes, misguide, misinform, give wrong information to, *informal* lead up the garden path, take for a ride; *N Amer informal* give someone a bum steer

misleading ▶ *adjective* DECEPTIVE, confusing, deceiving, equivocal, ambiguous, fallacious, specious, spurious, false.

mismanage ▶ *verb* BUNGLE, fluff, make a mess of, mishandle, misconduct, spoil, ruin, wreck, *informal* botch, make a hash of, mess up, muck up, *Brit informal* make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of

mismatch ▶ *noun* DISCREPANCY, inconsistency, contradiction, incongruity, incongruousness, conflict, discord, irreconcilability

mismatched ▶ *adjective* ILL-ASSORTED, ill-matched, incongruous, unsuited, incompatible, inconsistent, at odds; out of keeping, clashing, dissimilar, unlike, different, at variance, disparate, unrelated, divergent, contrasting. -OPPOSITES matching.

misogynist ▶ *noun* WOMAN-HATER, anti-feminist, (male) chauvinist, sexist; *informal* male chauvinist pig, MCP.

misplace ▶ *verb* LOSE, mislay, put in the wrong place, be unable to find, forget the whereabouts of. -OPPOSITES find.



misplaced ▶ **adjective** ① *his comments were misplaced* MISGUIDED, unwise, ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, inappropriate. ② *misplaced keys* LOST, mislaid, missing.

misprint ▶ **noun** MISTAKE, error, typographical mistake/error, typing mistake/error, corrigendum, erratum, *Brit* literal, *informal* typo

misquote ▶ **verb** MISREPORT, misrepresent, misstate, take/quote out of context, distort, twist, slant, bias, put a spin on, falsify

misrepresent ▶ **verb** GIVE A FALSE ACCOUNT; IDEA OF, misstate, misreport, misquote, quote/take out of context, misinterpret, put a spin on, falsify, distort

misrule ▶ **noun** ① *the misrule of Edward IV.* BAD GOVERNMENT, misgovernment, mismanagement, malpractice, incompetence; *formal* maladministration ② *the misrule at football games* LAWLESSNESS, anarchy, disorder, chaos, mayhem
—OPPOSITES order

miss¹ ▶ **verb** ① *the shot missed her by inches* FAIL TO HIT, be/go wide of, fall short of ② *Mandy missed the catch* FAIL TO CATCH, drop, fumble, fluff, mishandle, misfield, mishit ③ *I've missed my bus* BE TOO LATE FOR, fail to catch/get ④ *I missed what you said.* FAIL TO HEAR, mishear ⑤ *you can't miss the station* FAIL TO SEE/NOTICE, overlook ⑥ *she never missed a meeting* FAIL TO ATTEND, be absent from, play truant from, cut, skip, *Brit informal* skive off ⑦ *don't miss this exciting opportunity!* LET SLIP, fail to take advantage of, let go/pass, pass up ⑧ *I left early to miss the rush-hour traffic* AVOID, beat, evade, escape, dodge, sidestep, elude, circumvent, steer clear of, find a way round, bypass ⑨ *she missed him when he was away* PINE FOR, yearn for, ache for, long for, long to see
—OPPOSITES hit, catch

▶ **noun** one hit and three misses FAILURE, omission, slip, blunder, error, mistake
■ **miss someone/something out** LEAVE OUT, exclude, miss (off), fail to mention, pass over, skip, *Brit informal* give something a miss

miss² ▶ **noun** a headstrong young miss YOUNG WOMAN, young lady, girl, schoolgirl, missy, *Scottish* lass, lassie, *Irish* colleen, *informal* girlie, chick, bit, doll, *Brit informal* bird, bint; *N Amer informal* broad, dame; *Austral/NZ informal* sheila, *poetic/literary* maiden, maid, damsel, *archaic* wench

misshapen ▶ **adjective** DEFORMED, malformed, distorted, crooked, twisted, warped, out of shape, bent, asymmetrical, irregular, misproportioned, ill-proportioned, disfigured, grotesque

missile ▶ **noun.** See list at PROJECTILE

missing ▶ **adjective** ① *his wallet is missing.* LOST, mislaid, misplaced, absent, gone (astray), unaccounted for ② *passion was missing from her life* ABSENT, not present, lacking, wanting.
—OPPOSITES present.

mission ▶ **noun** ① *a mercy mission to Romania* ASSIGNMENT, commission, expedition, journey, trip, undertaking, operation; task, job, labour, work, duty, charge, trust. ② *her mission in life* VOCATION, calling, goal, aim, quest, purpose, function. ③ *a trade mission:* DELEGATION, deputation, commission, legation, delegacy. ④ *a teacher in a mission:* missionary post, missionary station. ⑤ *a bombing mission:* SORTIE, operation, raid.

missionary ▶ **noun** EVANGELIST, apostle, proselytizer, preacher, minister, priest

missive ▶ **noun** MESSAGE, communication, letter, word, note, memorandum, line, communiqué, dispatch, news, *informal* memo; *formal* epistle, *poetic/literary* tidings

misspent ▶ **adjective** WASTED, dissipated, squandered, thrown away, frittered away, misused, misapplied.

misstate ▶ **verb** MISREPORT, misrepresent, take/quote out of context, distort, twist, put a spin on, falsify

mist ▶ **noun** *the mist was clearing:* HAZE, fog, smog, murk, cloud, *Scotch* mist, *poetic/literary* brume, fume

■ **mist over/up** STEAM UP, become misty, fog over/up, film over, cloud over

mistake ▶ **noun** ① *I assumed it had been a mistake* ERROR, fault, inaccuracy, omission, slip, blunder, miscalculation, misunderstanding, oversight, misinterpretation, gaffe, faux pas, solecism, *informal* slip-up, boo-boo, howler, boner, *Brit informal* boob, clanger, bloomer, *N Amer informal* goof. ② *spelling mistakes* MISPRINT, typographical error/mistake, typing error/mistake, corrigendum, erratum, *Brit* literal; *informal* typo

▶ **verb** ① *men are apt to mistake their own feelings* MISUNDERSTAND, misinterpret, get wrong, misconstrue, misread ② *children often mistake vitamin pills for sweets* CONFUSE WITH, mix up with, take for, misinterpret as

■ **be mistaken** BE WRONG, be in error, be under a misapprehension, be misinformed, be misguided, *informal* be barking up the wrong tree, get the wrong end of the stick

■ **make a mistake** GO WRONG, err, make an error, blunder, miscalculate, *informal* slip up, make a boo-boo, make a howler, *Brit informal* boob, *N Amer informal* drop the ball, goof (up)

mistaken ▶ **adjective** WRONG, erroneous, inaccurate, incorrect, off beam, false, fallacious, unfounded, misguided, misinformed
—OPPOSITES correct

mistakenly ▶ **adverb** ① *we often mistakenly imagine that when a problem is diagnosed it is solved* WRONGLY, in error, erroneously, incorrectly, falsely, fallaciously, inaccurately ② *Matt mistakenly opened the letter* BY ACCIDENT, accidentally, inadvertently, unintentionally, unwittingly, unconsciously, by mistake
—OPPOSITES correctly, intentionally.

mistimed ▶ **adjective** ILL-TIMED, badly timed, inopportune, inappropriate, untimely, unseasonable
—OPPOSITES opportune

mistreat ▶ **verb** ILL-TREAT, maltreat, abuse, knock about/around, hit, beat, strike, molest, injure, harm, hurt, misuse, mishandle, *informal* beat up, rough up

mistreatment ▶ **noun** ILL-TREATMENT, maltreatment, abuse, beating, molestation, injury, harm; mishandling, manhandling

mistress ▶ **noun** LOVER, girlfriend, kept woman; courtesan, concubine; *informal* fancy woman, bit on the side, *archaic* paramour

mistrust ▶ **verb** ① *I mistrust his motives* BE SUSPICIOUS OF, be mistrustful of, be distrustful of, be sceptical of, be wary of, be chary of, dis-



trust, have doubts about, have misgivings about, have reservations about, suspect ② *don't mistrust your impulses* QUESTION, challenge, doubt, have no confidence/faith in

► **noun** ① *mistrust of Russia was widespread* SUSPICION, distrust, doubt, misgivings, wariness ② *their mistrust of David's competence* QUESTIONING, lack of confidence/faith in, doubt about

mistrustful ► **adjective** SUSPICIOUS, chary, wary, distrustful, doubtful, dubious, uneasy, sceptical, leery

misty ► **adjective** ① *misty weather* HAZY, foggy, cloudy, smoggy ② *a misty figure* BLURRY, fuzzy, blurred, dim, indistinct, unclear, vague ③ *misty memories* VAGUE, unclear, indefinite, hazy, nebulous

—OPPOSITES clear

misunderstand ► **verb** MISAPPREHEND, MISINTERPRET, misconstrue, misconceive, mistake, misread, be mistaken, get the wrong idea, receive a false impression, *informal* be barking up the wrong tree, get (hold of) the wrong end of the stick

misunderstanding ► **noun** ① *a fundamental misunderstanding of juvenile crime* MISINTERPRETATION, misconstruction, misreading, misapprehension, misconception, the wrong idea, false impression ② *we have had some misunderstandings* DISAGREEMENT, difference (of opinion), dispute, falling-out, quarrel, argument, altercation, squabble, wrangle, row, clash, *informal* spat, scrap, tiff

misuse ► **verb** ① *misusing public funds* PUT TO WRONG USE, misemploy, embezzle, use fraudulently, abuse, squander, waste ② *she had been misused by her husband* ILL-TREAT, maltreat, mistreat, abuse, knock about/around, hit, beat, strike, molest, injure, harm, hurt, mishandle, manhandle, *informal* beat up, rough up

► **noun** ① *a misuse of company assets* WRONG USE, embezzlement, fraud, squandering, waste ② *the misuse of drugs* ILLEGAL USE, abuse

mitigate ► **verb** ALLEVIATE, reduce, diminish, lessen, weaken, lighten, attenuate, take the edge off, allay, ease, assuage, palliate, relieve, tone down

—OPPOSITES aggravate

mitigating ► **adjective** EXTENUATING, exonerative, justificatory, justifying, vindicatory, vindicating, qualifying; *formal* exculpatory

mitigation ► **noun** ① *the mitigation of the problems* ALLEVIATION, reduction, diminution, lessening, easing, weakening, assuagement, palliation, relief ② *what did she say in mitigation?* EX TENUATION, explanation, excuse

mix ► **verb** ① *mix all the ingredients together* BLEND, mix up, mingle, combine, put together, jumble, fuse, unite, unify, join, amalgamate, incorporate, meld, marry, coalesce, homogenize, intermingle, intermix, *technical* admix, *poetic/literary* commingle, *archaic* commix ② *she mixes with all sorts* ASSOCIATE, socialize, fraternize, keep company, consort, mingle, circulate, *N Amer* rub elbows; *informal* hang out/around, knock about/around, hobnob; *Brit informal* hang about ③ *we just don't mix* BE COMPATIBLE, get along/on, be on the same wavelength, be in harmony, see eye to eye, agree; *informal* hit it off, click

—OPPOSITES separate

► **noun** a mix of ancient and modern: MIXTURE, blend, mingling, combination, compound, fusion, alloy, union, amalgamation, medley, melange, collection, selection, assortment, variety, mixed bag, miscellany, pot-pourri, jumble, hotchpotch, ragbag, patchwork, farrago, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum, salmagundi, *N Amer* hodgepodge

■ **mix something up** ① *mix up the rusk with milk* See MIX verb sense 1 ② *I mixed up the dates* CONFUSE, get confused, muddle (up), get muddled up, mistake

■ **mixed up in** INVOLVED IN, embroiled in, caught up in

mixed ► **adjective** ① *a mixed collection* ASSORTED, varied, variegated, miscellaneous, disparate, diverse, diversified, motley, sundry, jumbled, heterogeneous ② *chickens of mixed breeds* HYBRID, half-caste, cross-bred, interbred ③ *mixed reactions* AMBIVALENT, equivocal, contradictory, conflicting, confused, muddled

—OPPOSITES homogeneous

mixed up ► **adjective** (*informal*) CONFUSED, (all) at sea, befuddled, bemused, bewildered, muddled, maladjusted, disturbed, neurotic, unbalanced, *informal* hung up, messed up

mixer ► **noun** ① *a kitchen mixer* BLENDER, food processor, liquidizer, beater, churn ② *she was never really a mixer* SOCIABLE PERSON, socializer, extrovert, socialite

mixture ► **noun** ① *the pudding mixture* BLEND, mix, brew, combination, concoction, composition, compound, alloy, amalgam ② *a strange mixture of people* ASSORTMENT, miscellany, medley, melange, blend, variety, mixed bag, mix, diversity, collection, selection, pot-pourri, mishmash, hotchpotch, ragbag, patchwork, farrago, gallimaufry, omnium gatherum, salmagundi, *N Amer* hodgepodge ③ *the animals were a mixture of genetic strands* CROSS, cross-breed, mongrel, hybrid, half-breed, half-caste

mix-up ► **noun** CONFUSION, muddle, misunderstanding, mistake, error

moan ► **noun** ① *moans of pain* GROAN, wail, whimper, sob, cry ② *the moan of the wind* SOUGH, sigh, murmur ③ (*informal*) *there were moans about the delay* COMPLAINT, complaining, grouse, grouching, grumble, grumbling, whine, whining, carping, *informal* gripe, griping, grouch, grouching, bellyache, bitch, whinge, whinging, beef, beefing

► **verb** ① *he moaned in agony* GROAN, wail, whimper, sob, cry ② *the wind moaned in the trees* SOUGH, sigh, murmur ③ (*informal*) *you're always moaning about the weather* COMPLAIN, grouse, grumble, whine, carp; *informal* gripe, grouch, bellyache, bitch, beef, whinge, *N English informal* mither.

mob ► **noun** ① *troops dispersed the mob* CROWD, horde, multitude, rabble, mass, throng, group, gang, gathering, assemblage, *archaic* rout ② *the mob were excluded from political life* THE COMMON PEOPLE, the masses, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians, the proletariat; the hoi polloi, the lower classes, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed; *informal* the proles, the plebs ③ (*Brit informal*) *he stood out from the rest of the mob*: GROUP, set, crowd, lot, circle, coterie, clan, faction, pack, band, ring, *informal* gang, bunch.

► **verb** ① *the Chancellor was mobbed when he visited Berlin* SURROUND, swarm around, besiege, jostle ② *reporters mobbed her hotel* CROWD (INTO), fill, pack, throng, press into, squeeze into

mobile ► **adjective** ① *both patients are mobile* ABLE TO MOVE (AROUND), moving, walking, Zoology motile, Medicine ambulant ② *her mobile face* EXPRESSIVE, eloquent, revealing, animated ③ *a mobile library* TRAVELLING, transportable, portable, movable, itinerant, peripatetic ④ *highly mobile young people* ADAPTABLE, flexible, versatile, adjustable
—OPPOSITES motionless, static

mobility ► **noun** ① *restricted mobility* ABILITY TO MOVE, movability ② *the mobility of Billy's face* EXPRESSIVENESS, eloquence, animation ③ *mobility in the workforce* ADAPTABILITY, flexibility, versatility, adjustability

mobilize ► **verb** ① *the government mobilized the troops* MARSHAL, deploy, muster, rally, call up, assemble, mass, organize, prepare ② *mobilizing support for the party* GENERATE, arouse, awaken, excite, incite, provoke, foment, prompt, stimulate, stir up, galvanize, encourage, inspire, whip up, poetic/literary waken

mock ► **verb** ① *the local children mocked the old people* RIDICULE, jeer at, sneer at, deride, scorn, make fun of, laugh at, scoff at, tease, taunt, informal take the mickey out of, josh, N Amer informal goof on, rag on, pull someone's chain, Austral/NZ informal poke mullock at, sling off at ② *they mocked the way he speaks* PARODY, ape, take off, satirize, lampoon, imitate, mimic, informal send up

► **adjective** *mock leather* IMITATION, artificial, man-made, simulated, synthetic, ersatz, fake, reproduction, dummy, sham, false, spurious, bogus, counterfeit, pseudo, informal pretend, phoney
—OPPOSITES genuine

mockery ► **noun** ① *the mockery in his voice* RIDICULE, derision, jeering, sneering, contempt, scorn, scoffing, teasing, taunting, sarcasm ② *the trial was a mockery* TRAVESTY, charade, farce, parody

mocking ► **adjective** SNEERING, derisive, contemptuous, scornful, sardonic, ironic, sarcastic

mode ► **noun** ① *an informal mode of policing*: MAN NER, way, fashion, means, method, system, style, approach, technique, procedure, process, practice. ② *the camera is in manual mode* FUNCTION, position, operation ③ *the mode for active wear* FASHION, vogue, style, look, trend, craze, rage, fad

model ► **noun** ① *a working model* REPLICA, copy, representation, mock-up, dummy, imitation, duplicate, reproduction, facsimile ② *the American model of airline deregulation* PROTOTYPE, stereotype, archetype, type, version; mould, template, framework, pattern, design, blueprint. ③ *she was a model as a teacher*: IDEAL, paragon, perfect example/specimen; perfection, acme, epitome, nonpareil, crème de la crème. ④ *a top model*: FASHION MODEL, supermodel, mannequin, informal clothes horse ⑤ *an artist's model*: SITTER, poser, subject. ⑥ *the latest model of car* VERSION, type, design, variety, kind, sort. ⑦ *this dress is a model*: ORIGINAL (DESIGN), exclusive; informal one-off

► **adjective** ① *model trains*: REPLICA, TOY, miniature, dummy, imitation, duplicate, reproduction, fac-

simile ② *model farms* PROTOTYPICAL, prototypal, archetypal ③ *a model teacher* IDEAL, perfect, exemplary, classic, flawless, faultless

moderate ► **adjective** ① *moderate success* AVERAGE, modest, medium, middling, ordinary, common, commonplace, everyday, workaday, tolerable, passable, adequate, fair, mediocre, indifferent, unexceptional, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill, informal OK, so-so, bog-standard, fair-to-middling, (plain) vanilla, no great shakes, not up to much, NZ informal half-pie ② *moderate prices* REASONABLE, acceptable, inexpensive, low, fair, modest ③ *moderate views* MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD, non-extreme, non-radical ④ *moderate behaviour* RESTRAINED, controlled, sober, tolerant, lenient
—OPPOSITES great, unreasonable, extreme

► **verb** ① *the wind has moderated* DIE DOWN, abate, let up, calm down, lessen, decrease, diminish, recede, weaken, subside ② *you can help to moderate her anger* CURB, control, check, temper, restrain, subdue, repress, tame, lessen, decrease, lower, reduce, diminish, alleviate, allay, appease, assuage, ease, soothe, calm tone down, archaic remit ③ *the Speaker moderates the assembly* CHAIR, take the chair of, preside over
—OPPOSITES increase

moderately ► **adverb** SOMEWHAT, quite, rather, fairly, reasonably, comparatively, relatively, to some extent, tolerably, passably, adequately, informal pretty.

moderation ► **noun** ① *he urged them to show moderation* SELF-RESTRAINT, restraint, self-control, self-discipline, moderateness, temperance, leniency, fairness ② *a moderation of their confrontational style* RELAXATION, easing (off), reduction, abatement, weakening, slackening, tempering, softening, diminution, diminishing, lessening, decline, modulation, modification, mitigation, allaying, informal let-up

■ **in moderation** IN MODERATE QUANTITIES/AMOUNTS, within (sensible) limits, moderately

modern ► **adjective** ① *modern times* PRESENT-DAY, contemporary, present, current, twenty-first-century, latter-day, recent ② *her clothes are very modern* FASHIONABLE, in fashion, in style, in vogue, up to date, all the rage, trendsetting, stylish, voguish, modish, chic, à la mode, the latest, new, newest, newfangled, modernistic, advanced, informal trendy, cool, in, with it, now, hip, happening, N Amer informal tony
—OPPOSITES past, old-fashioned

modernity ► **noun** CONTEMPORANEITY, contemporaneousness, modernness, modernism, fashionableness, vogue, informal trendiness

modernize ► **verb** ① *they are modernizing their manufacturing facilities* UPDATE, bring up to date, streamline, rationalize, overhaul, renovate, remodel, refashion, revamp ② *we must modernize to survive*: GET UP TO DATE, move with the times, innovate, informal get in the swim, get with it

modest ► **adjective** ① *she was modest about her poetry* SELF-EFFACING, self-deprecating, humble, unpretentious, unassuming, unostentatious, shy, bashful, self-conscious, diffident, reserved, reticent, coy ② *modest success*: MODERATE, fair, limited, tolerable, passable, adequate, satisfactory, acceptable, unexceptional. ③ *a modest house*. SMALL, ordinary, simple, plain, humble, inexpensive, unostentatious, unpretentious



④ *her modest dress* DECOROUS, decent, seemly, demure, proper
 —OPPOSITES conceited, great, grand

modesty ▶ noun ① *Hannah's modesty cloaks many talents* SELF-EFFACEMENT, humility, unpretentiousness, shyness, bashfulness, self-consciousness, reserve, reticence, timidity ② *the modesty of his aspirations* LIMITED SCOPE, moderation ③ *the modesty of his home* UNPRETENTIOUSNESS, simplicity, plainness ④ *her maidenly modesty* DECORUM, decorousness, decency, seemliness, demureness

modicum ▶ noun SMALL AMOUNT, particle, speck, fragment, scrap, crumb, grain, morsel, shred, dash, drop, pinch, jot, iota, whit, atom, smattering, scintilla, hint, suggestion, informal smidgen, tad, archaic scantling

modification ▶ noun ① *the design is undergoing modification* ALTERATION, adjustment, change, adaptation, refinement, revision ② *some minor modifications were made* REVISION, refinement, improvement, amendment, adaptation, adjustment, change, alteration ③ *the modification of his views* SOFTENING, moderation, tempering, qualification

modify ▶ verb ① *their economic policy has been modified* ALTER, change, adjust, adapt, amend, revise, reshape, refashion, restyle, revamp, rework, remodel, refine; informal tweak ② *he modified his more extreme views* MODERATE, revise, temper, soften, tone down, qualify

modish ▶ adjective FASHIONABLE, stylish, chic, modern, contemporary, all the rage, in vogue, voguish, up to the minute, à la mode, informal trendy, cool, with it, in, now, hip, happening, *N Amer informal* kicky, tony

modulate ▶ verb ① *the cells modulate the body's response* REGULATE, adjust, set, modify, moderate ② *she modulated her voice* ADJUST, change the tone of

modus operandi ▶ noun METHOD (OF WORKING), way, MO, manner, technique, style, procedure, approach, methodology, strategy, plan, formula, formal praxis

mogul ▶ noun MAGNATE, tycoon, VIP, notable, personage, baron, captain, king, lord, grandee, nabob, informal bigwig, big shot, big noise, top dog, *N Amer informal* top banana, big enchilada

moist ▶ adjective ① *the air was moist* DAMP, dampish, steamy, humid, muggy, clammy, dank, wet, wettish, soggy, sweaty, sticky ② *a moist fruitcake*: SUCCULENT, juicy, soft. ③ *her eyes grew moist*: TEARFUL, watery, misty
 —OPPOSITES dry

moisten ▶ verb DAMPEN, wet, damp, water, humidify; poetic/literary bedew

moisture ▶ noun WETNESS, wet, water, liquid, condensation, steam, vapour, dampness, damp, humidity, clamminess, mugginess, dankness, wateriness.

moisturizer ▶ noun LOTION, cream, balm, emollient, salve, unguent, lubricant, technical humectant.

mole¹ ▶ noun the mole on his left cheek: MARK, freckle, blotch, spot, blemish.

mole² ▶ noun a well-placed mole spv. (secret) agent, undercover agent, operative, plant, infiltrator; *N Amer informal* spook; archaic intelligence.

mole³ ▶ noun the mole protecting the harbour BREAKWATER, groyne, dyke, pier, sea wall, causeway

molest ▶ verb ① *the crowd were molesting the police* HARASS, harry, pester, beset, persecute, torment; *N Amer informal* roust. ② *he molested a ten-year-old boy* (SEXUALLY) ABUSE, (sexually) assault, interfere with, rape, violate; informal grope, paw, poetic/literary ravish

mollify ▶ verb ① *they mollified the protesters* APPEASE, placate, pacify, conciliate, soothe, calm (down). ② *mollifying the fears of the public* ALLAY, assuage, alleviate, mitigate, ease, reduce, moderate, temper, tone down
 —OPPOSITES enrage

mollusc ▶ noun. See list
 —RELATED TERMS malacology

Molluscs

abalone	jewel box	scallop
angel wings	jingle (shell)	scaphopod
argonaut	lamp shell	scungille
ark (shell)	limpet	sea butterfly
auger (shell)	lion's paw	sea hare
basket shell	mitre (shell)	sea lemon
bittersweet	moon shell	sea slug
shell	murex	shellfish
bivalve	mussel	shipworm
bubble	necklace	slipper limpet
(shell)	shell	silt limpet
canoe shell	nautilus	slug
carpet shell	nerite	snail
carrier shell	Noah's ark	softshell clam
cephalopod	nudibranch	spindle shell
chink shell	octopus	spire shell
chiton	olive (shell)	squid
clam	ormer	sundial (shell)
cockle	otter shell	swan mussel
cone shell	oyster	tellin
coquina	pandora	teredo
(clam)	paper	thorny oyster
cowrie	nautilus	top shell
cuttlefish	paua	tridacna
date mussel	pearl mussel	triton
dog cockle	pearl oyster	trough shell
dog whelk	pearly	trumpet shell
dove shell	nautilus	tulip shell
drill	pelican's	tun (shell)
drupe	foot shell	turban (shell)
duck mussel	pen shell	turret (shell)
edible snail	periwinkle	tusk shell
file shell	pheasant	vase shell
gaper	shell	Venus (shell)
gastropod	piddock	wedge shell
geoduck	pteropod	wentletrap
giant clam	quahog	whelk
hard clam	ram's-horn	wing oyster
harp (shell)	snail	winkle
helmet (shell)	razor shell	worm shell
horn shell	round clam	zebra mussel

mollycoddle ▶ verb his parents mollycoddle him: PAMPER, cosset, coddle, spoil, indulge, over-indulge, pet, baby, nanny, nursemaid, wait on hand and foot, wrap in cotton wool.

▶ noun (informal) the boy's a mollycoddle! See DRIP noun sense 2

molten ▶ adjective LIQUEFIED, liquid, fluid, melted, flowing.

moment ▶ noun ① *he thought for a moment* LIT TLE WHILE, short time, bit, minute, instant, (split) second; *informal* sec, jiffy, *Brit informal* tick, mo, two ticks ② *the moment they met* POINT (IN TIME), time, hour. ③ *(formal) issues of little moment* IMPORTANCE, import, significance, consequence, note, weight, concern, interest

■ **in a moment** VERY SOON, in a minute, in a second, in a trice, shortly, any minute (now), in the twinkling of an eye, in (less than) no time, in no time at all, *N Amer* momentarily, *informal* in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, in the blink of an eye, *Brit informal* in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo, *N Amer informal* in a snap, *poetic/literary* ere long

momentarily ▶ adverb ① *he paused momentarily* BRIEFLY, fleetingly, for a moment, for a second, for an instant ② *(N Amer) my husband will be here momentarily* See in A MOMENT

momentary ▶ adjective BRIEF, short, short-lived, fleeting, passing, transient, ephemeral, *poetic/literary* evanescent

—OPPOSITES lengthy

momentous ▶ adjective IMPORTANT, significant, historic, portentous, critical, crucial, life-and-death, decisive, pivotal, consequential, of consequence, far-reaching, *informal* earth-shattering, *formal* of moment

—OPPOSITES insignificant

momentum ▶ noun IMPETUS, energy, force, power, strength, thrust, speed, velocity

monarch ▶ noun SOVEREIGN, ruler, Crown, crowned head, potentate, king, queen, emper, empress, prince, princess

monarchy ▶ noun ① *a constitutional monarchy* KINGDOM, sovereign state, principality, empire ② *hereditary monarchy* KINGSHIP, sovereignty, autocracy, monarchy, absolutism

monastery ▶ noun RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY, friary, abbey, priory, cloister

monastic ▶ adjective ① *a monastic community* CLOISTERED, cloistral, claustral ② *a monastic existence* AUSTERE, ascetic, simple, solitary, monkish, celibate, quiet, cloistered, sequestered, secluded, reclusive, hermit-like, hermitic

monetary ▶ adjective FINANCIAL, fiscal, pecuniary, money, cash, economic, budgetary

money ▶ noun ① *I haven't got enough money* (HARD) CASH, ready money, the means, the wherewithal, funds, capital, finances, (filthy) lucre, banknotes, notes, coins, change, specie, silver, copper, currency, *Brit* sterling, *N Amer* bills, *N Amer & Austral* roll, *informal* dough, bread, loot, readies, shekels, moolah, the necessary, *Brit informal* dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks, *N Amer informal* dinero, bucks, mazuma, *US informal* greenbacks, simoleons, jack, rocks, *Austral/NZ informal* Oscar; *Brit dated* l.s.d.; *archaic* pelf See list at COUNTRY ② *she married him for his money* WEALTH, riches, fortune, affluence, (liquid) assets, resources, means ③ *the money here is better* PAY, salary, wages, remuneration; *formal* emolument.

—RELATED TERMS pecuniary, monetary, numismatic.

■ **for my money** IN MY OPINION, to my mind, in my view, as I see it, personally, in my estimation, in my judgement, if you ask me.

■ **in the money** (*informal*) RICH, wealthy, affluent, well-to-do, well off, prosperous, moneyed, in clover, opulent, *informal* rolling in it, loaded, stinking rich, well heeled, made of money

moneyed ▶ adjective RICH, wealthy, affluent, well-to-do, well off, prosperous, in clover, opulent, of means, of substance; *informal* in the money, rolling in it, loaded, stinking/filthy rich, well heeled, made of money.

—OPPOSITES poor

money-grubbing ▶ adjective (*informal*) ACQUISITIVE, avaricious, grasping, money-grabbing, rapacious, mercenary, materialistic, *N Amer informal* grabby

moneymaking ▶ adjective PROFITABLE, profit-making, remunerative, lucrative, successful, financially rewarding.

—OPPOSITES loss-making

mongrel ▶ noun a rough-haired mongrel. CROSS-BRED, cross, mixed breed, half-breed, tyke, cur, mutt, *NZ* kurr, *Austral informal* mong, bitzer

▶ adjective a mongrel bitch CROSS-BRED, of mixed breed, half-breed

—OPPOSITES pedigree

monitor ▶ noun ① *monitors covered all entrances* DETECTOR, scanner, recorder, security camera, CCTV ② *UN monitors* OBSERVER, watchdog, overseer, supervisor ③ *a computer monitor* SCREEN, visual display unit, VDU ④ *(Brit) a school monitor* PREFECT, praepostor, senior boy/girl, senior pupil

▶ verb *his movements were closely monitored* OBSERVE, watch, track, keep an eye on, keep under observation, keep watch on, keep under surveillance, record, note, oversee, *informal* keep tabs on, keep a beady eye on

monk ▶ noun brother, religious, coenobite, contemplative, mendicant, friar, abbot, prior, novice, oblate, postulant See list at CHRISTIANITY

—RELATED TERMS monastic, monastery

monkey ▶ noun ① SIMIAN, primate, ape See list ② *you little monkey!* See RASCAL

■ **make a monkey (out) of** MAKE SOMEONE LOOK FOOLISH, make a fool of, make a laughing stock of, ridicule, make fun of, poke fun at

■ **monkey about/around** FOOL ABOUT/AROUND, play about/around, clown about/around, foolle about/around, *informal* mess about/around, horse about/around, lark (about/around); *Brit informal* muck about/around

■ **monkey with** TAMPER WITH, fiddle with, interfere with, meddle with, tinker with, play with, *informal* mess with, *Brit informal* muck about/around with

monkey business ▶ noun (*informal*) MISCHIEF, misbehaviour, mischievousness, devilry, devilment, tomfoolery, dishonesty, trickery, chicanery, skulduggery, *informal* shenanigans, funny business, hanky-panky, *Brit informal* monkey tricks, jiggery-pokery, *N Amer informal* monkey-shines

monocle ▶ noun EYEGLASS, glass

monolith ▶ noun STANDING STONE, menhir, sarsen (stone), megalith.

monolithic ▶ adjective ① *a monolithic building* MASSIVE, huge, vast, colossal, gigantic, immense, giant, enormous; featureless, characterless. ② *the old monolithic Communist party* INFLEXIBLE, rigid, unbending, unchanging, fossilized.



Monkeys and Apes

agile gibbon	mandrill
baboon	mangabey
Barbary ape	marmoset
bonobo	mona monkey
capuchin monkey	New World monkey
chacma baboon	night monkey
chimpanzee	Old World monkey
colobus	orang-utan
Diana monkey	owl-faced monkey
douroucoul	patas monkey
drill	proboscis monkey
gelada	rhesus monkey
gibbon	saki
gorilla	samango
green monkey	siamang
grivet	spider monkey
guenon	squirrel monkey
hamadryas	talapoin
hanuman langur	tamarin
hoolock	titi
howler monkey	uakari
langur	vervet
lar gibbon	wanderoo
leaf monkey	woolly monkey
macaque	woolly spider monkey

monologue ► noun SOLILOQUY, speech, address, lecture, sermon, formal oration

monomania ► noun OBSESSION, fixation, consuming passion, mania, compulsion

monopolize ► verb ① the company has monopolized the market CORNER, control, take over, gain control/dominance over, archaic engross ② he monopolized the conversation DOMINATE, take over, informal hog ③ she monopolized the guest of honour TAKE UP ALL THE ATTENTION OF, keep to oneself, informal tie up

monotonous ► adjective ① a monotonous job TEDIOUS, boring, dull, uninteresting, unexciting, wearisome, tiresome, repetitive, repetitious, unvarying, unchanging, unvaried, humdrum, routine, mechanical, mind-numbing, soul-destroying, colourless, featureless, dreary, informal deadly, Brt informal samey, N Amer informal dullsville. ② a monotonous voice TONELESS, flat, uninflected, soporific
—OPPOSITES interesting.

monotony ► noun ① the monotony of everyday life TEDIUM, tediousness, lack of variety, dullness, boredom, repetitiveness, repetitiousness, uniformity, routineness, wearisomeness, tiresomeness; lack of excitement, uneventfulness, dreariness, colourlessness, featurelessness, informal deadliness ② the monotony of her voice TONELESSNESS, flatness.

monster ► noun ① legendary sea monsters: FABULOUS CREATURE, mythical creature. See lists at GIANT, MYTHOLOGY ② her husband is a monster BRUTE, fiend, beast, devil, demon, barbarian, savage, animal, informal swine, pig. ③ the boy's a little monster RASCAL, imp, monkey, wretch, devil, informal horror, scamp, scallywag, tyke, Brt informal perisher, pickle; N Amer informal varmint, hellion, archaic scapegrace, rapsallion ④ he's a monster of a man GIANT, mammoth, colossal, leviathan, titan, informal jumbo.

► adjective (informal) a monster carp. See HUGE

monstrosity ► noun ① a concrete monstrosity EYESORE, blot on the landscape, carbuncle, excrescence ② a biological monstrosity MUTANT, mutation, freak (of nature), monster, abortion.

monstrous ► adjective ① a monstrous creature GROTESQUE, hideous, ugly, ghastly, gruesome, horrible, horrific, horrifying, grisly, disgusting, repulsive, repellent, dreadful, frightening, terrifying, malformed, misshapen ② a monstrous tidal wave See HUGE ③ monstrous acts of violence APPALLING, heinous, egregious, evil, wicked, abominable, terrible, horrible, dreadful, vile, outrageous, shocking, disgraceful, unspeakable, despicable, vicious, savage, barbaric, barbarous, inhuman, Brt informal beastly
—OPPOSITES lovely, small

month ► noun. See list

monument ► noun ① a stone monument MEMORIAL, statue, pillar, column, obelisk, cross, cenotaph, tomb, mausoleum, shrine. ② a monument was placed over the grave GRAVESTONE, headstone, tombstone ③ a monument to a past era of aviation TESTAMENT, record, reminder, remembrance, memorial, commemoration

monumental ► adjective ① a monumental task HUGE, great, enormous, gigantic, massive, colossal, mammoth, immense, tremendous, mighty, stupendous ② a monumental error of judgement TERRIBLE, dreadful, awful, colossal, staggering, huge, enormous, unforgivable, egregious ③ Beethoven's monumental works IMPRESSIVE, striking, outstanding, remarkable, magnificent, majestic, stupendous, ambitious, large-scale, grand, awe-inspiring, important, significant, distinguished, memorable, immortal. ④ a monumental inscription COMMEMORATIVE, memorial, celebratory, commemorating.

mood ► noun ① she's in a good mood FRAME/STATE OF MIND, humour, temper, disposition, spirit, tenor. ② he's obviously in a mood BAD MOOD, (bad) temper, sulk, pet, fit of pique, low spirits, the doldrums, the blues, informal the dumps, grump. Brt informal paddy ③ the mood of the film ATMOSPHERE, feeling, spirit, ambience, aura, character, tenor, flavour, feel, tone

■ in the mood IN THE RIGHT FRAME OF MIND, feeling like, wanting to, inclined to, disposed to, minded to, eager to, willing to

moody ► adjective TEMPERAMENTAL, emotional, volatile, capricious, changeable, mercurial; sullen, sulky, morose, glum, depressed, dejected, despondent, doleful, dour, sour, saturnine; informal blue, down in the dumps/mouth
—OPPOSITES cheerful

moon ► noun SATELLITE See lists here and at PLANET

—RELATED TERMS lunar

► verb ① stop mooning about. WASTE TIME, loaf, idle, mope, Brt informal mooch; N Amer informal lollygag ② he's mooning over her photograph. MOPE, pine, brood, daydream, fantasize, be in a reverie

■ many moons ago (informal) A LONG TIME AGO, ages ago, years ago; informal donkey's years ago, Brt informal yonks ago.

■ once in a blue moon (informal) HARDLY EVER, scarcely ever, rarely, very seldom.

■ over the moon (informal). See ECSTATIC.

moonshine ► noun. See RUBBISH noun sense 2

Months of the Year

GREGORIAN CALENDAR

January
February
March
April
May
June
July
August
September
October
November
December

FRENCH REPUBLICAN CALENDAR

Vendémiaire (wine harvest)
Brumaire (fog)
Frimaire (frost)
Nivose (snow)
Pluviose (rain)
Ventose (wind)
Germinal (seed)
Floréal (flower)
Prairial (meadow)
Messidor (harvest)
Thermidor (heat)
Fructidor (fruit)

JEWISH CALENDAR

Nisan
Iyyar
Sivan
Tammuz
Ab
Elul
Tishri
Hesvan
Kislev
Tebet
Sebat
Adar
First Adar (leap years)

ISLAMIC CALENDAR

Muharram
Safar
Rabi I
Rabi II
Jumada I
Jumada II

Rajab
Shaban
Ramadan
Shawwal
Dhu al-Qadah
Dhu al-Hijjah

HINDU CALENDAR

Caltra
Vaikaka
Jyaishta
Asadha
Dvitiya Asadha (certain leap years)
Svrana
Dvitiya Sravana (certain leap years)
Bhadrapada
Asvina
Karttika
Margasirsa
Pausa
Magha
Phalgun

CHINESE AGRICULTURAL CALENDAR

Li Chun
Yu Shui
Jing Zhe
Chun Fen
Qing Ming
Gu Yu
Li Xia
Xiao Man
Mang Zhong
Xia Zhi
Xiao Shu
Da Shu
Li Qui
Chu Shu
Bai Lu
Qui Fen
Han Lu
Shuang Jiang
Li Dong
Xiao Xue
Da Xue
Dong Zhi
Xiao Han
Da Han

Lunar Seas

LUNAR SEA

Bay of Dew
Bay of Heats
Bay of Rainbows
Border Sea
Central Bay
Eastern Sea
Foaming Sea
Humboldt's Sea
Lake of Death
Lake of Dreams
Marsh of Decay
Marsh of Epidemics
Marsh of Mists
Marsh of Sleep
Ocean of Storms
Sea of Clouds
Sea of Cold
Sea of Crises
Sea of Fertility
Sea of Humours
Sea of Ingenuity
Sea of Knowledge
Sea of Moscow
Sea of Nectar
Sea of Rains
Sea of Serenity
Sea of Tranquillity
Sea of Vapours
Sea of Waves
Southern Sea
Smyth's Sea

LATIN NAME

Sinus Roris
Sinus Aestuum
Sinus Iridum
Mare Marginis
Sinus Medii
Mare Orientale
Mare Spumans
Mare Humboldtianum
Lacus Mortis
Lacus Somniorum
Palus Putredinis
Palus Epidemiarum
Palus Nebularum
Palus Somnii
Oceanus Procellarum
Mare Nubium
Mare Frigoris
Mare Crisium
Mare Fecunditatis
Mare Humorum
Mare Ingenii
Mare Cognitum
Mare Moscovense
Mare Nectaris
Mare Imbrium
Mare Serenitatis
Mare Tranquillitatis
Mare Vaporum
Mare Undarum
Mare Australe
Mare Smythii



mop ► **noun** *her tousled mop of hair* SHOCK, mane, tangle, mass

► **verb** *a man was mopping the floor* WASH, clean, wipe

■ **mop something up** ① *I mopped up the spilt coffee* WIPE UP, clean up, sponge up ② *troops mopped up the last pockets of resistance* FINISH OFF, deal with, dispose of, take care of, clear up, eliminate

mope ► **verb** ① *it's no use moping* BROOD, sulk, be miserable, be despondent, pine, eat one's heart out, fret, grieve, *informal* be down in the dumps/mouth, *poetic/literary* repine ② *she was moping about the house* LANGUISH, moon, idle, loaf, *Brit informal* mooch, *N Amer informal* lollygag

► **noun** *she's regarded as a mope* MELANCHOLIC, depressive, pessimist, killjoy, *informal* sourpuss, party-pooper, spoilsport, grouch, grump, *Brit informal* misery

moral ► **adjective** ① *moral issues* ETHICAL, social, having to do with right and wrong ② *a very moral man* VIRTUOUS, good, righteous, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, honourable, honest, just, noble, incorruptible, scrupulous, respectable, decent, clean-living, law-abiding ③ *moral support* PSYCHOLOGICAL, emotional, mental
—OPPOSITES dishonourable.

► **noun** ① *the moral of the story* LESSON, message, meaning, significance, signification, import, point, teaching. ② *he has no morals* MORAL CODE, code of ethics, moral standards/values, principles, standards, (sense of) morality, scruples

moor¹ ► **verb** *a boat was moored to the quay* TIE UP, secure, make fast, fix firmly, anchor, berth, dock

moor² ► **noun** *a walk on the moor* UPLAND, moorland, heath; grouse moor, *Brit* fell, wold

moot ► **adjective** *a moot point* DEBATABLE, open to discussion/question, arguable, questionable, at issue, open to doubt, disputable, controversial, contentious, disputed, unresolved, unsettled, up in the air

► **verb** *the idea was first mooted in the 1930s* RAISE, bring up, broach, mention, put forward, introduce, advance, propose, suggest

morale ► noun CONFIDENCE, self-confidence, self-esteem, spirit(s), team spirit

moral fibre ► noun STRENGTH OF CHARACTER, fibre, fortitude, resolve, backbone, spine, mettle, firmness of purpose

morality ► noun ① the morality of nuclear weapons ETHICS, rights and wrongs, ethicality ② a sharp decline in morality VIRTUE, goodness, good behaviour, righteousness, rectitude, uprightness, morals, principles, honesty, integrity, propriety, honour, justice, decency ③ orthodox Christian morality MORAL STANDARDS, morals, ethics, standards/principles of behaviour, mores, standards

moralize ► verb PONTIFICATE, sermonize, lecture, preach, informal preachify.

morass ► noun ① the muddy morass QUAGMIRE, swamp, bog, marsh, mire, marshland, slough, N Amer moor ② a morass of paperwork. CONFUSION, chaos, muddle, tangle, entanglement, imbroglia, jumble, clutter

moratorium ► noun EMBARGO, ban, prohibition, suspension, postponement, stay, stoppage, halt, freeze, standstill, respite

morbid ► adjective ① a morbid fascination with contemporary warfare GHOULISH, macabre, unhealthy, gruesome, unwholesome, informal sick ② I felt decidedly morbid GLOOMY, glum, melancholy, morose, dismal, sombre, doleful, despondent, dejected, sad, depressed, downcast, down, disconsolate, miserable, unhappy, downhearted, dispirited, low, informal blue, down in the dumps/mouth
-OPPOSITES wholesome, cheerful

mordant ► adjective CAUSTIC, trenchant, biting, cutting, acerbic, sardonic, sarcastic, scathing, acid, sharp, keen, critical, bitter, virulent, vitriolic, formal mordacious

more ► determiner I could do with some more clothes ADDITIONAL, further, added, extra, increased, new, other, supplementary
-OPPOSITES less, fewer

► adverb ① he was able to concentrate more on his writing TO A GREATER EXTENT, further, some more, better ② he was rich, and more, he was handsome. MOREOVER, furthermore, besides, what's more, in addition, also, as well, too, to boot, on top of that, into the bargain; archaic withal, forbye

► pronoun we're going to need more. EXTRA, an additional amount/number, an addition, an increase.
-OPPOSITES less, fewer

■ more or less APPROXIMATELY, roughly, nearly, almost, close to, about, of the order of, in the region of

moreover ► adverb BESIDES, furthermore, what's more, in addition, also, as well, too, to boot, additionally, on top of that, into the bargain, more, archaic withal, forbye

mores ► plural noun CUSTOMS, conventions, ways, way of life, traditions, practices, habits, formal praxis.

morgue ► noun MORTUARY, funeral parlour; Brit chapel of rest.

moribund ► adjective ① the patient was moribund DYING, expiring, on one's deathbed, near death, at death's door, not long for this world ② the moribund shipbuilding industry. DECLINING,

in decline, waning, dying, stagnating, stagnant, crumbling, on its last legs.

-OPPOSITES thriving.

morning ► noun ① I've got a meeting this morning BEFORE NOON, before lunch(time), a.m., poetic/literary morn, Nautical & N Amer forenoon ② morning is on its way DAWN, daybreak, sunrise, first light, cockcrow; N Amer sunup, poetic/literary dayspring, dawning, aurora

-RELATED TERMS matutinal

■ morning, noon, and night ALL THE TIME, without a break, constantly, continually, incessantly, ceaselessly, perpetually, unceasingly; informal 24-7

moron ► noun (informal) See FOOL noun sense 1

moronic ► adjective (informal) See STUPID sense 1

morose ► adjective SULLEN, sulky, gloomy, badtempered, ill-tempered, dour, surly, sour, glum, moody, ill-humoured, melancholy, melancholic, doleful, miserable, depressed, dejected, despondent, downcast, unhappy, in low spirits, low, down, grumpy, irritable, churlish, cantankerous, crotchety, cross, crabby, grouchy, testy, snappish, peevish, crusty, informal blue, down in the dumps/mouth, fed up
-OPPOSITES cheerful

morsel ► noun MOUTHFUL, bite, nibble, bit, soupçon, taste, spoonful, forkful, sliver, drop, dollop, spot, gobbet, titbit, bonne bouche, informal smidgen

mortal ► adjective ① mortal remains | all men are mortal PERISHABLE, physical, bodily, corporeal, fleshly, earthly, human, impermanent, transient, ephemeral ② a mortal blow DEADLY, fatal, lethal, death-dealing, murderous, terminal ③ mortal enemies. IRRECONCILABLE, deadly, sworn, bitter, out-and-out, implacable ④ a mortal sin UNPARDONABLE, unforgivable ⑤ living in mortal fear EXTREME, (very) great, terrible, awful, dreadful, intense, severe, grave, dire, unbearable. ⑥ the punishment is out of all mortal proportion CONCEIVABLE, imaginable, perceivable, possible, earthly
-OPPOSITES venial

► noun we are mere mortals. HUMAN (BEING), person, man/woman, earthly

mortality ► noun ① a sense of his own mortality IMPERMANENCE, transience, ephemerality, perishability; humanity; corporeality ② the causes of mortality: DEATH, loss of life, dying

mortification ► noun ① scarlet with mortification EMBARRASSMENT, humiliation, chagrin, discomfiture, discomposure, shame ② the mortification of the flesh SUBDUING, suppression, subjugation, control, controlling, disciplining, chastening, punishment.

mortify ► verb ① I'd be mortified if my friends found out. EMBARRASS, humiliate, chagrin, discomfit, shame, abash, horrify, appal ② he was mortified at being excluded HURT, wound, affront, offend, put out, pique, irk, annoy, vex, informal rile ③ mortifying the flesh: SUBDUED, suppress, subjugate, control; discipline, chasten, punish ④ the cut had mortified: BECAME GANGRENOUS, fester, putrefy, gangrene, rot, decay, decompose

mortuary ► noun MORGUE, funeral parlour; Brit chapel of rest.

most ► pronoun most of the guests brought flowers. NEARLY ALL, almost all, the greatest part/

number, the majority, the bulk, the preponderance

—OPPOSITES little, few

■ **for the most part** **MOSTLY**, mainly, in the main, on the whole, largely, by and large, to a large extent, predominantly, chiefly, principally, basically, generally, usually, typically, commonly, as a rule, on balance, on average.

mostly ► **adverb** ① *the other passengers were mostly businessmen* **MAINLY**, for the most part, on the whole, in the main, largely, chiefly, predominantly, principally, primarily ② *I mostly wear jeans* **USUALLY**, generally, in general, as a rule, ordinarily, normally, customarily, typically, most of the time, almost always

mote ► **noun** **SPECK**, particle, grain, spot, fleck, atom, scintilla

moth ► **noun**. See list

moth-eaten ► **adjective** **THREADBARE**, worn (out), well worn, old, shabby, scruffy, tattered, ragged, *informal* tatty, the worse for wear, *N Amer informal* raggedy

mother ► **noun** ① *I will ask my mother* **FEMALE PARENT**, materfamilias, matriarch, *informal* ma, mam, mammy, old lady, old woman, *Brit informal* mum, mummy, *N Amer informal* mom, mommy; *Brit informal, dated* mater. ② *the foal's mother* **DAM** ③ *the wish was mother of the deed* **SOURCE**, origin, genesis, fountainhead, inspiration, stimulus, *poetic/literary* wellspring —RELATED TERMS maternal, matri- —OPPOSITES child, father

► **verb** ① *she mothered her husband* **LOOK AFTER**, care for, take care of, nurse, protect, tend, raise, rear, pamper, coddle, cosset, fuss over ② *she mothered an illegitimate daughter* **GIVE BIRTH TO**, have, bear, produce, *N Amer* birth, *archaic* be brought to bed of —OPPOSITES neglect

motherly ► **adjective** **MATERNAL**, maternalistic, protective, caring, loving, devoted, affectionate, fond, warm, tender, gentle, kind, kindly, understanding, compassionate

motif ► **noun** ① *a colourful tulip motif* **DESIGN**, pattern, decoration, figure, shape, device, emblem, ornament ② *a recurring motif in Pinter's work* **THEME**, idea, concept, subject, topic, leit-motif, element

motion ► **noun** ① *the rocking motion of the boat* | *a planet's motion around the sun* **MOVEMENT**, moving, locomotion, rise and fall, shifting, progress, passage, passing, transit, course, travel, travelling ② *a motion of the hand* **GESTURE**, movement, signal, sign, indication, wave, nod, gesticulation ③ *the motion failed to obtain a majority* **PROPOSAL**, proposition, recommendation, suggestion

—RELATED TERMS kinetic.

► **verb** *he motioned her to sit down* **GESTURE**, signal, direct, indicate; wave, beckon, nod, gesticulate ■ **in motion** **MOVING**, on the move, going, travelling, running, functioning, operational. ■ **set in motion** **START**, commence, begin, activate, initiate, launch, get under way, get going, get off the ground; trigger off, set off, spark off, generate, cause.

motionless ► **adjective** **UNMOVING**, still, stationary, stock-still, immobile, static, not moving, a muscle, rooted to the spot, transfixed, paralysed, frozen.

Moths

See also BUTTERFLY.

angle shades
atlas moth
bagworm
bogong
brimstone (moth)
brown-tail (moth)
buff-tip
burnet
burnished brass
cabbage moth
cecropia (moth)
cinnabar (moth)
clearwing (moth)
Clifden nonpareil
clothes moth
codling/codlin moth
common heath
corn borer
crescent
dagger
death's head
hawkmoth
diamondback moth
drinker (moth)
dun-bar
egg
egg
emerald (moth)
emperor
ermine (moth)
festoon
flour moth
footman
forester
fox moth
garden carpet
garden tiger
geometer (moth)
geometrid
ghost moth
goat moth
gypsy moth
hawkmoth
heath
hooktip
hornet moth
lo moth
Kentish moth
kitten
lackey (moth)
lappet (moth)
leaf miner
leaf roller
leopard moth

lobster moth
luna moth
maggie moth
meal moth
mervelle du jour
minor
moon moth
Mother Shipton
noctuid
oak egg
old lady
owl
peach blossom
peppered moth
pine beauty
pink bollworm
plume moth
processionary (moth)
prominent (moth)
pug
puss moth
pyralid
rivulet
rustic
sallow
saturniid
shark (moth)
silk moth
silver-line
silver Y
snout (moth)
sphingid
swallow-tailed moth
swift (moth)
tabby
tapestry moth
thorn
tiger moth
tortrix (moth)
triangle
turnip moth
tussock moth
tussock moth
umber
underwing (moth)
vapourer (moth)
wainscot
wax moth
white spot
winter moth
yellow-tail (moth)
yellow underwing
yucca moth

—OPPOSITES moving

motivate ► **verb** ① *she was primarily motivated by the desire for profit*. **PROMPT**, drive, move, inspire, stimulate, influence, activate, impel, push, propel, spur (on). ② *it's the teacher's job to motivate the child*. **INSPIRE**, stimulate, encourage, spur (on), excite, inspirit, incentivize, fire with enthusiasm.

motivation ► **noun** ① *his motivation was financial*: **MOTIVE**, motivating force, incentive, stimulus, stimulation, inspiration, inducement, incitement, spur, reason. ② *staff motivation*: **EN-**

THUSIASM, drive, ambition, initiative, determination, enterprise, informal get-up-and-go.

motive ▶ noun ① the motive for the attack REASON, motivation, motivating force, rationale, grounds, cause, basis, object, purpose, intention, incentive, inducement, incitement, lure, inspiration, stimulus, stimulation, spur ② religious motives in art MOTIF, theme, idea, concept, subject, topic, leitmotif

▶ adjective motive power KINETIC, driving, impelling, propelling, propulsive, motor

motley ▶ adjective MISCELLANEOUS, disparate, diverse, assorted, varied, diversified, heterogeneous

—OPPOSITES homogeneous

motor ▶ noun. See list at ENGINE

mottled ▶ adjective BLOTCHY, blotched, spotted, spotty, speckled, streaked, streaky, marbled, flecked, freckled, dappled, stippled, piebald, skewbald, brindled, brindle, N Amer pinto; informal splotchy

motto ▶ noun MAXIM, saying, proverb, aphorism, adage, saw, axiom, apophthegm, formula, expression, phrase, dictum, precept, slogan, catchphrase, truism, cliché, platitude

mould¹ ▶ noun ① the molten metal is poured into a mould CAST, die, form, matrix, shape, template, pattern, frame ② an actress in the traditional Hollywood mould PATTERN, form, shape, format, model, kind, type, style, archetype, prototype ③ he is a figure of heroic mould CHARACTER, nature, temperament, disposition, calibre, kind, sort, variety, stamp, type

▶ verb ① a figure moulded from clay SHAPE, form, fashion, model, work, construct, make, create, manufacture, sculpt, sculpture, forge, cast ② moulding US policy. DETERMINE, direct, control, guide, lead, influence, shape, form, fashion, make

mould² ▶ noun walls stained with mould MILDEW, fungus, must, mouldiness, mustiness

mould³ ▶ noun leaf mould EARTH, soil, dirt, loam, humus

moulder ▶ verb DECAY, decompose, rot (away), go mouldy, go off, go bad, spoil, putrefy

mouldy ▶ adjective MILDEWED, mildewy, musty, mouldering, fusty, decaying, decayed, rotting, rotten, bad, spoiled, spoilt, decomposing

mound ▶ noun ① a mound of leaves HEAP, pile, stack, mountain; mass, accumulation, assemblage ② high on the mound HILLOCK, hill, knoll, rise, hummock, hump, embankment, bank, ridge, elevation, acclivity, Scottish brae, Geology drumlin ③ a burial mound BARROW, tumulus, motte

▶ verb mound up the rice on a serving plate PILE (UP), heap (up)

mount ▶ verb ① he mounted the stairs GO UP, ascend, climb (up), scale ② the committee mounted the platform CLIMB ON TO, jump on to, clamber on to, get on to ③ they mounted their horses GET ASTRIDE, bestride, get on to, hop on to ④ the museum is mounting an exhibition (PUT ON) DISPLAY, exhibit, present, install, organize, put on, stage ⑤ the company mounted a takeover bid ORGANIZE, stage, prepare, arrange, set up; launch, set in motion, initiate ⑥ their losses mounted rapidly INCREASE, grow, rise, escalate, soar, spiral, shoot up, rocket, climb, accumulate,

build up, multiply ⑦ cameras were mounted above the door INSTALL, place, fix, set, put up, put in position

—OPPOSITES descend.

▶ noun ① he hung on to his mount's bridle HORSE, archaic steed ② a decorated photograph mount SETTING, backing, support, mounting, frame, stand

mountain ▶ noun ① a range of mountains PEAK, height, mount, prominence, summit, pinnacle, alp, (mountains) range, massif, sierra, Scottish ben, Munro See list ② a mountain of work A GREAT DEAL, a lot, profusion, abundance, quantity, backlog, informal heap, pile, stack, slew, lots, loads, heaps, piles, tons, masses, N Amer informal gobs ③ a butter mountain SURPLUS, surfeit, glut, oversupply

—RELATED TERMS ORO-

■ **move mountains** ① faith can move mountains PERFORM MIRACLES, work/do wonders ② his fans move mountains to attend his performances MAKE EVERY EFFORT, pull out all the stops, do one's utmost/best, informal bend/lean over backwards

mountainous ▶ adjective ① a mountainous region HILLY, craggy, rocky, alpine, upland, highland ② mountainous waves HUGE, enormous, gigantic, massive, giant, colossal, immense, tremendous, mighty, informal whopping, thumping, humongous, Brit informal whacking, ginormous

—OPPOSITES flat, tiny

mountebank ▶ noun SWINDLER, charlatan, confidence trickster, fraud, fraudster, impostor, trickster, hoaxer, quack, informal con man, flim-flammer, sharp, N Amer informal grifter, bunco artist, Austral informal magsman, illywhacker

mourn ▶ verb ① Isobel mourned her husband GRIEVE FOR, sorrow over, lament for, weep for, wail/keen over, archaic plain for ② he mourned the loss of the beautiful buildings DEPLORE, bewail, bemoan, rue, regret

mournful ▶ adjective SAD, sorrowful, doleful, melancholy, melancholic, woeful, grief-stricken, miserable, unhappy, heartbroken, broken-hearted, gloomy, dismal, desolate, dejected, despondent, depressed, downcast, disconsolate, weebegone, forlorn, rueful, lugubrious, joyless, cheerless, poetic/literary dolorous

—OPPOSITES cheerful

mourning ▶ noun ① a period of mourning GRIEF, grieving, sorrowing, lamentation, lament, keening, wailing, weeping, poetic/literary dole ② she was dressed in mourning BLACK (CLOTHES), (widow's) weeds; archaic sables

mouse ▶ noun. See list at RODENT

—RELATED TERMS murine

moustache ▶ noun WHISKERS, mustachios, handlebar moustache, walrus moustache, burnside, informal tash, N Amer informal stash

mousy ▶ adjective ① mousy hair LIGHTISH BROWN, brownish, brownish-grey, dun-coloured; dull, lacklustre ② a small, mousy woman TIMID, quiet, fearful, timorous, shy, self-effacing, diffident, unassertive, unforthcoming, withdrawn, introverted, introvert

mouth ▶ noun ① open your mouth: lips, jaws, maw, muzzle; informal trap, chops, kisser, Brit. informal gob, cakehole; N Amer. informal puss, bazoo ② the mouth of the cave: ENTRANCE, opening, entry, way in, access, ingress. ③ the mouth of the bottle: OPENING, rim, lip. ④ the mouth of the river OUTFALL, outlet, debouchment; estuary, firth



Mountains

See also **RANGE**, **VOLCANO**.

MOUNTAIN	LOCATION	MOUNTAIN	LOCATION	MOUNTAIN	LOCATION
Aletschhorn	Switzerland	Jungfrau	Switzerland	Pico da Neblina	Brazil
Annapurna	Nepal	K2	Pakistan/China	Pik Pobedy	Kyrgyzstan
Ben Nevis	Scotland	Kamet	India	Pissis	Argentina
Bonete	Argentina	Kanchenjunga	Nepal/India	Ras Dashen	Ethiopia
Broad Peak	Kashmir	Kenya	Kenya	Roraima	Venezuela/ Brazil/Guyana
Brocken	Germany	Kinabalu	Malaysia	St Elias	USA/Canada
Chimborazo	Ecuador	Kosciusko	Australia	Scafell Pike	England
Cho Oyu	China/Nepal	Lhotse	China/Nepal	Smolikas	Greece
Citlaltépetl	Mexico	Logan	Yukon, Canada	Snowdon	Wales
Communism Peak	Tajikistan	McKinley	Alaska, USA	Stanley	Zaire/Uganda
Cook	New Zealand	Makalu I	Nepal/Tibet/ China	Sugar Loaf Mountain	Brazil
Corcovado	Brazil	Manaslu	Nepal	Table Mountain	South Africa
Damavand	Iran	Margherita	Zaire/Uganda	Tabor	Israel
Dhaulagiri	Nepal	Matterhorn	Switzerland/ Italy	Teide	Tenerife
Dufourspitze	Switzerland	Mont Blanc	France/Italy	Thabana	Lesotho
Dykh-Tau	Russia	Mulhacén	Spain	Ntlenyana	
Eiger	Switzerland	Musala	Bulgaria	Tirich Mir	Pakistan
Elbrus	Russia	Muztag	China	Tongariro	New Zealand
Emi Koussi	Chad	Nanda Devi	India	Triglav	Slovenia
Everest	Nepal/Tibet	Nanga Parbat	Pakistan	Tupungato	Argentina/Chile
Foraker	Alaska, USA	Ojos del Salado	Argentina/Chile	Victoria Peak	Hong Kong
Gasherbrum	Kashmir	Olympus	Greece		Island
Glittertind	Norway	Olympus	Cyprus	Vinson Massif	Antarctica
Gosainthan	China	Ossa	Greece	Weisshorn	Switzerland
Grossglockner	Austria	Ossa	Tasmania	Whitney	California, USA
Helicon	Greece	Palomar	California, USA	Zugspitze	Germany
Helvellyn	England	Parnassus	Greece		
Huascarán	Peru	Pellon	Greece		
Jaya	Indonesia				

⑤ (informal) he's all mouth **BOASTING**, bragging, idle talk, bombast, braggadocio, informal hot air

⑥ (informal) you've got a lot of mouth **IMPUDENCE**, cheek, cheekiness, insolence, impertinence, effrontery, presumption, presumptuousness, rudeness, disrespect, informal lip, (brass) neck, Brit informal sauce, backchat, N Amer informal sass, sassiness, back talk

► **verb** he mouthed platitudes **UTTER**, speak, say, pronounce, enunciate, articulate, voice, express, say insincerely, say for form's sake

■ **down in the mouth** (informal) See **UNHAPPY** sense 1

■ **keep one's mouth shut** (informal) **SAY NOTHING**, keep quiet, not breathe a word, not tell a soul, informal keep mum, not let the cat out of the bag

■ **mouth off** (informal) **RANT**, spout, declaim, sound off

mouthful ► **noun** ① a mouthful of pizza **BITE**, nibble, taste, bit, piece, spoonful, forkful. ② a mouthful of beer **DRAUGHT**, sip, swallow, drop, gulp, slug, informal swig. ③ 'sesquipedalian' is a bit of a mouthful: **TONGUE-TWISTER**, long word, difficult word.

mouthpiece ► **noun** ① the flute's mouthpiece: **EMBOUCHURE**. ② a mouthpiece for the government **SPOKESPERSON**, spokesman, spokeswoman, agent, representative, propagandist, voice

movable ► **adjective** ① movable objects **PORTABLE**, transportable, transferable, mobile. ② movable feasts: **VARIABLE**, changeable, alterable.

—**OPPOSITES** fixed.

movables ► plural noun **POSSESSIONS**, belongings, effects, property, goods, chattels, paraphernalia, impedimenta, informal gear
—**OPPOSITES** fixtures, fittings

move ► **verb** ① she moved to the door | don't move! **GO**, walk, proceed, progress, advance, budge, stir, shift, change position. ② he moved the chair closer to the fire **CARRY**, transport, transfer, shift. ③ things were moving too fast (**MAKE**) **PROGRESS**, make headway, advance, develop. ④ he urged the council to move quickly **TAKE ACTION**, act, take steps, do something, take measures, informal get moving. ⑤ she's moved to Cambridge **RELOCATE**, move house, move away/out, change address/house, leave, go away, decamp, Brit informal up sticks, N Amer informal pull up stakes. ⑥ I was deeply moved by the story **AFFECT**, touch, impress, shake, upset, disturb, make an impression on. ⑦ she was moved to find out more about it **INSPIRE**, prompt, stimulate, motivate, provoke, influence, rouse, induce, incite. ⑧ they are not prepared to move on this issue **CHANGE**, budge, shift one's ground, change one's tune, change one's mind, have second thoughts, do a U-turn, do an about-face, Brit do an about-turn. ⑨ she moves in the art worlds **CIRCULATE**, mix, socialize, keep company, associate, informal hang out/around, Brit informal hang about. ⑩ I move that we adjourn **PROPOSE**, submit, suggest, advocate, recommend, urge.

► **noun** ① his eyes followed her every move. **MOVEMENT**, motion, action, gesture, gesticulation. ② his recent move to London: **RELOCATION**, change of house/address, transfer, posting. ③ the latest



move in the war against drugs INITIATIVE, step, action, act, measure, manoeuvre, tactic, stratagem. ④ it's your move: TURN, go; opportunity, chance

■ **get a move on** (informal) HURRY UP, speed up, move faster; informal get cracking, get moving, step on it, shake a leg, Brit informal get one's skates on, stir one's stumps, N Amer informal get a wiggle on, dated make haste.

■ **make a move** ① waiting for the other side to make a move DO SOMETHING, take action, act, take the initiative, informal get moving ② (Brit) I'd better be making a move. LEAVE, take one's leave, be on one's way, get going, depart, be off; informal push off, shove off, split

■ **on the move** ① she's always on the move TRAVELLING, in transit, moving, journeying, on the road, informal on the go ② the economy is on the move PROGRESSING, making progress, advancing, developing

movement ► noun ① Rachel made a sudden movement | there was almost no movement MOTION, move, gesture, gesticulation, sign, signal, action, activity ② the movement of supplies TRANSPORTATION, shift, shifting, conveyance, moving, transfer ③ the labour movement POLITICAL GROUP, party, faction, wing, lobby, camp ④ a movement to declare war on poverty CAMPAIGN, crusade, drive, push ⑤ there have been movements in the financial markets DEVELOPMENT, change, fluctuation, variation ⑥ the movement towards equality TREND, tendency, drift, swing ⑦ some movement will be made by the end of the month. PROGRESS, progression, advance ⑧ a symphony in three movements PART, section, division. ⑨ the clock's movement. MECHANISM, machinery, works, workings, informal innards, guts

movie ► noun ① a horror movie FILM, (motion) picture, feature (film), informal flick, dated moving picture ② let's go to the movies THE CINEMA, the pictures, the silver screen, informal the flicks, the big screen

moving ► adjective ① moving parts | a moving train: IN MOTION, operating, operational, working, going, on the move, active, movable, mobile ② a moving book AFFECTING, touching, poignant, heart-warming, heart-rending, emotional, disturbing, inspiring, inspirational, stimulating, stirring ③ the party's moving force DRIVING, motivating, dynamic, stimulating, inspirational.

—OPPOSITES fixed, stationary

mow ► verb she had mown the grass CUT (DOWN), trim, crop, clip.

■ **mow someone/something down** KILL, gun down, shoot down, cut down, cut to pieces, butcher, slaughter, massacre, annihilate, wipe out; informal blow away

much ► determiner did you get much help? A LOT OF, a great/good deal of, a great/large amount of, plenty of, ample, copious, abundant, plentiful, considerable; informal lots of, loads of, heaps of, masses of, tons of.

—OPPOSITES little.

► **adverb** ① it didn't hurt much: GREATLY, to a great extent/degree, a great deal, a lot, considerably, appreciably. ② does he come here much? OFTEN, frequently, many times, repeatedly, regularly, habitually, routinely, usually, normally, commonly; informal a lot.

► **pronoun** he did so much for our team: A LOT, a

great/good deal, plenty, informal lots, loads, heaps, masses

■ **much of a muchness** (informal) VERY SIMILAR, much the same, very alike, practically identical

muck ► noun ① I'll just clean off the muck: DIRT, grime, filth, mud, slime, mess, informal crud, gunk, grunge, gloop, Brit informal gunge, grot; N Amer informal guck, glop ② spreading muck on the fields DUNG, manure, ordure, excrement, excreta, droppings, faeces, sewage, N Amer informal cow chips, horse apples

■ **muck something up** (informal) MAKE A MESS OF, mess up, bungle, spoil, ruin, wreck, informal botch, make a hash of, muff, fluff, foul up, louse up, Brit informal make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of, N Amer informal goof up

■ **muck about/around** (Brit informal) ① he was mucking about with his mates FOOL ABOUT/AROUND, play about/around, clown about/around, foolle about/around, informal mess about/around, horse about/around, lark (about/around) ② someone's been mucking about with the video INTERFERE, fiddle (about/around), play about/around, tamper, meddle, tinker; informal mess (about/around)

mucky ► adjective DIRTY, filthy, grimy, muddy, grubby, messy, soiled, stained, smeared, slimy, sticky, bespattered, informal cruddy, grungy, gloopy, Brit informal gungy, grotty, Austral/NZ informal scungy, poetic/literary besmurfed, begrimed, befouled

—OPPOSITES clean.

mud ► noun MIRE, sludge, ooze, silt, clay, dirt, soil

muddle ► verb ① the papers have got muddled up CONFUSE, mix up, jumble (up), disarrange, disorganize, disorder, disturb, mess up ② it would only muddle you BEWILDER, confuse, bemuse, perplex, puzzle, baffle, nonplus, mystify

► **noun** ① the files are in a muddle MESS, confusion, jumble, tangle, hotchpotch, mishmash, chaos, disorder, disarray, disorganization, N Amer hodgepodge ② a bureaucratic muddle BUNGLER, mix-up, misunderstanding, informal foul-up; N Amer informal snafu

■ **muddle along/through** COPE, manage, get by/along, scrape by/along, make do

muddled ► adjective ① a muddled pile of photographs JUMBLED, in a jumble, in a muddle, in a mess, chaotic, in disorder, in disarray, topsyturvy, disorganized, disordered, disorderly, mixed up, at sixes and sevens; informal higgledy-piggledy ② she felt muddled CONFUSED, bewildered, bemused, perplexed, disorientated, disoriented, in a muddle, befuddled; N Amer informal discombobulated. ③ muddled thinking: INCOHERENT, confused, muddle-headed, woolly

—OPPOSITES orderly, clear.

muddy ► adjective ① muddy ground. WATER-LOGGED, boggy, marshy, swampy, squelchy, squishy, mucky, slummy, spongy, wet, soft, heavy; archaic quaggy ② muddy boots: MUDCAKED, muddied, dirty, filthy, mucky, grimy, soiled; poetic/literary begrimed ③ muddy water MURKY, cloudy, muddied, turbid; N Amer riled, roily. ④ a muddy pink: DINGY, dirty, drab, dull, sludgy

—OPPOSITES clean, clear.

► **verb** ① don't muddy your boots: MAKE MUDDY, dirty, soil, spatter, bespatter; poetic/literary be-

smurgh, begrime ② *these results muddy the situation* MAKE UNCLEAR, obscure, confuse, obfuscate, blur, cloud, befog
-OPPOSITES clarify

muff ▶ verb (informal) MISHANDLE, mismanage, mess up, make a mess of, bungle, informal botch, make a hash of, fluff, foul up, louse up, *Brit informal* make a pig's ear of, make a Horlicks of, *N Amer informal* goof up

muffle ▶ verb ① *everyone was muffled up in coats* WRAP (UP), swathe, enfold, envelop, cloak. ② *the sound of their footsteps was muffled* DEADEN, dull, dampen, damp down, mute, soften, quieten, tone down, mask, stifle, smother

muffled ▶ adjective INDISTINCT, faint, muted, dull, soft, stifled, smothered
-OPPOSITES loud

mug¹ ▶ noun ① *a china mug* BEAKER, cup, tankard, glass, stein, flagon, dated seidel, archaic stoup. ② (informal) *her ugly mug* See FACE noun sense 1. ③ (Brit informal) *he's no mug* See FOOL noun sense 1

▶ verb (informal) *he was mugged by three youths* ASSAULT, attack, set upon, beat up, rob, informal jump, rough up, lay into, *Brit informal* duff up, do over

mug²
■ **mug something up** (informal) *she's mugging up the Highway Code* STUDY, read up, cram, informal bone up (on), *Brit informal* swot, archaic con

muggy ▶ adjective HUMID, close, sultry, sticky, oppressive, airless, stifling, suffocating, stuffy, clammy, damp, heavy, foggy
-OPPOSITES fresh

mulish ▶ adjective OBSTINATE, stubborn, pig-headed, recalcitrant, intransigent, unyielding, inflexible, bull-headed, stiff-necked, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, bolshie

mull
■ **mull something over** PONDER, consider, think over/about, reflect on, contemplate, turn over in one's mind, chew over, cogitate on, give some thought to, archaic pore on

multicoloured ▶ adjective KALEIDOSCOPIC, psychedelic, colourful, multicolour, many-coloured, many-hued, rainbow, jazzy, varicoloured, variegated, harlequin, polychromatic.
-OPPOSITES monochrome

multifarious ▶ adjective DIVERSE, many, numerous, various, varied, diversified, multiple, multitudinous, multiplex, manifold, multifaceted, different, heterogeneous, miscellaneous, assorted, poetic/literary myriad, divers.
-OPPOSITES homogeneous

multiple ▶ adjective NUMEROUS, many, various, different, diverse, several, manifold, multifarious, multitudinous, poetic/literary myriad, divers
-OPPOSITES single.

multiplicity ▶ noun ABUNDANCE, scores, mass, host, array, variety, range, diversity, heterogeneity, plurality, profusion; informal loads, stacks, heaps, masses, tons, poetic/literary myriad

multiply ▶ verb ① *their difficulties seem to be multiplying*: INCREASE, grow, become more numerous, accumulate, proliferate, mount up, mushroom, snowball. ② *the rabbits have multiplied*: BREED, reproduce, procreate.
-OPPOSITES decrease.

multitude ▶ noun ① *a multitude of birds* A LOT, a great/large number, a great/large quantity, host, horde, mass, swarm, abundance, profusion, scores, quantities, droves; informal slew, lots, loads, masses, stacks, heaps, tons, dozens, hundreds, thousands, millions, *N Amer informal* gazillions. ② *Father Peter addressed the multitude* CROWD, gathering, assembly, congregation, flock, throng, horde, mob, formal concourse. ③ *political power in the hands of the multitude* THE (COMMON) PEOPLE, the populace, the masses, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonality, the plebeians, the hoi polloi, the mob, the proletariat, the common herd, the rabble, the proles, the plebs

multitudinous ▶ adjective NUMEROUS, many, abundant, profuse, prolific, copious, multifarious, innumerable, countless, numberless, infinite, poetic/literary divers, myriad.

mum¹ ▶ noun (Brit informal) *my mum looks after me* See MOTHER noun sense 1

mum² (informal) ▶ adjective *he was keeping mum* SILENT, quiet, mute, dumb, tight-lipped, unforthcoming, reticent, archaic mumchance

■ **mum's the word** SAY NOTHING, keep quiet, don't breathe a word, don't tell a soul, keep it secret, keep it to yourself, keep it under your hat, informal don't let on, keep shtum, don't let the cat out of the bag

mumble ▶ verb MUTTER, murmur, speak indistinctly, talk under one's breath.

munbo-jumbo ▶ noun NONSENSE, gibberish, claptrap, rubbish, balderdash, blather, hocus-pocus, informal gobbledegook, double Dutch, argle-baigle

munch ▶ verb CHEW, champ, chomp, masticate, crunch, eat, formal manducate

mundane ▶ adjective ① *her mundane life*. HUM DRUM, dull, boring, tedious, monotonous, tiresome, wearsome, unexciting, uninteresting, uneventful, unvarying, unremarkable, repetitive, repetitious, routine, ordinary, everyday, day-to-day, run-of-the-mill, commonplace, workaday; informal (plain) vanilla. ② *the mundane world* EARTHLY, worldly, terrestrial, material, temporal, secular, poetic/literary sublunary
-OPPOSITES extraordinary, spiritual.

municipal ▶ adjective CIVIC, civil, metropolitan, urban, city, town, borough
-OPPOSITES rural

municipality ▶ noun BOROUGH, town, city, district; *N Amer* precinct, township, Scottish burgh

munificence ▶ noun GENEROSITY, bountifulness, open-handedness, magnanimity, lavishness, liberality, philanthropy, charitableness, largesse, big-heartedness, beneficence, poetic/literary bounty, bounteousness

munificent ▶ adjective GENEROUS, bountiful, open-handed, magnanimous, philanthropic, princely, handsome, lavish, liberal, charitable, big-hearted, beneficent; poetic/literary bounteous.
-OPPOSITES mean

murder ▶ noun ① *a brutal murder* KILLING, homicide, assassination, liquidation, extermination, execution, slaughter, butchery, massacre; manslaughter; poetic/literary slaying. ② (informal) *driving there was murder*: HELL (ON EARTH), a nightmare, an ordeal, a trial, misery, torture,



agony

► **verb** ① *someone tried to murder him* KILL, put/do to death, assassinate, execute, liquidate, eliminate, dispatch, butcher, slaughter, massacre, wipe out, *informal* bump off, do in, do away with, knock off, blow away, blow someone's brains out, take out, dispose of, *N Amer informal* ice, rub out, smoke, waste, *poetic/literary* slay ② *(informal) Anna was murdering a Mozart sonata* See MANGLE sense 2 ③ *(informal) he murdered his opponent* See TROUNCE

murderer, murderess ► **noun** KILLER, assassin, serial killer, butcher, slaughterer, *informal* hit man, hired gun, *dated* homicide, *poetic/literary* slayer

murderous ► **adjective** ① a murderous attack HOMICIDAL, brutal, violent, savage, ferocious, fierce, vicious, bloodthirsty, barbarous, barbaric, fatal, lethal, deadly, mortal, death-dealing, *archaic* sanguinary ② *(informal) a murderous schedule* ARDUOUS, gruelling, strenuous, punishing, onerous, exhausting, taxing, difficult, rigorous, *informal* killing, hellish

murky ► **adjective** ① a murky winter afternoon DARK, gloomy, grey, leaden, dull, dim, overcast, cloudy, clouded, sunless, dismal, dreary, bleak, *poetic/literary* tenebrous ② murky water DIRTY, muddy, cloudy, turbid, *N Amer* riled, roily ③ *her murky past* QUESTIONABLE, suspicious, suspect, dubious, dark, mysterious, secret, *informal* shady
—OPPOSITES bright, clear

murmur ► **noun** ① his voice was a murmur WHISPER, undertone, mutter, mumble ② there were murmurs in Tory ranks COMPLAINT, grumble, grouse, *informal* gripe, moan ③ the murmur of bees HUM, humming, buzz, buzzing, thrum, thrumming, drone, sigh, rustle, *poetic/literary* susurration, murmuration

► **verb** ① he heard them murmuring in the hall MUTTER, mumble, whisper, talk under one's breath, speak softly ② no one murmured at the delay COMPLAIN, mutter, grumble, grouse, *informal* gripe, moan ③ the wind was murmuring through the trees RUSTLE, sigh, burble, purl, *poetic/literary* whisper

muscle ► **noun** ① I've pulled a muscle See lists ② he had muscle but no brains STRENGTH, power, muscularity, brawn, burliness, *informal* beef, beefiness, *poetic/literary* thew ③ financial muscle INFLUENCE, power, strength, might, force, forcefulness, weight, *informal* clout
—RELATED TERMS myo-

■ **muscle in** *(informal)* INTERFERE WITH, force one's way into, impose oneself on, encroach on, *informal* horn in on

muscular ► **adjective** ① muscular tissue FIBROUS, sinewy ② he's very muscular STRONG, brawny, muscly, sinewy, powerfully built, well muscled, burly, strapping, sturdy, powerful, athletic, *Physiology* mesomorphic, *informal* hunky, beefy, *poetic/literary* thewy ③ a muscular economy VIGOROUS, robust, strong, powerful, dynamic, potent, active

musé ► **noun** the poet's muse INSPIRATION, creative influence, stimulus, *formal* afflatus. See list

muse ► **verb** I mused on Toby's story PONDER, consider, think over/about, mull over, reflect on, contemplate, turn over in one's mind, chew over, give some thought to, cogitate on,

Human Muscles

MUSCLE	LOCATION
biceps	arm
buccinator	cheek
deltoid	shoulder
detrusor	bladder
digastric	jaw
gastrocnemius	leg
gluteus	buttock
gracilis	leg
iliacus	pelvis/groin
intercostal	ribs
latissimus	back
masseter	cheek/jaw
obturator	pelvis
opponent muscle	hand
pectoral	chest
peroneal muscle	leg
psaos	spline/groin
quadriceps	leg
rectus (abdominis)	abdomen
rhomboides	shoulder
sartorius	leg
scalenus	neck/ribs
soleus	leg
splenius	neck/back
temporalis	jaw
teres	shoulder/arm
trapezius	neck/shoulders
triceps	arm

Types of Muscle

abductor	dilator	pronator
adductor	elevator	rotator
agonist	erector	skeletal
antagonist	extensor	sphincter
constrictor	flexor	supinator
depressor	levator	

The Nine Muses

MUSE	ART/SCIENCE
Calliope	epic poetry
Clio	history
Erato	lyric poetry and hymns
Euterpe	flute playing
Melpomene	tragedy
Polyhymnia	mime
Terpsichore	lyric poetry and dance
Thalia	comedy
Urania	astronomy

think, be lost in contemplation/thought, day-dream, *archaic* pore on

mush ► **noun** ① some sort of greyish mush PAP, pulp, slop, paste, purée, mash; *informal* gloop, goo, gook, *N Amer informal* glop. ② romantic mush: SENTIMENTALITY, mawkishness, *informal* schmaltz, corn, slush; *N Amer informal* slop.

mushroom ► **noun**. See list at FUNGUS.

► **verb** ecotourism mushroomed in the 1980s: PROLIFERATE, grow/develop rapidly, burgeon, spread, increase, expand, boom, explode, snowball, rocket, skyrocket; thrive, flourish, prosper

Types of Music

See also JAZZ.

acid house	dancehall	hip hop	opera	salsa
acid rock	death metal	honky-tonk	opera buffa	serialism
ambient	dhrupad	house	opera seria	sijo
AOR	disco	indie	orbital	ska
baggy	dodecaphonic	industrial	orchestral music	skiffle
ballet music	music	jazz	Palm Court	soukous
barbershop	doo-wop	jlt	parang	soca
baroque	drum and bass	jive	pibroch	soul
benga	dub	juju	pogo	spiritual music
bel canto	easy listening	jump blues	pop	surf
bhangra	electro	jungle	popular music	swing
bluegrass	flamenco	klezmer	progressive	symphonic music
blues	folk	kwela	psychedelic	taarab
boogie-woogie	free jazz	light opera	psychobilly	talking blues
calypso	funk	liturgical music	punk	tasso
chamber music	funkadelic	marabi	qawwali	techno
chant	fusion	marachi	queercore	technofunk
choral music	gagaku	mbaqanga	ragamuffin	Tejano
church music	galant	mento	ragga	Tex-Mex
classical music	gangsta (rap)	merengue	ragtime	thrash (metal)
comic opera	garage	minimalist music	rai	trance
contrapuntal	glam rock	motet	rap	trip hop
music	go-go	Motown	rave	twelve-note/ twelve-tone
country	gospel	multiculti	reggae	music
country and	Goth	musique concrète	rhythm and blues	vocalese
western	grand opera	New Age	(R & B)	western swing
country rock	grunge	New Romantic	rock	world music
cowpunk	gumbo	new wave	rockabilly	zouk
crossover	harmolodics	norteño	rock and roll	zydeco
cumbia	heavy metal	oi	rocksteady	
dance floor	high life	old-time	sakkie-sakkie	



—OPPOSITES contract

mushy ► **adjective** ① *cook until the fruit is mushy* SOFT, semi-liquid, pulpy, pappy, sloppy, spongy, squashy, squelchy, squishy, *informal* gooey, gloopy, *Brit informal* squidgy ② *a mushy film* SENTIMENTAL, mawkish, emotional, saccharine, *informal* slushy, schmaltzy, weepy, corny, *Brit informal* soppy, *N Amer informal* cornball, sappy, hokey, three-hankie
—OPPOSITES firm

music ► **noun**. See lists here and at OPERA, TONIC SOL-FA

musical ► **adjective** TUNEFUL, melodic, melodious, harmonious, sweet-sounding, sweet, mellifluous, euphonious, euphonic, *rare* mellifluent
—OPPOSITES discordant

► **noun** MUSICAL COMEDY See list

musical instrument ► **noun** See lists at BRASS, KEYBOARD, ORCHESTRA, ORGAN, PERCUSSION, STRING, WIND

musician ► **noun** PLAYER, performer, instrumentalist, accompanist, soloist, virtuoso, maestro, *historical* minstrel See lists here and at CONDUCTOR, COMPOSER, INSTRUMENTALIST, JAZZ, PLAYER, OPERA, SINGER, VOICE

musings ► **noun** MEDITATION, thinking, contemplation, deliberation, pondering, reflection, rumination, introspection, daydreaming, reverie, dreaming, preoccupation, brooding, *formal* cogitation

muss ► **verb** (*N Amer informal*) RUFFLE, tousle, dishevel, rumple, mess up, make a mess of, disarrange, make untidy.

Musical Forms

See also DANCE.

air	étude	recitative
anthem	fantasia	refrain
aria	fantasy	requiem
arietta	finale	rhapsody
aubade	fugue	ricercar
bagatelle	humoresque	rondo
ballad	hymn	round
ballet	improptu	scherzo
barcarole	interlude	septet
canon	Intermezzo	serenade
canticle	Lied	sextet
canzone	lullaby	shanty
canzonetta	madrigal	sinfonia
capriccio	march	sinfonia
carol	mass	concertante
cavatina	motet	Singspiel
chaconne	movement	solo
chanson	nocturne	sonata
chant	octet	sonatina
chorale	opera	song
chorus	operetta	spiritual
concertino	oratorio	suite
concerto	overture	symphonic
concerto	part-song	poem
grosso	passacaglia	symphony
descant	prelude	toccata
duet	psalm	trio
entr'acte	quartet	variation
entrée	quintet	

Musical Directions

TERM

TRANSLATION

a battuta	return to strict time
a cappella	unaccompanied
accel(erando)	accelerating
adagietto	fairly slowly
adagio	slowly
ad lib(itum)	at will
affettuoso	tenderly
agitato	agitated
al fine	to the end
allargando	broadening
allegretto	fairly lively
allegro	lively
al segno	as far as the sign
amoroso	tenderly
andante	moderately slow
andantino	slightly faster than andante
animato	spirited
arco	with the bow
arioso	In a sustained singing style
assai	very
a tempo	In the original tempo
attacca	continue without a pause
bis	repeat
calando	becoming quieter and slower
cantabile	In a smooth singing style
capriccioso	freely
coda	final part of a movement
col legno	with the stick of the bow
con amore	tenderly
con brio	with vigour
con moto	with movement
con fuoco	fiery
con sordino	with a mute
cresc(endo)	becoming louder
da capo or DC	from the beginning
dai segno or DS	from the sign
decresc(endo)	becoming quieter
dim(inuendo)	becoming quieter
dolce	sweetly and softly
dolente	sorrowfully
doppio	double
espressivo	with expression of feeling
fine	end (not at the end of the score)
f(orte)	loudly
forte piano	loudly and then immediately softly
fortissimo or ff	very loudly
furioso	furiously and wildly
giocoso	playfully
glissando	sliding
In modo di	In the manner of
larghetto	fairly slowly
largo	very slowly
legato	tied/smoothly
leggero	lightly
lento	slowly
maestoso	majestically
mercato	accented
marchia	march
meno	less

TERM

TRANSLATION

meno mosso	less quickly
mezza voce	at half vocal strength
mezzo	half
mezzo forte or mf	fairly loudly
mezzo piano or mp	fairly softly
moderato	at a moderate pace
molto	very
morendo	dying away
mosso	fast and with animation
moto	motion
niente	gradually fading to nothing
nobilmente	nobly
non troppo	not too much
obbligato	not to be omitted
parlando	In the manner of speech
ped.	pedal
pesante	heavily
planissimo or pp	very soft
p(lano)	soft
più	more
pizz(icato)	plucked
poco	a little
portamento	carrying one note into the next
prestissimo	as fast as possible
presto	very fast
rall(entando)	slowing down
ravvivando	quickening
rinforzando or rfz	accentuated
rit(ardando)	slowing down
ritenuto	suddenly more slowly
scherzando	playfully
segno	sign
semplice	simply
sempre	always/throughout
senza	without
sf(orzando) or sfz	strongly accented
smorzando	dying away
sordino	with a mute
sost(enuto)	sustained
sotto voce	In an undertone
spiccato	bouncing the bow on the strings
stacc(ato)	detached
stretto	In quicker time
stringendo	faster and more intensely
subito	immediately
tacet	voice/instrument remains silent
tanto	too much
tempo	speed/beat
ten(uto)	held
tranquillo	tranquilly
tremolando	trembling
troppo	too much
tutti	all players/singers
una corda	using the soft pedal (on a piano)
vivace	lively
zoppa	syncopated

Musicals

MUSICAL

A Chorus Line
A Little Night Music
Annie Get Your Gun
Boy Friend, The
Brigadoon
Cabaret
Camelot
Carousel
Cats
Chess

Evita
Fiddler on the Roof
42nd Street
Godspell
Grease
Guys and Dolls
Hair
Hello Dolly
Jesus Christ, Superstar
Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
King and I, The
Kiss Me Kate
Les Misérables
Little Shop of Horrors, The
Miss Saigon
My Fair Lady
No, No, Nanette
Oklahoma!
Oliver!
Paint Your Wagon
Phantom of the Opera, The
Rocky Horror Show, The
Show Boat
Sound of Music, The
South Pacific
Starlight Express
Student Prince, The
Sweeney Todd
West Side Story
Wizard of Oz, The

COMPOSER

Marvin Hamlisch
Stephen Sondheim
Irving Berlin
Sandy Wilson
Frederick Loewe
John Kander
Frederick Loewe
Richard Rodgers
Andrew Lloyd Webber
Björn Alvaues/Benny Anderson
Andrew Lloyd Webber
Jerry Bock
Harry Warren
Stephen Schwartz
Jim Jacobs/Warren Casey
Frank Loesser
Galt MacDermot
Jerry Herman
Andrew Lloyd Webber
Andrew Lloyd Webber

Richard Rodgers
Cole Porter
Claude-Michel Schönberg
Alan Menken
Claude-Michel Schönberg
Frederick Loewe
Vincent Youmans
Richard Rodgers
Lionel Bart
Frederick Loewe
Andrew Lloyd Webber
Richard O'Brien
Jerome Kern
Richard Rodgers
Richard Rodgers
Andrew Lloyd Webber
Sigmund Romberg
Stephen Sondheim
Leonard Bernstein
Harold Arlen

LYRICIST/LIBRETTIST

Edward Kleban
Bert Shevelove/Larry Gelbart
Herbert and Dorothy Fields
Sandy Wilson
Alan Jay Lerner
Fred Ebb
Alan Jay Lerner
Oscar Hammerstein
T. S. Eliot, adapted by Trevor Nunn
Tim Rice

Tim Rice
Sheldon Harnick
Al Dubin
Stephen Schwartz/John-Michael Tebelak
Jim Jacobs/Warren Casey
Frank Loesser
Gerome Ragni/James Rado
Michael Steward
Tim Rice
Tim Rice

Oscar Hammerstein
Samuel and Bella Spewack
Alain Boublil/Jean-Marc Natel/Herbert Kretzmer
Howard Ashman
Alain Boublil/Richard Maltby Jr
Alan Jay Lerner
Otto Harbach
Oscar Hammerstein
Lionel Bart
Alan Jay Lerner
Charles Hart
Richard O'Brien
Oscar Hammerstein
Oscar Hammerstein
Oscar Hammerstein
Richard Stilgoe
Dorothy Donnelly
Stephen Sondheim/Hugh Wheeler
Stephen Sondheim
L. Frank Baum



must¹ ▶ **verb** *I must go*: OUGHT TO, should, have (got) to, need to, be obliged to, be required to, be compelled to

▶ **noun** (*informal*) *this video is a must* NOT TO BE MISSED, very good, necessity, essential, requirement, requisite

must² ▶ **noun** *a smell of must* MOULD, mustiness, mouldiness, mildew, fustiness

muster ▶ **verb** ① *they mustered 50,000 troops* ASSEMBLE, mobilize, rally, raise, summon, gather (together), mass, collect, convene, call up, call to arms, recruit, conscript; *US draft*; *archaic levy* ② *reporters mustered outside her house*: CONGREGATE, assemble, gather together, come together, collect together, convene, mass, rally, formal foregather. ③ *she mustered her courage*: SUMMON (UP), screw up, call up, rally

▶ **noun** *the colonel called a muster*: ROLL-CALL, assembly, rally, meeting, gathering, assemblage, congregation, convention; parade, review

■ **pass muster** BE GOOD ENOUGH, come up to standard, come up to scratch, measure up, be acceptable/adequate, fill/fit the bill; *informal* make the grade, come/be up to snuff.

musty ▶ **adjective** ① *the room smelled musty* MOULDY, stale, fusty, damp, dank, mildewy, smelly, stuffy, airless, unventilated, *N Amer informal* funky ② *the play seemed musty*: UNORIGINAL, uninspired, unimaginative, hackneyed, stale, flat, tired, banal, trite, clichéd, old-fashioned, outdated; *informal* old hat.
—OPPOSITES fresh

mutable ▶ **adjective** *the mutable nature of fashion*: CHANGEABLE, variable, varying, fluctuating, shifting, inconsistent, unpredictable, inconstant, uneven, unstable, protean; *poetic/literary* fluctuant
—OPPOSITES invariable

mutant ▶ **noun** FREAK (OF NATURE), deviant, monstrosity, monster, mutation.

mutate ▶ **verb** CHANGE, metamorphose, evolve, transmute, transform, convert; *humorous* transmogrify

mutation ▶ **noun** ① ALTERATION, change, variation, modification, transformation, metamorphosis, transmutation; *humorous* transmogrification

Players or Instruments

PLAYER	INSTRUMENT
accordionist	accordion
banjoist	banjo
bassist	bass guitar or double bass
bassoonist	bassoon
cellist	cello
clarinetist	clarinet
cornetist	cornet
cymbalist	cymbal
drummer	drum
fiddler	violin
flautist	flute
guitarist	guitar
harper	harp
harpist	harp
harpsichordist	harpsichord
keyboardist	keyboard
lutenist, lutist	lute
lyrist	lyre
mandolinist	mandolin
oboist	oboe
organist	organ
percussionist	percussion
pianist	piano
piper	bagpipes
saxist	saxophone
saxophonist	saxophone
tambourinist	tambourine
timpanist	timpani
trombonist	trombone
trumpeter	trumpet
vibist, vibraphonist	vibraphone
violinist	violin
violist	viola/viol
xylophonist	xylophone

tion ② a genetic mutation **MUTANT**, freak (of nature), deviant, monstrosity, monster

mute ▶ **adjective** ① Yasmin remained mute **SILENT**, speechless, dumb, unspeaking, tight-lipped, taciturn, *informal* mum, *archaic* mumchance ② a mute appeal **WORDLESS**, silent, dumb, unspoken, unvoiced, unexpressed ③ the church was mute **QUIET**, silent, hushed. ④ he was deaf and mute **DUMB**, unable to speak, *Medicine* aphasic
—**OPPOSITES** voluble, spoken

▶ **verb** ① the noise was muted by the heavy curtains **DEADEN**, muffle, dampen, soften, quieten, stifle, smother, suppress. ② Bruce muted his criticisms **RESTRAIN**, soften, tone down, moderate, temper
—**OPPOSITES** intensify

muted ▶ **adjective** ① the muted hum of traffic **MUFFLED**, faint, indistinct, quiet, soft, low ② muted tones: **SUBDUED**, pastel, delicate, subtle, understated, restrained

mutilate ▶ **verb** ① the bodies had been mutilated: **MANGLE**, maim, disfigure, butcher, dismember; cripple. ② the carved screen had been mutilated. **VANDALIZE**, damage, deface, ruin, destroy, wreck, violate, desecrate, *N Amer informal* trash.

mutinous ▶ **adjective** **REBELLIOUS**, insubordinate, subversive, seditious, insurgent, insurrectionary, rebel, riotous.

mutiny ▶ **noun** a mutiny over pay arrears: **INSURRECTION**, rebellion, revolt, riot, uprising, insur-

gence, insubordination

▶ **verb** thousands of soldiers **mutinied** **RISE UP**, rebel, revolt, riot, disobey/defy authority, be insubordinate

mutt ▶ **noun** (*informal*) ① a long-haired mutt **MONGREL**, hound, dog, cur, *Austral informal* mong, bitzer ② he pitied the poor mutt See **FOOL** *noun* sense 1

mutter ▶ **verb** ① a group of men stood muttering **TALK UNDER ONE'S BREATH**, murmur, mumble, whisper, speak in an undertone ② back-benchers muttered about the reshuffle **GRUMBLE**, complain, grouse, carp, whine, *informal* moan, gripe, beef, whinge; *Brit informal* chunter, *N Amer informal* kvetch

mutual ▶ **adjective** **RECIPROCAL**, reciprocated, requited, returned, common, joint, shared

muzzle ▶ **noun** the dog's velvety muzzle **SNOUT**, nose, mouth, maw

▶ **verb** attempts to muzzle the media **GAG**, silence, censor, stifle, restrain, check, curb, fetter

muzzy ▶ **adjective** ① she felt muzzy **GROGGY**, light-headed, faint, dizzy, befuddled, befogged, *informal* doopey, woozy ② a slightly muzzy picture **BLURRED**, blurry, fuzzy, unfocused, unclear, ill-defined, foggy, hazy
—**OPPOSITES** clear

myopic ▶ **adjective** ① a myopic patient **SHORT-SIGHTED**, near-sighted ② the government's myopic attitude **UNIMAGINATIVE**, uncreative, unadventurous, narrow-minded, small-minded, short-term
—**OPPOSITES** long-sighted, far-sighted

myriad (*poetic/literary*) ▶ **noun** myriads of insects **MULTITUDE**, a large/great number, a large/great quantity, scores, quantities, mass, host, droves, horde, *informal* lots, loads, masses, stacks, tons, hundreds, thousands, millions, *N Amer informal* gazillions

▶ **adjective** the myriad lights of the city **INNUMERABLE**, countless, infinite, numberless, untold, unnumbered, immeasurable, multitudinous, numerous, *poetic/literary* divers

mysterious ▶ **adjective** ① he vanished in mysterious circumstances **PUZZLING**, strange, peculiar, curious, funny, queer, odd, weird, bizarre, mystifying, inexplicable, baffling, perplexing, incomprehensible, unexplainable, unfathomable ② he was being very mysterious **ENIGMATIC**, inscrutable, secretive, reticent, evasive, furtive, surreptitious
—**OPPOSITES** straightforward

mystery ▶ **noun** ① his death remains a mystery **PUZZLE**, enigma, conundrum, riddle, secret, (unsolved) problem. ② her past is shrouded in mystery: **SECRECY**, obscurity, uncertainty, mystique ③ a murder mystery **THRILLER**, detective story/novel, murder story, *informal* whodunnit

mystic, mystical ▶ **adjective** ① a mystic experience: **SPIRITUAL**, religious, transcendental, paranormal, other-worldly, supernatural, occult, metaphysical. ② mystic rites **SYMBOLIC**, symbolical, allegorical, representational, metaphorical. ③ a figure of mystical significance. **CRYPTIC**, concealed, hidden, abstruse, arcane, esoteric, inscrutable, inexplicable, unfathomable, mysterious, secret, enigmatic.

mystify ▶ **verb** **BEWILDER**, puzzle, perplex, baffle, confuse, confound, bemuse, nonplus, throw, *informal* flummox, stump, bamboozle, faze, fox.

Creatures from Mythology and Folklore

See also GIANT, NYMPH.

Abominable	gnome	serpent
Snowman	goblin	Minotaur
amphisbaena	gorgon	naga
banshee	Grendel	ogre/ogress
basilisk	griffin	orc
Bigfoot or	harpy	Pegasus
Sasquatch	hippogriff	peri
bugbear	hobgoblin	phoenix
bunyip	hobbit	pixie
centaur	Hydra	pooka
Cerberus	jinn	roc
Charybdis	kelpie	Scylla
chimera	kobold	sea serpent
cockatrice	kraken	selkie
dragon	kylin	slmurg
dwarf	lamia	siren
dybbuk	leprechaun	sphinx
elf	leviathan	taniwha
erl-king	Lilith	Tiamat
faery	Loch Ness	tokoloshe
firedrake	monster	troll
Frankenstein's	lycanthrope	unicorn
monster	manticore	vampire
the Furies	Medusa	werewolf
genie	mermaid	windigo
giant/	merman	wyvern
giantess	Midgard's	yeti

mystique ▶ noun CHARISMA, glamour, romance, mystery, magic, charm, appeal, allure

myth ▶ noun ❶ ancient Greek myths: (FOLK) TALE, (folk) story, legend, fable, saga, mythos, mythus, lore, folklore ❷ the myths surrounding childbirth MISCONCEPTION, fallacy, false notion, old wives' tale, fairy story/tale, fiction, *informal* (tall) story, cock and bull story

mythical ▶ adjective ❶ mythical beasts LEGENDARY, mythological, fabled, fabulous, folkloric, fairy-tale, storybook, fantastical, imaginary, imagined, fictitious ❷ her mythical child IMAGINARY, fictitious, make-believe, fantasy, invented, made-up, non-existent, *informal* pretend

mythological ▶ adjective FABLED, fabulous, folkloric, fairy-tale, legendary, mythical, mythic, traditional, fictitious, imaginary

mythology ▶ noun MYTH(s), legend(s), folklore, folk tales/stories, lore, tradition See list

Nn

nab ▶ **verb** (informal) CATCH, capture, apprehend, arrest, seize, informal nail, cop, pull in, pick up, *Brnt* informal nick

nabob ▶ **noun** VERY RICH PERSON, tycoon, magnate, millionaire, billionaire, multimillionaire, informal fat cat

nadir ▶ **noun** THE LOWEST POINT/LEVEL, the all-time low, the bottom, rock bottom, informal the pits

—OPPOSITES zenith

nag¹ ▶ **verb** ① she's constantly nagging me HARASS, keep on at, go on at, badger, give someone a hard time, chivvy, hound, harry, criticize, find fault with, moan at, grumble at; henpeck, informal hassle, *N Amer* informal ride, *Austral* informal heavy. ② this has been nagging me for weeks TROUBLE, worry, bother, plague, torment, niggle, prey on one's mind, annoy, irritate, informal bug, aggravate

▶ **noun** she's such a nag SHREW, nagger, harpy, tem-magant, harridan, archaic scold

nag² ▶ **noun** she rode the old nag WORN-OUT HORSE, old horse, hack; *N Amer* informal plug, crowbar, *Austral* / *NZ* informal moke, archaic jade

nagging ▶ **adjective** ① his nagging wife SHREW ISH, complaining, grumbling, fault-finding, scolding, carping, criticizing ② a nagging pain PERSISTENT, continuous, nagging, unrelenting, unremitting, unabating

nail ▶ **noun** ① fastened with nails TACK, spike, pin, rivet, hobnail ② biting her nails FINGERNAIL, thumbnail, toenail

—RELATED TERMS unguai

▶ **verb** ① a board was nailed to the wall FASTEN, at-tach, fix, affix, secure, tack, hammer, pin ② (informal) nailing suspects CATCH, capture, ap-prehend, arrest, seize, informal collar, nab, cop, pull in, pick up, *Brnt* informal nick ③ the pictures had nailed the lie EXPOSE, reveal, uncover, un-mask, bring to light, detect, identify

■ **hard as nails** CALLOUS, hard-hearted, heart-less, unfeeling, unsympathetic, uncaring, in-sensitive, unsentimental, hardbitten, tough, lacking compassion

■ **on the nail** IMMEDIATELY, at once, without delay, straight away, right away, promptly, di-rectly, now, this minute, *N Amer* on the barrelhead

naive ▶ **adjective** INNOCENT, unsophisticated, art-less, ingenuous, inexperienced, guileless, un-worldly, trusting, gullible, credulous, imma-ture, callow, raw, green; informal wet behind the ears.

—OPPOSITES worldly

naivety ▶ **noun** INNOCENCE, ingenuousness, guilelessness, unworldliness, trustfulness, gulli-bility, credulousness, credulity, immaturity, callowness.

naked ▶ **adjective** ① a naked woman NUDE, bare, in the nude, stark naked, having nothing on, stripped, unclothed, undressed, in a state of nature; informal without a stitch on, in one's birthday suit, in the raw/buff, in the al-

together, in the nuddy, mother naked, *Brnt* infor-mal starkers, *N Amer* informal buck naked ② a naked flame UNPROTECTED, uncovered, exposed, unguarded ③ the naked branches of the trees. BARE, barten, denuded, stripped, uncovered ④ I felt naked and exposed VULNERABLE, helpless, weak, powerless, defenceless, exposed, open to attack ⑤ the naked truth | naked hostility UNDIS GUISED, plain, unadorned, unvarnished, un-qualified, stark, bald, overt, obvious, open, pa-tent, evident, apparent, manifest, unmistak-able, blatant

—OPPOSITES clothed, covered

nakedness ▶ **noun** ① she covered her nakedness NUDITY, state of undress, bareness ② the naked-ness of the landscape BARENESS, barrenness, starkness

namby-pamby ▶ **adjective** WEAK, feeble, spineless, effeminate, effete, limp-wristed, inef-fectual, informal wet, weedy, wimpy, sissy

name ▶ **noun** ① her name's Gemma designation, honorific, title, tag, epithet, label, informal moni-ker, handle, formal denomination, appellation See list ② the top names in the fashion industry CE LEBRITY, star, superstar, VIP, leading light, big name, luminary, expert, authority, informal celeb, somebody, megastar, big noise, big shot, bigwig, big gun ③ the good name of the firm REPUTATION, character, repute, standing, statu-re, esteem, prestige, cachet, kudos, renown, popularity, notability, distinction

—RELATED TERMS nominal, onomastic

▶ **verb** ① they named the child Phoebe CALL, give a name to, dub, label, style, term, title, entitle; baptize, christen, formal denominate ② the driver was named as Jason Penter IDENTIFY, spec-ify ③ he has named his successor CHOOSE, select, pick, decide on, nominate, designate

Types of Name

See also NICKNAME.

agnomen	hypocorism	personal
alias	last name	name
assumed	maiden	pet name
name	name	place name
baptismal	matronymic/	professional
name	metronymic	name
brand name	microtoponym	proper name
byname	middle name	proprietary
Christian	nickname	name
name	nom de	pseudonym
code name	guerre	second
cognomen	nom de	name
cryptonym	plume	sobriquet
family name	nom de	stage name
first name	théâtre	surname
forename	patronymic	toponym
given name	pen name	trade name

named ▶ **adjective** ① a girl named Anne: CALLED, by the name of, baptized, christened, known as, dubbed, entitled, styled, termed, labelled.

② *named individuals* SPECIFIED, designated, identified, cited, mentioned, singled out

nameless ▶ **adjective** ① *a nameless photographer* UNNAMED, unidentified, anonymous, incognito, unspecified, unacknowledged, uncredited, unknown, unsung, uncelebrated ② *nameless fears* UNSPEAKABLE, unutterable, inexpressible, indescribable, indefinable, vague, unspecified, unspecifiable

namely ▶ **adverb** THAT IS (TO SAY), to be specific, specifically, viz, to wit

nanny ▶ **noun** *the children's nanny*, NURSEMAID, au pair, childminder, childcarer, governess, *dated* nurse

▶ **verb** *stop nannying me* MOLLYCODDLE, cosset, coddle, wrap in cotton wool, baby, feather-bed, spoil, pamper, indulge, overindulge

nap¹ ▶ **verb** *they were napping on the sofa* DOZE, sleep (lightly), take a nap, catnap, rest, take a siesta; *informal* snooze, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye, *Brit informal* have a kip, get some zizz, *N Amer informal* catch some Zs, catch a few Zs

▶ **noun** *she is taking a nap* (LIGHT) SLEEP, catnap, siesta, doze, lie-down, rest, *informal* snooze, forty winks, shut-eye, *Brit informal* kip, zizz

■ **catch someone napping** CATCH OFF GUARD, catch unawares, (take by) surprise, catch out, find unprepared, *informal* catch someone with their trousers/pants down, *Brit informal* catch on the hop

nap² ▶ **noun** *the nap of the velvet* PILE, fibres, threads, weave, surface, grain

nappy ▶ **noun** *N Amer* diaper, *Brit dated* napkin

narcissism ▶ **noun** VANITY, self-love, self-admiration, self-absorption, self-obsession, conceit, self-centredness, self-regard, egotism, egoism.

—OPPOSITES modesty

narcissistic ▶ **adjective** VAIN, self-loving, self-admiring, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, conceited, self-centred, self-regarding, egotistic, egotistical, egoistic

narcotic ▶ **noun** SOPORIFIC (DRUG), opiate, sleeping pill, painkiller, pain reliever, analgesic, anodyne, palliative, anaesthetic, tranquilizer, sedative, *informal* downer, *Medicine* stupeficient.

▶ **adjective** SOPORIFIC, sleep-inducing, opiate, pain-killing, pain-relieving, analgesic, anodyne, anaesthetic, tranquilizing, sedative, *Medicine* stupeficient

narked ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) See ANNOYED

narrate ▶ **verb** TELL, relate, recount, describe, chronicle, give a report of, report, voice-over.

narration ▶ **noun** ① *a narration of past events* ACCOUNT, narrative, chronicle, description, report, relation, chronicling ② *his narration of the story* VOICE-OVER, commentary.

narrative ▶ **noun** ACCOUNT, chronicle, history, description, record, report.

narrator ▶ **noun** ① *the narrator of 'The Arabian Nights'* STORYTELLER, teller of tales, relater, chronicler, romancer; *raconteur*, anecdotalist; *Austral informal* magsman. ② *the film's narrator* VOICE-OVER, commentator.

—OPPOSITES listener, audience

narrow ▶ **adjective** ① *the path became narrower* SMALL, tapered, tapering, narrowing; *archaic*

strait ② *her narrow waist* SLENDER, slim, slight, spare, attenuated, thin. ③ *a narrow space* CONFINED, cramped, tight, restricted, limited, constricted. ④ *a narrow range of products* LIMITED, restricted, circumscribed, small, inadequate, insufficient, deficient ⑤ *a narrow view of the world* See NARROW-MINDED ⑥ *nationalism in the narrowest sense of the word* STRICT, literal, exact, precise. ⑦ *a narrow escape*. BY A VERY SMALL MARGIN, close, near, by a hair's breadth; *informal* by a whisker

—OPPOSITES wide, broad

▶ **verb** *the path narrowed* | *narrowing the gap between rich and poor* GET/BECOME/MAKE NARROWER, get/become/make smaller, taper, diminish, decrease, reduce, contract, shrink, constrict, *archaic* straiten

narrowly ▶ **adverb** ① *one bullet narrowly missed him* (ONLY) JUST, barely, scarcely, hardly, by a hair's breadth; *informal* by a whisker ② *she looked at me narrowly*: CLOSELY, carefully, searchingly, attentively

narrow-minded ▶ **adjective** INTOLERANT, illiberal, reactionary, conservative, parochial, provincial, insular, small-minded, petty, blinkered, inward-looking, narrow, hidebound, prejudiced, bigoted, *Brit* parish-pump, blimpish, *N Amer informal* jerkwater

—OPPOSITES tolerant

narrows ▶ **plural noun** STRAIT(S), sound, channel, waterway, (sea) passage.

nascent ▶ **adjective** JUST BEGINNING, budding, developing, growing, embryonic, incipient, young, fledgling, evolving, emergent, dawning, burgeoning.

nastiness ▶ **noun** ① *my mother tried to shut herself off from nastiness* UNPLEASANTNESS, disagreeableness, offensiveness, vileness, foulness ② *her uncharacteristic nastiness* UNKINDNESS, unpleasantness, unfriendliness, disagreeableness, rudeness, churlishness, spitefulness, maliciousness, meanness, ill temper, ill nature, viciousness, malevolence, *informal* bitchiness, cattiness ③ *I abhor such nastiness* OBSCENITY, indecency, offensiveness, crudity, vulgarity, pornography, smuttiness, lewdness, licentiousness

nasty ▶ **adjective** ① *a nasty smell*. UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, disgusting, distasteful, awful, dreadful, horrible, terrible, vile, foul, abominable, frightful, loathsome, revolting, repulsive, odious, sickening, nauseating, repellent, repugnant, horrendous, appalling, atrocious, offensive, objectionable, obnoxious, unsavoury, unappetizing, off-putting, noxious, foul-smelling, smelly, stinking, rank, fetid, malodorous, mephitic; *informal* ghastly, horrid, gruesome, diabolical, yucky, skanky, God-awful, gross; *Brit informal* beastly, grotty, whiffy, pongy, niffy; *N Amer informal* lousy, funky; *Austral informal* on the nose; *poetic/literary* miasmal, noisome ② *the weather turned nasty* UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, foul, filthy, inclement; wet, stormy, cold, blustery ③ *she can be really nasty*. UNKIND, unpleasant, unfriendly, disagreeable, rude, churlish, spiteful, malicious, mean, ill-tempered, ill-natured, vicious, malevolent, obnoxious, hateful, hurtful, *informal* bitchy, catty. ④ *a nasty accident* | *a nasty cut*: SERIOUS, dangerous, bad, awful, dreadful, terrible, severe; painful, ugly ⑤ *she had the nasty habit of appearing unannounced*: ANNOYING, irritating, infuriating, disagreeable, unpleasant,

maddening, exasperating ⑤ they wrote nasty things on the wall OBSCENE, indecent, offensive, crude, rude, dirty, filthy, vulgar, foul, gross, disgusting, pornographic, smutty, lewd, informal sick

—OPPOSITES nice

nation ▶ noun COUNTRY, (sovereign/nation) state, land, realm, kingdom, republic, fatherland, motherland, people, race

national ▶ adjective ① national politics STATE, public, federal, governmental, civic, civil, domestic, internal ② a national strike NATIONWIDE, countrywide, state, general, widespread

—OPPOSITES local, international

▶ noun a French national CITIZEN, subject, native, voter

nationalism ▶ noun PATRIOTISM, patriotic sentiment, xenophobia, chauvinism, jingoism

nationalistic ▶ adjective PATRIOTIC, nationalist, xenophobic, chauvinistic, jingoistic

nationality ▶ noun ① British nationality CITIZENSHIP See list at COUNTRY ② all the main nationalities of Ethiopia ETHNIC GROUP, ethnic minority, tribe, clan, race, nation

nationwide ▶ adjective NATIONAL, countrywide, state, general, widespread, extensive.

—OPPOSITES local

native ▶ noun a native of Sweden INHABITANT, resident, local, citizen, national, aborigine, autochthon, formal dweller

—OPPOSITES foreigner

▶ adjective ① the native population INDIGENOUS, original, first, earliest, aboriginal, autochthonous ② native produce | native plants DOMESTIC, home-grown, home-made, local, indigenous ③ a native instinct for politics INNATE, inherent, inborn, instinctive, intuitive, natural, hereditary, inherited, congenital, inbred, connate, connatural ④ her native tongue MOTHER, vernacular

—OPPOSITES immigrant

nativity ▶ noun BIRTH, childbirth, delivery, formal parturition

natter (Brit informal) ▶ verb they nattered away See CHAT verb

▶ noun she rang up for a natter See CHAT noun

natty ▶ adjective (informal) SMART, stylish, fashionable, dapper, debonair, dashing, spruce, well dressed, chic, elegant, trim, N Amer trng, informal snazzy, trendy, snappy, nifty, N Amer informal sassy, spiffy, fly, kicky

—OPPOSITES scruffy

natural ▶ adjective ① a natural occurrence NORMAL, ordinary, everyday, usual, regular, common, commonplace, typical, routine, standard, established, customary, accustomed, habitual ② natural produce UNPROCESSED, organic, pure, wholesome, unrefined, pesticide-free, additive-free ③ Alex is a natural leader BORN, naturally gifted, untaught ④ his natural instincts INNATE, inborn, inherent, native, instinctive, intuitive, hereditary, inherited, inbred, congenital, connate, connatural ⑤ she seemed very natural. UNAFFECTED, spontaneous, uninhibited, relaxed, unselfconscious, genuine, open, artless, guileless, ingenuous, unpretentious, without airs ⑥ it was quite natural to think she admired him REASONABLE, logical, understandable, (only) to be expected, predictable. ⑦ (archaic) his natural son. ILLEGITIMATE, born out of wedlock, doted

born on the wrong side of the blanket, archaic bastard, misbegotten, baseborn

—OPPOSITES abnormal, artificial, affected.

naturalist ▶ noun NATURAL HISTORIAN, life scientist, wildlife expert, biologist, botanist, zoologist, ornithologist, entomologist, ecologist, conservationist, environmentalist See list at ZOOLOGIST

naturalistic ▶ adjective REALISTIC, real-life, true-to-life, lifelike, graphic, representational, photographic

—OPPOSITES abstract

naturalize ▶ verb ① he was naturalized in 1950 GRANT CITIZENSHIP TO, make a citizen, give a passport to, enfranchise ② coriander has now been naturalized in southern Britain ESTABLISH, introduce, acclimatize, domesticate, N Amer acclimate

naturally ▶ adverb ① he's naturally shy BY NATURE, by character, inherently, innately, congenitally ② try to act naturally NORMALLY, in a natural manner/way, unaffectedly, spontaneously, genuinely, unpretentiously, informal natural ③ naturally, they wanted everything kept quiet OF COURSE, as might be expected, needless to say, obviously, clearly, it goes without saying

—OPPOSITES self-consciously

naturalness ▶ noun UNSELFCONSCIOUSNESS, spontaneity, spontaneousness, straightforwardness, genuineness, openness, ingenuousness, lack of sophistication, unpretentiousness

nature ▶ noun ① the beauty of nature THE NATURAL WORLD, Mother Nature, Mother Earth, the environment, the universe, the cosmos, wildlife, flora and fauna, the countryside ② such crimes are, by their very nature, difficult to hide ESSENCE, inherent/basic/essential qualities, inherent/basic/essential features, character, complexion ③ it was not in Daisy's nature to be bitchy CHARACTER, personality, disposition, temperament, make-up, psyche, constitution ④ experiments of a similar nature KIND, sort, type, variety, category, ilk, class, species, genre, style, cast, order, kidney, mould, stamp, N Amer stripe

naturlist ▶ noun NUDIST

naught ▶ noun (archaic) NOTHING (AT ALL), nil, zero, N English nowt, informal zilch, sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA, Brit informal damn all, not a sausage, N Amer informal zip, nada, diddly-squat, archaic nought

naughty ▶ adjective ① a naughty boy BADLY BEHAVED, disobedient, bad, misbehaved, misbehaving, wayward, defiant, unruly, insubordinate, wilful, delinquent, undisciplined, uncontrollable, ungovernable, unbiddable, disorderly, disruptive, fractious, recalcitrant, wild, wicked, obstreperous, difficult, troublesome, awkward, contrary, perverse, incorrigible; mischievous, playful, impish, roguish, rascally; informal brattish, formal refractory ② naughty jokes: INDECENT, risqué, rude, racy, ribald, bawdy, suggestive, improper, indelicate, indecorous, vulgar, dirty, filthy, smutty, crude, coarse, obscene, lewd, pornographic; informal raunchy; Brit informal fruity, saucy, N Amer informal gamy; euphemistic adult

—OPPOSITES well behaved, decent

nausea ▶ noun ① symptoms include nausea and a headache SICKNESS, biliousness, queasiness;



vomiting, retching, gagging; travel-sickness, seasickness, carsickness, airsickness ② it induces a feeling of nausea: DISGUST, revulsion, repugnance, repulsion, distaste, aversion, loathing, abhorrence

nauseate ▶ verb CAUSE TO FEEL SICK, sicken, make sick, turn someone's stomach, make someone's gorge rise, *N Amer informal* gross out

nauseating ▶ adjective SICKENING, stomach-churning, nauseous, emetic, sickly, disgusting, revolting, offensive, loathsome, obnoxious, foul *N Amer* vomitous, *informal* sick-making, gross, gut-churning

nauseous ▶ adjective ① the food made her feel nauseous SICK, nauseated, queasy, bilious, green about/at the gills, ill, unwell, seasick, carsick, airsick, travel-sick, *N Amer informal* barfy ② a nauseous stench See NAUSEATING

nautical ▶ adjective MARITIME, marine, naval, seafaring, boating, sailing

navel ▶ noun ① *informal* belly button, tummy button, *Anatomy* umbilicus ② the navel of Byzantine culture CENTRE, central point, hub, focal point, focus, nucleus, heart, core, *poetic/literary* omphalos

—RELATED TERMS umbilical, omphalo-

navigable ▶ adjective PASSABLE, negotiable, traversable, clear, open, unobstructed, unblocked

navigate ▶ verb ① he navigated the yacht across the Atlantic STEER, pilot, guide, direct, helm, captain, *Nautical* con, *informal* skipper. ② the upper reaches are dangerous to navigate SAIL (ACROSS, OVER), cross, traverse, negotiate ③ I'll drive—you can navigate. MAP-READ, give directions

navigation ▶ noun ① the navigation of the ship STEERING, piloting, sailing, guiding, directing, guidance ② the skills of navigation HELMSMAN SHIP, steersmanship, seamanship, map-reading, chart-reading

navigator ▶ noun HELMSMAN, steersman, pilot, guide, *N Amer* wheelman See list at EXPLORER

navvy ▶ noun LABOURER, manual worker, workman worker, hand, coolie, roustabout, *Austral / NZ* rouseabout, *archaic* mechanic

navy ▶ noun ① a 600-ship navy FLEET, flotilla, armada ② a navy suit: NAVY BLUE, dark blue, indigo

nay ▶ adverb OR RATHER, (and) indeed, and even, in fact, actually, in truth

near ▶ adverb ① her children all live near CLOSE (BY), nearby, close/near at hand, in the neighbourhood, in the vicinity, at hand, within reach, on the doorstep, a stone's throw away, *informal* within spitting distance, *archaic* nigh ② near perfect conditions: ALMOST, just about, nearly, well-nigh, practically, virtually

▶ preposition a hotel near the seafont CLOSE TO, close by, a short distance from, in the vicinity of, in the neighbourhood of, within reach of, a stone's throw away from; *informal* within spitting distance of

▶ adjective ① the nearest house: CLOSE, nearby, close/near at hand, at hand, a stone's throw away, within reach, accessible, handy, convenient; *informal* within spitting distance ② the final judgement is near: IMMINENT, in the offing, close/at hand, at hand, (just) round the corner, impending, looming. ③ a near relation: CLOSELY

RELATED, close, related ④ a near escape NARROW, close, by a hair's breadth; *informal* by a whisker

—OPPOSITES far, distant

▶ verb ① by dawn we were nearing Moscow AP PROACH, draw near/nearer to, get close/closer to, advance towards, close in on. ② the death toll is nearing 3,000 VERGE ON, bolder on, approach

nearby ▶ adjective one of the nearby villages NOT FAR AWAY/OFF, close/near at hand, close (by), near, within reach, at hand, neighbouring, accessible, handy, convenient

—OPPOSITES faraway

▶ adverb her mother lives nearby CLOSE (BY), close/near at hand, near, a short distance away, in the neighbourhood, in the vicinity, at hand, within reach, on the doorstep, (just) round the corner

nearby ▶ adverb ALMOST, (just) about, more or less, practically, virtually, all but, as good as, not far off, well-nigh, to all intents and purposes, not quite, *informal* pretty much, pretty well

near miss ▶ noun CLOSE THING, near thing, narrow escape, *informal* close shave

nearness ▶ noun ① the town's nearness to Rome CLOSENESS, proximity, propinquity, accessibility, handiness, *archaic* vicinity ② the nearness of death IMMINENCE, closeness, immediacy

near-sighted ▶ adjective SHORT-SIGHTED, myopic

neat ▶ adjective ① the bedroom was neat and clean TIDY, orderly, well ordered, in (good) order, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order, spick and span, uncluttered, straight, trim ② he's very neat SMART, spruce, dapper, trim, well groomed, well turned out, *N Amer* trig; *informal* natty ③ her neat script WELL FORMED, regular, precise, elegant, well proportioned ④ this neat little gadget COMPACT, well designed, handy, *Brit informal* dinky ⑤ his neat footwork SKILFUL, deft, dexterous, adroit, adept, expert, *informal* nifty ⑥ a neat solution CLEVER, ingenious, inventive ⑦ neat gin UNDILUTED, straight, unmixed, *N Amer informal* straight up. ⑧ (*N Amer informal*) we had a really neat time See WONDERFUL

—OPPOSITES untidy

neaten ▶ verb TIDY (UP), make neat/neater, straighten (up), smarten (up), spruce up, put in order, *N Amer informal* fix up

neatly ▶ adverb ① neatly arranged papers TIDILY, methodically, systematically, smartly, sprucely ② the point was neatly put CLEVERLY, aptly, elegantly ③ a neatly executed header SKILFULLY, deftly, adroitly, adeptly, expertly

neatness ▶ noun ① the neatness of the cottage TIDINESS, orderliness, trimness, spruceness, smartness. ② the neatness of her movements GRACE, gracefulness, numbleness, deftness, dexterity, adroitness, agility

nebulous ▶ adjective ① the figure was nebulous: INDISTINCT, indefinite, unclear, vague, hazy, cloudy, fuzzy, misty, blurred, blurry, foggy, faint, shadowy, obscure, formless, amorphous ② nebulous ideas: VAGUE, ill-defined, unclear, hazy, uncertain, indefinite, indeterminate, imprecise, unformed, muddled, confused, ambiguous.

—OPPOSITES clear.

necessarily ▶ **adverb** AS A CONSEQUENCE, as a result, automatically, as a matter of course, certainly, surely, definitely, incontrovertibly, undoubtedly, inevitably, unavoidably, inescapably, ineluctably, of necessity, *formal* perforce

necessary ▶ **adjective** ① *planning permission is necessary* OBLIGATORY, requisite, required, compulsory, mandatory, imperative, needed, de rigueur, essential, indispensable, vital ② *a necessary consequence* INEVITABLE, unavoidable, inescapable, inexorable, ineluctable, predetermined, preordained

▶ **noun** (*informal*) *could you lend me the necessary?* See MONEY sense 1

necessitate ▶ **verb** MAKE NECESSARY, entail, involve, mean, require, demand, call for, be grounds for, warrant, constrain, force

neccessitous ▶ **adjective** NEEDY, poor, short of money, disadvantaged, underprivileged, in straitened circumstances, impoverished, poverty-stricken, penniless, impecunious, destitute, pauperized, indigent, *Brit* on the breadline, without a penny to one's name, *informal* on one's uppers, hard up, without two pennies to rub together, *Brit* *informal* in Queer Street, *formal* penurious

—OPPOSITES wealthy

necessity ▶ **noun** ① *the VCR is now regarded as a necessity* ESSENTIAL, indispensable item, requisite, prerequisite, necessary, basic, sine qua non, desideratum ② *political necessity forced him to resign* FORCE OF CIRCUMSTANCE, obligation, need, call, exigency, force majeure ③ *the necessity of growing old* INEVITABILITY, certainty, inescapability, inexorability, ineluctability ④ *necessity made them steal* POVERTY, need, neediness, want, deprivation, privation, penury, destitution, indigence

■ **of necessity** NECESSARILY, inevitably, unavoidably, inescapably, ineluctably, as a matter of course, naturally, automatically, certainly, surely, definitely, incontrovertibly, undoubtedly; *formal* perforce

neck ▶ **noun** *technical* cervix, *archaic, informal* scrag, —RELATED TERMS cervical, jugular

▶ **verb** (*informal*) kiss, caress, pet, *informal* smooch, canoodle, *Brit* *informal* snog, *N Amer* *informal* make out, *informal, dated* spoon

■ **neck and neck** LEVEL, equal, tied, side by side, *Brit* level pegging, *informal* even-steven(s)

necklace ▶ **noun** CHAIN, choker, necklet, beads, pearls, pendant, locket, *historical* torc

necromancer ▶ **noun** SORCERER, sorceress, (black) magician, wizard, warlock, witch, enchantress, occultist, diviner, spiritualist, medium

necromancy ▶ **noun** SORCERY, (black) magic, witchcraft, witchery, wizardry, the occult, occultism, voodoo, hoodoo, divination, spiritualism

necropolis ▶ **noun** CEMETERY, graveyard, churchyard, burial ground, *informal* boneyard, *historical* potter's field, *archaic* God's acre.

née ▶ **adjective** *Jill Wyatt, née Peters* BORN, formerly, previously, *formal* heretofore

need ▶ **verb** ① *do you need money?* REQUIRE, be in need of, have need of, want, be crying out for, be desperate for, demand, call for, necessitate, entail, involve, lack, be without, be short of. ② *you needn't come* HAVE TO, be obliged to,

be compelled to ③ *she needed him so much* YEARN FOR, pine for, long for, desire, miss

▶ **noun** ① *there's no need to apologize* NECESSITY, obligation, requirement, call, demand ② *basic human needs* REQUIREMENT, essential, necessity, want, requisite, prerequisite, demand, desideratum ③ *their need was particularly pressing* NEEDINESS, want, poverty, deprivation, privation, hardship, destitution, indigence ④ *my hour of need* DIFFICULTY, trouble, distress, crisis, emergency, urgency, extremity

■ **in need** NEEDY, necessitous, deprived, disadvantaged, underprivileged, poor, impoverished, poverty-stricken, destitute, impecunious, indigent; *Brit* on the breadline, *formal* penurious

needed ▶ **adjective** NECESSARY, required, wanted, desired, lacking, essential, requisite, compulsory, obligatory, mandatory
—OPPOSITES optional

needful ▶ **adjective** (*formal*) NECESSARY, needed, required, requisite, essential, imperative, vital, indispensable

needle ▶ **noun** ① *a needle and thread* darning, bodkin ② *the virus is transmitted via needles* hypodermic needle, *informal* hype, spike ③ *the needle on the meter* INDICATOR, pointer, marker, arrow, hand ④ *put the needle on the record* STYLE

▶ **verb** (*informal*) *he needled her too much* See ANNOY

needless ▶ **adjective** UNNECESSARY, inessential, non-essential, unneeded, undesired, unwanted, uncalled for, gratuitous, pointless, dispensable, expendable, superfluous, redundant, excessive, supererogatory

—OPPOSITES necessary

■ **needless to say** OF COURSE, as one would expect, not unexpectedly, it goes without saying, obviously, naturally, *informal* natch

needlework ▶ **noun** SEWING, stitching, embroidery, needlepoint, needlecraft, tapestry, crewel work See list at SEWING

needy ▶ **adjective** POOR, deprived, disadvantaged, underprivileged, necessitous, in need, needful, hard up, in straitened circumstances, poverty-stricken, indigent, impoverished, pauperized, destitute, impecunious, penniless, moneyless, *Brit* on the breadline, *informal* on one's uppers, broke, strapped (for cash), without two pennies to rub together, *Brit* *informal* skint, stony broke, in Queer Street, *N Amer* *informal* stone broke, *formal* penurious

—OPPOSITES wealthy

ne'er-do-well ▶ **noun** GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, layabout, loafer, idler, shirker, sluggard, slugged, drone, *informal* waster, lazybones, *Brit* *informal* skiver; *N Amer* *informal* bum, gold brick, *archaic* wastrel

nefarious ▶ **adjective** WICKED, evil, sinful, iniquitous, egregious, heinous, atrocious, vile, foul, abominable, odious, depraved, monstrous, fiendish, diabolical, unspeakable, despicable, villainous, criminal, corrupt, illegal, unlawful, *dated* dastardly

—OPPOSITES good

negate ▶ **verb** ① *they negated the court's ruling* INVALIDATE, nullify, neutralize, cancel, undo, reverse, annul, void, revoke, rescind, repeal, retract, countermand, overrule, overturn, *Law* avoid; *formal* abrogate. ② *he negates the political nature of education*: DENY, dispute, contradict,

controvert, refute, rebut, reject, repudiate, *formal* gainsay

—OPPOSITES validate, confirm

negation ▶ **noun** ① *negation of the findings* DENIAL, contradiction, repudiation, refutation, rebuttal, nullification, cancellation, revocation, repeal, retraction; *Law* disaffirmation, *formal* abrogation ② *evil is not just the negation of goodness* OPPOSITE, reverse, antithesis, contrary, inverse, converse, absence, want

negative ▶ **adjective** ① *a negative reply* OPPOSING, opposed, contrary, anti-, dissenting, dissentient, saying 'no', in the negative ② *stop being so negative* PESSIMISTIC, defeatist, gloomy, cynical, fatalistic, dismissive, antipathetic, unenthusiastic, uninterested, unresponsive ③ *a negative effect on the economy* HARMFUL, bad, adverse, damaging, detrimental, unfavourable, disadvantageous

—OPPOSITES positive, optimistic, favourable

▶ **noun** *he murmured a negative 'no'*, refusal, rejection, veto, dissension, contradiction, denial

▶ **verb** ① *the bill was negated by the house* REJECT, turn down, refuse, veto, squash, *informal* give the thumbs down to ② *his arguments were negated* DISPROVE, belie, invalidate, refute, rebut, discredit, contradict, deny, negate, *formal* gainsay ③ *they tried to negate the effect of the tax* NEUTRALIZE, cancel out, counteract, nullify, negate, offset, balance, counterbalance
—OPPOSITES ratify, prove

negativity ▶ **noun** PESSIMISM, defeatism, gloom, cynicism, hopelessness, despair, despondency, apathy, indifference

neglect ▶ **verb** ① *she neglected the children* FAIL TO LOOK AFTER, leave alone, abandon, *poetic/literary* forsake ② *he's neglecting his work* PAY NO ATTENTION TO let slide, not attend to, be remiss about, be lax about, leave undone, shirk ③ *don't neglect our advice* DISREGARD, ignore, pay no attention to, take no notice of, pay no heed to, overlook, disdain, scorn, spurn ④ *I neglected to inform her* FAIL, omit, forget
—OPPOSITES cherish, heed, remember

▶ **noun** ① *the place had an air of neglect* DISREPAIR, dilapidation, deterioration, shabbiness, disuse, abandonment ② *her doctor was guilty of neglect* NEGLIGENCE, dereliction of duty, remissness, carelessness, heedlessness, unconcern, laxity, slackness, irresponsibility, *formal* delinquency ③ *the relative neglect of women* DISREGARD, ignoring, overlooking, inattention to, indifference to, heedlessness to

—OPPOSITES care, attention

neglected ▶ **adjective** ① *neglected animals* UNCARED FOR, abandoned, mistreated, maltreated, *poetic/literary* forsaken ② *a neglected cottage* DERELICT, dilapidated, tumbledown, ramshackle, untended ③ *a neglected masterpiece of prose* DISREGARDED, forgotten, overlooked ignored, unrecognized, unnoticed, unsung, underestimated, undervalued, unappreciated

neglectful ▶ **adjective**. See NEGLIGENT

negligent ▶ **adjective** NEGLIGENCE, remiss, careless, lax, irresponsible, inattentive, heedless, thoughtless, unmindful, forgetful; slack, sloppy; *N Amer* derelict, *formal* delinquent
—OPPOSITES dutiful

negligible ▶ **adjective** TRIVIAL, trifling, insignificant, unimportant, minor, inconsequential;

minimal, small, slight, inappreciable, infinitesimal, nugatory, petty, paltry, inadequate, insufficient, meagre, pitiful, *informal* minuscule, piddling, measly, poxy, *formal* exiguous.

—OPPOSITES significant

negotiable ▶ **adjective** ① *the salary will be negotiable* OPEN TO DISCUSSION, discussable, flexible, open to modification, unsettled, undecided. ② *the path was negotiable* PASSABLE, navigable, crossable, traversable, clear, unblocked, unobstructed ③ *negotiable cheques* transferable, valid

negotiate ▶ **verb** ① *she refused to negotiate* DISCUSS TERMS, talk, consult, parley, confer, debate, compromise, mediate, intercede, arbitrate, moderate, conciliate, bargain, haggle ② *he negotiated a new contract* ARRANGE, broker, work out, thrash out, agree on, settle, clinch, conclude, pull off, bring off, transact, *informal* sort out, swing ③ *I negotiated the obstacles* GET ROUND, get past, get over, clear, cross, surmount, overcome, deal with, cope with

negotiation ▶ **noun** ① *the negotiations resume next week* DISCUSSION(S), talks, deliberations, conference, debate, dialogue, consultation, mediation, arbitration, conciliation ② *the negotiation of the deal* ARRANGEMENT, brokering, settlement, conclusion, completion, transaction

negotiator ▶ **noun** MEDIATOR, arbitrator, arbiter, moderator, go-between, middleman, intermediary, intercessor, intervener, conciliator, representative, spokesperson, broker, bargainer

neigh ▶ **verb** WHINNY, bray, nicker, snicker, whicker

neighbourhood ▶ **noun** ① *a quiet neighbourhood* DISTRICT, area, locality, locale, quarter, community, part, region, zone, *informal* neck of the woods; *Brit informal* manor, *N Amer informal* hood, nabe ② *in the neighbourhood of Canterbury* VICINITY, environs, purlieu, precincts, vicinage

■ *in the neighbourhood of* APPROXIMATELY, about, around, roughly, in the region of, of the order of, nearly, almost, close to, just about, practically, there or thereabouts, circa, *Brit* getting on for

neighbouring ▶ **adjective** ADJACENT, adjoining, bordering, connecting, abutting, proximate, near, close (at hand), next-door, nearby, in the vicinity, vicinal

—OPPOSITES remote

neighbourly ▶ **adjective** OBLIGING, helpful, friendly, kind, amiable, amicable, affable, genial, agreeable, hospitable, companionable, well disposed, civil, cordial, good-natured, nice, pleasant, generous, considerate, thoughtful, unselfish, *Brit informal* decent
—OPPOSITES unfriendly

nemesis ▶ **noun** ① *this could be the bank's nemesis* DOWNFALL, undoing, ruin, ruination, destruction, Waterloo. ② *the nemesis that his crime deserved* RETRIBUTION, vengeance, punishment, just deserts; fate, destiny

neologism ▶ **noun** NEW WORD, new expression, new term, new phrase, coinage; made-up word, nonce-word

neophyte ▶ **noun** ① *a neophyte of the monastery* NOVICE, novitiate, postulant, catechumen ② *cooking classes are offered to neophytes* BEGINNER, learner, novice, newcomer; initiate, tyro,



fledgling, trainee, apprentice, probationer, *N Amer* tenderfoot, informal rookie, newbie, newie, *N Amer* informal greenhorn

ne plus ultra ► noun THE LAST WORD, the ultimate, the perfect example, the height, the acme, the zenith, the epitome, the quintessence, *archaic* the nonsuch

nepotism ► noun FAVOURITISM, preferential treatment, the old boy network, looking after one's own, bias, partiality, partisanship, *Bnt* jobs for the boys, the old school tie
—OPPOSITES impartiality

nerd ► noun (informal) BORE, informal dork, dweeb, geek, *Bnt* informal anorak, spod, *N Amer* informal Poindexter

nerve ► noun ① the nerves that transmit pain nerve fibre, neuron, axon, *Physiology* dendrite See list ② the match will be a test of nerve CONFIDENCE, assurance, cool-headedness, self-possession, courage, bravery, pluck, boldness, intrepidity, fearlessness, daring, determination, will power, spirit, backbone, fortitude, mettle, grit, stout-heartedness, informal guts, spunk, *Bnt* informal bottle, *N Amer* informal moxie ③ he had the nerve to chat her up AUDACITY, cheek, effrontery, gall, temerity, presumption, boldness, brazenness, impudence, impertinence, arrogance, cockiness, informal face, front, brass neck,chutzpah, *Bnt* informal sauce ④ pre-wedding nerves ANXIETY, tension, nervousness, stress, worry, cold feet, apprehension, informal butterflies (in one's stomach), collywobbles, the jitters, the shakes, *Bnt* informal the (screaming) abdabs
—RELATED TERMS neural, neuro-

■ get on someone's nerves IRRITATE, annoy, irk, anger, bother, vex, provoke, displease, exasperate, infuriate, gall, pique, needle, ruffle someone's feathers, try someone's patience, jar on, grate on, rankle, *Bnt* rub up the wrong way, informal aggravate, get to, bug, miff, peeve, rile, nettle, get up someone's nose, hack off, get someone's goat, *Bnt* informal nark, get on someone's wick, wind up

■ nerve oneself BRACE ONESELF, steel oneself, summon one's courage, gear oneself up, prepare oneself, fortify oneself, informal psych oneself up, poetic/literary gird one's loins

nerveless ► adjective ① her nerveless fingers INERT, lifeless, weak, powerless, feeble ② a nerveless lack of restraint CONFIDENT, self-confident, self-assured, self-possessed, cool, calm, {cool, calm, and collected}, composed, relaxed
—OPPOSITES nervous

nerve-racking ► adjective STRESSFUL, anxious, worrying, fraught, nail-biting, tense, difficult, trying, worrisome, daunting, frightening, informal scary, hairy.

nervous ► adjective ① a nervous woman HIGHLY STRUNG, anxious, edgy, tense, nervy, excitable, skittish, brittle, neurotic; timid, mousy, shy, fearful, informal jumpy ② he was so nervous he couldn't eat ANXIOUS, worried, apprehensive, on edge, edgy, tense, stressed, agitated, uneasy, restless, worked up, keyed up, overwrought, fearful, frightened, scared, shaky, in a cold sweat; informal with butterflies in one's stomach, jittery, twitchy, jumpy, in a state, uptight, wired, in a flap, het up, *Bnt* informal strung up, having kittens, *N Amer* informal spooky, squirrely. ③ a nervous disorder: NEUROLOGICAL, neural.
—OPPOSITES relaxed, calm.

Parts of the Human Nervous System

abducens nerve	peripheral nervous system
accessory nerve	system
autonomic nervous system	peroneal nerve
brain	radial nerve
central nervous system	sciatic nerve
cranial nerves	sensory nerves
femoral nerve	solar plexus
glossopharyngeal nerve	spinal cord
hypoglossal nerve	spinal nerves
motor nerves	sympathetic nervous system
nerve cell/neurone	tibial nerve
oculomotor nerve	trigeminal/trifacial nerve
olfactory nerve	trochlear nerve
optic nerve	ulnar nerve
parasympathetic nervous system	vestibulocochlear nerve

nervous breakdown ► noun (MENTAL) COLLAPSE, breakdown, crisis, trauma, nervous exhaustion, mental illness; informal crack-up

nervousness ► noun ANXIETY, edginess, tension, agitation, stress, worry, apprehension, uneasiness, disquiet, fear, trepidation, perturbation, alarm, *Bnt* nerviness, informal butterflies (in one's stomach), collywobbles, the jitters, the willies, the heebie-jeebies, the shakes, *Bnt* informal the (screaming) abdabs

nervy ► adjective. See NERVOUS senses 1, 2

nest ► noun ① the birds built a nest ROOST, eyrie ② the animals disperse rapidly from the nest LAIR, den, burrow, set ③ a cosy love nest HIDEAWAY, hideout, retreat, shelter, refuge, snuggery, den, informal hidey-hole ④ a nest of intrigue HOTBED, den, breeding ground, cradle.

nest egg ► noun (LIFE) SAVINGS, cache, funds, reserve

nestle ► verb SNUGGLE, cuddle, huddle, nuzzle, settle, burrow, snug down

nestling ► noun CHICK, fledgling, baby bird

net¹ ► noun ① fishermen mending their nets FISHING NET, dragnet, drift net, trawl net, landing net, gill net, cast net ② a dress of green net NETTING, meshwork, webbing, tulle, fishnet, openwork, lace, latticework ③ he managed to escape the net TRAP, snare.

► verb they netted big criminals CATCH, capture, trap, entrap, snare, ensnare, bag, hook, land, informal nab, collar

net² ► adjective ① net earnings AFTER TAX, after deductions, take-home, final; informal bottom line ② the net result FINAL, end, ultimate, closing, overall, actual, effective
—OPPOSITES gross

► verb she netted £50,000 EARN, make, get, gain, obtain, acquire, accumulate, take home, bring in, pocket, realize, be paid; informal rake in

nether ► adjective LOWER, low, bottom, bottom-most, under, basal; underground
—OPPOSITES upper.

netherworld ► noun HELL, the underworld, the infernal regions, the abyss; eternal damnation, perdition; Hades, Acheron, Gehenna, Tophet, Sheol; poetic/literary the pit.
—OPPOSITES heaven.

nettle ▶ **verb** IRRITATE, annoy, irk, gall, vex, anger, exasperate, infuriate, provoke, upset, displease, offend, affront, pique, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience, ruffle someone's feathers, *Bnt* rub up the wrong way, *N Amer* rangle, *informal* peeve, aggravate, miff, rile, needle, get to, bug, get up someone's nose, hack off, get someone's goat, *Bnt informal* nark, get on someone's wick, wind up, *N Amer informal* tick off

network ▶ **noun** ① a network of arteries WEB, lattice, net, matrix, mesh, criss-cross, grid, reticulum, reticulation, *Anatomy* plexus ② a network of lanes MAZE, labyrinth, warren, tangle ③ a network of friends SYSTEM, complex, nexus, web

neurosis ▶ **noun** MENTAL ILLNESS, mental disorder, psychological disorder, psychoneurosis, psychopathy, obsession, phobia, fixation, *Medicine* neuroticism

neurotic ▶ **adjective** ① (*Medicine*) neurotic patients MENTALLY ILL, mentally disturbed, unstable, unbalanced, maladjusted, psychopathic, phobic, obsessive-compulsive ② a neurotic, self-obsessed woman OVER-ANXIOUS, oversensitive, nervous, tense, nervy, highly strung, paranoid, obsessive, fixated, hysterical, overwrought, irrational, *informal* twitchy
-OPPOSITES stable, calm

neuter ▶ **adjective** ASEXUAL, sexless, unsexed, androgynous, epicene

▶ **verb** have your pets neutered STERILIZE, castrate, spay, geld, cut, fix, desex, *N Amer & Austral* alter, *Bnt informal* doctor, *archaic* emasculate

neutral ▶ **adjective** ① she's neutral on this issue IMPARTIAL, unbiased, unprejudiced, objective, open-minded, non-partisan, disinterested, dispassionate, detached, impersonal, unemotional, indifferent, uncommitted ② Switzerland remained neutral UNALIGNED, non-aligned, unaffiliated, unallied, uninvolved, non-combatant ③ a neutral topic of conversation INOFFENSIVE, bland, unobjectionable, unexceptionable, anodyne, unremarkable, ordinary, commonplace, safe, harmless, innocuous ④ a neutral background PALE, light, beige, cream, taupe, oatmeal, ecru, buff, fawn, grey, colourless, uncoloured, achromatic, indeterminate, insipid, nondescript, dull, drab
-OPPOSITES biased, partisan, provocative, colourful

neutralize ▶ **verb** COUNTERACT, offset, counterbalance, balance, counterpoise, countervail, compensate for, make up for, cancel out, nullify, negate, negative, equalize

never ▶ **adverb** ① his room is never tidy NOT EVER, at no time, not at any time, not once, *poetic/literary* ne'er ② she will never agree to it NOT AT ALL, certainly not, not for a moment, under no circumstances, on no account, *informal* no way, not on your life, not in a million years, *Bnt informal* not on your nelly
-OPPOSITES always, definitely

never-ending ▶ **adjective** ① never-ending noise INCESSANT, continuous, unceasing, ceaseless, constant, continual, perpetual, uninterrupted, unbroken, steady, unremitting, relentless, persistent, interminable, non-stop, endless, unending, everlasting, eternal ② never-ending tasks ENDLESS, countless, innumerable, untold, un-

limited, limitless, boundless, *poetic/literary* myriad

never-never

▶ the never-never (*Bnt informal*) See HIRE PURCHASE

nevertheless ▶ **adverb** NONETHELESS, even so, however, but, still, yet, though, in spite of that, despite that, be that as it may, for all that, that said, just the same, all the same, notwithstanding, regardless, anyway, anyhow, *informal* still and all

new ▶ **adjective** ① new technology RECENTLY DEVELOPED, up to date, latest, current, state-of-the-art, contemporary, advanced, recent, modern ② new ideas NOVEL, original, fresh, imaginative, creative, experimental, contemporary, modernist, up to date, newfangled, ultra-modern, avant-garde, futuristic, *informal* way out, far out ③ is your coat new? UNUSED, brand new, pristine, fresh, in mint condition ④ new neighbours moved in DIFFERENT, another, alternative, unfamiliar, unknown, strange, unaccustomed, untried ⑤ they had a new classroom built ADDITIONAL, extra, supplementary, further, another, fresh ⑥ I came back a new woman REINVIGORATED, restored, revived, improved, refreshed, regenerated, reborn

-RELATED TERMS neo-

-OPPOSITES old, hackneyed, second-hand, present

newborn ▶ **adjective** newborn babies JUST BORN, recently born

▶ **noun** the bacteria are fatal to newborns YOUNG BABY, tiny baby, infant, *Medicine* neonate

newcomer ▶ **noun** ① a newcomer to the village (NEW) ARRIVAL, immigrant, incomer, settler, stranger, outsider, foreigner, alien, *N English* offcomer, *informal* johnny-come-lately, new kid on the block, *Austral informal* blow-in ② photography tips for the newcomer BEGINNER, novice, learner, trainee, apprentice, probationer, tyro, initiate, neophyte, *N Amer* tenderfoot, *informal* rookie, newbie, *N Amer informal* greenhorn

newfangled ▶ **adjective** NEW, the latest, modern, ultra-modern, up to the minute, state-of-the-art, advanced, contemporary, new-fashioned, *informal* trendy, flash
-OPPOSITES dated

newly ▶ **adverb** RECENTLY, (only) just, lately, freshly, not long ago, a short time ago, only now, of late, new-

news ▶ **noun** REPORT, announcement, story, account; article, news flash, newscast, headlines, press release, communication, communiqué, bulletin, message, dispatch, statement, intelligence, disclosure, revelation, word, talk, gossip, *informal* scoop, *poetic/literary* tidings

newspaper ▶ **noun** PAPER, journal, gazette, news-sheet, tabloid, broadsheet, quality (paper), national (paper), local (paper), daily (paper), weekly (paper), free sheet, scandal sheet, *informal* rag, *N Amer informal* tab

newsworthy ▶ **adjective** INTERESTING, topical, notable, noteworthy, important, significant, momentous, historic, remarkable, sensational
-OPPOSITES unremarkable

next ▶ **adjective** ① the next chapter. FOLLOWING, succeeding, upcoming, to come. ② the next house in the street. NEIGHBOURING, adjacent, ad-



joining, next-door, bordering, connected, attached, closest, nearest

—OPPOSITES previous

► **adverb** *where shall we go next?* THEN, after, afterwards, after this/that, following that/this, later, subsequently, *formal* thereafter, thereupon

—OPPOSITES before

■ **next to** BESIDE, by, alongside, by the side of, next door to, adjacent to, side by side with, close to, near, neighbouring, adjoining

nibble ► **verb** ① *they nibbled at mangoes* TAKE SMALL BITES (FROM), pick, gnaw, peck, snack on, toy with, taste, sample, *informal* graze (on)

② *the mouse nibbled his finger* PECK, nip, bite

► **noun** ① *the fish enjoyed a nibble on the lettuce* BITE, gnaw, chew, taste ② *nuts and nibbles* MORSEL, mouthful, bite, snack, titbit, canapé, hors d'oeuvre, bonne bouche

nice ► **adjective** ① *have a nice time* ENJOYABLE, pleasant, agreeable, good, satisfying, gratifying, delightful, marvellous, entertaining, amusing, diverting, *informal* lovely, great, *N Amer informal* neat ② *nice people* PLEASANT, likeable, agreeable, personable, congenial, amiable, affable, genial, friendly, charming, delightful, engaging, sympathetic, compassionate, good ③ *nice manners* POLITE, courteous, civil, refined, polished, genteel, elegant ④ *that's a rather nice distinction* SUBTLE, fine, delicate, minute, precise, strict, close, careful, meticulous, scrupulous ⑤ *it's a nice day* FINE, pleasant, agreeable, dry, sunny, warm, mild

—OPPOSITES unpleasant, nasty, rough

nicety ► **noun** ① *legal niceties* SUBTLETY, fine point, nuance, refinement, detail ② *great nicety of control* PRECISION, accuracy, exactness, meticulousness

niche ► **noun** ① *a niche in the wall* RECESS, alcove, nook, cranny, hollow, bay, cavity, cubbyhole, pigeonhole ② *he found his niche in life* IDEAL POSITION, place, function, vocation, calling, métier, job

nick ► **noun** ① *a slight nick in the blade* CUT, scratch, incision, snick, notch, chip, gouge, gash, dent, indentation ② (*Bnt informal*) *she's in the nick* See PRISON ③ (*Bnt informal*) *he's under arrest at the nick* POLICE STATION, station, *N Amer* precinct, station house, *informal* cop shop ④ (*Bnt informal*) *the car's in good nick* CONDITION, repair, shape, state, order, form, fettle, trim

► **verb** ① *I nicked my toe* CUT, scratch, incise, snick, gouge, gash, score ② (*Bnt informal*) *she nicked his wallet* See STEAL verb sense 1 ③ (*Bnt informal*) *Steve's been nicked* See ARREST verb sense 1

■ **In the nick of time** JUST IN TIME, not a moment too soon, at the critical moment, *N Amer informal* under the wire

nickname ► **noun** SOBRIQUET, byname, tag, label, epithet, cognomen, pet name, diminutive, endearment, *informal* moniker, *formal* appellation See list

nifty ► **adjective** (*informal*) ① *nifty camerawork* SKILFUL, deft, agile, capable. ② *a nifty little gadget* USEFUL, handy, practical. ③ *a nifty suit* FASHIONABLE, stylish, smart

—OPPOSITES clumsy

niggardly ► **adjective** ① *a niggardly person*. MEAN, miserly, parsimonious, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, grasping, un-

generous, illiberal, *informal* stingy, tight, tight-fisted, *N Amer informal* cheap ② *niggardly rations* MEAGRE, inadequate, scanty, scant, skimpy, paltry, sparse, insufficient, deficient, short, lean, small, slender, poor, miserable, pitiful, puny, *informal* measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling

—OPPOSITES generous

niggle ► **verb** ① *his behaviour does niggle me* IRRITATE, annoy, bother, provoke, exasperate, upset, gall, irk, rankle with, *informal* rile, get to, bug ② *he niggles on about taxes* COMPLAIN, fuss, carp, cavil, grumble, grouse, *informal* moan, nit-pick

► **noun** *niggles about the lack of equipment* QUIBBLE, trivial complaint, criticism, grumble, grouse, cavil, *informal* gripe, moan, beef, grouch

night ► **noun** night-time, (hours of) darkness, dark

—RELATED TERMS nocturnal

—OPPOSITES day

■ **night and day** ALL THE TIME, around the clock, (morning, noon, and night), (day in, day out), ceaselessly, endlessly, incessantly, unceasingly, interminably, constantly, perpetually, continually, relentlessly, *informal* 24-7

nightclub ► **noun** DISCO, discotheque, night spot, club, bar, *N Amer* cafe, *informal* niterie

nightfall ► **noun** SUNSET, sundown, dusk, twilight, evening, close of day, dark, *poetic/literary* eventide

—OPPOSITES dawn

nightly ► **adjective** ① *nightly raids* EVERY NIGHT, each night, night after night ② *his nightly wanderings* NOCTURNAL, night-time

► **adverb** *a band plays there nightly* EVERY NIGHT, each night, night after night

nightmare ► **noun** ① *she woke from a nightmare* BAD DREAM, night terrors, *archaic* incubus ② *the journey was a nightmare* ORDEAL, trial, torment, horror, hell, misery, agony, torture, murder, curse, bane

nightmarish ► **adjective** UNEARTHLY, spine-chilling, hair-raising, horrific, macabre, hideous, unspeakable, gruesome, grisly, ghastly, harrowing, disturbing, *informal* scary, creepy

nihilism ► **noun** SCEPTICISM, disbelief, unbelief, agnosticism, atheism, negativity, cynicism, pessimism, rejection, denial

nihilist ► **noun** SCEPTIC, disbeliever, unbeliever, agnostic, atheist, negativist, cynic, pessimist

nil ► **noun** NOTHING, none, nought, zero, 0, *Tennis* love, *Cricket* a duck, *N English* nowt, *informal* zilch, nix, not a dicky bird, *Bnt informal* sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA, not a sausage, *N Amer informal* zip, nada, a goose egg, *dated* cipher, *archaic* naught

nimble ► **adjective** ① *he was nimble on his feet* AGILE, sprightly, light, spry, lively, quick, graceful, lithe, limber, skilful, deft, dextrous, adroit, *informal* nippy, twinkle-toed, *poetic/literary* light-some ② *a nimble mind* QUICK-WITTED, quick, alert, lively, wide awake, observant, astute, perceptive, penetrating, discerning, shrewd, sharp, intelligent, bright, smart, clever, brilliant; *informal* brainy, quick on the uptake

—OPPOSITES clumsy, dull

nincompoop ► **noun** (*informal*). See IDIOT

nine ► **cardinal number** NONET

—RELATED TERMS nona-

Nicknames

See also NAME.

NICKNAME

Baby Doc
the Bard/Swan of Avon
Bible Bill
Billy the Kid
Bird
the Blonde Bombshell
the Body
Bomber Harris
the Boss
the Brown Bomber
Buffalo Bill
Butch Cassidy
the Butcher of Lyon
Calamity Jane
the Cannibal
Capability Brown
Clive of India
Colorado Charlie
the Desert Fox
Dizzy Gillespie
Doubting Thomas
the Elephant Man
Ethelred the Unready
Evita
the Forces' Sweetheart
Gazza
the Georgia Peach
the Great Assassin
the Hammer of the Scots
the Hit Man
Hotspur
Hurricane Higgins
Il Duce
the Iron Chancellor
the Iron Duke
the Iron Lady
Iron Mike
the Italian Stallion
the It Girl
the King
the King of Swing

PERSON

Jean-Claude Duvalier
William Shakespeare
William Aberhart
William H. Bonney
Charlie Parker
Jean Harlow
Elle Macpherson
Arthur Harris
Bruce Springsteen
Joe Louis
William Cody
Robert Leroy Parker
Klaus Barbie
Martha Jane Burke
Eddy Merckx
Lancelot Brown
Robert Clive
Charles Utter
Erwin Rommel
John Birks Gillespie
St Thomas the Apostle
John Merrick
Ethelred II
Eva Perón
Vera Lynn
Paul Gascoigne
Ty Cobb
Abdul Hamid II
Edward I

Tommy Hearn
Henry Percy
Alex Higgins
Benito Mussolini
Otto von Bismarck
Duke of Wellington
Margaret Thatcher
Mike Tyson
Sylvester Stallone
Clara Bow
Elvis Presley
Benny Goodman

NICKNAME

Lady Day
the Lady of the Lamp
La Pasionaria
Lawrence of Arabia
Le Douanier
the Lion of Kashmir

the Liberator
the Liberator
Little Mo
Lo Spagnoletto
Magic Johnson
the Maid of Orleans
the Manassa Mauler
Monty

Ol' Blue Eyes
Old Blood and Guts
Old Hickory
Papa Doc
the People's Princess
the Red Baron
Red Emma
Richard the Lionheart
Satchmo
Scarface
the Scourge of God
the Sex Kitten
Son of Sam
Stonewall Jackson
the Sultan of Swat
the Sundance Kid
the Sun King
Supermex
the Teflon Don
Tricky Dicky
Uncle Joe
the Vamp
the Virgin Queen
Wild Bill Hickok
the Yorkshire Ripper

PERSON

Billie Holiday
Florence Nightingale
Dolores Ibárruri Gómez
T. E. Lawrence
Henri Rousseau
Sheikh Muhammad
Abdullah
Simón Bolívar
Daniel O'Connell
Maureen Connolly
José Ribera
Earvin Johnson
Joan of Arc
Jack Dempsey
Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery
Frank Sinatra
George Patton
Andrew Jackson
François Duvalier
Diana, Princess of Wales
Manfred von Richthofen
Emma Goldman
Richard I
Louis Armstrong
Al Capone
Attila
Brightie Bardot
David Berkowitz
Thomas Jackson
Babe Ruth
Harry Langbaugh
Louis XIV
Lee Trevino
John Gotti
Richard Nixon
Joseph Stalin
Theda Bara
Elizabeth I
James Butler Hickok
Peter Sutcliffe



nip ▶ **verb** ① *the child nipped her* BITE, nibble, peck, pinch, tweak, squeeze, grip ② (*Bnt informal*) *I'm just nipping out* RUSH, dash, dart, hurry, scurry, scamper, go, *informal* pop, whip

▶ **noun** *penguins can give a serious nip* BITE, peck, nibble, pinch, tweak

■ **nip something in the bud** CUT SHORT, curtail, check, curb, thwart, frustrate, stop, halt, arrest, stifle, obstruct, block, squash, quash, subdue, crack down on, stamp out, *informal* put the kibosh on.

■ **nip something off** CUT, snip, trim, clip, prune, lop, dock, crop, remove, take off

nipple ▶ **noun** TEAT, dug, *Anatomy* mamilla

nippy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) ① *he's too big to be nippy* AGILE, light-footed, nimble, light on one's feet, spry, supple, limber, *informal* twinkie-toed, poetic/literary lightsome ② *a nippy hatchback*. FAST, quick, lively; *informal* zippy. ③ *it's a bit nippy in here*: COLD, chilly, icy, bitter, raw
—OPPOSITES lumbering, slow, warm

nirvana ▶ **noun** PARADISE, heaven, bliss, ecstasy, joy, peace, serenity, tranquillity, enlightenment

—OPPOSITES hell

nit-picking ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) See PEDANTIC

nitty-gritty ▶ **noun** (*informal*) BASICS, essentials, fundamentals, substance, quintessence, heart of the matter, nub, crux, gist, meat, kernel, marrow, *informal* brass tacks, nuts and bolts

nitwit ▶ **noun** (*informal*) See IDIOT

no ▶ **adverb** absolutely not, most certainly not, of course not, under no circumstances, by no means, not at all, negative, never, not really, *informal* nope, nah, not on your life, no way, *Bnt informal* no fear, not on your nelly, *archaic* nay
—OPPOSITES yes

nobble ▶ **verb** (*Bnt informal*) ① *he nobbled the jury* BRIBE, suborn, buy, pay off, corrupt, get at; influence, persuade, win over, sway, control, manipulate, *informal* grease someone's palm, oil someone's palm. ② *a stable lad nobbled the horse*

DRUG, dope, tamper with, interfere with, disable, incapacitate ③ *I stopped him nobbling her money* STEAL, thief, embezzle, *informal* rob. ④ *people tried to noble her at parties* ACCOST, waylay, detain, catch, confront, importune, *informal* buttonhole

Nobel Prize ▶ noun. See lists

nobility ▶ noun ① *a member of the nobility* ARISTOCRACY, aristocrats, peerage, peers (of the realm), lords, nobles, noblemen, noblewomen, patricians, *informal* aristos, *Brit informal* nobs ② *the nobility of his deed* VIRTUE, goodness, honour, decency, integrity, magnanimity, generosity, selflessness

noble ▶ adjective ① *a noble family* ARISTOCRATIC, patrician, blue-blooded, high-born, titled, *archaic* gentle. ② *a noble cause* RIGHTEOUS, virtuous, good, honourable, upright, decent, worthy, moral, ethical, reputable, magnanimous, unselfish, generous ③ *a noble pine forest* MAGNIFICENT, splendid, grand, stately, imposing, dignified, proud, striking, impressive, majestic, glorious, awesome, monumental, statuesque, regal, imperial

—OPPOSITES humble, dishonourable, base

▶ noun *Scottish nobles* ARISTOCRAT, nobleman, noblewoman, lord, lady, peer (of the realm), peeress, patrician, *informal* aristo, *Brit informal* nob

nod ▶ verb ① *she nodded her head* INCLINE, bob, bow, dip, wag ② *he nodded to me to start* SIGNAL, gesture, gesticulate, motion, sign, indicate

▶ noun ① *she gave a nod to the manager* SIGNAL, indication, sign, cue, gesture ② *a quick nod of his head* INCLINATION, bob, bow, dip

■ **give someone the nod** ① *the winger was given the nod* SELECT, choose, pick, go for, *Brit* cap ② *the Lords will give the treaty the nod* APPROVE, agree to, sanction, ratify, endorse, rubber-stamp, *informal* OK, give something the green light, give something the thumbs up

■ **nod off** FALL ASLEEP, go to sleep, doze off, drop off, *informal* drift off, flake out, go out like a light, *N Amer informal* sack out

node ▶ noun JUNCTION, intersection, interchange, fork, confluence, convergence, crossing

noise ▶ noun SOUND, din, hubbub, clamour, racket, uproar, tumult, commotion, pandemonium, babel, *informal* hullabaloo, *Brit informal* row —OPPOSITES silence

noisome ▶ adjective (*poetic/literary*). See ODIOUS

noisy ▶ adjective ① *a noisy crowd* ROWDY, clamorous, boisterous, turbulent, rackety, chattering, talkative, vociferous, shouting, screaming ② *noisy music* LOUD, fortissimo, blaring, booming, deafening, thunderous, tumultuous, clamorous, ear-splitting, piercing, strident, cacophonous, raucous —OPPOSITES quiet, soft

nomad ▶ noun ITINERANT, traveller, migrant, wanderer, roamer, rover, gypsy, Bedouin, transient, drifter, vagabond, vagrant, tramp; *dated* bird of passage

nominal ▶ adjective ① *the nominal head of the campaign* IN NAME ONLY, titular, formal, official, theoretical, supposed, ostensible, so-called. ② *a nominal rent* TOKEN, symbolic, tiny, minute, minimal, small, insignificant, trifling, *Brit* pep-

percorn, *informal* minuscule, piddling, piffling, *N Amer informal* nickel-and-dime —OPPOSITES real, considerable

nominate ▶ verb ① *you may nominate a candidate* PROPOSE, recommend, suggest, name, put forward, present, submit ② *he nominated his assistant* APPOINT, select, choose, elect, commission, designate, name, delegate

non-believer ▶ noun UNBELIEVER, disbeliever, sceptic, doubter, doubting Thomas, cynic, nihilist, atheist, agnostic, freethinker, infidel, pagan, heathen

nonce

■ **for the nonce** FOR THE TIME BEING, temporarily, pro tem, for now, for the moment, for the interim, for a while, for the present, in the meantime, provisionally

nonchalant ▶ adjective CALM, composed, unconcerned, cool, (cool, calm, and collected), cool as a cucumber, indifferent, blasé, dispassionate, apathetic, casual, insouciant, *informal* laid-back

—OPPOSITES anxious

non-combatant ▶ adjective NON-FIGHTING, non-participating, civilian, pacifist, neutral, non-aligned

non-committal ▶ adjective EVASIVE, equivocal, guarded, circumspect, reserved, discreet, uncommunicative, tactful, diplomatic, vague, *informal* cagey

■ **be non-committal** PREVARICATE, give nothing away, dodge the issue, sidestep the issue, hedge, fence, pussyfoot around, beat about the bush, equivocate, temporize, shilly-shally, vacillate, waver; *Brit* hum and haw, *informal* sit on the fence

non compos mentis ▶ adjective See INSANE sense 1

nonconformist ▶ noun DISSENTER, dissident, protester, rebel, renegade, schismatic, freethinker, apostate, heretic, individualist, free spirit, maverick, eccentric, original, deviant, misfit, dropout, outsider, *informal* freak, oddball, odd fish, weirdo, *N Amer informal* screwball, kook

nondescript ▶ adjective UNDISTINGUISHED, unremarkable, unexceptional, featureless, characterless, unmemorable, ordinary, commonplace, average, run-of-the-mill, mundane, uninteresting, uninspiring, colourless, bland, *informal* bog-standard, *Brit informal* common or garden —OPPOSITES distinctive

none ▶ pronoun ① *none of the fish are unusual* NOT ONE, not a one. ② *none of this concerns me* NO PART, not a bit, not any ③ *none can know better than you* NOT ONE, no one, nobody, not a soul, not a single person, no man —OPPOSITES all

■ **none the** — *we were left none the wiser*: NOT AT ALL, not a bit, not the slightest bit, in no way, by no means any.

nonentity ▶ noun NOBODY, unimportant person, cipher, non-person, nothing, small fry, lightweight, mediocrity, *informal* no-hoper, non-starter

—OPPOSITES celebrity.

non-essential ▶ adjective UNNECESSARY, inessential, unessential, needless, unneeded, super-



Nobel Prizewinners

PHYSICS (FROM 1950)

1950	Cecil Frank Powell	1981	Nicolaas Bloembergen	1961	Melvin Calvin
1951	John Cockcroft		Arthur L. Schawlow	1962	Max Perutz
	E. T. S. Walton		Kai M. Siegbahn		John Kendrew
1952	Felix Bloch	1982	Kenneth G. Wilson	1963	Karl Ziegler
	E. M. Purcell	1983	Subramanyan		Giulio Natta
1953	Frits Zernike		Chandrasekhar	1964	Dorothy Hodgkin
1954	Max Born		William A. Fowler	1965	R. B. Woodward
	Walther Bothe	1984	Carlo Rubbia	1966	Robert S. Mulliken
1955	Willis Eugene Lamb		Simon van der Meer	1967	Manfred Eigen
	Polykarp Kusch	1985	Klaus von Klitzing		Ronald Norrish
1956	William Shockley	1986	Ernst Ruska		Lord George Porter
	John Bardeen		Gerd Binnig	1968	Lars Onsager
	Walter Houser Brattain	1987	Heinrich Rohrer	1969	Derek Barton
1957	Chen Ning Yang		Alex Müller		Odd Hassel
	Tsung-Dao Lee	1988	Georg Bednorz	1970	Luis F. Leloir
1958	Pavel Alekseyevich		Leon Lederman	1971	Gerhard Herzberg
	Cherenkov		Melvin Schwartz	1972	Christian B. Anfinsen
	Il'ja Mikhailovich Frank	1989	Jack Steinberger		Stanford Moore
	Igor Yevgenyevich Tamm		Hans Dehmelt		William H. Stein
1959	Emilio Segré		Wolfgang Paul	1973	Ernst Fischer
	Owen Chamberlain		Norman Ramsey		Geoffrey Wilkinson
1960	Donald A. Glaser	1990	Jerome Friedman	1974	Paul J. Flory
1961	Robert Hofstadter		Henry Kendall	1975	John Cornforth
	Rudolf Ludwig Mössbauer		Richard Taylor		Vladimir Prelog
1962	Lev Davidovich Landau	1991	Pierre-Gilles de Gennes	1976	William N. Lipscomb
1963	Eugene P. Wigner	1992	Georges Charpak	1977	Ilya Prigogine
	Maria Goeppert-Mayer	1993	Joseph Taylor	1978	Peter D. Mitchell
	J. Hans. D. Jensen		Russell Hulse	1979	Herbert C. Brown
1964	Charles H. Townes	1994	Bertram N. Brockhouse		Georg Wittig
	Nicolay Gennadiyevich		Clifford G. Shull	1980	Paul Berg
	Basov	1995	Martin L. Perl		Walter Gilbert
	Aleksandr Mikhailovich		Frederick Reines	1981	Frederick Sanger
	Prokhorov	1996	David M. Lee		Kenichi Fukui
1965	Sin-Itiro Tomonaga		Douglas D. Osheroff		Roald Hoffman
	Julian Schwinger		Robert C Richardson	1982	Aaron Klug
	Richard P. Feynman	1997	Steven Chu	1983	Henry Taube
1966	Alfred Kastler		Claude Cohen-Tannoudji	1984	Bruce Merrifield
1967	Hans Albrecht Bethe		William D. Phillips	1985	Herbert Hauptman
1968	Luis W. Alvarez	1998	Robert B. Laughlin		Jerome Karle
1969	Murray Gell-Mann		Horst L. Störmer	1986	Dudley Herschbach
1970	Hannes Alfvén		Daniel C. Tsui		Yuan Tseh Lee
	Louis Néel	1999	Gerardus 't Hooft		John Polanyi
1971	Dennis Gabor		Martinus Veltman	1987	Donald Cram
1972	John Bardeen	2000	Zhores I. Alferov		Jean-Marie Lehn
	Leon N. Cooper		Herbert Kroemer		Charles Pedersen
	J. Robert Schrieffer	2001	Jack S. Kilby	1988	Johann Delsenhofer
1973	Leo Esaki		Eric A. Cornell		Robert Huber
	Ivar Giaever		Wolfgang Ketterle		Hartmut Michel
	Brian D. Josephson		Carl E. Wieman	1989	Sidney Altman
1974	Martin Ryle				Thomas Cech
	Antony Hewish	CHEMISTRY (FROM 1950)		1990	Elias Corey
1975	Aage Bohr	1950	Otto Diels	1991	Richard Ernst
	Ben Motelson		Kurt Alder	1992	Rudolph Marcus
	James Rainwater	1951	Edwin McMillan	1993	Michael Smith
1976	Burton Richter		Glenn T. Seaborg		Kary Mullis
	Samuel C. C. Ting	1952	A. J. P. Martin	1994	George Olah
1977	Philip W. Anderson		R. L. M. Synge	1995	Paul Crutzen
	Nevill F. Mott	1953	Hermann Staudinger		Mario J. Molina
	John H. Van Vleck	1954	Linus Pauling		F. Sherwood Rowland
1978	Pyotr Leonidovich Kapitsa	1955	Vincent du Vigneaud	1996	Robert P. Curl
	Arno A. Penzias	1956	Cyril Hinshelwood		Harold Kroto
	Robert W. Wilson		Nikolay Nikolaevich		Richard E. Smalley
1979	Sheldon L. Glashow		Semenov	1997	John E. Walker
	Abdus Salam	1957	Lord Alexander Todd		Paul D. Boyer
	Steven Weinberg	1958	Frederick Sanger		Jens C. Skou
1980	James W. Cronin	1959	Jaroslav Heyrovsky	1998	Walter Kohn
	Val L. Fitch	1960	Willard Libby		John A. Pople



Nobel Prizewinners (cont.)

- 1999 Ahmed Zewail
2000 Alan J. Heeger
Alan G. McDiarmid
Hideki Shirakawa
2001 William S. Knowles
Ryoji Noyori
K. Barry Sharpless

PHYSIOLOGY OR MEDICINE (FROM 1950)

- 1950 Edward Kendall
Tadeus Reichstein
Philip Hench
1951 Max Theller
1952 Selman Waksman
1953 Hans Krebs
Fritz Lipmann
1954 John Enders
Thomas H. Weller
Frederick Robbins
1955 Hugo Theodor Theorell
1956 André F. Courmand
Werner Forssmann
Dickinson W. Richards
1957 Daniel Bovet
1958 George Beadle
Edward L. Tatum
Joshua Lederberg
1959 Severo Ochoa
Arthur Kornberg
Macfarlane Burnet
Peter Medawar
1961 Georg von Békésy
1962 Francis Crick
James Watson
Maurice Wilkins
1963 John Carew Eccles
Alan Hodgkin
Andrew Fielding Huxley
1964 Konrad Bloch
Feodor Lynen
1965 François Jacob
André Lwoff
Jacques Monod
1966 Peyton Rous
Charles B. Huggins
1967 Ragnar Granit
Haldan Hartline
George Wald
1968 Robert W. Holley
Har Gobind Khorana
Marshall W. Nirenberg
1969 Max Delbrück
Alfred D. Hershey
Salvador E. Luria
1970 Bernard Katz
Ulf von Euler
Julius Axelrod
1971 Earl W. Sutherland
1972 Gerald M. Edelman
Rodney R. Porter
1973 Karl von Frisch
Konrad Lorenz
Nikolaas Tinbergen
1974 Albert Claude
Christian de Duve
George E. Palade

- 1975 David Baltimore
Renato Dulbecco
Howard Temin
1976 Baruch S. Blumberg
D. Carleton Gajdusek
1977 Roger Guillemin
Andrew V. Schally
Roselyn Yalow
1978 Werner Arber
Daniel Nathans
Hamilton O. Smith
1979 Allan M. Cormack
Godfrey Hounsfield
1980 Baruj Benacerraf
Jean Dausset
George D. Snell
1981 Roger W. Sperry
David H. Hubel
Torsten N. Wiesel
1982 Sune K. Bergström
Bengt I. Samuelson
John Vane
1983 Barbara McClintock
1984 Niels K. Jerne
Georges J. F. Köhler
César Milstein
1985 Joseph Goldstein
Michael Brown
1986 Stanley Cohen
Rita Levi-Montalcini
Susumu Tonegawa
1988 James Black
Gertrude Elion
George Hitchings
1989 Michael Bishop
Harold Varmus
1990 Joseph Murray
E. Donnall Thomas
1991 Erwin Neher
Bert Sakmann
1992 Edmond Fischer
Edwin Krebs
1993 Phillip Sharp
Richard Roberts
1994 Alfred G. Gilman
Martin Rodbell
1995 Edward B. Lewis
Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard
Eric F. Wieschaus
1996 Peter C. Doherty
Rolf M. Zinkernagel
1997 Stanley B. Prusiner
1998 Robert F. Furchgott
Louis J. Ignarro
Ferid Murad
1999 Günter Blobel
2000 Arvid Carlsson
Paul Greengard
Eric R. Kandel
2001 Leland H. Hartwell
Tim Hunt
Paul Nurse

LITERATURE (FROM 1950)

- 1950 Bertrand Russell
1951 Pär Lagerkvist
1952 François Mauriac
1953 Winston Churchill
1954 Ernest Hemingway

- 1955 Halldór Laxness
1956 Juan Ramón Jiménez
1957 Albert Camus
1958 Boris Pasternak
1959 Salvatore Quasimodo
1960 Saint-John Perse
1961 Ivo Andrić
1962 John Steinbeck
1963 George Seferis
1964 Jean-Paul Sartre (declined to accept)
1965 Mikhail Sholokhov
1966 Shmuel Yosef Agnon
Nelly Sachs
1967 Miguel Angel Asturias
1968 Kawabata Yasunari
1969 Samuel Beckett
1970 Alexander Solzhenitsyn
1971 Pablo Neruda
1972 Heinrich Böll
1973 Patrick White
1974 Eyvind Johnson
Harry Martinson
1975 Eugenio Montale
1976 Saul Bellow
1977 Vicente Aleixandre
1978 Isaac Bashevis Singer
1979 Odysseus Elytis
1980 Czesław Miłosz
1981 Elias Canetti
1982 Gabriel García Márquez
1983 William Golding
1984 Jaroslav Seifert
1985 Claude Simon
1986 Wole Soyinka
1987 Joseph Brodsky
1988 Naguib Mahfouz
1989 Camilo José Cela
1990 Octavio Paz
1991 Nadine Gordimer
1992 Derek Walcott
1993 Toni Morrison
1994 Kenzaburo Oe
1995 Seamus Heaney
1996 Wisława Szymborska
1997 Dario Fo
1998 José Saramago
1999 Günter Grass
2000 Gao Xingjian
2001 V. S. Naipaul

PEACE (FROM 1950)

- 1950 Ralph Bunche
1951 Léon Jouhaux
1952 Albert Schweitzer
1953 George C. Marshall
1954 Office of the United Nations
High Commissioner for
Refugees
1955 no award
1956 no award
1957 Lester B. Pearson
1958 Georges Henri Pire
1959 Philip J. Noel-Baker
1960 Albert John Lutuli
1961 Dag Hammarskjöld
1962 Linus Pauling

Nobel Prizewinners (cont.)

1963 International Committee of the Red Cross League of Red Cross Societies	1988 United Nations Peacekeeping Forces	1976 Milton Friedman
1964 Martin Luther King	1989 Dalai Lama	1977 Bertil Ohlin
1965 United Nations Children's Fund	1990 Mikhail Gorbachev	James E. Meade
1966 no award	1991 Aung San Suu Kyi	Herbert A. Simon
1967 no award	1992 Rigoberta Menchú	1979 Theodore W. Schultz
1968 René Cassin	1993 Nelson Mandela	Arthur Lewis
1969 International Labour Organization	F. W. de Klerk	1980 Lawrence R. Klein
1970 Norman Borlaug	1994 Yasser Arafat	1981 James Tobin
1971 Willy Brandt	Shimon Peres	1982 George J. Stigler
1972 no award	Yitzhak Rabin	1983 Gerard Debreu
1973 Henry Kissinger	1995 Joseph Rotblat	1984 Richard Stone
Le Duc Tho	Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs	1985 Franco Modigliani
1974 Seán MacBride	1996 Bishop Carlos Belo	1986 James Buchanan
Eisaku Sato	José Ramos-Horta	1987 Robert M. Solow
1975 Andrei Sakharov	1997 International Campaign to Ban Landmines	1988 Maurice Allais
1976 Betty Williams	Jody Williams	1989 Trygve Haavelmo
Mairead Corrigan	John Hume	1990 Harry M. Markowitz
1977 Amnesty International	David Trimble	William F. Sharpe
1978 Mohamed Anwar Al-Sadat	1999 Médecins Sans Frontières	Merton Miller
Menachem Begin	2000 Kim Dae Jung	1991 Ronald Coase
1979 Mother Teresa	2001 United Nations	1992 Gary Becker
1980 Adolfo Pérez Esquivel	Kofi Annan	1993 Robert Fogel
1981 Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees	ECONOMIC SCIENCES	Douglass North
1982 Alva Myrdal	1969 Ragnar Frisch	1994 John Harsanyi
Alfonso García Robles	Jan Tinbergen	John Nash
1983 Lech Wałęsa	1970 Paul A. Samuelson	Reinhard Selten
1984 Desmond Tutu	1971 Simon Kuznets	1995 Robert E. Lucas Jr.
1985 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War	1972 John Hicks	1996 James A. Mirrlees
1986 Elie Wiesel	Kenneth J. Arrow	William Vickrey
1987 Oscar Arias Sánchez	1973 Wassily Leontief	1997 Myron S. Scholes
	1974 Gunnar Myrdal	Robert C. Merton
	Friedrich August von Hayek	1998 Amartya Sen
	1975 Leonid Vitaliyevich Kantorovich	1999 Robert A. Mundell
	Tjalling C. Koopmans	2000 James J. Heckman
		Daniel McFadden
		2001 George A. Akerlof
		A. Michael Spence
		Joseph E. Stiglitz

fluous, uncalled for, redundant, dispensable, expendable, unimportant, extraneous

nonetheless ► **adverb** NEVERTHELESS, even so, however, but, still, yet, though, in spite of that, despite that, be that as it may, for all that, that said, just the same, all the same, notwithstanding, regardless, anyway, anyhow, *informal* still and all

non-existent ► **adjective** IMAGINARY, imagined, unreal, fictional, fictitious, made up, invented, fanciful, fantastic, mythical, illusory, hallucinatory, chimerical, notional, shadowy, insubstantial, missing, absent, *poetic/literary* illusive
—OPPOSITES real

non-intervention ► **noun** LAISSEZ-FAIRE, non-participation, non-interference, inaction, passivity, neutrality, live and let live

non-observance ► **noun** INFRINGEMENT, breach, violation, contravention, transgression, non-compliance, infraction, dereliction, neglect

nonpareil ► **adjective** a *nonpareil* storyteller IN COMPARABLE, matchless, unrivalled, unparalleled, unequalled, peerless, beyond compare, second to none, unsurpassed, unbeatable, inimitable, unique, consummate, superlative, supreme; *formal* unexampled

—OPPOSITES mediocre

► **noun** Britain's *nonpareil* of the 1980s BEST, finest, crème de la crème, peak of perfection, elite, jewel in the crown, ne plus ultra, paragon, *archaic* nonsuch

nonplus ► **verb** SURPRISE, stun, dumbfound, confound, take aback, disconcert, throw (off balance), puzzle, perplex, baffle, bemuse, bewilder, *informal* faze, flummox, stump, bamboozle, fox, *N Amer informal* discombobulate

nonsense ► **noun** ① he was talking nonsense RUBBISH, balderdash, gibberish, claptrap, blarney, blather, garbage, *informal* hogwash, rot, guff, baloney, tripe, drivel, gobbledegook, bilge, bosh, bunk, hot air, piffle, poppycock, phooey, twaddle, *Brit informal* cobbles, codswallop, tosh, double Dutch, *Scottish & N English informal* havers, *N Amer informal* flapdoodle, bushwa, applesauce, *informal, dated* bunkum, tommyrot ② she stands no nonsense MISCHIEF, naughtiness, bad behaviour, misbehaviour, misconduct, misdeemeanour, pranks, tricks, clowning, buffoonery, funny business, *informal* tomfoolery, monkey business, shenanigans, hanky-panky, *Brit informal* monkey tricks, jiggery-pokery ③ they dismissed the concept as a nonsense ABSURDITY, folly, stupidity, ludicrousness, inanity, foolishness, idiocy, insanity, madness

—OPPOSITES sense, wisdom



nonsensical ▶ **adjective** ① *her nonsensical way of talking* MEANINGLESS, senseless, illogical ② *a nonsensical generalization* FOOLISH, insane, stupid, idiotic, illogical, irrational, senseless, absurd, silly, inane, hare-brained, ridiculous, ludicrous, preposterous, informal crazy, crackpot, nutty, *Brit informal* daft

—OPPOSITES logical, sensible

non-stop ▶ **adjective** *non-stop entertainment* CONTINUOUS, constant, continual, perpetual, incessant, unceasing, ceaseless, uninterrupted, round-the-clock, unremitting, relentless, persistent

—OPPOSITES occasional

▶ **adverb** *we worked non-stop* CONTINUOUSLY, continually, incessantly, unceasingly, ceaselessly, all the time, constantly, perpetually, round the clock, steadily, relentlessly, persistently, *informal* 24-7

—OPPOSITES occasionally

nook ▶ **noun** RECESS, corner, alcove, niche, bay, inglenook, cavity, cubbyhole, pigeonhole, opening, gap, aperture, hideaway, hiding place, hideout, shelter, *informal* hidey-hole

noon ▶ **noun** MIDDAY, twelve o'clock, twelve hundred hours, twelve noon, high noon, noon-day, *poetic/literary* noontime, noontide

—RELATED TERMS meridian

no one ▶ **pronoun** NOBODY, not a soul, not anyone, not a single person, never a one, none

norm ▶ **noun** ① *norms of diplomatic behaviour* CONVENTION, standard, criterion, yardstick, benchmark, touchstone, rule, formula, pattern, guide, guideline, model, exemplar ② *such teams are now the norm* STANDARD, usual, the rule; normal, typical, average, unexceptional, par for the course, expected

normal ▶ **adjective** ① *they issue books in the normal way* USUAL, standard, ordinary, customary, conventional, habitual, accustomed, expected, typical, stock, common, everyday, regular, routine, established, set, fixed, traditional, *poetic/literary* wonted ② *a normal couple* ORDINARY, average, typical, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, common, conventional, mainstream, unremarkable, unexceptional, *N Amer* garden-variety, *informal* bog-standard, a dime a dozen, *Brit informal* common or garden, *N Amer informal* ornery ③ *the man was not normal* SANE, in one's right mind, right in the head, of sound mind, compos mentis, lucid, rational, coherent, *informal* all there.

—OPPOSITES unusual, insane

normality ▶ **noun** NORMALCY, business as usual, the daily round, routine, order, regularity.

normally ▶ **adverb** ① *she wanted to walk normally* NATURALLY, conventionally, ordinarily, as usual, as normal ② *normally we'd keep quiet about this* USUALLY, ordinarily, as a rule, generally, in general, mostly, for the most part, by and large, mainly, most of the time, on the whole, typically, customarily, traditionally.

north ▶ **adjective** NORTHERN, northerly, boreal.

North American Indian ▶ **noun** NATIVE AMERICAN, American Indian, *dated* Red Indian See list

Northern Ireland ▶ **noun** See list at IRELAND

North American Indian Peoples

Abnaki	Kiowa	Quinault
Algonquin	Klamath	Salish
Anasazi	Kutenai	Sarcee
Apache	Kwakiutl	Sauk
Arapaho	Lakota	Seminole
Arikara	Lummi	Seneca
Assiniboine	Mahican/	Shawnee
Athapaskan	Mohican	Shoshone
Aztec	Malecite	Shuswap
Bannock	Mandan	Slavey
Blackfoot	Maya	Sioux
Caddoans	Mazahua	Spokane
Cayuga	Menominee	Squamish
Cayuse	Mescalero	Tahitan
Cherokee	Miccosukee	Tarascan
Cheyenne	Micmac	Tewa
Chickimec	Mixtec	Tiwa
Chickasaw	Mohawk	Tiapanec
Chinook	Mohegan/	Tlaxcalan
Chippewa	Mohican	Tlingit
Chitimacha	Mojave	Toittec
Choctaw	Montagnais	Totonac
Chumash	Muskogee	Trique
Comanche	Narragansett	Tsimshian
Cora	Natchez	Tunica
Cree	Navajo	Tuscarora
Creek	Nez Percé	Twana
Crow	Nootka	Tzeltal
Dakota	Ojibwa	Tzotzil
Delaware	Okanagan	Umatilla
Dene	Omaha	Ute
Dogrib	Oneida	Walapai
Fox	Onondaga	Wallawalla
Gaiida	Osage	Wampanoag
Hidatsa	Otomi	Washoe
Hopi	Ottawa	Wichita
Huastec	Palute	Winnebago
Hulcholi	Palouse	Wyandot
Hupa	Papago	Yakima
Huron	Passamaquoddy	Yana
Illinois	Pawnee	Yaqui
Iowa	Peigan	Yavapai
Iroquois	Penobscot	Yucatec
Jicarilla	Pequot	Yuchi
Karankawa	Pima	Yuki
Karok	Potawatomi	Yuma
Kekchi	Powhatan	Yurok
Keres	Pueblo	Zapotec
Kickapoo	Quapaw	Zuni

nose ▶ **noun** ① *a punch on the nose* snout, muzzle, proboscis, trunk; *informal* beak, conk, snoot, schnozzle, hooter, sniffer ② *he has a good nose* SENSE OF SMELL ③ *a nose for scandal* INSTINCT, feeling, sixth sense, intuition, insight, perception. ④ *wine with a fruity nose* SMELL, bouquet, aroma, fragrance, perfume, scent, odour. ⑤ *the plane's nose dipped* nose-cone, bow, prow, front end, *informal* droop-snoot

—RELATED TERMS nasal, rhinal.

▶ **verb** ① *the dog nosed the ball* NUZZLE, nudge, push ② *she's nosing into my business* PRY, inquire, poke about/around, interfere (in), meddle (in), be a busybody, stick/poke one's nose in, *informal* be nosy (about), snoop; *Austral./NZ informal* stickybeak. ③ *he nosed the car into the traffic* EASE, inch, edge, move, manoeuvre, steer, guide

■ **by a nose** (ONLY) JUST, barely, narrowly, by a hair's breadth, by the skin of one's teeth, *informal* by a whisker

■ **nose around/about/round** INVESTIGATE, explore, ferret (about/around), rummage, search, delve into, peer into, prow around, *informal* snoop about/around/round

■ **nose something out** DETECT, find, discover, bring to light, track down, dig up, ferret out, root out, uncover, unearth, sniff out

nosedive ► **noun** ① the plane went into a *nosedive* DIVE, descent, drop, plunge, plummet, fall ② (*informal*) sterling took a *nosedive* FALL, drop, plunge, plummet, tumble, decline, slump, *informal* crash

—OPPOSITES climb, rise

► **verb** ① the device *nosedived* to earth DIVE, plunge, pitch, drop, plummet ② (*informal*) costs have *nosedived* FALL, take a header, drop, sink, plunge, plummet, tumble, slump, go down, decline, *informal* crash

—OPPOSITES soar, rise

nosegay ► **noun** POSY, bouquet, bunch, spray, sprig, buttonhole, corsage, boutonnière, tussie-mussie

nosh (*informal*) ► **noun** all kinds of nosh See FOOD sense 1

► **verb** they nosh smoked salmon See EAT sense 1

nostalgia ► **noun** REMINISCENCE, remembrance, recollection, wistfulness, regret, sentimentality

nostalgic ► **adjective** WISTFUL, evocative, romantic, sentimental, regretful, dewy-eyed, maudlin

nostrum ► **noun** ① they have to prove their *nostrums* work MEDICINE, quack remedy, potion, elixir, panacea, cure-all, wonder drug, *informal* magic bullet ② right-wing *nostrums* MAGIC FORMULA, recipe for success, remedy, cure, prescription, answer

nosy ► **adjective** (*informal*) PRYING, inquisitive, curious, busybody, spying, eavesdropping, intrusive, *informal* snooping, snoop

notability ► **noun** ① the village has always enjoyed *notability* NOTEWORTHINESS, prominence, importance, significance, eminence, fame, renown, notoriety ② the patronage of *notabilities* See NOTABLE noun

notable ► **adjective** ① *notable* examples of workmanship NOTEWORTHY, remarkable, outstanding, important, significant, momentous, memorable, marked, striking, impressive, uncommon, unusual, special, exceptional, signal ② a *notable* author PROMINENT, important, well known, famous, famed, noted, distinguished, great, eminent, illustrious, respected, esteemed, renowned, celebrated, acclaimed, influential, prestigious, of note

—OPPOSITES unremarkable, unknown

► **noun** movie stars and other *notables* CELEBRITY, public figure, VIP, personage, notability, dignitary, worthy, luminary; star, superstar, (big) name; *informal* celeb, somebody, bigwig, big shot, big cheese, big fish, megastar; *Brit informal* nob, *N Amer informal* kahuna, high muckamuck

—OPPOSITES nonentity.

notably ► **adverb** ① other countries, *notably* the USA: IN PARTICULAR, particularly, especially, specially; primarily, principally. ② these are *notably* short-lived birds: REMARKABLY, especially, special-

ly, very, extremely, exceptionally, singularly, particularly, peculiarly, distinctly, significantly, unusually, extraordinarily, uncommonly, incredibly, really, decidedly, surprisingly, conspicuously; *informal* seriously, *Brit informal* jolly, dead

notation ► **noun** ① *algebraic notation* SYMBOLS, alphabet, syllabary, script, code, cipher, hieroglyphics ② *notations in the margin*: ANNOTATION, jotting, comment, footnote, entry, memo, gloss, explanation, *historical* scholium

notch ► **noun** ① a notch in the end of the arrow. NICK, cut, incision, score, scratch, slit, snick, slot, groove, cleft, indentation ② her opinion of Nick dropped a notch DEGREE, level, rung, point, mark, measure, grade

► **verb** notch the plank NICK, cut, score, incise, carve, scratch, slit, snick, gouge, groove, furrow

■ **notch something up** SCORE, achieve, attain, gain, earn, make, rack up, chalk up, register, record

note ► **noun** ① a note in her diary RECORD, entry, item, notation, jotting, memorandum, reminder, aide-memoire, *informal* memo ② he will take notes of the meeting MINUTES, records, details, report, account, commentary, transcript, proceedings, transactions, synopsis, summary, outline ③ notes in the margins ANNOTATION, footnote, commentary, comment, marginalia, exegesis, *historical* scholium ④ he dropped me a note MESSAGE, communication, letter, line, *formal* epistle, missive ⑤ (*Brit*) a £20 note BANKNOTE, *N Amer* bill, *US informal* greenback, (notes) paper money ⑥ this is worthy of note ATTENTION, consideration, notice, heed, observation, regard ⑦ a composer of note DISTINCTION, importance, eminence, prestige, fame, celebrity, acclaim, renown, repute, stature, standing, consequence, account ⑧ a note of hopelessness in her voice TONE, intonation, inflection, sound, hint, indication, sign, element, suggestion

► **verb** ① we will note your suggestion BEAR IN MIND, be mindful of, consider, observe, heed, take notice of, pay attention to, take in ② the letter noted the ministers' concern MENTION, refer to, touch on, indicate, point out, make known, state ③ note the date in your diary WRITE DOWN, put down, jot down, take down, inscribe, enter, mark, record, register, pencil

notebook ► **noun** NOTEPAD, exercise book, register, logbook, log, diary, daybook, journal, record, *Brit* jotter, pocketbook, *N Amer* scratch pad, *informal* memo pad

noted ► **adjective** RENOWNED, well known, famous, famed, prominent, celebrated; notable, of note, important, eminent, distinguished, illustrious, acclaimed, esteemed, of distinction, of repute

—OPPOSITES unknown

noteworthy ► **adjective** NOTABLE, interesting, significant, important; remarkable, impressive, striking, outstanding, memorable, unique, special; unusual, extraordinary, singular, rare

—OPPOSITES unexceptional.

nothing ► **noun** ① there's nothing I can do NOT A THING, not anything, nil, zero, *N English* nowt, *informal* zilch, sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA, nix, not a dicky bird, *Brit informal* damn all, not a sausage; *N Amer informal* zip, nada; *archaic* naught ② forget it—it's nothing: A TRIFLING MAT

n

TER, a trifle, neither here nor there, *informal* no big deal ① *he treats her as nothing* A NOBODY, an unimportant person, a nonentity, a cipher, a non-person, *Brit* small beer ② *the shure value fell to nothing* ZERO, nought, 0, *Tennis* love, *Cnckel* a duck

—OPPOSITES something

■ **be/have nothing to do with** ① *it has nothing to do with you* BE UNCONNECTED WITH, be unrelated to, be irrelevant to, be inapplicable to, be inapposite to ② *I'll have nothing to do with him* AVOID, have no truck with, have no contact with, steer clear of, give a wide berth to

■ **for nothing** ① *she hosted the show for nothing* FREE (OF CHARGE), gratis, without charge, at no cost, *informal* for free, on the house ② *all this trouble for nothing* IN VAIN, to no avail, to no purpose, with no result, needlessly, pointlessly

■ **nothing but** *he's nothing but a nuisance* MERELY, only, just, solely, simply, purely, no more than

nothingness ► **noun** ① the nothingness of death OBLIVION, nullity, blankness, void, vacuum, rare nihilism ② the nothingness of it all overwhelmed him UNIMPORTANCE, insignificance, triviality, pointlessness, uselessness, worthlessness

notice ► **noun** ① nothing escaped his notice ATTENTION, observation, awareness, consciousness, perception, regard, consideration, scrutiny, watchfulness, vigilance, attentiveness ② a notice on the wall POSTER, bill, handbill, advertisement, announcement, bulletin, flyer, leaflet, pamphlet, sign, card, *informal* ad, *Brit* *informal* advert ③ times may change without notice NOTIFICATION, (advance) warning, announcement, information, news, communication, word ④ I handed in my notice RESIGNATION ⑤ the film got bad notices REVIEW, write-up, critique, criticism, *Brit* *informal* crit

► **verb** I noticed that the door was open OBSERVE, perceive, note, see, discern, detect, spot, distinguish, mark, remark, *Brit* *informal* clock, *poetic/literary* behold

—OPPOSITES overlook

■ **take no notice (of)** IGNORE, pay no attention (to), disregard, pay no heed (to), take no account (of), brush aside, shrug off, turn a blind eye (to), pass over, let go, overlook, look the other way.

noticeable ► **adjective** DISTINCT, evident, obvious, apparent, manifest, patent, plain, clear, marked, conspicuous, unmistakable, undeniable, pronounced, prominent, striking, arresting, perceptible, discernible, detectable, observable, visible, appreciable

noticeboard ► **noun** PINBOARD, cork board, bulletin board, hoarding

notification ► **noun** ① the notification of the victim's wife INFORMING, telling, alerting ② she received notification that he was on the way INFORMATION, word, advice, news, intelligence, communication, message, *poetic/literary* tidings

notify ► **verb** ① we will notify you as soon as possible INFORM, tell, advise, apprise, let someone know, put in the picture, alert, warn ② births should be notified to the registrar REPORT, make known, announce, declare, communicate, disclose

notion ► **noun** ① he had a notion that something was wrong: IDEA, belief, conviction, opinion,

view, thought, impression, perception, hypothesis, theory, (funny) feeling, (sneaking) suspicion, hunch ② *Claire had no notion of what he meant* UNDERSTANDING, idea, awareness, knowledge, clue, inkling ③ *he got a notion to return* IMPULSE, inclination, whim, desire, wish, fancy

notional ► **adjective** HYPOTHETICAL, theoretical, speculative, conjectural, suppositional, putative, conceptual, imaginary, fanciful, unreal, illusory

—OPPOSITES actual

notoriety ► **noun** INFAMY, disrepute, ill repute, bad name, dishonour, discredit, *dated* ill fame

notorious ► **adjective** INFAMOUS, scandalous, well known, famous, famed, legendary

notwithstanding ► **preposition** notwithstanding his workload, he is a dedicated father DESPITE, in spite of, regardless of, for all

► **adverb** she is bright—notwithstanding, she is now jobless NEVERTHELESS, nonetheless, even so, all the same, in spite of this, despite this, however, still, yet, that said, just the same, anyway, in any event, at any rate

► **conjunction** notwithstanding that there was no space, they played on ALTHOUGH, even though, though, in spite of the fact that, despite the fact that

nought ► **noun** ① the batsman was out for nought NIL, zero, 0, *Tennis* love, *Cnckel* a duck ② (archaic) my work has all been for nought See NAUGHT

nourish ► **verb** ① patients must be well nourished FEED, provide for, sustain, maintain ② we nourish the talents of children ENCOURAGE, promote, foster, nurture, cultivate, stimulate, boost, advance, assist, help, aid, strengthen, enrich ③ the hopes Ursula nourished CHERISH, nurture, foster, harbour, nurse, entertain, maintain, hold, have

nourishing ► **adjective** NUTRITIOUS, nutritive, wholesome, good for one, healthy, health-giving, healthful, beneficial, sustaining

—OPPOSITES unhealthy

nourishment ► **noun** FOOD, sustenance, nutriment, nutrition, subsistence, provisions, provender, fire, *informal* grub, nosh, chow, eats, *Brit* *informal* scoff, *N Amer* *informal* chuck, *formal* comestibles, *dated* victuals

nouveau riche ► **plural noun** the new rich, parvenus, arrivistes, upstarts, social climbers, vulgarians

novel¹ ► **noun** curl up with a good novel BOOK, paperback, hardback, STORY, tale, narrative, romance, best-seller, *informal* blockbuster See list

novel² ► **adjective** a novel way of making money NEW, original, unusual, unfamiliar, unconventional, unorthodox, different, fresh, imaginative, innovative, innovatory, innovational, inventive, modern, neoteric, avant-garde, pioneering, ground-breaking, revolutionary, rare, unique, singular, unprecedented, experimental, untested, untried, strange, exotic, newfangled

—OPPOSITES traditional

novelist ► **noun** WRITER, author, fictionist, man/woman of letters; *informal* penman, scribe See list at WRITER

novelty ► **noun** ① the novelty of our approach ORIGINALITY, newness, freshness, unconventionality, unfamiliarity; difference, imaginativeness, creativity, innovation, modernity ② we sell seasonal novelties KNICK-KNACK, trinket, bau-



Types of Novel

See also **STORY**.

Aga saga	police procedural
antinovel	policier
autobiographical novel	roman-à-clef
Bildungsroman	roman-à-thèse
bodice-ripper	roman expérimental
detective story/novel	roman-fleuve
dime novel	roman noir
epistolary novel	romantic novel
Gothic novel	saga
graphic novel	stream of
historical novel	consciousness
nouveau roman	sword and sorcery
novellette	techno-thriller
novelization	thriller
novella	western
photonovel	whodunnit
picaresque novel	

ble, toy, trifle, gewgaw, gimcrack, ornament, *N Amer* kickshaw

novice ▶ **noun** ① a five-day course for novices **BE** GINNER, learner, neophyte, newcomer, initiate, tyro, fledgling, apprentice, trainee, probationer, student, pupil, *N Amer* tenderfoot, *informal* rookie, newbie, *N Amer informal* greenhorn ② a novice who was never ordained **NEO** PHYTE, novitiate, postulant, proselyte, catechumen

—OPPOSITES expert, veteran

novitiate ▶ **noun** ① a three-year novitiate **PRO** BATIONARY PERIOD, probation, trial period, test period, apprenticeship, training period, traineeship, training, initiation ② two young novitates **NOVICE**, neophyte, postulant, proselyte, catechumen

now ▶ **adverb** ① I'm extremely busy now **AT THE** MOMENT, at present, at the present (time/moment), at this moment in time, currently, *N Amer* presently, *Bnt informal* at the minute ② television is now the main source of news **NOW** ADAYS, today, these days, in this day and age, in the present climate ③ you must leave now **AT** ONCE, straight away, right away, right now, this minute, this instant, immediately, instantly, directly, without further ado, promptly, without delay, as soon as possible, *informal* pronto, straight off, *a s a p*

■ **as of now** FROM THIS TIME ON, from now on, henceforth, henceforward, from this day forward, in future, *formal* hereafter

■ **for now** FOR THE TIME BEING, for the moment, for the present, for the meantime, *archaic* for the nonce

■ **not now** LATER (ON), sometime, one day, some day, one of these days, sooner or later, in due course, by and by, eventually, ultimately

■ **now and again** OCCASIONALLY, now and then, from time to time, sometimes, every so often, (every) now and again, at times, on occasion(s), (every) once in a while, periodically, once in a blue moon

nowadays ▶ **adverb** THESE DAYS, today, at the present time, in these times, in this day and age, now, currently, at the moment, at present, at this moment in time, in the present climate, *N Amer* presently

noxious ▶ **adjective** POISONOUS, toxic, deadly, harmful, dangerous, pernicious, damaging, destructive, unpleasant, nasty, disgusting, awful, dreadful, horrible, terrible, vile, revolting, foul, nauseating, appalling, offensive, malodorous, fetid, putrid, *informal* ghastly, horrid, *poetic/literary* noisome, *archaic* disgusting

—OPPOSITES innocuous

nuance ▶ **noun** FINE DISTINCTION, subtle difference, shade, shading, gradation, variation, degree, subtlety, nicety, overtone

nub ▶ **noun** CRUX, central point, main point, core, heart (of the matter), nucleus, essence, quintessence, kernel, marrow, meat, pith; gist, substance, *informal* nitty-gritty

nubile ▶ **adjective** SEXUALLY MATURE, marriageable, sexually attractive, desirable, sexy, luscious, *informal* beddable

nucleus ▶ **noun** ① the nucleus of the banking world **CORE**, centre, central part, heart, nub, hub, middle, eye, focus, focal point, pivot, crux ② a nucleus of union men supported him **SMALL** GROUP, caucus, cell, cotene, clique, faction

nude ▶ **adjective** (STARK) NAKED, bare, unclothed, undressed, disrobed, stripped, unclad, in a state of nature, *au naturel*, *informal* without a stitch on, in one's birthday suit, in the raw, in the altogether, in the buff, in the nuddy, *Bnt informal* starkers, *Scottish informal* in the scud, *N Amer informal* buck naked

—OPPOSITES clothed

nudge ▶ **verb** ① he nudged Ben **POKE**, elbow, dig, prod, jog, jab ② the canoe nudged a bank **TOUCH**, bump (against), push (against), run into ③ we nudged them into action **PROMPT**, encourage, stimulate, prod, galvanize ④ unemployment was nudging 3,000,000 **APPROACH**, near, come close to, be verging on, border on

▶ **noun** ① Maggie gave him a nudge **POKE**, dig (in the ribs), prod, jog, jab, push ② after a nudge, she remembered Lilian **REMINDER**, prompt, prompting, prod, encouragement

nugatory ▶ **adjective** ① a nugatory observation **WORTHLESS**, unimportant, inconsequential, valueless, trifling, trivial, insignificant, meaningless ② the shortages will render nugatory our hopes **FUTILE**, useless, vain, unavailing, null, invalid

nugget ▶ **noun** LUMP, nub, chunk, piece, hunk, wad, gobbet, *N Amer informal* gob

nuisance ▶ **noun** ANNOYANCE, inconvenience, bore, bother, irritation, problem, trouble, trial, burden, pest, plague, thorn in one's side/flesh, *informal* pain (in the neck), hassle, bind, drag, aggravation, headache, *Scottish informal* nyaff, skelf, *N Amer informal* nudnik, *Austral/NZ informal* nark

—OPPOSITES blessing

null ▶ **adjective** ① their marriage was declared null **INVALID**, null and void, void, annulled, nullified, cancelled, revoked ② his null life **CHARACTER** LESS, colourless, empty, insipid, vapid, dull, boring

—OPPOSITES valid, interesting

nullify ▶ **verb** ① they nullified the legislation **ANNUL**, render null and void, void, invalidate, repeal, reverse, rescind, revoke, cancel, abolish, countermand, do away with, terminate, quash, *Law* vacate, *formal* abrogate ② the costs would nul-



lify any tax relief CANCEL OUT, neutralize, negate, negative

—OPPOSITES ratify

numb ▶ **adjective** his fingers were numb WITHOUT SENSATION, without feeling, numbed, benumbed, desensitized, insensible, senseless, unfeeling, anaesthetized, dazed, stunned, stupefied, paralysed, immobilized, frozen

—OPPOSITES sensitive

▶ **verb** the cold numbed her senses DEADEN, benumb, desensitize, dull, anaesthetize, daze, stupefy, paralyse, immobilize, freeze

—OPPOSITES sensitize

number ▶ **noun** ① a whole number NUMERAL, integer, figure, digit, character, symbol, decimal, unit, cardinal number, ordinal number. See list at NUMERAL ② a large number of complaints AMOUNT, quantity, total, aggregate, tally, quota ③ the wedding of one of their number GROUP, company, crowd, circle, party, band, crew, set, informal gang ④ the band performed another number SONG, piece (of music), tune, track, routine, sketch, dance, act

—RELATED TERMS numerical

▶ **verb** ① visitors numbered more than two million ADD UP TO, amount to, total, come to ② he numbers the fleet at a thousand CALCULATE, count, total, compute, reckon, tally, assess, *Brit* tot up, formal enumerate ③ each paragraph is numbered assign a number to, mark with a number, itemize, enumerate ④ he numbers her among his friends INCLUDE, count, reckon, deem ⑤ his days are numbered LIMIT, restrict, fix

■ a number of SEVERAL, various, quite a few, sundry

■ without number COUNTLESS, innumerable, unlimited, endless, limitless, untold, numberless, uncountable, uncounted, numerous, many, multiple, manifold, legion

numberless ▶ **adjective** INNUMERABLE, countless, unlimited, endless, limitless, untold, uncountable, uncounted, numerous, many, multiple, manifold, legion, informal more — than one can shake a stick at, poetic/literary myriad

numbing ▶ **adjective** ① menthol has a numbing action. DESENSITIZING, deadening, benumbing, anaesthetic, anaesthetizing, paralysing ② numbing cold FREEZING, raw, bitter, biting, arctic ③ numbing boredom STUPEFYING, mind-numbing, stultifying, soporific

numbskull ▶ **noun** (informal). See IDIOT

numeral ▶ **noun** NUMBER, integer, figure, digit, character, symbol, unit See list

numerous ▶ **adjective** (VERY) MANY, a lot of, scores of, countless, numberless, innumerable, several, quite a few, various, plenty of, copious, a quantity of, an abundance of, a profusion of, a multitude of; frequent, informal umpteen, lots of, loads of, masses of, stacks of, heaps of, bags of, tons of, oodles of, hundreds of, thousands of, millions of, more — than one can shake a stick at; *Brit* informal a shedload of, *N Amer* informal gazillions of, *Austral/NZ* informal a swag of, poetic/literary myriad

—OPPOSITES few

numinous ▶ **adjective** SPIRITUAL, religious, divine, holy, sacred, mysterious, other-worldly, unearthly, transcendent

nun ▶ **noun** sister, abbess, prioress, Mother Superior, Reverend Mother; novice; bride of

Roman Numerals

ROMAN	ARABIC	ROMAN	ARABIC
I	1	XVI	16
II	2	XVII	17
III	3	XVIII	18
IV	4	XIX	19
V	5	XX	20
VI	6	L	50
VII	7	C	100
VIII	8	D	500
IX	9	M	1,000
X	10	V	5,000
XI	11	X	10,000
XII	12	L	50,000
XIII	13	C	100,000
XIV	14	D	500,000
XV	15	M	1,000,000

Christ, religious, conventual, contemplative, canoness, poetic/literary vestal, historical anchoress
See list at CHRISTIANITY

nuncio ▶ **noun** (PAPAL) AMBASSADOR, legate, envoy, messenger

nunnery ▶ **noun** CONVENT, priory, abbey, cloister, religious community

nuptial ▶ **adjective** MATRIMONIAL, marital, marriage, wedding, conjugal, bridal, married, wedded, Law spousal, poetic/literary connubial

nuptials ▶ **plural noun** WEDDING (CEREMONY), marriage, union, archaic espousal

nurse ▶ **noun** ① skilled nurses CARER, caregiver; informal Florence Nightingale, nurse, *N Amer* informal candy-striper ② she had been his nurse in childhood NANNY, nursemaid, nursery nurse, childminder, governess, au pair, childcarer, babysitter, ayah

▶ **verb** ① they nursed smallpox patients CARE FOR, take care of, look after, tend, minister to ② I nursed my sore finger TREAT, medicate, tend, dress, bandage, soothe, informal doctor ③ Rosa was nursing her baby BREASTFEED, suckle, feed ④ they nursed old grievances HARBOUR, foster, entertain, bear, have, hold (on to), cherish, cling to, retain ⑤ our unity needs to be nursed NURTURE, encourage, promote, boost, assist, help, cultivate, protect, safeguard

nursemaid ▶ **noun**. See NURSE noun sense 2

nurture ▶ **verb** ① she nurtured her children into adulthood BRING UP, care for, take care of, look after, tend, rear, raise, support, foster; parent, mother ② we nurtured these plants CULTIVATE, grow, keep, tend ③ he nurtured my love of art ENCOURAGE, promote, stimulate, develop, foster, cultivate, boost, contribute to, assist, help, abet, strengthen, fuel

—OPPOSITES neglect, hinder

▶ **noun** ① we are what nature and nurture have made us UPBRINGING, rearing, raising, childcare; training, education. ② the nurture of ideas: ENCOURAGEMENT, promotion, fostering, development, cultivation.

—OPPOSITES nature.

nut ▶ **noun** ① nuts in their shells kernel. See list ② (informal) he smacked her on the nut: HEAD, skull, cranium, crown; informal noodle, noggin, dome, *Brit* informal bonce; informal, dated conk, noddle ③ (informal) some nut arrived at the office: MANIAC,

Nuts

acorn	cohune nut	litchi nut
almond	cola nut	macademia nut
areca nut	conker	mockernut
beechnut	coquilla nut	monkey nut
betel nut	double	palm nut
blittemut	coconut	peanut
Brazil nut	dwarf	pecan
breadnut	chestnut	pine nut
burrawang nut	earthnut	piñon
butternut	filbert	pistachio
candlenut	groundnut	quandong
cashew	grugru nut	Queensland nut
chestnut	gum nut	sal nut
chincapin	hazelnut	saouari nut
cobnut	hickory nut	sweet chestnut
coco-de-mer	hognut	walnut
coconut	horse	water chestnut
coffee nut	chestnut	white walnut
	ivory nut	

lunatic, madman, madwoman, eccentric, *informal* loony, nutcase, fruitcake, head case, crank, crackpot, weirdo, *Brit informal* nutter, *N Amer informal* screwball, crazy, *N Amer & Austral/NZ informal* dingbat ④ (*informal*) a movie nut ENTHUSIAST, fan, devotee, aficionado, *informal* freak, fiend, fanatic, addict, buff, *N Amer informal* jock

■ **do one's nut** (*informal*) BE VERY ANGRY, be furious, lose one's temper, go into a rage, *informal* go mad, go crazy, go wild, go bananas, have a fit, blow one's top, hit the roof, go off the deep end, go ape, flip, lose one's rag, *Brit informal* go spare

■ **off one's nut** (*informal*) See MAD sense 1

nutriment ► noun NOURISHMENT, nutrients, sustenance, goodness, nutrition, food

nutrition ► noun NOURISHMENT, nutriment, nu-

trients, sustenance, food, *informal* grub, chow, nosh, *Brit informal* scoff, *poetic/literary* viands, *dated* victuals, *archaic* aliment

—RELATED TERMS trophic

nutritious ► adjective NOURISHING, good for one, full of nutrients, nutritive, nutritional, wholesome, healthy, healthful, beneficial, sustaining

nuts ► adjective (*informal*) ① they thought we were nuts See MAD sense 1 ② he's nuts about her IN FATUATED WITH, keen on, devoted to, in love with, smitten with, enamoured of, hot for, *informal* mad, crazy, nutty, wild, hooked on, gone on, *Brit informal* potty

nuts and bolts ► plural noun PRACTICAL DETAILS, fundamentals, basics, practicalities, essentials, mechanics, *informal* nitty-gritty, ins and outs, brass tacks

nutty ► adjective (*informal*) ① they're all nutty See MAD sense 1 ② she's nutty about Elvis See NUTS sense 2

nuzzle ► verb ① the horse nuzzled at her pocket NUDGE, nose, prod, push ② she nuzzled up to her boyfriend SNUGGLE, cuddle, nestle, burrow, embrace, hug

nymph ► noun ① a nymph with winged sandals SPIRIT See list ② (*poetic/literary*) a skinny nymph with brown eyes GIRL, belle, nymphet, sylph, young woman, young lady, *Scottish & N English* lass, *Brit dated* rosebud, *poetic/literary* maid, maiden, damsel

Nymphs

dryad	nereid	sprite
hamadryad	Oceanid	syph
nalad	oread	undine



Oo

oaf ► **noun** LOUT, boor, barbarian, Neanderthal, churl, bumpkin, yokel, fool, idiot, imbecile, *informal* cretin, ass, goon, oik, yahoo, ape, lump, clod, meathead, bonehead, lamebrain, *Brit informal* clot, plonker, berk, pillock, yob, yobbo, *Scottish informal* nyaff, gowk, *N Amer informal* bozo, dumbhead, lummo, klutz, goofus, clunk, turkey, *Austral informal* hoon, dingbat, galah, drongo, *archaic* lubber

oafish ► **adjective** STUPID, foolish, idiotic, loutish, awkward, gawky, clumsy, lumbering, ape-like, cloddish, Neanderthal, uncouth, uncultured, boorish, rough, coarse, brutish, ill-mannered, unrefined, *informal* clodhopping, blockheaded, boneheaded, thickheaded, *Brit informal* yobbish, *archaic* lubberly

oasis ► **noun** ① an oasis near Cairo WATERING HOLE, watering place, water hole, spring ② a cool oasis in a hot summer REFUGE, haven, retreat, sanctuary, sanctum, harbour, asylum

oath ► **noun** ① an oath of allegiance VOW, pledge, promise, avowal, affirmation, word (of honour), bond, guarantee, *formal* troth ② he uttered a stream of oaths SWEAR WORD, profanity, expletive, four-letter word, dirty word, obscenity, vulgarity, curse, malediction, *informal* cuss (word), *formal* imprecation

obdurate ► **adjective** STUBBORN, obstinate, intransigent, inflexible, unyielding, unbending, pig-headed, mulish, stiff-necked, headstrong, unshakable, intractable, unpersuadable, immovable, inexorable, uncompromising, iron-willed, adamant, firm, determined, *Brit informal* bloody-minded
—OPPOSITES malleable

obedient ► **adjective** COMPLIANT, biddable, acquiescent, tractable, amenable, malleable, pliable, pliant, dutiful, good, law-abiding, deferential, respectful, dutious, well trained, well disciplined, manageable, governable, docile, tame, meek, passive, submissive, unresisting, yielding
—OPPOSITES rebellious

obeisance ► **noun** ① a gesture of obeisance RESPECT, homage, worship, adoration, reverence, veneration, honour, submission, deference ② she made a deep obeisance BOW, curtsy, bob, genuflection, salaam, *historical* kowtow

obelisk ► **noun** COLUMN, pillar, needle, shaft, monolith, monument

obese ► **adjective** FAT, overweight, corpulent, gross, stout, fleshy, heavy, portly, paunchy, pot-bellied, beer-bellied, well upholstered, well padded, broad in the beam, bulky, bloated, flabby, *informal* porky, roly-poly, blubbery, *Brit informal* podgy, *archaic* pursy
—OPPOSITES thin

obey ► **verb** ① I obeyed him without question DO WHAT SOMEONE SAYS, carry out someone's orders, submit to, defer to, bow to, yield to ② he refused to obey the order CARRY OUT, perform, act on, execute, discharge, implement, fulfil ③ health and safety regulations have to be obeyed

COMPLY WITH, adhere to, observe, abide by, act in accordance with, conform to, respect, follow, keep to, stick to, play it by the book, toe the line

—OPPOSITES defy, ignore

obfuscate ► **verb** OBSCURE, confuse, blur, muddle, complicate, muddy, cloud, befog, muddy the waters
—OPPOSITES clarify

obituary ► **noun** DEATH NOTICE, *informal* obit, *formal* necrology

object ► **noun** ① wooden objects THING, article, item, device, gadget, *informal* doodah, thingamajig, thingamabob, thingummy, whatsit, whatchamacallit, thingy, *Brit informal* gubbins, *N Amer informal* doodad, dingus ② he became the object of criticism TARGET, butt, focus, recipient, victim ③ his object was to resolve the crisis OBJECTIVE, aim, goal, target, purpose, end (in view), plan, object of the exercise, point, ambition, design, intent, intention, idea

► **verb** teachers objected to the scheme PROTEST ABOUT, oppose, raise objections to, express disapproval of, take exception to, take issue with, take a stand against, argue against, quarrel with, condemn, draw the line at, demur at, mind, complain about, cavil at, quibble about, beg to differ, *informal* kick up a fuss/stink about
—OPPOSITES approve, accept

objection ► **noun** PROTEST, protestation, demur, demurral, complaint, expostulation, grievance, cavil, quibble, opposition, argument, counter-argument, disagreement, disapproval, dissent, *informal* niggle

objectionable ► **adjective** UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, distasteful, displeasing, off-putting, undesirable, obnoxious, offensive, nasty, horrible, horrid, disgusting, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, appalling, insufferable, odious, vile, foul, unsavoury, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, revolting, abhorrent, loathsome, hateful, detestable, reprehensible, deplorable, *informal* ghastly, *Brit informal* beastly, *formal* exceptionable, rebarbative
—OPPOSITES pleasant

objective ► **adjective** ① an interviewer must try to be objective IMPARTIAL, unbiased, unprejudiced, non-partisan, disinterested, neutral, uninvolved, even-handed, equitable, fair, fair-minded, just, open-minded, dispassionate, detached ② the world of objective knowledge FACTUAL, actual, real, empirical, verifiable
—OPPOSITES biased, subjective.

► **noun** our objective is to build a profitable business AIM, intention, purpose, target, goal, intent, object, object of the exercise, point, end (in view), idea, design, plan, ambition, aspiration, desire, hope.

objectively ► **adverb** IMPARTIALLY, without bias, without prejudice, even-handedly, dispassionately, detachedly, equitably, fairly, justly, with an open mind, without fear or favour

objectivity ▶ **noun** IMPARTIALITY, lack of bias/prejudice, fairness, fair-mindedness, neutrality, even-handedness, justice, open-mindedness, disinterest, detachment, dispassion, dispassionateness

oblation ▶ **noun** RELIGIOUS OFFERING, offering, sacrifice, peace offering, burnt offering, first fruits, libation

obligate ▶ **verb** OBLIGE, compel, commit, bind, require, constrain, force, impel, make

obligation ▶ **noun** ① *his professional obligations* DUTY, commitment, responsibility, function, task, job, assignment, commission, burden, charge, onus, liability, accountability, requirement, debt, *archaic* devoir ② *a sense of obligation* DUTY, compulsion, indebtedness, duress, necessity, pressure, constraint

■ *under an obligation* BEHOLDEN, obliged, in someone's debt, indebted, obligated, owing someone a debt of gratitude, duty-bound, honour-bound

obligatory ▶ **adjective** COMPULSORY, mandatory, prescribed, required, demanded, statutory, enforced, binding, incumbent, requisite, necessary, imperative, unavoidable, inescapable, essential
-OPPOSITES optional

oblige ▶ **verb** ① *both parties are obliged to accept the decision* REQUIRE, compel, bind, constrain, obligate, leave someone no option, force ② *I'll be happy to oblige you* DO SOMEONE A FAVOUR, accommodate, help, assist, serve, gratify someone's wishes, indulge, humour

obliged ▶ **adjective** THANKFUL, grateful, appreciative, much obliged, beholden, indebted, in someone's debt

obliging ▶ **adjective** HELPFUL, accommodating, willing, cooperative, considerate, complaisant, agreeable, amenable, generous, kind, neighbourly, hospitable, pleasant, good-natured, amiable, gracious, unselfish, civil, courteous, polite, *Brit informal* decent
-OPPOSITES unhelpful

oblique ▶ **adjective** ① *an oblique line* SLANTING, slanted, sloping, at an angle, angled, diagonal, aslant, slant, slantwise, skew, on the skew, askew, squint, *N Amer* cater-cornered ② *an oblique reference* INDIRECT, inexplicit, roundabout, circuitous, circumlocutory, implicit, implied, elliptical, evasive, backhanded ③ *an oblique glance* SIDELONG, sideways, furtive, covert, sly, surreptitious
-OPPOSITES straight, direct

▶ **noun** SLASH, solidus, backslash, diagonal, virgule

obliquely ▶ **adverb** ① *the sun shone obliquely across the tower* DIAGONALLY, at an angle, slantwise, sideways, sidelong, aslant ② *he referred obliquely to the war* INDIRECTLY, in a roundabout way, not in so many words, circuitously evasively

obliterate ▶ **verb** ① *he tried to obliterate the memory* ERASE, eradicate, expunge, efface, wipe out, blot out, rub out, remove all traces of ② *a nuclear explosion that would obliterate a city* DESTROY, wipe out, annihilate, demolish, liquidate, wipe off the face of the earth, wipe off the map, *informal* zap ③ *clouds were darkening, obliterating the sun* HIDE, obscure, blot out, block, cover, screen.

oblivion ▶ **noun** ① *they drank themselves into oblivion* UNCONSCIOUSNESS, insensibility, stupor, stupefaction, coma, blackout, *poetic/literary* the waters of Lethe ② *they rescued him from artistic oblivion* OBSCURITY, limbo, anonymity, neglect, disregard
-OPPOSITES consciousness, fame

oblivious ▶ **adjective** UNAWARE, unconscious, heedless, unmindful, insensible, unheeding, ignorant, blind, deaf, unsuspecting, unobservant, unconcerned, impervious, unaffected
-OPPOSITES conscious

obloquy ▶ **noun** ① *he endured years of contempt and obloquy* VILIFICATION, opprobrium, vituperation, condemnation, denunciation, abuse, criticism, censure, defamation, denigration, revilement, calumny, insults, *informal* flak, *formal* castigation, exhortation, *archaic* contumely ② *conduct to which no moral obloquy could reasonably attach* DISGRACE, dishonour, shame, discredit, stigma, humiliation, loss of face, ignominy, odium, opprobrium, disfavour, disrepute, ill repute, infamy, stain, notoriety, scandal
-OPPOSITES praise, honour

obnoxious ▶ **adjective** UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, nasty, distasteful, offensive, objectionable, unsavoury, unpalatable, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, revolting, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, disgusting, odious, vile, foul, abhorrent, loathsome, nauseating, sickening, hateful, insufferable, intolerable, *informal* horrible, horrid, ghastly, gross, putrid, sick-making, yucky, God-awful, *Brit informal* beastly, *archaic* disgusting, loathly
-OPPOSITES delightful

obscene ▶ **adjective** ① *obscene literature* PORNOGRAPHIC, indecent, smutty, dirty, filthy, X-rated, 'adult', explicit, lewd, rude, vulgar, coarse, crude, immoral, improper, off colour, scatological, profane, *informal* blue, porn, porno, skin ② *an obscene crime* SHOCKING, scandalous, vile, foul, atrocious, outrageous, heinous, odious, abhorrent, abominable, disgusting, hideous, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, repellent, loathsome, nauseating, sickening, awful, dreadful, terrible, frightful

obscenity ▶ **noun** ① *the book was banned on the grounds of obscenity* INDECENCY, immorality, impropriety, smuttiness, smut, lewdness, rudeness, vulgarity, dirt, filth, coarseness, crudity, profanity, profaneness ② *the men scowled and muttered obscenities* EXPLETIVE, swear word, oath, profanity, curse, four-letter word, dirty word, blasphemy, *informal* cuss, cuss word, *formal* imprecation

obscure ▶ **adjective** ① *his origins and parentage remain obscure* UNCLEAR, uncertain, unknown, in doubt, doubtful, dubious, mysterious, hazy, vague, indeterminate, concealed, hidden ② *obscure references to Proust* MYSTIFYING, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, ambiguous, cryptic, enigmatic, Delphic, oracular, oblique, opaque, elliptical, unintelligible, incomprehensible, impenetrable, unfathomable, abstruse, recondite, arcane, esoteric; *informal* as clear as mud ③ *an obscure Peruvian painter* LITTLE KNOWN, unknown, unheard of, undistinguished, unimportant, nameless, minor, unsung, unrecognized, forgotten ④ *an obscure shape* INDISTINCT, faint,

vague, nebulous, ill-defined, unclear, blurred, blurry, misty, hazy

—OPPOSITES clear, plain, famous, distinct

► **verb** ① *grey clouds obscured the sun* HIDE, conceal, cover, veil, shroud, screen, mask, cloak, cast a shadow over, shadow, block, obliterate, eclipse, darken ② *recent events have obscured the issue* CONFUSE, complicate, obfuscate, cloud, blur, muddy, muddy the waters, poetic/literary befog

—OPPOSITES reveal, clarify

obscurity ► **noun** ① *the discovery rescued him from relative obscurity* INSIGNIFICANCE, inconspicuousness, unimportance, anonymity, limbo, twilight, oblivion ② *poems of impenetrable obscurity* INCOMPREHENSIBILITY, impenetrability, unintelligibility, opacity ③ *the obscurities in his poems and plays* ENIGMA, puzzle, mystery, difficulty, problem

—OPPOSITES fame, clarity

obsequies ► **plural noun** FUNERAL RITES, funeral service, funeral, burial, interment, entombment, inhumation, last offices, formal exequies, archaic sepulture

obsequious ► **adjective** SERVILE, ingratiating, sycophantic, fawning, unctuous, oily, oleaginous, grovelling, cringing, subservient, submissive, slavish, informal slimy, bootlicking, smarmy

observable ► **adjective** NOTICEABLE, visible, perceptible, perceivable, detectable, distinguishable, discernible, recognizable, evident, apparent, manifest, obvious, patent, clear, distinct, plain, unmistakable, archaic sensible

observance ► **noun** ① *strict observance of the rules* COMPLIANCE, adherence, accordance, respect, observation, fulfilment, obedience, keeping, obeying ② *religious observances* RITE, ritual, ceremony, ceremonial, celebration, practice, service, office, festival, tradition, custom, usage, formality, form

observant ► **adjective** ALERT, sharp-eyed, sharp, eagle-eyed, hawk-eyed, having eyes like a hawk, keen-eyed, watchful, heedful, aware, on the lookout, on the qui vive, on guard, attentive, vigilant, having one's eyes open/peeled, informal beady-eyed, not missing a trick, on the ball

—OPPOSITES inattentive

observation ► **noun** ① *detailed observation of the animal's behaviour* MONITORING, watching, scrutiny, examination, inspection, survey, surveillance, attention, consideration, study ② *his observations were concise and to the point* REMARK, comment, statement, utterance, pronouncement, declaration, opinion, impression, thought, reflection ③ *the observation of the law* OBSERVANCE, compliance, adherence, respect, obedience, keeping, obeying

observe ► **verb** ① *she observed that all the chairs were occupied* NOTICE, see, note, perceive, discern, spot, poetic/literary espy, descry ② *she was alarmed to discover he had been observing her* WATCH, look at, eye, contemplate, view, survey, regard, keep an eye on, scrutinize, keep under observation, keep watch on, keep under surveillance, monitor, keep a weather eye on, informal keep tabs on, keep a beady eye on, poetic/literary behold ③ *'You look tired,' she observed* REMARK, comment, say, mention, declare, announce, state, pronounce; formal opine ④ *both*

countries agreed to observe the ceasefire COMPLY WITH, abide by, keep, obey, adhere to, heed, honour, fulfil, respect, follow, consent to, acquiesce in, accept ⑤ *townspeople observed the one-year anniversary of the flood* COMMEMORATE, mark, keep, memorialize, remember, celebrate

observer ► **noun** ① *a casual observer might not have noticed* SPECTATOR, onlooker, watcher, looker-on, fly on the wall, viewer, witness, informal rubberneck, poetic/literary beholder ② *industry observers expect the deal to be finalized today* COMMENTATOR, reporter, monitor

obsess ► **verb** PREOCCUPY, be uppermost in someone's mind, prey on someone's mind, prey on, possess, haunt, consume, plague, torment, hound, bedevil, beset, take control of, take over, have a hold on, eat up, grip

obsessed ► **adjective** FIXATED, possessed, consumed, infatuated, besotted, informal smitten, hung up, N Amer informal hipped

obsession ► **noun** FIXATION, ruling/consuming passion, passion, mania, idée fixe, compulsion, preoccupation, infatuation, addiction, fetish, craze, hobby horse, phobia, complex, neurosis, informal bee in one's bonnet, hang-up, thing

obsessive ► **adjective** ALL-CONSUMING, consuming, compulsive, controlling, obsessional, fanatical, neurotic, excessive, besetting, tormenting, inescapable, informal pathological

obsolescent ► **adjective** DYING OUT, on the decline, declining, waning, on the wane, disappearing, past its prime, ageing, moribund, on its last legs, out of date, outdated, old-fashioned, outmoded, informal on the way out, past it

obsolete ► **adjective** OUT OF DATE, outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned, démodé, passé, no longer in use, disused, fallen into disuse, superannuated, outworn, antiquated, antediluvian, anachronistic, discontinued, old, dated, archaic, ancient, fossilized, extinct, defunct, dead, bygone, informal out of the ark, prehistoric, Brit informal past its sell-by date

—OPPOSITES current, modern

obstacle ► **noun** BARRIER, hurdle, stumbling block, obstruction, bar, block, impediment, hindrance, snag, catch, drawback, hitch, handicap, deterrent, complication, difficulty, problem, fly in the ointment, disadvantage, curb, check, Brit spanner in the works, poetic/literary trammel

—OPPOSITES advantage, aid

obstinacy ► **noun** STUBBORNNESS, inflexibility, intransigence, intractability, obduracy, mulishness, pig-headedness, wilfulness, contrariness, perversity, recalcitrance, implacability, persistence, tenacity, tenaciousness, doggedness, single-mindedness, determination, Brit informal bloody-mindedness, bolshuness, formal pertinacity, refractoriness

obstinate ► **adjective** STUBBORN, unyielding, inflexible, unbending, intransigent, intractable, obdurate, mulish, stubborn as a mule, pig-headed, self-willed, strong-willed, headstrong, wilful, contrary, perverse, recalcitrant, uncooperative, unmanageable, stiff-necked, uncompromising, implacable, unrelenting, immovable, unshakable; persistent, tenacious, dogged, single-minded, adamant, determined; Brit



informal bloody-minded, bolshie, *N Amer informal* balky, *formal* refractory, pertinacious
 –OPPOSITES compliant

obstreperous ▶ *adjective* UNRULY, unmanageable, disorderly, undisciplined, uncontrollable, rowdy, disruptive, truculent, difficult, rebellious, mutinous, riotous, out of control, wild, turbulent, uproarious, boisterous, noisy, loud, clamorous, raucous, vociferous, *informal* rumbustious, *Brit informal* stropky, *bolshie*, *N Amer informal* rambunctious, *formal* refractory
 –OPPOSITES quiet, restrained

obstruct ▶ *verb* ① ensure that air bricks and vents are not obstructed BLOCK (UP), clog (up), get in the way of, occlude, cut off, shut off, bung up, choke, dam up, barricade, bar, *Brit informal* gunge up ② he was charged with obstructing the traffic HOLD UP, bring to a standstill, stop, halt, block ③ fears that the regime would obstruct the distribution of food IMPEDE, hinder, interfere with, hamper, block, interrupt, hold up, stand in the way of, frustrate, thwart, baulk, inhibit, hamstring, sabotage, slow down, retard, delay, stonewall, stop, halt, restrict, limit, curb, put a brake on, bridle, *N Amer informal* bork
 –OPPOSITES clear, facilitate

obstruction ▶ *noun* OBSTACLE, barrier, stumbling block, hurdle, bar, block, impediment, hindrance, snag, fly in the ointment, difficulty, catch, drawback, hitch, handicap, deterrent, curb, check, restriction, blockage, stoppage, congestion, bottleneck, hold-up, *Brit* spanner in the works, *Medicine* occlusion

obstructive ▶ *adjective* UNHELPFUL, uncooperative, awkward, difficult, unaccommodating, disobliging, perverse, contrary, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, *bolshie*, *N Amer informal* balky
 –OPPOSITES helpful

obtain ▶ *verb* ① the newspaper obtained a copy of the letter GET, acquire, come by, secure, procure, come into the possession of, pick up, be given, gain, earn, achieve, attain, *informal* get hold of, get/lay one's hands on, get one's mitts on, land ② (formal) rules obtaining in other jurisdictions PREVAIL, be in force, apply, exist, be in use, be in effect, stand, hold, be the case
 –OPPOSITES lose

obtainable ▶ *adjective* AVAILABLE, to be had, in circulation, on the market, on offer, in season, at one's disposal, at hand, attainable, procurable, accessible, *informal* up for grabs, on tap, get-at-able

obtrusive ▶ *adjective* CONSPICUOUS, prominent, noticeable, obvious, unmistakable, intrusive, out of place, *informal* sticking out a mile, sticking out like a sore thumb
 –OPPOSITES inconspicuous

obtuse ▶ *adjective* STUPID, foolish, slow-witted, slow, dull-witted, unintelligent, ignorant, simple-minded, insensitive, imperceptive, uncomprehending; *informal* dim, dim-witted, dense, dumb, slow on the uptake, half-witted, brain-dead, moronic, cretinous, thick, dopey, dozy, wooden-headed, boneheaded; *Brit informal* divvy, *Scottish & N English informal* glaikit, *N Amer informal* dumb-ass, chowderheaded
 –OPPOSITES clever

obviate ▶ *verb* PRECLUDE, prevent, remove, get rid of, do away with, get round, rule out, eliminate, make unnecessary

obvious ▶ *adjective* CLEAR, crystal clear, plain, evident, apparent, manifest, patent, conspicuous, pronounced, transparent, palpable, prominent, marked, decided, distinct, noticeable, perceptible, visible, discernible, unmistakable, indisputable, self-evident, incontrovertible, incontestable, undeniable, as plain as a pikestaff, as clear as day, staring someone in the face, overt, open, undisguised, unconcealed, frank, glaring, blatant, written all over someone, *informal* as plain as the nose on your face, sticking out like a sore thumb, sticking out a mile
 –OPPOSITES imperceptible

obviously ▶ *adverb* CLEARLY, evidently, plainly, patently, visibly, discernibly, manifestly, noticeably, unmistakably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, demonstrably, unquestionably, undoubtedly, without doubt, doubtless, of course, naturally, needless to say, it goes without saying
 –OPPOSITES perhaps

occasion ▶ *noun* ① a previous occasion TIME, instance, juncture, point, event, occurrence, affair, incident, episode, experience, situation, case, circumstance ② a family occasion SOCIAL EVENT, event, affair, function, celebration, party, get-together, gathering, *informal* do, bash ③ I doubt if the occasion will arise OPPORTUNITY, right moment, chance, opening, window ④ it's the first time I've had occasion to complain REASON, cause, call, grounds, justification, need, motive
 ▶ *verb* her situation occasioned a good deal of sympathy CAUSE, give rise to, bring about, result in, lead to, prompt, elicit, call forth, produce, create, arouse, generate, engender, precipitate, provoke, stir up, inspire, spark off, trigger, poetic/literary beget

■ on occasion. See OCCASIONALLY

occasional ▶ *adjective* INFREQUENT, intermittent, irregular, periodic, sporadic, odd, random, uncommon, few and far between, isolated, rare, *N Amer* sometime
 –OPPOSITES regular, frequent

occasionally ▶ *adverb* SOMETIMES, from time to time, (every) now and then, (every) now and again, at times, every so often, (every) once in a while, on occasion, periodically, at intervals, irregularly, sporadically, infrequently, intermittently, on and off, off and on
 –OPPOSITES often

occlude ▶ *verb* BLOCK (UP), stop (up), obstruct, clog (up), close, shut, bung up, choke

occult ▶ *noun* his interest in the occult THE SUPERNATURAL, supernaturalism, magic, black magic, witchcraft, sorcery, necromancy, wizardry, the black arts, occultism, diabolism, devil worship, devilry, voodoo, hoodoo, white magic, mysticism, NZ makutu

▶ *adjective* ① occult powers SUPERNATURAL, magic, magical, mystical, mystic, psychic, preternatural, transcendental, cabalistic, hermetic ② the typically occult language of the time ESOTERIC, arcane, recondite, abstruse, secret, obscure, incomprehensible, impenetrable, puzzling, perplexing, mystifying, mysterious, enigmatic

occupancy ▶ *noun* OCCUPATION, tenancy, tenure, residence, residency, inhabitation, habitation, living, lease, holding, owner-occupancy, *formal* dwelling



occupant ► **noun** ① the occupants of the houses **RESIDENT**, inhabitant, owner, householder, tenant, renter, leaseholder, lessee, addressee, *Brit* occupier, owner-occupier, formal dweller ② the first occupant of the post **INCUMBENT**, holder

occupation ► **noun** ① his father's occupation **JOB**, profession, (line of) work, trade, employment, position, post, situation, business, career, métier, vocation, calling, craft, *Austral informal* grip, *archaic* employ ② her leisure occupations **PASTIME**, activity, hobby, pursuit, interest, entertainment, recreation, amusement, divertissement ③ a property suitable for occupation by older people **RESIDENCE**, residency, habitation, inhabitation, occupancy, tenancy, tenure, lease, living in, formal dwelling ④ the Roman occupation of Britain **CONQUEST**, capture, invasion, seizure, takeover, annexation, overrunning, subjugation, subjection, appropriation, colonization, rule, control, suzerainty

occupational ► **adjective** **JOB-RELATED**, work, professional, vocational, employment, business, career

occupied ► **adjective** ① tasks which kept her occupied all day **BUSY**, engaged, working, at work, active; *informal* tied up, hard at it, on the go ② all the tables were occupied **IN USE**, full, engaged, taken ③ only two of the flats are occupied **INHABITED**, lived-in, tenanted, settled
—**OPPOSITES** free, vacant

occupy ► **verb** ① Carol occupied the basement flat **LIVE IN**, inhabit, be the tenant of, lodge in, move into, take up residence in, people, populate, settle, *Scottish* stay in, formal reside in, dwell in ② two windows occupied almost the whole of the end wall **TAKE UP**, fill, fill up, cover, use up ③ he occupies a senior post at the Treasury **HOLD**, fill, have, *informal* hold down ④ I need something to occupy my mind **ENGAGE**, busy, employ, distract, absorb, engross, preoccupy, hold, interest, involve, entertain, amuse, divert ⑤ the region was occupied by Soviet troops **CAPTURE**, seize, take possession of, conquer, invade, overrun, take over, colonize, garrison, annex, subjugate

occur ► **verb** ① the accident occurred at about 3.30. **HAPPEN**, take place, come about, transpire, materialize, arise, crop up, *N Amer informal* go down, *poetic/literary* come to pass, befall, betide, *archaic* hap, formal eventuate ② the disease occurs chiefly in tropical climates **BE FOUND**, be present, exist, appear, prevail, present itself, manifest itself, turn up ③ an idea occurred to her **ENTER ONE'S HEAD/MIND**, cross one's mind, come to mind, spring to mind, strike one, hit one, dawn on one, suggest itself.

occurrence ► **noun** ① vandalism used to be a rare occurrence **EVENT**, incident, happening, phenomenon, affair, matter, circumstance ② the occurrence of cancer increases with age **EXISTENCE**, instance, appearance, manifestation, materialization, development, frequency, incidence, rate, prevalence, *Statistics* distribution

ocean ► **noun** ① the ocean was calm **THE SEA**, *informal* the drink; *Brit informal* the briny, *poetic/literary* the deep, the waves, the main See list at **SEA** ② (informal) she had oceans of energy See **LOT** pronoun

odd ► **adjective** ① an odd man **STRANGE**, peculiar, weird, queer, funny, bizarre, eccentric, unusual, unconventional, outlandish, quirky,

zany, *informal* wacky, kooky, screwy, oddball, offbeat, off the wall ② quite a few odd things had happened **STRANGE**, unusual, peculiar, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, uncanny, queer, outré, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, different, out of the ordinary, out of the way, exceptional, rare, extraordinary, remarkable, puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable, uncommon, irregular, singular, deviant, aberrant, freak, freakish ③ we have the odd drink together | he does odd jobs for friends **OCCASIONAL**, casual, irregular, isolated, random, sporadic, periodic, miscellaneous, various, varied, sundry ④ odd shoes **MISMATCHED**, unmatched, unpaired, single, lone, solitary, extra, surplus, leftover, remaining

—**OPPOSITES** normal, ordinary, regular

■ **odd man out** **OUTSIDER**, exception, oddity, nonconformist, maverick, individualist, misfit, fish out of water, square peg in a round hole

oddity ► **noun** ① she was regarded as a bit of an oddity **ECCENTRIC**, crank, misfit, maverick, nonconformist, rare bird, *informal* character, oddball, weirdo, crackpot, nut, freak, *Brit informal* nutter, *N Amer informal* screwball, kook, *informal*, dated case ② his work remains an oddity in some respects **ANOMALY**, aberration, curiosity, rarity ③ the oddities of human nature **PECULIARITY**, idiosyncrasy, eccentricity, quirk, irregularity, twist

oddment ► **plural noun** **SCRAP**, remnant, bit, piece, leftover, fragment, snippet, offcut, end, shred, tail end, *Brit informal* fag end, (**oddments**) odds and ends, bits and pieces, bits and bobs

odds ► **plural noun** ① the odds are that he is no longer alive **LIKELIHOOD**, probability, chances, chance, balance ② the odds are in our favour **ADVANTAGE**, edge, superiority, supremacy, ascendancy

■ **at odds** ① he was at odds with his colleagues **IN CONFLICT**, in disagreement, on bad terms, at cross purposes, at loggerheads, quarrelling, arguing, at daggers drawn, at each other's throats, *N Amer* on the outs ② behaviour at odds with the interests of the company **AT VARIANCE**, out of keeping, out of line, in opposition, conflicting, contrary, incompatible, inconsistent, irreconcilable

■ **odds and ends** **BITS AND PIECES**, bits and bobs, bits, pieces, stuff, paraphernalia, things, sundries, miscellanea, bric-a-brac, knick-knacks, oddments, *informal* junk, *Brit informal* odds and sods, clobber, gubbins

odious ► **adjective** **REVOLTING**, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, disgusting, offensive, objectionable, vile, foul, abhorrent, loathsome, nauseating, sickening, hateful, detestable, execrable, abominable, monstrous, appalling, reprehensible, deplorable, insufferable, intolerable, despicable, contemptible, unspeakable, atrocious, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, obnoxious, unsavoury, unpalatable, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, distasteful, *informal* ghastly, horrible, horrid, gross, God-awful, *Brit informal* beastly, *archaic* disgusting, loathly
—**OPPOSITES** delightful

odium ► **noun** **DISGUST**, abhorrence, repugnance, revulsion, loathing, detestation, hatred, hate, obloquy, dislike, distaste, disfavour, antipathy, animosity, animus, enmity, hostility,



contempt, disgrace, shame, opprobrium, discredit, dishonour

—OPPOSITES approval

odorous ▶ **adjective** SMELLY, malodorous, pungent, acrid, foul-smelling, evil-smelling, stinking, reeking, fetid, rank, *informal* stinky, *Brit informal* pongy, *niffy*, *poetic/literary* miasmatic, noisome, mephitic

odour ▶ **noun** ① an odour of sweat SMELL, stench, stink, reek, *Brit informal* pong, whiff, niff, hum, *N Amer informal* funk, *poetic/literary* miasma ② an odour of suspicion ATMOSPHERE, air, aura, quality, flavour, savour, hint, suggestion, impression, whiff

odyssey ▶ **noun** JOURNEY, voyage, trek, travels, quest, crusade, pilgrimage, wandering, journeying, *archaic* peregrination

off ▶ **adjective** ① Kate's off today AWAY, absent, unavailable, not at work, off duty, on holiday, on leave, free, at leisure, *N Amer* on vacation ② the game's off CANCELLED, postponed, called off ③ strawberries are off UNAVAILABLE, finished, sold out ④ the fish was a bit off ROTTEN, bad, stale, mouldy, high, sour, rancid, turned, spoiled, putrid, putrescent ⑤ (*Brit informal*) I felt decidedly off See OFF COLOUR sense 1 ⑥ (*Brit informal*) that remark was a bit off UNFAIR, unjust, uncalled for, below the belt, unjustified, unjustifiable, unreasonable, unwarranted, unnecessary, *informal* a bit much, *Brit informal* out of order ⑦ (*Brit informal*) he was really off with me UNFRIENDLY, aloof, cool, cold, distant, frosty, *informal* stand-offish

■ **off and on** PERIODICALLY, at intervals, on and off, (every) once in a while, every so often, (every) now and then/again, from time to time, occasionally, sometimes, intermittently, irregularly

offbeat ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) UNCONVENTIONAL, unorthodox, unusual, eccentric, idiosyncratic, outré, strange, bizarre, weird, peculiar, odd, freakish, outlandish, out of the ordinary, Bohemian, alternative, left-field, zany, quirky, *informal* wacky, freaky, way-out, off the wall, kooky, oddball

—OPPOSITES conventional

off colour ▶ **adjective** ① (*Brit*) I'm feeling a bit off colour UNWELL, ill, poorly, out of sorts, indisposed, not oneself, sick, queasy, nauseous, peaky, liverish, green about the gills, run down, washed out, below par, *informal* under the weather, rough, *Brit informal* ropy, off, *Scottish informal* wabbit, peely-wally, *Austral/NZ informal* crook ② off-colour jokes SMUTTY, dirty, rude, crude, suggestive, indecent, indelicate, risqué, racy, bawdy, naughty, blue, vulgar, ribald, broad, salacious, coarse, *informal* raunchy, *Brit informal* fruity, saucy, *euphemistic* adult

—OPPOSITES well

offence ▶ **noun** ① he denied having committed any offence CRIME, illegal/unlawful act, misdemeanour, breach of the law, felony, wrongdoing, wrong, misdeed, peccadillo, sin, transgression, infringement, *Law* malfeasance, *archaic* trespass ② an offence to basic justice AFFRONT, slap in the face, insult, outrage, violation ③ I do not want to cause offence ANNOYANCE, anger, resentment, indignation, irritation, exasperation, wrath, displeasure, hard/bad/ill feelings, disgruntlement, pique, vexation, animosity.

■ **take offence** BE OFFENDED, take exception, take something personally, feel affronted, feel resentful, take something amiss, take umbrage, get upset, get annoyed, get angry, get into a huff, *Brit informal* get the hump

offend ▶ **verb** ① I'm sorry if I offended him HURT SOMEONE'S FEELINGS, give offence to, affront, displease, upset, distress, hurt, wound; annoy, anger, exasperate, irritate, vex, pique, gall, irk, nettle, tread on someone's toes, *Brit* rub up the wrong way, *informal* rile, rattle, peeve, needle, put someone's nose out of joint, put someone's back up ② the smell of cigarette smoke offended him DISPLEASE, be distasteful to, be disagreeable to, be offensive to, disgust, repel, revolt, sicken, nauseate, *informal* turn off, *N Amer informal* gross out ③ criminals who offend again and again BREAK THE LAW, commit a crime, do wrong, sin, transgress, *archaic* trespass

offended ▶ **adjective** AFFRONTED, insulted, aggrieved, displeased, upset, hurt, wounded, disgruntled, put out, annoyed, angry, cross, exasperated, indignant, irritated, piqued, vexed, irked, stung, galled, nettled, resentful, in a huff, huffy, in high dudgeon, *informal* riled, miffed, peeved, aggravated, *Brit informal* narked, *N Amer informal* sore

—OPPOSITES pleased

offender ▶ **noun** WRONGDOER, criminal, law-breaker, miscreant, malefactor, felon, delinquent, culprit, guilty party, sinner, transgressor, *Law* malfeasant

offensive ▶ **adjective** ① offensive remarks INSULTING, rude, impertinent, insolent, derogatory, disrespectful, personal, hurtful, wounding, abusive, annoying, exasperating, irritating, galling, provocative, outrageous, discourteous, uncivil, impolite, *formal* exceptionable ② an offensive smell UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, nasty, distasteful, displeasing, objectionable, off-putting, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, obnoxious, abominable, disgusting, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, revolting, abhorrent, loathsome, odious, vile, foul, sickening, nauseating, *informal* ghastly, horrible, horrid, gross, God-awful, *Brit informal* beastly, *archaic* disgusting ③ an offensive air action HOSTILE, attacking, aggressive, invading, combative, belligerent, on the attack

—OPPOSITES complimentary, pleasant, defensive

▶ **noun** a military offensive ATTACK, assault, onslaught, drive, invasion, push, thrust, charge, sortie, sally, foray, raid, incursion, blitz, campaign

offer ▶ **verb** ① Frank offered another suggestion PUT FORWARD, proffer, give, present, come up with, suggest, recommend, propose, advance, submit, tender, render ② she offered to help VOLUNTEER, volunteer one's services, be at someone's disposal, be at someone's service, step/come forward, show willing ③ the product is offered at a competitive price PUT UP FOR SALE, put on the market, sell, market, put under the hammer, *Law* vend ④ he offered \$200 BID, tender, put in a bid of, put in an offer of ⑤ a job offering good career prospects PROVIDE, afford, supply, give, furnish, present, hold out ⑥ she offered no resistance ATTEMPT, try, give, show, express; *formal* essay ⑦ birds were offered to the gods SACRIFICE, offer up, immolate

—OPPOSITES withdraw, refuse

- **noun** ① *offers of help* PROPOSAL, proposition, suggestion, submission, approach, overture
 ② *the highest offer* BID, tender, bidding price
 ■ **on offer** ON SALE, up for sale, on the market, available, obtainable, to be had, *N Amer* on the block

offering ► **noun** ① *you may place offerings in the charity box* CONTRIBUTION, donation, gift, present, handout, widow's mite, charity, formal benefaction, *historical* alms ② *many offerings were made to the goddess* SACRIFICE, oblation, burnt offering, immolation, libation, first fruits

offhand ► **adjective** *an offhand manner* CASUAL, careless, uninterested, unconcerned, indifferent, cool, nonchalant, blasé, insouciant, cavalier, glib perfunctory, cursory, unceremonious, ungracious, dismissive, discourteous, uncivil, impolite, terse, abrupt, curt, *informal* off, couldn't-care-less, take-it-or-leave-it

► **adverb** *I can't think of a better answer offhand* ON THE SPUR OF THE MOMENT, without consideration, extempore, impromptu, ad lib, extemporaneously, spontaneously, *informal* off the cuff, off the top of one's head, just like that

office ► **noun** ① *her office in Aldersgate Street* PLACE OF WORK, place of business, workplace, workroom ② *the newspaper's Paris office* BRANCH, division, section, bureau, department, agency ③ *he assumed the office of President* POST, position, appointment, job, occupation, role, situation, function, capacity ④ *he was saved by the good offices of his uncle* ASSISTANCE, help, aid, services, intervention, intercession, mediation, agency ⑤ *(dated) the offices of a nurse* DUTY, job, task, chore, obligation, assignment, responsibility, charge, commission

officer ► **noun** ① *an officer in the army* military officer, commissioned officer, non-commissioned officer, NCO, commanding officer, CO ② *all officers carry warrant cards* See POLICE OFFICER ③ *the officers of the society* OFFICIAL, office-holder, committee member, board member, public servant, administrator, executive, functionary, bureaucrat, derogatory apparatchik

official ► **adjective** ① *an official inquiry* AUTHORIZED, approved, validated, authenticated, certified, accredited, endorsed, sanctioned, licensed, recognized, accepted, legitimate, legal, lawful, valid, bona fide, proper, ex cathedra, *informal* kosher ② *an official function* CEREMONIAL, formal, solemn, ceremonious, bureaucratic, *informal* stuffed-shirt

—OPPOSITES unauthorized, informal

► **noun** *a union official* OFFICER, office-holder, administrator, executive, appointee, functionary, bureaucrat, mandarin, representative, agent, *Brit* jack-in-office, derogatory apparatchik

officiate ► **verb** ① *he officiated in the first two matches* BE IN CHARGE OF, take charge of, preside over; oversee, superintend, supervise, conduct, run ② *Father Buckley officiated at the wedding service* CONDUCT, perform, celebrate, solemnize.

officious ► **adjective** SELF-IMPORTANT, bumpitious, self-assertive, pushy, overbearing, overzealous, domineering, opinionated, interfering, intrusive, meddlesome, meddling, *informal* bossy. —OPPOSITES self-effacing.

offing

■ **in the offing** ON THE WAY, coming, (close) at hand, near, imminent, in prospect, on the horizon, in the wings, just around the corner, in the air, in the wind, brewing, upcoming, forthcoming, *informal* on the cards

off-key ► **adjective** ① *an off-key rendition of 'Amazing Grace'* OUT OF TUNE, flat, tuneless, discordant, unharmonious ② *the cinematic effects are distractingly off-key* INCONGRUOUS, inappropriate, unsuitable, out of place, out of keeping, jarring, dissonant, inharmonious
 —OPPOSITES harmonious

offload ► **verb** ① *the cargo was being offloaded* UNLOAD, remove, empty (out), tip (out), *archaic* unlade ② *he offloaded 5,000 of the shares* DISPOSE OF, dump, jettison, get rid of, transfer, shift, palm off, foist, fob off

off-putting ► **adjective** ① *an off-putting aroma* UNPLEASANT, unappealing, uninviting, unattractive, disagreeable, offensive, distasteful, unsavoury, unpalatable, unappetizing, objectionable, nasty, disgusting, repellent, *informal* horrid, horrible ② *her manner was off-putting* DISCOURAGING, disheartening, demoralizing, dispiriting, daunting, disconcerting, unnerving, unsettling, *formal* rebarbative

offset ► **verb** COUNTERBALANCE, balance (out), cancel (out), even out/up, counteract, counter-vail, neutralize, compensate for, make up for, make good, redeem

offshoot ► **noun** ① *the plant's offshoots* SIDE SHOOT, shoot, sucker, tendril, runner, scion, slip, offset, stolon, twig, branch, bough, limb ② *an offshoot of Cromwell's line* DESCENDANT, scion ③ *an offshoot of the growth of interest in heritage* OUTCOME, result, effect, consequence, upshot, product, by-product, spin-off, development, ramification

offspring ► **noun** CHILDREN, sons and daughters, progeny, family, youngsters, babies, infants, brood, descendants, heirs, successors, *Law* issue, *informal* kids, *Brit*, *informal* sprogs, brats, *derogatory* spawn, *archaic* fruit of one's loins See list at YOUNG

often ► **adverb** FREQUENTLY, many times, many a time, on many/numerous occasions, a lot, as often as not, repeatedly, again and again, regularly, routinely, usually, habitually, commonly, generally, in many cases/instances, ordinarily, *N Amer* oftentimes, *poetic/literary* oft
 —OPPOSITES seldom

ogle ► **verb** LEER AT, stare at, eye, make eyes at, *informal* eye up, give someone the glad eye, lech after, undress with one's eyes, give someone the come-on, *Austral/NZ* *informal* perv on

ogre ► **noun** ① *an ogre with two heads* MONSTER, giant, troll. ② *he is not the ogre he sometimes seems to be* BRUTE, fiend, monster, beast, barbarian, savage, animal, tyrant, *informal* bastard, swine, pig

ogress ► **noun** ① *a one-eyed ogress* MONSTER, giantess ② *the French teacher was a real ogress* HARRIDAN, tartar, termagant, gorgon, virago; *informal* battleaxe

oily ► **adjective** ① *oily substances* GREASY, oleaginous; technical sebaceous, *formal* pinguid. ② *oily food*: GREASY, fatty, buttery, swimming in oil/fat. ③ *an oily man* UNCTUOUS, ingratiating,

smooth-talking, fulsome, flattering, obsequious, sycophantic, oleaginous, *informal* smarmy, slimy

ointment ▶ **noun** LOTION, cream, salve, liniment, embrocation, rub, gel, balm, emollient, unguent, *technical* humectant

OK, okay (*informal*) ▶ **exclamation** OK, I'll go with him ALL RIGHT, right, right then, right you are, very well, very good, fine, *informal* okey-doke(y), *Brit informal* righto, righty-ho

▶ **adjective** ① the film was OK SATISFACTORY, all right, acceptable, competent, adequate, tolerable, passable, reasonable, fair, decent, not bad, average, middling, moderate, unremarkable, unexceptional, *informal* so-so, fair-to-middling ② Jo's feeling OK now FINE, all right, well, in good shape, in good health, fit, healthy, as fit as a fiddle/flea ③ it is OK for me to come? PERMISSIBLE, allowable, acceptable, all right, in order, permitted, fitting, suitable, appropriate

—OPPOSITES unsatisfactory, ill

▶ **noun** he's just given me the OK AUTHORIZATION, approval, seal of approval, agreement, consent, assent, permission, endorsement, ratification, sanction, approbation, confirmation, blessing, leave, *informal* the go-ahead, the green light, the thumbs up, say-so

—OPPOSITES refusal

▶ **verb** the move must be okayed by the president AUTHORIZE, approve, agree to, consent to, sanction, pass, ratify, endorse, allow, give something the nod, rubber-stamp, *informal* give the go-ahead, give the green light, give the thumbs up, *formal* accede to

—OPPOSITES refuse, veto

old ▶ **adjective** ① old people ELDERLY, aged, older, senior, advanced in years, venerable, in one's dotage, long in the tooth, grey-haired, grizzled, hoary, past one's prime, not as young as one was, ancient, decrepit, doddering, dodder, not long for this world, senescent, senile, superannuated, *informal* getting on, past it, over the hill, no spring chicken ② old farm buildings DILAPIDATED, broken-down, run down, tumble-down, ramshackle, decaying, crumbling, disintegrating ③ old clothes WORN, worn out, shabby, threadbare, holey, torn, frayed, patched, tattered, moth-eaten, ragged, old-fashioned, out of date, outmoded, cast-off, hand-me-down; *informal* tatty ④ old cars ANTIQUE, veteran, vintage ⑤ she's old for her years MATURE, wise, sensible, experienced, worldly-wise, knowledgeable ⑥ in the old days BYGONE, past, former, olden, of old, previous, early, earlier, earliest, medieval, ancient, classical, primeval, primordial, prehistoric ⑦ the same old phrases HACKNEYED, hack, banal, trite, overused, overworked, tired, worn out, stale, clichéd, platitudinous, unimaginative, stock, conventional, out of date, outdated, old-fashioned, outmoded, hoary, *informal* old hat, corny, played out. ⑧ an old girlfriend. FORMER, previous, ex, one-time, sometime, erstwhile, *formal* quondam

—OPPOSITES young, new, modern

■ **old age** DECLINING YEARS, advanced years, age, oldness, winter/autumn of one's life, senescence, senility, dotage.

■ **old man** ① SENIOR CITIZEN, pensioner, OAP, elder, grandfather; patriarch; *informal* greybeard, codger; *Brit informal* buffer, *archaic* grandsire, ancient. ② (*informal*) her old man was away See HUSBAND **noun**

■ **old person** SENIOR CITIZEN, senior, (old-age) pensioner, OAP, elder, geriatric, dotard, Methuselah, *N Amer* golden ager, *informal* old stager, old-timer, oldie, wrinkly, crock, crumbly, *N Amer informal* oldster, whoope

■ **old woman** ① SENIOR CITIZEN, pensioner, OAP, crone, *informal* old dear, *archaic* beldam, grandam ② (*informal*) his old woman threw him out See WIFE

old-fashioned ▶ **adjective** OUT OF DATE, outdated, dated, out of fashion, outmoded, unfashionable, passé, démodé, frumpy, outworn, old, old-time, behind the times, archaic, obsolescent, obsolete, ancient, antiquated, superannuated, defunct, medieval, prehistoric, antediluvian, old-fogeyish, conservative, backward-looking, quaint, anachronistic, fusty, moth-eaten, olde worlde, *informal* old hat, square, not with it, out of the ark, *N Amer informal* horse-and-buggy, clunky, rinky-dink

—OPPOSITES modern

old-time ▶ **adjective** FORMER, past, bygone, old-fashioned, traditional, folk, old-world, quaint

—OPPOSITES modern

Olympian ▶ **adjective** ALOOF, distant, remote, unfriendly, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, cool, *informal* stand-offish

—OPPOSITES friendly

Olympic Games ▶ **noun** See list

omen ▶ **noun** PORTENT, sign, signal, token, forewarning, warning, foreshadowing, prediction, forecast, prophesy, harbinger, augury, auspice, presage, writing on the wall, indication, hint, *poetic/literary* foretoken

ominous ▶ **adjective** THREATENING, menacing, baleful, forbidding, sinister, inauspicious, unpropitious, portentous, unfavourable, unpromising, black, dark, gloomy, *formal* minatory, *poetic/literary* direful

—OPPOSITES promising

omission ▶ **noun** ① the omission of recent publications from his biography EXCLUSION, leaving out, deletion, cut, excision, elimination ② the damage was not caused by any omission on behalf of the carrier NEGLIGENCE, neglect, neglectfulness, dereliction, forgetfulness, oversight, default, lapse, failure

omit ▶ **verb** ① they omitted his name from the list LEAVE OUT, exclude, leave off, take out, miss out, miss, drop, cut, delete, eliminate, rub out, cross out, strike out ② I omitted to mention our guest lecturer FORGET, neglect, fail, leave undone, overlook; skip

—OPPOSITES add, include, remember

omnipotence ▶ **noun** ALL-POWERFULNESS, supremacy, pre-eminence, supreme power, unlimited power, invincibility.

omnipotent ▶ **adjective** ALL-POWERFUL, almighty, supreme, pre-eminent, invincible, unconquerable

omnipresent ▶ **adjective** UBIQUITOUS, all-pervasive, everywhere, rife, pervasive, prevalent

omniscient ▶ **adjective** ALL-KNOWING, all-wise, all-seeing

omnivorous ▶ **adjective** ① most duck species are omnivorous. ABLE TO EAT ANYTHING, *rare* pantophagous, omnivorant ② an omnivorous read-

Hosts of the Olympic Games

YEAR	CITY	COUNTRY
1896	Athens	Greece
1900	Paris	France
1904	St Louis	USA
1908	London	UK
1912	Stockholm	Sweden
1920	Antwerp	Belgium
1924	Paris	France
1928	Amsterdam	Netherlands
1932	Los Angeles	USA
1936	Berlin	Germany
1948	London	UK
1952	Helsinki	Finland
1956	Melbourne	Australia
1960	Rome	Italy
1964	Tokyo	Japan
1968	Mexico City	Mexico
1972	Munich	West Germany
1976	Montreal	Canada
1980	Moscow	Soviet Union
1984	Los Angeles	USA
1988	Seoul	South Korea
1992	Barcelona	Spain
1996	Atlanta	USA
2000	Sydney	Australia
2004	Athens	Greece
2008	Beijing	China

WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

1924	Chamonix	France
1928	St Moritz	Switzerland
1932	Lake Placid	USA
1936	Garmisch-Partenkirchen	Germany
1948	St Moritz	Switzerland
1952	Oslo	Norway
1956	Cortina d'Ampezzo	Italy
1960	Squaw Valley	USA
1964	Innsbruck	Austria
1968	Grenoble	France
1972	Sapporo	Japan
1976	Innsbruck	Austria
1980	Lake Placid	USA
1984	Sarajevo	Yugoslavia
1988	Calgary	Canada
1992	Albertville	France
1994	Lillehammer	Norway
1998	Nagano	Japan
2002	Salt Lake City	USA
2006	Turin	Italy

or **UNDISCRIMINATING**, indiscriminate, unselective

on ▶ **adjective** *the computer's on* **FUNCTIONING**, in operation, working, in use, operating

—**OPPOSITES** off

▶ **adverb** *she droned on* **INTERMINABLY**, at length, for a long time, continuously, endlessly, ceaselessly, without a pause/break

■ **on and off**. See **OFF** and **ON** at **OFF**

■ **on and on** **FOR A LONG TIME**, for ages, for hours, at (great) length, incessantly, ceaselessly, constantly, continuously, continually, endlessly, unendingly, eternally, forever, interminably, unremittingly, relentlessly, indefatigably, without let-up, without a pause/break, without cease

ONCE ▶ **adverb** ① *I only met him once* **ON ONE OCCASION**, one time, one single time ② *he did not*

once help **EVER**, at any time, on any occasion, at all ③ *they were friends once* **FORMERLY**, previously, in the past, at one time, at one point, once upon a time, time was when, in days/times gone by, in times past, in the (good) old days, long ago, *archaic* sometime, erstwhile, whilom, *poetic/literary* in days/times of yore

—**OPPOSITES** often, now

▶ **conjunction** *he'll be all right once she's gone* **AS SOON AS**, when, after

■ **at once** ① *you must leave at once* **IMMEDIATELY**, right away, right now, this moment/instant/second/minute, now, straight away, instantly, directly, forthwith, promptly, without delay/hesitation, without further ado, quickly, as fast as possible, as soon as possible, *a s a p*, speedily, *informal* like a shot, *in/like* a flash, before you can say Jack Robinson ② *all the guests arrived at once* **AT THE SAME TIME**, at one and the same time, (all) together, simultaneously, as a group, in unison, in concert, in chorus

■ **once and for all** **CONCLUSIVELY**, decisively, finally, positively, definitely, definitively, irrevocably, for good, for always, forever, permanently

■ **once in a while** **OCCASIONALLY**, from time to time, (every) now and then/again, every so often, on occasion, at times, sometimes, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically, intermittently

oncoming ▶ **adjective** **APPROACHING**, advancing, nearing, forthcoming, on the way, imminent, impending, looming, gathering, (close) at hand, about to happen, to come

one ▶ **cardinal number** ① **UNIT**, item, *technical* monad ② *only one person came* **A SINGLE**, a solitary, a sole, a lone ③ *her one concern was her daughter* **ONLY**, single, solitary, sole ④ *they have now become one* **UNITED**, a unit, unitary, amalgamated, consolidated, integrated, combined, incorporated, allied, affiliated, linked, joined, unified, in league, in partnership, wedded, married

—**RELATED TERMS** **MONO-**, **UNI-**

onerous ▶ **adjective** **BURDENSOME**, arduous, strenuous, difficult, hard, severe, heavy, back-breaking, oppressive, weighty, uphill, effortful, formidable, laborious, Herculean, exhausting, tiring, taxing, demanding, punishing, grueling, exacting, wearing, wearisome, fatiguing, *archaic* toilsome

—**OPPOSITES** easy

oneself

■ **by oneself**. See **BY**

one-sided ▶ **adjective** ① *a one-sided account* **BIASED**, prejudiced, partisan, partial, preferential, discriminatory, slanted, inequitable, unfair, unjust ② *a one-sided game* **UNEQUAL**, uneven, unbalanced

—**OPPOSITES** impartial

one-time ▶ **adjective** **FORMER**, ex-, old, previous, sometime, erstwhile, lapsed, *formal* quondam

ongoing ▶ **adjective** ① *negotiations are ongoing* **IN PROGRESS**, under way, going on, continuing, taking place, proceeding, progressing, advancing, unfinished ② *an ongoing struggle* **CONTINUOUS**, continuing, uninterrupted, unbroken, non-stop, constant, ceaseless, unceasing, unending, endless, never-ending, unremitting, relentless, unflinching

onlooker ▶ **noun** EYEWITNESS, witness, observer, looker-on, fly on the wall, spectator, watcher, viewer, bystander, sightseer, informal rubberneck, poetic/literary beholder

only ▶ **adverb** ① *there was only enough for two* AT MOST, at best, (only) just, no/not more than, barely, scarcely, hardly ② *he only works on one picture at a time* EXCLUSIVELY, solely, to the exclusion of everything else ③ *you're only saving that* MERELY, simply, just

▶ **adjective** *their only son* SOLE, single, one (and only), solitary, lone, unique, exclusive

onomatopoeic ▶ **adjective** IMITATIVE, echoic

onset ▶ **noun** START, beginning, commencement, arrival, (first) appearance, inception, day one, outbreak

—OPPOSITES end

onslaught ▶ **noun** ASSAULT, attack, offensive, advance, charge, onrush, rush, storming, sortie, sally, raid, descent, incursion, invasion, foray, push, thrust, drive, blitz, bombardment, barrage, salvo, historical broadside

onus ▶ **noun** BURDEN, responsibility, liability, obligation, duty, weight, load, charge, encumbrance, cross to bear, millstone round one's neck, albatross

ooze ▶ **verb** ① *blood oozed from the wound* SEEP, discharge, flow, exude, trickle, drip, dribble, issue, filter, percolate, escape, leak, drain, empty, bleed, sweat, well, *Medicine* extravasate ② *she was positively oozing charm* EXUDE, gush, drip, pour forth, emanate, radiate

▶ **noun** ① *the ooze of blood* SEEPAGE, seeping, discharge, flow, exudation, trickle, drip, dribble, percolation, escape, leak, leakage, drainage, secretion, *Medicine* extravasation ② *the ooze on the ocean floor* MUD, slime, alluvium, silt, muck, sludge, muck, dirt, deposit

opalescent ▶ **adjective** IRIDESCENT, prismatic, rainbow-like, kaleidoscopic, multicoloured, many-hued, lustrous, shimmering, glittering, sparkling, variegated, shot, moiré, opaline, milky, pearly, nacreous

opaque ▶ **adjective** ① *opaque glass* NON-TRANSPARENT, cloudy, filmy, blurred, smeared, smeary, misty, dirty, muddy, muddled, grimy ② *the technical jargon was opaque to her* OBSCURE, unclear, mysterious, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, mystifying, confusing, unfathomable, incomprehensible, unintelligible, impenetrable, hazy, foggy, informal as clear as mud

—OPPOSITES transparent, clear

open ▶ **adjective** ① *the door's open* NOT SHUT, not closed, unlocked, unbolted, unlatched, off the latch, unfastened, unsecured, ajar, gaping, yawning ② *a blue silk shirt, open at the neck* UNFASTENED, not done up, undone, unbuttoned, unzipped, loose ③ *the main roads are open* CLEAR, passable, navigable, unblocked, unobstructed ④ *open countryside* | *open spaces* UNENCLOSED, rolling, sweeping, extensive, wide (open), unfenced, exposed, unsheltered, spacious, airy, uncrowded, uncluttered, undeveloped, unbuilt-up ⑤ *a map was open beside him* SPREAD OUT, unfolded, unfurled, unrolled, extended, stretched out ⑥ *the bank wasn't open* OPEN FOR BUSINESS, open to the public ⑦ *the position is still open* AVAILABLE, vacant, free, unfilled, informal up for grabs ⑧ *the system is open to abuse* VULNERABLE, subject, susceptible, li-

able, exposed, an easy target for, at risk of ⑨ *she was open about her feelings* FRANK, candid, honest, forthcoming, communicative, forthright, direct, unreserved, plain-spoken, outspoken, free-spoken, not afraid to call a spade a spade, informal upfront ⑩ *open hostility* OVERT, obvious, patent, manifest, palpable, conspicuous, plain, undisguised, unconcealed, clear, apparent, evident, blatant, flagrant, barefaced, brazen ⑪ *the case is still open* UNRESOLVED, undecided, unsettled, up in the air, open to debate, open for discussion, arguable, debatable, moot ⑫ *an open mind* IMPARTIAL, unbiased, unprejudiced, objective, disinterested, non-partisan, non-discriminatory, neutral, dispassionate, detached ⑬ *I'm open to suggestions* RECEPTIVE, amenable, willing/ready to listen, responsive ⑭ *what other options are open to us?* AVAILABLE, accessible, on hand, obtainable, on offer ⑮ *an open meeting* PUBLIC, general, unrestricted, non-exclusive, non-restrictive

—OPPOSITES shut

▶ **verb** ① *she opened the front door* UNFASTEN, unlatch, unlock, unbolt, unbar, throw wide ② *Katherine opened the parcel* UNWRAP, undo, untie, unseal ③ *shall I open another bottle?* UNCORK, broach, crack (open) ④ *Adam opened the map* SPREAD OUT, unfold, unfurl, unroll, straighten out ⑤ *he opened his heart to her* REVEAL, uncover, expose, lay bare, bare, pour out, disclose, divulge ⑥ *we're hoping to open next month* START TRADING, open for business, set up shop, put up one's plate, *N Amer* informal hang out one's shingle ⑦ *Sir Bryan opened the meeting* BEGIN, start, commence, initiate, set in motion, launch, get going, get under way, set the ball rolling, get off the ground, inaugurate, informal kick off, get the show on the road ⑧ *the lounge opens on to a terrace* GIVE ACCESS, lead, be connected, communicate with

—OPPOSITES close, shut, end

open air ▶ **adjective** OUTDOOR, out-of-doors, outside, alfresco

—OPPOSITES indoor

open-handed ▶ **adjective** GENEROUS, magnanimous, charitable, benevolent, beneficent, munificent, bountiful, altruistic, philanthropic, poetic/literary bounteous

—OPPOSITES tight-fisted

opening ▶ **noun** ① *an opening in the centre of the roof* HOLE, gap, aperture, orifice, vent, crack, slit, chunk, spyhole, peephole, *Anatomy* foramen ② *the opening in the wall* DOORWAY, gateway, entrance, (means of) entry, way in/out, exit ③ *United created openings but were unable to score* OPPORTUNITY, chance, window (of opportunity), possibility ④ *an opening with a stockbroker* VACANCY, position, job ⑤ *the opening of the session* BEGINNING, start, commencement, outset, introduction, prefatory remarks, opening statement, informal kick-off, formal proem ⑥ *a gallery opening* OPENING CEREMONY, official opening, launch, inauguration; opening/first night, premiere

openly ▶ **adverb** ① *drugs were openly on sale* PUBLICLY, blatantly, flagrantly, overtly ② *he spoke openly of his problems* FRANKLY, candidly, explicitly, honestly, sincerely, forthrightly, bluntly, without constraint, without holding back, straight from the shoulder

—OPPOSITES secretly

open-minded ▶ adjective ① *open-minded attitudes* UNBIASED, unprejudiced, neutral, non-judgemental, non-discriminatory, objective, disinterested, tolerant, liberal, permissive, broad-minded ② *musicians need to be open-minded* RECEPTIVE, open (to suggestions), amenable, flexible, willing to change.

—OPPOSITES prejudiced, narrow-minded

open-mouthed ▶ adjective ASTONDED, amazed, in amazement, surprised, stunned, bowled over, staggered, thunderstruck, aghast, stupefied, taken aback, shocked, speechless, dumbfounded, dumbstruck, *informal* flabbergasted, *Brit informal* gobsmacked

opera ▶ noun. See lists

operate ▶ verb ① *he can operate the machine* WORK, make go, run, use, utilize, handle, control, manage, drive, steer, manoeuvre ② *the machine ceased to operate* FUNCTION, work, go, run, be in working/running order, be operative ③ *the way the law operates in practice* TAKE EFFECT, act, apply, be applied, function ④ *Hechstetter operated the mines until 1634* DIRECT, control, manage, run, govern, administer, superintend, head (up), supervise, oversee, be in control/charge of ⑤ *doctors decided to operate* do an operation, perform surgery

operation ▶ noun ① *the slide bars ensure smooth operation* FUNCTIONING, working, running, performance, action ② *the operation of the factory* MANAGEMENT, running, governing, administration, supervision ③ *a heart bypass operation* SURGERY, surgical operation See list ④ *a military operation* ACTION, activity, exercise, undertaking, enterprise, manoeuvre, campaign ⑤ *their mining operations* BUSINESS, enterprise, company, firm, *informal* outfit

■ **In operation.** See OPERATIONAL

operational ▶ adjective (UP AND) RUNNING, working, functioning, operative, in operation, in use, in action, in working order, workable, serviceable, functional, usable

operative ▶ adjective ① *the act is not operative at the moment* IN FORCE, in operation, in effect, valid ② *the steam railway is operative* See OPERATIONAL ③ *the operative word* KEY, significant, relevant, applicable, pertinent, apposite, germane, crucial, critical, pivotal

—OPPOSITES invalid

▶ noun ① *the operatives clean the machines* MACHINIST, (machine) operator, mechanic, engineer, worker, workman, (factory) hand, blue-collar worker ② *an operative of the CIA* (SECRET) AGENT, undercover agent, spy, mole, plant, double agent, *N Amer informal* spook, *archaic* intelligencer ③ *a private operative* (PRIVATE) DE

Operas

OPERA

Africaine, L'
Aida
Albert Herring
Alceste
Alicia
Amahl and the Night Visitors
Andrea Chénier
Arabella
Ariadne auf Naxos
Ballo in Maschera, Un
Barber of Seville, The
Bartered Bride, The
Beatrice and Benedict
Beggar's Opera, The
Belle Hélène, La
Benvvenuto Cellini
Billy Budd
Bohème, La
Boris Godunov
Candide
Capriccio
Carmelites, The
Carmen
Cavalleria Rusticana
Cenerentola, La
Clemenza di Tito, La
Così fan tutte
Cunning Little Vixen, The
Damnation of Faust, The
Daughter of the Regiment, The
Death in Venice
Dido and Aeneas
Don Carlos
Don Giovanni
Don Pasquale
Duke Bluebeard's Castle
Elegy for Young Lovers

COMPOSER

Meyerbeer
Verdi
Britten
Gluck
Handel
Menotti
Giordano
Richard Strauss
Richard Strauss
Verdi
Rossini
Smetana
Berlioz
Gay
Offenbach
Berlioz
Britten
Puccini
Mussorgsky
Bernstein
Richard Strauss
Poulenc
Bizet
Mascagni
Rossini
Mozart
Mozart
Janáček
Berlioz
Donizetti
Britten
Purcell
Verdi
Mozart
Donizetti
Bartók
Henze

OPERA

Elektra
Elisir d'amore, L'
Enfant et les sortilèges, L'
Eman
Eugene Onegin
Falstaff
Faust
Fidelio
Fledermaus, Die
Flying Dutchman, The
Force of Destiny, The
Frau ohne Schatten, Die
Freischütz, Der
From the House of the Dead
Gianni Schicchi
Gloconda, La
Girl of the Golden West, The
Giulio Cesare
Gloriana
Golden Cockerel, The
Götterdämmerung
Hansel and Gretel
Huguenots, Les
Ice Break, The
Idomeneo
Incoronazione di Poppea, L'
Italiana in Algeri, L'
Julius Caesar
King Priam
Knot Garden, The
Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk
Lakmé
Lighthouse, The
Lohengrin
Love for Three Oranges, The
Lucia di Lammermoor
Lucrezia Borgia

COMPOSER

Richard Strauss
Donizetti
Ravel
Verdi
Tchaikovsky
Verdi
Gounod
Beethoven
Johann Strauss
Wagner
Verdi
Richard Strauss
Weber
Janáček
Puccini
Ponchielli
Puccini
Handel
Britten
Rimsky-Korsakov
Wagner
Humperdinck
Meyerbeer
Tippett
Mozart
Monteverdi
Rossini
Handel
Tippett
Tippett
Shostakovich
Delibes
Maxwell Davies
Wagner
Prokofiev
Donizetti
Donizetti

TECTIVE, (private) investigator, sleuth, *informal* private eye, *N Amer informal* gumshoe

operator ► **noun** ① *a machine operator* MACHINIST, mechanic, operative, engineer, worker ② *a tour operator* CONTRACTOR, entrepreneur, promoter, arranger, fixer ③ *(informal) a ruthless operator* MANIPULATOR, manoeuvrer, string-puller, mover and shaker, wheeler-dealer, *N Amer informal* wire-puller

opiate ► **noun** DRUG, narcotic, sedative, tranquilizer, depressant, soporific, anaesthetic, painkiller, analgesic, anodyne, morphine, opium, *informal* dope, *Medicine* stupeficient

opine ► **verb** (*formal*) SUGGEST, say, declare, observe, comment, remark, think, believe, consider, maintain, imagine, reckon, guess, assume, presume, take it, suppose, *N Amer informal* allow

opinion ► **noun** *she did not share her husband's opinion* BELIEF, judgement, thought(s), (way of) thinking, mind, (point of) view, viewpoint, attitude, stance, position, standpoint

■ **a matter of opinion** OPEN TO QUESTION, debatable, open to debate, a moot point

■ **be of the opinion** BELIEVE, think, consider, maintain, reckon, estimate, feel, be convinced, *N Amer informal* allow, *formal* opine

■ **in my opinion** AS I SEE IT, to my mind, (according) to my way of thinking, personally, in my estimation, if you ask me

opinionated ► **adjective** DOGMATIC, of fixed views, inflexible, uncompromising, prejudiced, bigoted

opponent ► **noun** ① *his Republican opponent* RIVAL, adversary, opposer, the opposition, fellow contestant, (fellow) competitor, enemy, antagonist, combatant, contender, challenger, poetic/literary foe ② *an opponent of the reforms* OPPOSER, objector, dissenter
—OPPOSITES ally, supporter

opportune ► **adjective** AUSPICIOUS, propitious, favourable, advantageous, golden, felicitous, timely, convenient, suitable, appropriate, apt, fitting

—OPPOSITES disadvantageous

opportunism ► **noun** EXPEDIENCY, pragmatism, Machiavellianism, striking while the iron is hot, making hay while the sun shines

opportunity ► **noun** (LUCKY) CHANCE, golden opportunity, favourable time/occasion/moment, time, occasion, moment, opening, option, window (of opportunity), possibility, scope, freedom, *informal* shot, break, look-in

oppose ► **verb** BE AGAINST, object to, be hostile to, be in opposition to, disagree with, dislike,

Operas (cont.)

OPERA

Luisa Miller
Lulu
Macbeth
Madam Butterfly
Magic Flute, The
Makropoulos Case, The
Manon
Manon Lescaut
Maria Stuarda
Marriage of Figaro, The
Martha
Mask of Orpheus, The
Meistersinger von Nürnberg, Die
Merry Widow, The
Merry Wives of Windsor, The
Midsummer Marriage, A
Midsummer Night's Dream, A
Moses in Egypt
Moses und Aron
Nabucco
Norma
Noye's Fludde
Oberon
Oedipus Rex
Orfeo
Orpheus and Eurydice
Orpheus in the Underworld
Otello
Pagliacci, I
Parsifal
Pearl Fishers, The
Pelléas et Mélisande
Peter Grimes
Porgy and Bess
Prince Igor
Puritani, I
Queen of Spades, The

COMPOSER

Verdi
Berg
Verdi
Puccini
Mozart
Janáček
Massenet
Puccini
Donizetti
Mozart
Flotow
Birtwistle
Wagner
Léhar
Nicolai
Tippett
Britten
Rossini
Schönberg
Verdi
Bellini
Britten
Weber
Stravinsky
Monteverdi
Gluck
Offenbach
Verdi
Leoncavallo
Wagner
Bizet
Debussy
Britten
Gershwin
Borodin
Bellini
Tchaikovsky

OPERA

Rake's Progress, The
Rheingold, Das
Rienzi
Rigoletto
Ring of the Nibelung, The
Rosenkavalier, Der
Salome
Samson et Dalila
Semele
Semiramide
Seraglio, Il
Siegfried
Simon Boccanegra
Sonnambula, La
Suor Angelica
Tabarro, Il
Tales of Hoffman, The
Tannhäuser
Thieving Magpie, The
Threepenny Opera, The
Tosca
Traviata, La
Tristan and Isolde
Trittico, Il
Trojans, The
Trovatore, Il
Turandot
Turn of the Screw, The
Village Romeo and Juliet, A
Walküre, Die
Werther
William Tell
Wozzeck
Xerxes

COMPOSER

Stravinsky
Wagner
Wagner
Verdi
Wagner
Richard Strauss
Richard Strauss
Saint-Saëns
Handel
Rossini
Mozart
Wagner
Verdi
Bellini
Puccini
Puccini
Offenbach
Wagner
Rossini
Weill
Puccini
Verdi
Wagner
Puccini
Berlioz
Verdi
Puccini
Britten
Dellius
Wagner
Massenet
Rossini
Berg
Handel



Opera Singers

Alagna, Roberto (French tenor)
 Allen, Thomas (English baritone)
 Alva, Luigi (Peruvian tenor)
 Ameling, Ely (Dutch soprano)
 Arroyo, Martina (American soprano)
 Atlantov, Vladimir (Russian tenor)
 Bailey, Norman (English bass)
 Baker, Janet (English mezzo-soprano)
 Baitsa, Agnes (Greek mezzo-soprano)
 Bartoli, Cecilia (Italian mezzo-soprano)
 Berganza, Teresa (Spanish mezzo-soprano)
 Bergonzi, Carlo (Italian tenor)
 Björling, Jussi (Swedish tenor)
 Bowman, James (English countertenor)
 Bumbry, Grace (American mezzo-soprano)
 Butt, Clara (English contralto)
 Caballé, Montserrat (Spanish soprano)
 Callas, Maria (American soprano, of Greek parentage)
 Carreras, José (Spanish tenor)
 Caruso, Enrico (Italian tenor)
 Chaliapin, Fyodor (Russian bass)
 Christoff, Boris (Bulgarian bass)
 Clark, Graham (English tenor)
 Corelli, Franco (Italian tenor)
 Cross, Joan (English soprano)
 Cura, José (Argentinian tenor)
 Deller, Alfred (English countertenor)
 del Monaco, Mario (Italian tenor)
 de los Angeles, Victoria (Spanish soprano)
 Domgraf-Fassbänder, Willi (German baritone)
 Domingo, Plácido (Spanish tenor)
 Donath, Helen (American soprano)
 Evans, Geraint (Welsh baritone)
 Ferner, Kathleen (English contralto)
 Fischer-Dieskau, Dietrich (German baritone)
 Flagstad, Kirsten (Norwegian soprano)
 Freni, Mirella (Italian soprano)
 Garden, Mary (American soprano, b. in Scotland)
 Garrett, Lesley (English soprano)
 Gedda, Nicolai (Swedish tenor)
 Gheorghiu, Angela (Romanian soprano)
 Ghiaurov, Nicolai (Bulgarian bass)
 Gigli, Beniamino (Italian tenor)
 Gobbi, Tito (Italian baritone)
 Gruberová, Edita (Slovak soprano)
 Hammond, Joan (Australian soprano)
 Horne, Marilyn (American mezzo-soprano)
 Hotter, Hans (German bass)
 Hvorostovsky, Dmitri (Russian baritone)
 Jerusalem, Siegfried (German tenor)
 Kenny, Yvonne (Australian soprano)
 Kollo, René (German tenor)
 Kraus, Alfredo (Spanish tenor)
 Krause, Tom (Finnish baritone)
 Lehmann, Lilli (German soprano)
 Lehmann, Lotte (American soprano, b. in Germany)
 Leifertus, Sergei (Russian baritone)
 Lind, Jenny (Swedish soprano)
 Lloyd, Robert (English bass-baritone)
 Lott, Felicity (English soprano)
 Ludwig, Christa (German mezzo-soprano)
 Luxon, Benjamin (English baritone)
 Malfitano, Catherine (American soprano)
 McCormack, John (American tenor, b. in Ireland)
 McIntyre, Donald (New Zealand bass-baritone)
 Melba, Nellie (Australian soprano)
 Merrill, Robert (American baritone)
 Milnes, Sherrill (American baritone)
 Moffo, Anna (American soprano)
 Murray, Ann (British mezzo-soprano, b. in Ireland)
 Nilsson, Birgit (Swedish soprano)
 Norman, Jessye (American soprano)
 O'Neill, Dennis (Welsh tenor)
 Patti, Adeline (Italian soprano)
 Pavarotti, Luciano (Italian tenor)
 Pears, Peter (English tenor)
 Pinza, Ezio (Italian bass)
 Pons, Lily (American soprano, b. in France)
 Ponselle, Rosa (American mezzo-soprano)
 Popp, Lucia (Czech soprano)
 Prey, Hermann (German baritone)
 Price, Leontyne (American soprano)
 Price, Margaret (Welsh soprano)
 Raimondi, Ruggero (Italian bass)
 Ramey, Samuel (American bass-baritone)
 Ricciarelli, Katia (Italian soprano)
 Rothenberger, Annaliese (German soprano)
 Rysanek, Leonie (Austrian soprano)
 Salminen, Matti (Finnish bass)
 Sass, Sylvia (Hungarian soprano)
 Schipa, Tito (Italian tenor)
 Schumann, Elisabeth (German soprano)
 Schwarzkopf, Elisabeth (British soprano, b. in Germany)
 Sciutti, Graziella (Italian soprano)
 Scotto, Renata (Italian soprano)
 Siepi, Cesare (Italian bass)
 Sills, Beverly (American soprano)
 Söderström, Elisabeth (Swedish soprano)
 Studer, Cheryl (American soprano)
 Sutherland, Joan (Australian soprano)
 Tauber, Richard (British tenor, b. in Austria)
 Tear, Robert (English tenor)
 Tebaldi, Renata (Italian soprano)
 Te Kanawa, Kiri (New Zealand soprano)
 Terfel, Bryn (Welsh bass-baritone)
 Tetrizzini, Luisa (Italian soprano)
 Tomlinson, John (English bass)
 Tomowa-Sintow, Anna (Bulgarian soprano)
 Tucker, Richard (American tenor)
 Turner, Eva (English soprano)
 Ulfung, Ragnar (Norwegian tenor)
 Van Dam, José (Belgian bass)
 Vickers, Jon (Canadian tenor)
 Vinay, Ramón (Chilean tenor)
 von Stade, Frederica (American mezzo-soprano)
 Welitsch, Ljuba (Austrian soprano, b. in Bulgaria)
 Windbergh, Gösta (Swedish tenor)
 Wunderlich, Fritz (German tenor)

disapprove of, resist, take a stand against, put up a fight against, stand up to, fight, challenge, take issue with, dispute, argue with/against, quarrel with, *informal* be anti, *formal* gainsay.
 —OPPOSITES support

opposed ► adjective ① the population is opposed to the nuclear power plants. AGAINST, (dead) set against, in opposition, averse, hostile, antagon-

istic, antipathetic, resistant; *informal* anti ② their interests were opposed CONFLICTING, contrasting, incompatible, irreconcilable, antithetical, contradictory, clashing, at variance, at odds, divergent, poles apart

—OPPOSITES in favour of

■ as opposed to IN CONTRAST WITH, as against, as contrasted with, rather than, instead of.

Surgical Operations

TECHNICAL NAME	PROCEDURE
adenoidectomy	removal of adenoids
angioplasty	repair of blood vessel
appendectomy/ appendicectomy	removal of appendix
arteriotomy	incision of artery
blepharoplasty	repair or reconstruction of eyelid
Caesarean (section)	incision of wall of mother's abdomen to deliver child
cheiloplasty	repair of lips
cholecystectomy	removal of gall bladder
cholecystotomy	incision of gall bladder
colectomy	removal of colon
colostomy	opening of colon
craniotomy	incision of skull
cystectomy	removal of bladder/removal of cyst
cystoplasty	repair of bladder
cystostomy	opening of bladder
cystotomy	incision of bladder
dermatoplasty	repair of skin
embolectomy	removal of blood clot
enterostomy	opening of small intestine
enterotomy	incision of intestine
episiotomy	incision of vaginal opening
gastrectomy	removal of stomach
gastroplasty	repair of stomach
gastrostomy	opening of stomach
gastrotomy	incision of stomach
glossectomy	removal of tongue
haemorrhoidectomy	removal of haemorrhoids
hepatectomy	removal of liver
hepaticostomy	opening of bile duct
hysterectomy	removal of womb
hysterotomy	incision of womb
keratotomy	incision of cornea
laminectomy	removal of back of vertebra/vertebrae
laparotomy	incision of abdomen
laryngectomy	removal of larynx
laryngotomy	incision of larynx
lithotomy	removal of kidney stone
lobectomy	removal of lobe of an organ
lobotomy	incision of prefrontal lobe of brain
lumpectomy	removal of breast tumour
mammoplasty	reshaping of breast
mastectomy	removal of breast
myotomy	incision of muscle
nephrectomy	removal of kidney
nephrostomy	opening of kidney
nephrotomy	incision of kidney

TECHNICAL NAME	PROCEDURE
neurectomy	removal of nerve
neurotomy	incision of nerve
oesophagectomy	opening of oesophagus
oophorectomy	removal of ovary
orchidectomy	removal of testis
orchidotomy	incision of testis
ostectomy	removal of bone
osteotomy	incision of bone
otoplasty	repair or reshaping of ear
ovariectomy	removal of ovary
ovariotomy	incision of ovary
palatoplasty	repair of cleft palate
pancreatectomy	removal of pancreas
pericardiectomy/ pericardectomy	removal of membrane around heart
pericardiotomy	incision of membrane around heart
perineoplasty	repair of vaginal opening
phalloplasty	repair of penis
pharyngectomy	removal of pharynx
phlebotomy	incision of vein
pleurotomy	incision of pleural membrane
pneumonectomy	removal of lung
polypectomy	removal of polyp
prostatectomy	removal of prostate gland
rhinoplasty	repair of nose
salpingectomy	removal of fallopian tube
salpingostomy	opening of fallopian tube
splenectomy	removal of spleen
tenotomy	incision of tendon
thoracoplasty	repair of thorax
thoracotomy	incision of chest cavity
thrombectomy	removal of blood clot
thymectomy	removal of thymus gland
thyroidectomy	removal of all or part of thyroid gland
tonsillectomy	removal of tonsils
tonsillotomy	incision of tonsil
tracheostomy	opening of windpipe
tracheotomy	incision of windpipe
ureterectomy	removal of ureter
ureterostomy	opening of ureter
ureterotomy	incision of ureter
urethroplasty	repair of urethra
urethrotomy	incision of urethra
vagotomy	incision of vagus nerve
valvotomy	incision of heart valve
vancotomy	removal of varicose vein
vasectomy	removal of vas deferens
vitrectomy	removal of vitreous humour from eyeball

opposing ► adjective ① the two opposing points of view CONFLICTING, contrasting, opposite, incompatible, irreconcilable, contradictory, antithetical, clashing, at variance, at odds, divergent, opposed, poles apart ② opposing sides in the war RIVAL, opposite, enemy ③ the opposing page OPPOSITE, facing

opposite ► adjective ① they sat opposite each other: FACING, face to face with, across from, informal eyeball to eyeball with ② the opposite page FACING, opposing ③ opposite views CONFLICTING, contrasting, incompatible, irreconcilable, antithetical, contradictory, clashing, at variance, at odds, different, differing, diver-

gent, dissimilar, unlike, disagreeing, opposed, opposing, poles apart ④ opposite sides in a war RIVAL, opposing, enemy
-OPPOSITES same

► noun in fact the opposite was true REVERSE, converse, antithesis, contrary, inverse, obverse, antipode, the other side of the coin, informal flip side

opposition ► noun ① the proposal met with opposition RESISTANCE, hostility, antagonism, antipathy, objection, dissent, disapproval; defiance, non-compliance, obstruction ② they beat the opposition OPPONENTS, opposing side, other side/team, competition, opposers, rivals, adver-

series ① the opposition between the public and the private domains CONFLICT, clash, disparity, antithesis, polarity

oppress ▶ verb ① the invaders oppressed the people PERSECUTE, abuse, maltreat, ill-treat, tyrannize, crush, repress, suppress, subjugate, subdue, keep down, grind down, rule with a rod of iron, ride roughshod over ② the gloom oppressed her DEPRESS, make gloomy/despondent, weigh down, weigh heavily on, cast down, dampen someone's spirits, dispirit, dishearten, discourage, sadden, get down, *archaic* deject

oppressed ▶ adjective PERSECUTED, downtrodden, abused, maltreated, ill-treated, subjugated, tyrannized, repressed, subdued, crushed, disadvantaged, underprivileged

oppression ▶ noun PERSECUTION, abuse, maltreatment, ill-treatment, tyranny, repression, suppression, subjection, subjugation, cruelty, brutality, injustice, hardship, suffering, misery

oppressive ▶ adjective ① an oppressive dictatorship HARSH, cruel, brutal, repressive, tyrannical, autocratic, dictatorial, despotic, undemocratic, ruthless, merciless, pitiless ② an oppressive sense of despair OVERWHELMING, overpowering, unbearable, unendurable, intolerable ③ it was grey and oppressive MUGGY, close, heavy, hot, humid, sticky, steamy, airless, stuffy, stifling, sultry
—OPPOSITES lenient

oppressor ▶ noun PERSECUTOR, tyrant, despot, autocrat, dictator, subjugator, tormentor

opprobrious ▶ adjective ABUSIVE, vituperative, derogatory, disparaging, denigratory, pejorative, deprecatory, insulting, offensive, scornful, contemptuous, derisive, *informal* bitchy, *archaic* contumelious

opprobrium ▶ noun ① the government endured months of opprobrium VILIFICATION, abuse, vituperation, condemnation, criticism, censure, denunciation, defamation, denigration, disparagement, obloquy, derogation, slander, revilement, calumny, execration, bad press, invective, *informal* flak, mud-slinging, bad-mouthing, *Bnt informal* stick, *formal* castigation, excommunication, *archaic* contumely ② the opprobrium of being associated with thugs DISGRACE, shame, dishonour, stigma, humiliation, loss of face, ignominy, disrepute, infamy, notoriety, scandal
—OPPOSITES praise, honour.

opt ▶ verb CHOOSE, select, pick (out), decide on, go for, settle on, plump for

optimism ▶ noun HOPEFULNESS, hope, confidence, buoyancy, sanguineness, positiveness, positive attitude

optimistic ▶ adjective ① she felt optimistic about the future POSITIVE, confident, hopeful, sanguine, bullish, buoyant, *informal* upbeat ② the forecast is optimistic ENCOURAGING, promising, hopeful, reassuring, favourable, auspicious, propitious
—OPPOSITES pessimistic

optimum ▶ adjective BEST, most favourable, most advantageous, ideal, perfect, prime, optimal.

option ▶ noun CHOICE, alternative, possibility, course of action.

optional ▶ adjective VOLUNTARY, discretionary, non-compulsory, non-mandatory, *Law* permissive

—OPPOSITES compulsory

opulence ▶ noun ① the opulence of the room LUXURIOSITY, sumptuousness, lavishness, richness, luxury, luxuriance, splendour, magnificence, grandeur, splendour; *informal* plushness ② a display of opulence WEALTH, affluence, wealthiness, richness, riches, prosperity, prosperousness, money
—OPPOSITES poverty

opulent ▶ adjective ① his opulent home LUXURIOUS, sumptuous, palatial, lavishly appointed, rich, splendid, magnificent, grand, grandiose, fancy, *informal* plush, swanky, *Bnt informal* swish, *N Amer informal* swank ② an opulent family WEALTHY, rich, affluent, well off, well-to-do, moneyed, prosperous, of substance, *informal* well heeled, rolling in money, loaded, stinking/filthy rich, made of money ③ her opulent red hair COPIOUS, abundant, profuse, prolific, plentiful, luxuriant
—OPPOSITES spartan, poor

opus ▶ noun COMPOSITION, work (of art), oeuvre

oracle ▶ noun ① the oracle of Apollo PROPHET, PROPHETESS, sibyl, seer, augur, prognosticator, diviner, soothsayer, fortune teller ② our oracle on Africa AUTHORITY, expert, specialist, pundit, mentor, adviser

oracular ▶ adjective ① his every utterance was given oracular significance PROPHETIC, prophetic, sibylline, predictive, prescient, prognostic, divinatory, augural ② oracular responses ENIGMATIC, cryptic, abstruse, unclear, obscure, confusing, mystifying, puzzling, mysterious, arcane, ambiguous, equivocal

oral ▶ adjective an oral agreement SPOKEN, verbal, unwritten, vocal, uttered, said
—OPPOSITES written

▶ noun a French oral ORAL EXAMINATION, *Bnt* viva (voce)

orate ▶ verb DECLAIM, make a speech, hold forth, speak, discourse, pontificate, preach, sermonize, sound off, spout off, *informal* spiel, *formal* perorate

oration ▶ noun SPEECH, address, lecture, talk, homily, sermon, discourse, declamation, *informal* spiel

orator ▶ noun (PUBLIC) SPEAKER, speech-maker, lecturer, declaimer, rhetorician, rhetor; *informal* spieler See list

oratorical ▶ adjective RHETORICAL, grandiloquent, magniloquent, high-flown, orotund, bombastic, grandiose, pompous, pretentious, overblown, turgid, flowery, florid

oratory ▶ noun RHETORIC, eloquence, grandiloquence, magniloquence, public speaking, speech-making, declamation.

orb ▶ noun SPHERE, globe, ball, circle

orbit ▶ noun ① the earth's orbit around the sun COURSE, path, circuit, track, trajectory, rotation, revolution, circle ② the problem comes outside our orbit; SPHERE (OF INFLUENCE), area of activity, range, scope, ambit, compass, jurisdiction, authority, remit, domain, realm, province, territory; *informal* bailiwick.

▶ verb Mercury orbits the sun: REVOLVE ROUND, circle round, go round, travel round.



Orators

Aeschines (Athenian)
Beecher, Henry Ward (American)
Churchill, Winston (British)
Cato, Marcus Porcius (Roman)
Cicero, Marcus Tullius (Roman)
Cleon (Athenian)
Danton, Georges (Jacques)
(French)
Demosthenes (Athenian)
Desmoulins, Camille (French)

Dion Chrysostom (Greek)
Flood, Henry (Irish)
Gandhi, Mahatma (Indian)
Garvey, Marcus (Jamaican)
Grattan, Henry (Irish)
Hébert, Jacques-René (French)
Henry, Patrick (American)
Ibárruri, Dolores (Spanish, known
as 'La Pasionaria')
Isocrates (Athenian)

King, Jr. Martin Luther (American)
Longinus Dionysus (Greek)
Lucian (Greek)
Lysias (Greek)
Malcolm X (American)
Pericles (Athenian)
Quintilian (Roman)
Sheridan, Richard Brinsley (Irish)

Orchestral Instruments

bass clarinet	flute	timpani
bass drum	French horn	triangle
basset horn	glockenspiel	trombone
bassoon	harp	trumpet
bass tuba	kettledrums	tuba
celesta	oboe	tubular bells
cello	oboe	viola
clarinet	d'amore	viola
contrabassoon	piccolo	d'amore
cor anglais	side drum	violin
cymbals	snare drum	Wagner tuba
double bass	tam-tam	

orchestra ► noun ENSEMBLE, informal band See

orchestrate ► verb ① the piece was orchestrated by Mozart ARRANGE, adapt, score ② orchestrating a campaign of civil disobedience ORGANIZE, arrange, plan, set up, bring about, mobilize, mount, stage, stage-manage, mastermind, coordinate, direct, engineer

ordain ► verb ① the Church of England voted to ordain women CONFER HOLY ORDERS ON, appoint, anoint, consecrate ② the path ordained by God PREDETERMINE, predestine, preordain, determine, prescribe, designate ③ he ordained that anyone hunting in the forest was to pay a fine DECREE, rule, order, command, lay down, legislate, prescribe, pronounce

ordeal ► noun UNPLEASANT EXPERIENCE, painful experience, trial, tribulation, nightmare, trauma, hell (on earth), trouble, difficulty, torture, torment, agony

order ► noun ① alphabetical order SEQUENCE, arrangement, organization, disposition, system, series, succession, grouping, classification, categorization, codification, systematization ② some semblance of order TIDINESS, neatness, orderliness, trimness ③ the police were needed to keep order PEACE, control, law (and order), lawfulness, discipline, calm, (peace and) quiet, peacefulness, peaceableness ④ his sense of order ORDERLINESS, organization, method, system, symmetry, uniformity, regularity, routine ⑤ the equipment was in good order CONDITION, state, repair, shape. ⑥ I had to obey his orders. COMMAND, instruction, directive, direction, decree, edict, injunction, mandate, dictate, commandment, rescript, law, rule, regulation, dictate, demand, bidding, requirement, stipulation, informal say-so; formal ordinance, poetic/literary behest ⑦ the company has won the order COMMISSION, purchase order, request, requisition;

booking, reservation ⑧ the lower orders of society CLASS, level, rank, grade, degree, position, category, dated station ⑨ the established social order (CLASS) SYSTEM, hierarchy, pecking order, grading, ranking, scale ⑩ the higher orders of insects TAXONOMIC GROUP, class, family, species, breed, taxon ⑪ a religious order COMMUNITY, brotherhood, sisterhood ⑫ the Orange Order ORGANIZATION, association, society, fellowship, fraternity, confraternity, sodality, lodge, guild, league, union, club, sect ⑬ skills of a very high order TYPE, kind, sort, nature, variety, quality, calibre, standard
-OPPOSITES chaos

► verb ① he ordered me to return INSTRUCT, command, direct, enjoin, tell, require, charge, formal adjure, poetic/literary bid ② he ordered that their assets be confiscated DECREE, ordain, rule, legislate, dictate, prescribe ③ you can order your tickets by phone REQUEST, apply for, place an order for, book, reserve, formal bespeak ④ the messages are ordered chronologically ORGANIZE, put in order, arrange, sort out, marshal, dispose, lay out, group, classify, categorize, catalogue, codify, systematize, systemize

■ in order ① list the dates in order IN SEQUENCE, in alphabetical order, in numerical order, in order of priority ② he found everything in order TIDY, neat, orderly, straight, trim, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order, in position, in place ③ I think it's in order for me to take the credit APPROPRIATE, fitting, suitable, acceptable, (all) right, permissible, permitted, allowable, informal okay

■ order someone about/around TELL SOME ONE WHAT TO DO, give orders to, dictate to, lay down the law, informal boss about/around, push about/around.

■ out of order ① the lift's out of order NOT WORKING, not in working order, not functioning, broken, broken-down, out of service, out of commission; faulty, defective, inoperative, down, informal conked out, bust, (gone) kaput, N Amer informal on the fritz, out of whack ② Bnt informal that's really out of order UNACCEPTABLE, unfair, unjust, unjustified, uncalled for, below the belt, unreasonable, unwarranted, beyond the pale, informal not on, a bit much, Bnt informal a bit thick, off, not cricket, Austral/NZ informal over the fence.

orderly ► adjective ① an orderly room NEAT, tidy, well ordered, in order, trim, in apple-pie order, spick and span; Bnt informal, dated shipshape (and Bristol fashion) ② the orderly presentation of information (WELL) ORGANIZED, efficient, methodical, systematic, meticulous, punctilious; coherent, structured, logical, well planned, well regulated, systematized. ③ the crowd was orderly;



WELL BEHAVED, law-abiding, disciplined, peaceful, peaceable, non-violent
 -OPPOSITES untidy, disorganized

ordinance ► **noun** (formal) ① the president issued an ordinance EDICT, decree, law, injunction, fiat, command, order, rule, ruling, dictum, dictate, directive, mandate ② religious ordinances RITE, ritual, ceremony, sacrament, observance, service

ordinarily ► **adverb** USUALLY, normally, as a (general) rule, generally, in general, for the most part, mainly, mostly, most of the time, typically, habitually, commonly, routinely

ordinary ► **adjective** ① the ordinary course of events USUAL, normal, standard, typical, common, customary, habitual, everyday, regular, routine, day-to-day ② my life seemed very ordinary AVERAGE, normal, run-of-the-mill, standard, typical, middle-of-the-road, conventional, unremarkable, unexceptional, workaday, undistinguished, nondescript, colourless, commonplace, humdrum, mundane, unmemorable, pedestrian, prosaic, quotidian, uninteresting, uneventful, dull, boring, bland, suburban, hackneyed, *N Amer* garden-variety; informal bog-standard, (plain) vanilla, nothing to write home about, no great shakes, *Brit informal* common or garden, *N Amer informal* ornery
 -OPPOSITES unusual

■ **out of the ordinary** UNUSUAL, exceptional, remarkable, extraordinary, unexpected, surprising, unaccustomed, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, different, special, exciting, memorable, noteworthy, unique, singular, outstanding, unconventional, unorthodox, strange, peculiar, odd, queer, curious, bizarre, outlandish, informal offbeat

ordnance ► **noun** GUNS cannon, artillery, weapons, arms, munitions

ordure ► **noun** EXCREMENT, excreta, dung, manure, muck, droppings, faeces, stools, night soil, sewage, informal pooh, *Brit informal* cack, big jobs, *N Amer informal* poop

organ ► **noun** ① he plays the organ See list ② the internal organs BODY PART, biological structure ③ the official organ of the Communist Party NEWS PAPER, paper, journal, periodical, magazine, newsletter, gazette, publication, mouthpiece, informal rag

Musical Organs

American organ
 barrel organ
 chamber organ
 cinema organ
 electric organ
 electronic organ
 Hammond organ
 (trademark)
 hand organ
 harmonica

harmonium
 melodeon
 mouth organ
 piano organ
 pipe organ
 portative organ
 positive organ
 reed organ
 steam organ
 Wurlitzer (trademark)

organic ► **adjective** ① organic matter LIVING, live, animate, biological, biotic. ② organic vegetables: PESTICIDE-FREE, additive-free, natural ③ the love scenes were an organic part of the drama ESSENTIAL, fundamental, integral, intrinsic, vital, indispensable, inherent. ④ a society is an

organic whole STRUCTURED, organized, coherent, integrated, coordinated, ordered, harmonious

organism ► **noun** ① fish and other organisms LIVING THING, being, creature, animal, plant, life form ② a complex political organism STRUCTURE, system, organization, entity

organization ► **noun** ① the organization of conferences PLANNING, arrangement, coordination, administration, organizing, running, management ② the overall organization of the book STRUCTURE, arrangement, plan, pattern, order, form, format, framework, composition, constitution ③ his lack of organization EFFICIENCY, order, orderliness, planning ④ a large international organization COMPANY, firm, corporation, institution, group, consortium, conglomerate, agency, association, society, informal outfit

organize ► **verb** ① organizing and disseminating information (PUT IN) ORDER, arrange, sort (out), assemble, marshal, put straight, group, classify, collocate, categorize, catalogue, codify, systematize, systemize, rare methodize ② they organized a search party MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR, arrange, coordinate, sort out, put together, fix up, set up, orchestrate, take care of, see to/about, deal with, manage, conduct, administer, mobilize, schedule, timetable, programme, formal concert

organized ► **adjective** (WELL) ORDERED, well run, well regulated, structured, orderly, efficient, neat, tidy, methodical, informal together
 -OPPOSITES inefficient

orgiastic ► **adjective** DEBAUCHED, wild, riotous, wanton, dissolute, depraved

orgy ► **noun** ① a drunken orgy WILD PARTY, debauch, carousal, carouse, revel, revelry, informal binge, booze-up, bender, love-in, *Brit informal* rave-up, *N Amer informal* toot; poetic/literary bacchanal, archaic wassail ② an orgy of violence BOUT, excess, spree, surfeit, informal binge

orient, orientate ► **verb** ① there were no street names to enable her to orient herself GET/FIND ONE'S BEARINGS, establish one's location ② you need to orientate yourself to your new way of life ADAPT, adjust, familiarize, acclimatize, accustom, attune, *N Amer* acclimate ③ magazines oriented to the business community AIM, direct, pitch, design, intend ④ the fires are oriented in line with the sunset ALIGN, place, position, dispose

oriental ► **adjective** EASTERN, Far Eastern, Asian, poetic/literary orient

orientation ► **noun** ① the orientation of the radar station POSITIONING, location, position, situation, placement, alignment ② his orientation to his new way of life ADAPTATION, adjustment, acclimatization ③ broadly Marxist in orientation ATTITUDE, inclination ④ orientation courses INDUCTION, training, initiation, briefing.

orifice ► **noun** OPENING, hole, aperture, slot, slit, cleft

origin ► **noun** ① the origins of life: BEGINNING, start, commencement, origination, genesis, birth, dawning, dawn, emergence, creation, birthplace, cradle; source, basis, cause, root(s), formal radix. ② the Latin origin of the word SOURCE, derivation, root(s), provenance, etymology; *N Amer* provenience. ③ his Scottish origins: DESCENT, ancestry, parentage, pedigree,

lineage, line (of descent), heritage, birth, extraction, family, stock, blood, bloodline

original ▶ **adjective** ① *the original inhabitants IN DIGENOUS, native, aboriginal, autochthonous, first, earliest, early* ② *original Rembrandts AUTHENTIC, genuine, actual, true, bona fide, informal pukka, kosher* ③ *the film is highly original IN NOVATIVE, creative, imaginative, innovative, inventive, new, novel, fresh, refreshing, unusual, unconventional, unorthodox ground-breaking, pioneering, avant-garde, unique, distinctive*

▶ **noun** ① *a copy of the original ARCHETYPE, prototype, source, master* ② *he really is an original IN DIVIDUALIST, individual, eccentric, nonconformist, free spirit, maverick, informal character, oddball, Brt informal one-off, odd bod, N Amer informal screwball, kook*

originality ▶ **noun** INVENTIVENESS, ingenuity, creativeness, creativity, innovation, novelty, freshness, imagination, imaginativeness, individuality, unconventionality, uniqueness, distinctiveness

originally ▶ **adverb** (AT) FIRST, IN/at the beginning, to begin with, initially, in the first place, at the outset

originate ▶ **verb** ① *the disease originates from Africa* ARISE, have its origin, begin, start, stem, spring, emerge, emanate ② *Bill Levy originated the idea* INVENT, create, initiate, devise, think up, dream up, conceive, formulate, form, develop, generate, engender, produce, mastermind, pioneer, poetic/literary beget

originator ▶ **noun** INVENTOR, creator, architect, author, father, mother, initiator, innovator, founder, pioneer, mastermind, poetic/literary begetter

ornament ▶ **noun** ① *small tables covered with ornaments* KNICK-KNACK, trinket, bauble, bibelot, gewgaw, gimcrack, furbelow, informal whatnot, doodah, N Amer informal tchotchke, archaic whin-wham, kickshaw, bijou ② *the dress had no ornament at all* DECORATION, adornment, embellishment, ornamentation, trimming, accessories

▶ **verb** *the room was highly ornamented* DECORATE, adorn, embellish, trim, bedeck, deck (out), festoon, poetic/literary bedizen, furbelow

ornamental ▶ **adjective** DECORATIVE, fancy, ornate, ornamented

ornamentation ▶ **noun** DECORATION, adornment, embellishment, ornament, trimming, accessories

ornate ▶ **adjective** ① *an ornate mirror* ELABORATE, decorated, embellished, adorned, ornamented, fancy, fussy, ostentatious, showy, informal flash, flashy ② *ornate language* ELABORATE, flowery, florid, grandiose, pompous, pretentious, high-flown, orotund, magniloquent, grandiloquent, rhetorical, oratorical, bombastic, overwrought, overblown, informal highfalutin, purple
-OPPOSITES plain

orotund ▶ **adjective** ① *Halliwel's orotund voice* DEEP, sonorous, strong, powerful, full, rich, resonant, loud, booming ② *the orotund rhetoric of his prose* POMPOUS, pretentious, affected, fulsome, grandiose, ornate, overblown, flowery, florid, high-flown, magniloquent, grandiloquent, rhetorical, oratorical; informal highfalutin, purple

orthodox ▶ **adjective** ① *orthodox views* CONVENTIONAL, mainstream, conformist, (well) established, traditional, traditionalist, prevalent, popular, conservative, unoriginal ② *an orthodox Hindu* CONSERVATIVE, traditional, observant, devout, strict

-OPPOSITES unconventional

orthodoxy ▶ **noun** ① *a pillar of orthodoxy* CONVENTIONALITY, conventionalism, conformism, conservatism, traditionalism, conformity ② *Christian orthodoxies* DOCTRINE, belief, conviction, creed, dogma, credo, theory, tenet, teaching

oscillate ▶ **verb** ① *the pendulum started to oscillate* SWING (TO AND FRO), swing back and forth, sway, N Amer informal wigwag ② *oscillating between fear and bravery* WAVER, swing, fluctuate, alternate, see-saw, yo-yo, sway, vacillate, hover, informal wobble

oscillation ▶ **noun** ① *the oscillation of the pendulum* SWINGING (TO AND FRO), swing, swaying ② *his oscillation between commerce and art* WAVERING, swinging, fluctuation, see-sawing, yo-yoing, vacillation

ossify ▶ **verb** ① *these cartilages may ossify* TURN INTO BONE, become bony, harden, solidify, rigidify, petrify ② *ossified political institutions* BECOME INFLEXIBLE, become rigid, fossilize, rigidify, stagnate

ostensible ▶ **adjective** APPARENT, outward, superficial, professed, supposed, alleged, purported

-OPPOSITES genuine

ostensibly ▶ **adverb** APPARENTLY, seemingly, on the face of it, to all intents and purposes, outwardly, superficially, allegedly, supposedly, purportedly

ostentation ▶ **noun** SHOWINESS, show, ostentatiousness, pretentiousness, vulgarity, conspicuousness, display, flamboyance, gaudiness, blashness, extravagance, ornateness, exhibitionism, informal flashiness, glitz, glitziness, ritziness

ostentatious ▶ **adjective** SHOWY, pretentious, conspicuous, flamboyant, gaudy, brash, vulgar, loud, extravagant, fancy, ornate, over-elaborate, informal flash, flashy, over the top, OTT, glitzy, ritzy, N Amer informal superfly

-OPPOSITES restrained

ostracism ▶ **noun** EXCLUSION, rejection, shunning, spurning, the cold shoulder, snubbing, avoidance, blackballing, blacklisting

ostracize ▶ **verb** EXCLUDE, shun, spurn, cold-shoulder, reject, shut out, avoid, ignore, snub, cut dead, keep at arm's length, leave out in the cold, blackball, blacklist, Brt send to Coventry, informal freeze out, Brt informal blank

-OPPOSITES welcome

other ▶ **adjective** ① *these homes use other fuels* ALTERNATIVE, different, dissimilar, disparate, distinct, separate, contrasting ② *are there any other questions?* MORE, further, additional, extra, added, supplementary

otherwise ▶ **adverb** ① *hurry up, otherwise we'll be late* OR (ELSE), if not ② *she's exhausted, but otherwise she's fine* IN OTHER RESPECTS, apart from that ③ *he could not have acted otherwise* IN ANY OTHER WAY, differently

other-worldly ▶ **adjective** ETHEREAL, dreamy, spiritual, mystic, mystical, unearthly, unworldly, supernatural
—**OPPOSITES** realistic

ounce ▶ **noun** PARTICLE, scrap, bit, speck, iota, whit, jot, trace, atom, shred, crumb, fragment, grain, drop, spot, *informal* smidgen

oust ▶ **verb** DRIVE OUT, expel, force out, throw out, remove (from office/power), eject, get rid of, depose, topple, unseat, overthrow, bring down, overturn, dismiss, dislodge, displace, *informal* boot out, kick out, *Brit informal* turf out, *dated* out

out ▶ **adjective & adverb** ① *she's out at the moment* NOT HERE, not at home, not in, (gone) away, elsewhere, absent ② *the secret was out* REVEALED, (out) in the open, common/public knowledge, known, disclosed, divulged ③ *the roses are out in flower*, flowering, in (full) bloom, blooming, in blossom, blossoming, open ④ *the book should be out soon* AVAILABLE, obtainable, in the shops, published, in print ⑤ *the fire was nearly out* EXTINGUISHED, no longer alight ⑥ *(informal) grunge is out* UNFASHIONABLE, out of fashion, dated, outdated, passé, *informal* old hat, not with it, not in ⑦ *smoking is out* FORBIDDEN, not permitted, not allowed, proscribed, unacceptable, *informal* not on ⑧ *he was slightly out in his calculations* MISTAKEN, inaccurate, incorrect, wrong, in error
—**OPPOSITES** in

▶ **verb** (*informal*) it was not our intention to out him EXPOSE, unmask

■ **out cold** UNCONSCIOUS, knocked out, out for the count, *informal* KO'd, kayoed

out-and-out ▶ **adjective** UTTER, downright, thoroughgoing, absolute, complete, thorough, total, unmitigated, outright, real, perfect, consummate, *N Amer* full-bore, *informal* deep-dyed, *Brit informal* right, *Austral/NZ informal* fair
—**OPPOSITES** partial

outbreak ▶ **noun** ① *a fresh outbreak of killings*, ERUPTION, flare-up, upsurge, outburst, rash, wave, spate, flood, explosion, burst, flurry, *formal* boutade ② *on the outbreak of war* START, beginning, commencement, onset, outset

outburst ▶ **noun** ERUPTION, explosion, burst, outbreak, flare-up, access, rush, flood, storm, outpouring, surge, upsurge, outflowing, *formal* boutade

outcast ▶ **noun** PARIAH, persona non grata, reject, outsider

outclass ▶ **verb** SURPASS, be superior to, be better than, outshine, overshadow, eclipse, outdo, outplay, outmanoeuvre, outstrip, get the better of, upstage, top, cap, beat, defeat, exceed; *informal* be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, run rings round, *archaic* outrival

outcome ▶ **noun** (END) RESULT, consequence, net result, upshot, after-effect, aftermath, conclusion, issue, end (product)

outcry ▶ **noun** ① *an outcry of passion* SHOUT, exclamation, cry, yell, howl, roar, scream, *informal* holler ② *public outcry* PROTEST(s), protestation(s), complaints, objections, furor, fuss, commotion, uproar, outbursts, opposition, dissent, *informal* hullabaloo, ballyhoo, ructions, stink

outdated ▶ **adjective** OLD-FASHIONED, out of date, outmoded, out of fashion, unfashionable,

dated, passé, old, behind the times, behind-hand, obsolete, antiquated, *informal* out, old hat, square, not with it, out of the ark, *N Amer informal* horse-and-buggy, clunky
—**OPPOSITES** modern

outdistance ▶ **verb** ① *the colt outdistanced the train* OUTFRUN, outstrip, outpace, leave behind, get (further) ahead of, overtake, pass ② *the mill outdistanced all its rivals* SURPASS, outshine, outclass, outdo, exceed, transcend, top, cap, beat, better, leave behind, *informal* leave standing, *archaic* outrival

outdo ▶ **verb** SURPASS, outshine, overshadow, eclipse, outclass, outmanoeuvre, get the better of, put in the shade, upstage, exceed, transcend, top, cap, beat, better, leave behind, get ahead of, *informal* be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, run rings round, *archaic* outrival

outdoor ▶ **adjective** OPEN AIR, out-of-doors, outside, al fresco, not under cover
—**OPPOSITES** indoor

outer ▶ **adjective** ① *the outer layer* OUTSIDE, outermost, outward, exterior, external, surface ② *outer areas of the city* OUTLYING, distant, remote, faraway, furthest, peripheral, suburban
—**OPPOSITES** inner

outface ▶ **verb** STAND UP TO, face down, cower, overawe, intimidate

outfit ▶ **noun** ① *a new outfit* COSTUME, suit, uniform, ensemble, attire, clothes, clothing, dress, garb, *informal* get-up, gear, togs, *Brit informal* kit, rig-out, *formal* apparel, *archaic* habit, raiment ② *a studio lighting outfit* KIT, equipment, tools, implements, tackle, apparatus, paraphernalia, things, stuff ③ *(informal) a local manufacturing outfit* ORGANIZATION, enterprise, company, firm, business, group, band, body, team, *informal* set-up

▶ **verb** enough swords to outfit an army EQUIP, kit out, fit out/up, rig out, supply, arm, dress, attire, clothe, deck out, *archaic* apparel, invest, habit

outfitter ▶ **noun** CLOTHIER, tailor, couturier, costumier, dressmaker, seamstress, *dated* modiste

outflow ▶ **noun** DISCHARGE, outflowing, outpouring, outrush, rush, flood, deluge, issue, spurt, jet, cascade, stream, torrent, gush, outburst, flow, flux, *technical* efflux

outgoing ▶ **adjective** ① *outgoing children* EXTROVERT, uninhibited, unreserved, demonstrative, affectionate, warm, friendly, genial, cordial, affable, easy-going, sociable, convivial, lively, gregarious, communicative, responsive, open, forthcoming, frank ② *the outgoing president*: DEPARTING, retiring, leaving
—**OPPOSITES** introverted, incoming

outgoings ▶ **plural noun** EXPENSES, expenditure, spending, outlay, payments, costs, overheads

outgrowth ▶ **noun** PROTUBERANCE, swelling, excrescence, growth, lump, bump, bulge; tumour, cancer, boil, carbuncle, pustule

outing ▶ **noun** ① *family outings*: (PLEASURE) TRIP, excursion, jaunt, expedition, day out, (mystery) tour, drive, ride, run; *informal* junket, spin ② *(informal) the outing of public figures*: EXPOSURE, unmasking, revelation

outlandish ▶ **adjective** WEIRD, queer, far out, quirky, zany, eccentric, idiosyncratic, unconventional, unorthodox, funny, bizarre, unusual, singular, extraordinary, strange, unfamiliar, peculiar, odd, curious, *informal* offbeat, off the wall, way-out, wacky, freaky, kooky, kinky, oddball, *N Amer informal* in left field
-OPPOSITES ordinary

outlast ▶ **verb** OUTLIVE, survive, live/last longer than, ride out, weather, withstand

outlaw ▶ **noun** *hands of outlaws* FUGITIVE, (wanted) criminal, outcast, exile, pariah, bandit, robber, *dated* desperado

▶ **verb** ① they voted to outlaw fox-hunting BAN, bar, prohibit, forbid, veto, make illegal, proscribe, interdict ② she feared she would be outlawed BANISH, exile, expel
-OPPOSITES permit

outlay ▶ **noun** EXPENDITURE, expenses, spending, outgoings, cost, price, payment, investment
-OPPOSITES profit

outlet ▶ **noun** ① a central-heating outlet VENT (HOLE), way out, egress, outfall, opening, channel, conduit, duct ② an outlet for farm produce MARKET, retail outlet, marketplace, shop, store ③ an outlet for their energies MEANS OF EXPRESSION, (means of) release, vent, avenue, channel

outline ▶ **noun** ① the outline of the building SILHOUETTE, profile, shape, contours, form, line, delineation, diagram, sketch, *poetic/literary* lineaments ② an outline of expenditure for each department ROUGH IDEA, thumbnail sketch, (quick) rundown, summary, synopsis, résumé, précis, essence, main points, gist, (bare) bones, draft, sketch

▶ **verb** ① the plane was outlined against the sky SILHOUETTE, define, demarcate, sketch, delineate, trace ② she outlined the plan briefly ROUGH OUT, sketch out, draft, give a rough idea of, summarize, précis

outlive ▶ **verb** LIVE ON AFTER, live longer than, outlast, survive

outlook ▶ **noun** ① the two men were wholly different in outlook POINT OF VIEW, viewpoint, views, opinion, (way of) thinking, perspective, attitude, standpoint, stance, frame of mind ② a lovely open outlook VIEW, vista, prospect, panorama, scene, aspect ③ the outlook for the economy PROSPECTS, expectations, hopes, future, look-out

outlying ▶ **adjective** DISTANT, remote, outer, out of the way, faraway, far-flung, inaccessible, off the beaten track

outmanoeuvre ▶ **verb** ① the English army were outmanoeuvred OUTFLANK, circumvent, by-pass ② he outmanoeuvred his critics OUTWIT, outsmart, out-think, outplay, steal a march on, trick, get the better of, *informal* outfox, put one over on

outmoded ▶ **adjective** OUT OF DATE, old-fashioned, out of fashion, outdated, dated, behind the times, antiquated, obsolete, passé, *informal* old hat, out of the ark

out of date ▶ **adjective** ① this design is out of date OLD-FASHIONED, outmoded, out of fashion, unfashionable, frumpish, frumpy, outdated, dated, old, passé, behind the times, behind-hand, obsolete, antiquated, *informal* out, old hat, square, not with it, out of the ark; *N Amer informal*

mal horse-and-buggy, clunky ② many of the facts are out of date SUPERSEDED, obsolete, expired, lapsed, invalid, (null and) void
-OPPOSITES fashionable, current

out of the way ▶ **adjective** ① out-of-the-way places OUTLYING, distant, remote, faraway, far-flung, isolated, lonely, godforsaken, inaccessible, off the beaten track ② I find his methods out of the way STRANGE, unusual, peculiar, odd, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, queer, unfamiliar, out of the ordinary, extraordinary, remarkable, singular
-OPPOSITES accessible

out of work ▶ **adjective** UNEMPLOYED, jobless, out of a job, redundant, laid off, *Brit informal* on the dole, *Austral informal* on the wallaby track

outpouring ▶ **noun** OUTFLOW, outflowing, out-rush, rush, flood, deluge, discharge, issue, spurt, jet, cascade, stream, torrent, gush, outburst, flow, flux, *technical* efflux

output ▶ **noun** PRODUCTION, amount/quantity produced, yield, gross domestic product, output, works, writings

outrage ▶ **noun** ① widespread public outrage INDIGNATION, fury, anger, rage, disapproval, wrath, resentment ② it is an outrage SCANDAL, offence, insult, injustice, disgrace ③ the bomb outrage ATROCITY, act of violence/wickedness, crime, wrong, barbarism, inhumane act

▶ **verb** his remarks outraged his parishioners ENRAGE, infuriate, incense, anger, scandalize, offend, give offence to, affront, shock, horrify, disgust, appal

outrageous ▶ **adjective** ① outrageous acts of cruelty SHOCKING, disgraceful, scandalous, atrocious, appalling, monstrous, heinous, evil, wicked, abominable, terrible, horrendous, dreadful, foul, nauseating, sickening, vile, nasty, odious, loathsome, unspeakable, *Brit informal* beastly ② the politician's outrageous promises FAR-FETCHED, (highly) unlikely, doubtful, dubious, questionable, implausible, unconvincing, unbelievable, incredible, preposterous, extravagant, excessive ③ outrageous clothes EYE-CATCHING, flamboyant, showy, gaudy, ostentatious, shameless, brazen, shocking, *informal* saucy, flashy

outré ▶ **adjective** WEIRD, queer, outlandish, far out, freakish, quirky, zany, eccentric, off-centre, unconventional, unorthodox, funny, bizarre, fantastic, unusual, singular, extraordinary, strange, unfamiliar, peculiar, odd, out of the way, *informal* way-out, wacky, freaky, kooky, oddball, off the wall, *N Amer informal* offbeat, in left field

outright ▶ **adverb** ① he rejected the proposal outright COMPLETELY, entirely, wholly, fully, totally, categorically, absolutely, utterly, flatly, unreservedly ② I told her outright EXPLICITLY, directly, forthrightly, openly, frankly, candidly, honestly, sincerely, bluntly, plainly, in plain language, truthfully, to someone's face, straight from the shoulder, *Brit informal* straight up ③ they were killed outright INSTANTLY, instantaneously, immediately, at once, straight away, then and there, on the spot ④ paintings have to be bought outright ALL AT ONCE, in one go

▶ **adjective** ① an outright lie OUT-AND-OUT, absolute, complete, downright, utter, sheer, categorical, unqualified, unconditional ② the outright win-



ner DEFINITE, unequivocal, clear, unqualified, incontestable, unmistakable

outrun ▶ *verb* RUN FASTER THAN, outstrip, outdistance, outpace, leave behind, lose, *informal* leave standing

outset ▶ *noun* START, starting point, beginning, commencement, dawn, birth, origin, inception, opening, launch, inauguration, *informal* the word go
-OPPOSITES end

outshine ▶ *verb* SURPASS, overshadow, eclipse, outclass, put in the shade, upstage, exceed, transcend, top, cap, beat, better, *informal* be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, run rings round, *archaic* outrival

outside ▶ *noun* the outside of the building
OUTER/EXTERNAL SURFACE, exterior, outer side/layer, case, skin, shell, covering, facade
-RELATED TERMS ecto-, exo-, extra-

▶ *adjective* ① *outside lights* EXTERIOR, external, outer, outdoor, out-of-doors ② *outside contractors* INDEPENDENT, hired, temporary, freelance, casual, external, extramural ③ *an outside chance* SLIGHT, slender, slim, small, tiny, faint, negligible, remote, vague

▶ *adverb* they went outside | shall we eat outside? OUT DOORS, out of doors
-OPPOSITES inside

outsider ▶ *noun* STRANGER, visitor, non-member, foreigner, alien, immigrant, emigrant, émigré, incomer, newcomer, parvenu

outsize ▶ *adjective* ① *her outsize handbag* HUGE, oversized, enormous, gigantic, very big/large, great, giant, colossal, massive, mammoth, vast, immense, tremendous, monumental, prodigious, mountainous, king-sized, *informal* mega, monster, whopping (great), thumping (great), humongous, jumbo, bumper, *Brit informal* whacking (great), ginormous ② *an outsize actor* VERY LARGE, big, massive, fat, corpulent, stout, heavy, plump, portly, ample, bulky, *informal* pudgy, tubby, *Brit informal* podgy, *archaic* puffy

outskirts ▶ *plural noun* OUTLYING DISTRICTS, edges, fringes, suburbs, suburbia, purlieus, borders, environs

outsmart ▶ *verb* OUTWIT, outmanoeuvre, outplay, steal a march on, trick, get the better of, *informal* outfox, pull a fast one on, put one over on

outspoken ▶ *adjective* FORTHRIGHT, direct, candid, frank, straightforward, honest, open, straight from the shoulder, plain-spoken, blunt, abrupt, bluff, brusque, *archaic* free-spoken

outspread ▶ *adjective* FULLY EXTENDED, outstretched, spread out, fanned out, unfolded, unfurled, (wide) open, opened out

outstanding ▶ *adjective* ① *an outstanding painter* EXCELLENT, marvellous, magnificent, superb, fine, wonderful, superlative, exceptional, first-class, first-rate, *informal* great, terrific, tremendous, super, amazing, fantastic, sensational, fabulous, ace, crack, A1, mean, awesome, out of this world; *Brit informal* smashing, brilliant, *N Amer informal* neat; *Austral informal* bonzer. ② *an outstanding decorative element* REMARKABLE, extraordinary, exceptional, striking, eye-catching, arresting, impressive, distinctive, unforgettable, memorable, special, momentous, significant, notable, noteworthy, *informal* out of

this world ③ *how much work is still outstanding?* TO BE DONE, undone, unattended to, unfinished, incomplete, remaining, pending, ongoing ④ *outstanding debts* UNPAID, unsettled, owing, owed, to be paid, payable, due, overdue, undischarged, *N Amer* delinquent
-OPPOSITES unexceptional

outstrip ▶ *verb* ① *he outstripped the police cars* GO FASTER THAN, outrun, outdistance, outpace, leave behind, get (further) ahead of, lose, *informal* leave standing ② *demand far outstrips supply* SURPASS exceed, be more than, top, eclipse

outward ▶ *adjective* EXTERNAL, outer, outside, exterior, surface, superficial, seeming, apparent, ostensible
-OPPOSITES inward

outwardly ▶ *adverb* EXTERNALLY, on the surface, superficially, on the face of it, to all intents and purposes, apparently, ostensibly, seemingly

outweigh ▶ *verb* BE GREATER THAN, exceed, be superior to, prevail over, have the edge on/over, override, supersede, offset, cancel out, (more than) make up for, outbalance, compensate for

outwit ▶ *verb* OUTSMART, outmanoeuvre, outplay, steal a march on, trick, gull, get the better of, *informal* outfox, pull a fast one on, put one over on

outworn ▶ *adjective* OUT OF DATE, outdated, old-fashioned, out of fashion, outmoded, dated, behind the times, antiquated, obsolete, defunct, passé, *informal* old hat, out of the ark
-OPPOSITES up to date

oval ▶ *adjective* EGG-SHAPED, ovoid, ovate, ovoid, elliptical, *Botany* obovate

ovation ▶ *noun* (ROUND OF) APPLAUSE, handclapping, clapping, cheering, cheers, bravos, acclaim, acclamation, tribute, standing ovation, *informal* (big) hand

oven ▶ *noun* (KITCHEN) STOVE, microwave (oven), (kitchen) range, roaster

over ▶ *preposition* ① *there will be cloud over most of the country* ABOVE, on top of, higher (up) than, atop, covering ② *he walked over the grass* ACROSS, around, throughout ③ *he has three people over him* SUPERIOR TO, above, higher up than, in charge of, responsible for ④ *over 200,000 people live in the area* MORE THAN, above, in excess of, upwards of ⑤ *a discussion over unemployment* ON THE SUBJECT OF, about, concerning, apropos of, with reference to, regarding, relating to, in connection with
-OPPOSITES under

▶ *adverb* ① *a flock of geese flew over* OVERHEAD, on high, above, past, by ② *the relationship is over* AT AN END, finished, concluded, terminated, ended, no more, a thing of the past ③ *he had some money over* LEFT (OVER), remaining, unused, surplus, in excess, in addition

■ **over and above** IN ADDITION TO, on top of, plus, as well as, besides, along with

■ **over and over** REPEATEDLY, again and again, over and over again, time and (time) again, many times over, frequently, constantly, continually, persistently, ad nauseam.

overact ▶ *verb* EXAGGERATE, overdo it, overplay it; *informal* ham it up, camp it up



overall ▶ **adjective** the overall cost ALL-INCLUSIVE, general, comprehensive, universal, all-embracing, gross, net, final, inclusive, wholesale, complete, across the board, global, worldwide

▶ **adverb** overall, things have improved GENERALLY (SPEAKING), in general, altogether, all in all, on balance, on average, for the most part, in the main, on the whole, by and large, to a large extent

overawe ▶ **verb** INTIMIDATE, daunt, cow, disconcert, unnerve, subdue, dismay, frighten, alarm, scare, terrify, *informal* psych out, *N Amer informal* buffalo

overbalance ▶ **verb** FALL OVER, topple over, lose one's balance, tip over, keel over, push over, upend, upset

overbearing ▶ **adjective** DOM'NEERING, dominating, autocratic, tyrannical, despotic, oppressive, high-handed, bullying, *informal* bossy

overblown ▶ **adjective** OVERWRITTEN, florid, grandiose, pompous, over-elaborate, flowery, overwrought, pretentious, high-flown, turgid, grandiloquent, magniloquent, oiotund, *informal* highfalutin

overcast ▶ **adjective** CLOUDY, clouded (over), sunless, darkened, dark, grey, black, leaden, heavy, dull, murky, dismal, dreary
—OPPOSITES bright

overcharge ▶ **verb** ① clients are being overcharged SWINDLE, charge too much, cheat, defraud, fleece, short-change, *informal* rip off, sting, screw, rob, diddle, do, rook, *N Amer informal* gouge ② the decoration is overcharged OVER STATE, overdo, exaggerate, over-embroider, over-embellish, overwrite, overdraw

overcome ▶ **verb** ① we overcame the home team DEFEAT, beat, conquer, trounce, thrash, rout, vanquish, overwhelm, overpower, get the better of, triumph over, prevail over, win over/against, outdo, outclass, worst, crush, *informal* drub, slaughter, clobber, hammer, lick, best, crucify, demolish, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, blow out of the water, take to the cleaners, *Brit informal* stuff, *N Amer informal* shellac, skunk ② they overcame their fear of flying GET THE BETTER OF, prevail over, control, get/bring under control, master, conquer, defeat, beat, get over, get a grip on, curb, subdue, *informal* lick, best

▶ **adjective** I was overcome OVERWHELMED, emotional, moved, affected, speechless

overconfident ▶ **adjective** COCKSURE, cocky, smug, conceited, self-assured, brash, blustering, overbearing, presumptuous, heading for a fall, riding for a fall, *informal* too big for one's boots

overcritical ▶ **adjective** FAULT-FINDING, hypercritical, captious, carping, cavilling, quibbling, hair-splitting, over-particular, fussy, finicky, fastidious, pedantic, over-scrupulous, punctilious, *informal* nit-picking, pernickety, *archaic* over-nice

overcrowded ▶ **adjective** OVERFULL, overflowing, full to overflowing/bursting, crammed full, congested, overpopulated, overpeopled, crowded, swarming, teeming, *informal* bursting/bulging at the seams, full to the gunwales, jam-packed
—OPPOSITES empty.

overdo ▶ **verb** ① she overdoes the cockney scenes EXAGGERATE, overstate, overemphasize, over-

play, go overboard with, over-dramatize, *informal* ham up, camp up ② don't overdo the drink HAVE/USE/EAT/DRINK TOO MUCH OF, overindulge in, have/use/eat/drink to excess ③ they overdid the beef OVERCOOK, burn

—OPPOSITES understate

■ **overdo** It WORK TOO HARD, overwork, do too much, burn the candle at both ends, overtax oneself, drive/push oneself too hard, work/run oneself into the ground, wear oneself to a shadow, wear oneself out, bit off more than one can chew, strain oneself, *informal* kill oneself, knock oneself out

overdone ▶ **adjective** ① the flutter was overdone EXCESSIVE, too much, undue, immoderate, inordinate, disproportionate, inflated, overstated, overworked, exaggerated, overemphasized, over-enthusiastic, over-effusive, *informal* a bit much, over the top, OTT ② overdone food OVERCOOKED, dried out, burnt
—OPPOSITES understated, underdone

overdue ▶ **adjective** ① the ship is overdue LATE, behind schedule, behind time, delayed, unpunctual ② overdue payments UNPAID, unsettled, owing, owed, payable, due, outstanding, undischarged, *N Amer* delinquent
—OPPOSITES early, punctual

overeat ▶ **verb** EAT TOO MUCH, be greedy, gorge (oneself), overindulge (oneself), feast, gourmandize, gluttonize, *informal* binge, make a pig of oneself, pig out, have eyes bigger than one's stomach, *N Amer informal* scarf out
—OPPOSITES starve

overemphasize ▶ **verb** PLACE/LAY TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON, overstress, place/lay too much stress on, exaggerate, make too much of, overplay, overdo, over-dramatize, *informal* make a big thing about/of, blow up out of all proportion
—OPPOSITES understate, play down

overflow ▶ **verb** a lot of cream had overflowed the edges of the shallow dish SPILL OVER, flow over, brim over, well over, pour forth, stream forth, flood

▶ **noun** ① an overflow from the tank OVERSPILL, spill, spillage, flood ② to accommodate the overflow, five more offices were built SURPLUS, excess, additional people/things, extra people/things, remainder, overspill

overflowing ▶ **adjective** OVERFULL, full to overflowing/bursting, spilling over, running over, crammed full, overcrowded, overloaded, *informal* bursting/bulging at the seams, jam-packed
—OPPOSITES empty

overhang ▶ **verb** STICK OUT (OVER), stand out (over), extend (over), project (over), protrude (over), jut out (over), bulge out (over), hang over

overhaul ▶ **verb** ① I've been overhauling the gearbox SERVICE, maintain, repair, mend, fix up, rebuild, renovate, recondition, refit, refurbish, *informal* do up, patch up ② Kenyon overhauled him in the race OVERTAKE, pass, go past/by, go faster than, get/pull ahead of, outstrip

overhead ▶ **adverb** a burst of thunder erupted overhead (UP) ABOVE, high up, (up) in the sky, on high, above/over one's head
—OPPOSITES below

▶ **adjective** overhead lines AERIAL, elevated, raised, suspended

—OPPOSITES underground

overheads ▶ plural noun (RUNNING) COSTS, operating costs, fixed costs, expenses, *Brit* oncosts
—OPPOSITES profit

overindulge ▶ verb ① we all overindulge at Christmas DRINK/EAT TOO MUCH, overeat, overdrink, be greedy, be intemperate, overindulge oneself, overdo it, drink/eat to excess, gorge (oneself), feast, gourmandize, gluttonize, *informal* binge, stuff oneself, go overboard, make a pig of oneself, pig oneself, *N Amer informal* scarf out ② his mother had overindulged him SPOIL, give in to, indulge, humour, pander to, pamper, mollycoddle, baby
—OPPOSITES abstain

overindulgence ▶ noun INTEMPERANCE, immoderation, excess, overeating, overdrinking, gorging, *informal* binge
—OPPOSITES abstinence

overjoyed ▶ adjective ECSTATIC, euphoric, thrilled, elated, delighted, on cloud nine/seven, in seventh heaven, jubilant, rapturous, jumping for joy, delirious, blissful, in raptures, as pleased as Punch, cock-a-hoop, as happy as a sandboy, as happy as Larry, *informal* over the moon, on top of the world, tickled pink, *N Amer informal* as happy as a clam, *Austral informal* wrapped
—OPPOSITES unhappy

overlay ▶ verb the area was overlaid with marble COVER, face, surface, veneer, inlay, laminate, plaster, coat, varnish, glaze
▶ noun an overlay of glass-fibre insulation COVERING, cover, layer, face, surface, veneer, lamination, coat, varnish, glaze, wash.

overload ▶ verb ① avoid overloading the ship OVERBURDEN, put too much in, overcharge, weigh down ② don't overload the wiring STRAIN, overtax, overwork, overuse, swamp, oversupply, overwhelm
▶ noun there was an overload of demands EXCESS, overabundance, superabundance, profusion, glut, surfeit, surplus, superfluity, avalanche, deluge, flood

overlook ▶ verb ① he overlooked the mistake FAIL TO NOTICE, fail to spot, miss ② his work has been overlooked DISREGARD, neglect, ignore, pay no attention/heed to, pass over, forget ③ she was willing to overlook his faults DELIBERATELY IGNORE, not take into consideration, disregard, take no notice of, make allowances for, turn a blind eye to, excuse, pardon, forgive ④ the breakfast room overlooks the garden HAVE A VIEW OF, look over/across, look on to, look out on/over, give on to, command a view of

overly ▶ adverb UNDULY, excessively, inordinately, too, wildly, absurdly, ridiculously, outrageously, unreasonably, exorbitantly, impossibly.

overpower ▶ verb ① the prisoners might overpower the crew GAIN CONTROL OVER, overwhelm, prevail over, get the better of, gain mastery over, overthrow, overturn, subdue, suppress, subjugate, repress, bring someone to their knees, conquer, defeat, triumph over, worst, trounce, *informal* thrash, lick, best, clobber, wipe the floor with ② he was overpowered by grief OVERCOME, overwhelm, move, stir, affect, touch, stun, shake, devastate, take aback, leave

speechless, *informal* bowl over, knock sideways, *Brit informal* knock/hit for six

overpowering ▶ adjective ① overpowering grief OVERWHELMING, oppressive, unbearable, unendurable, intolerable, shattering ② an overpowering smell STIFLING, suffocating, strong, pungent, powerful, nauseating, offensive, acrid, fetid, mephitic ③ overpowering evidence IRREFUTABLE, undeniable, indisputable, incontestable, incontrovertible, compelling, conclusive

overrate ▶ verb OVERESTIMATE, overvalue, think too much of, attach too much importance to, praise too highly
—OPPOSITES underestimate

overreach

■ overreach oneself TRY TO DO TOO MUCH, overestimate one's ability, overdo it, overstretch oneself, wear/burn oneself out, bite off more than one can chew

overreact ▶ verb REACT DISPROPORTIONATELY, act irrationally, lose one's sense of proportion, blow something up out of all proportion, *Brit informal* go over the top

override ▶ verb ① the court could not override her decision DISALLOW, overrule, countermand, veto, quash, overturn, overthrow, cancel, reverse, rescind, revoke, repeal, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void, *Law* vacate, *formal* abrogate, *archaic* recall ② the government can override all opposition DISREGARD, pay no heed to, take no account of, turn a deaf ear to, ignore, ride roughshod over ③ a positive attitude will override any negative thoughts OUTWEIGH, supersede, take precedence over, take priority over, offset, cancel out, (more than) make up for, outbalance, compensate for

overriding ▶ adjective MOST IMPORTANT, of greatest importance, of greatest significance, uppermost, top, first (and foremost), highest, pre-eminent, predominant, principal, primary, paramount, chief, main, major, foremost, central, key, focal, pivotal, *informal* number-one

overrule ▶ verb COUNTERMAND, cancel, reverse, rescind, repeal, revoke, retract, disallow, override, veto, quash, overturn, overthrow, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void, *Law* vacate, *formal* abrogate, *archaic* recall

overrun ▶ verb ① guerrillas overran the barracks INVADE, storm, occupy, swarm into, surge into, inundate, overwhelm ② the talks overran the deadline EXCEED, go beyond/over, run over

oversee ▶ verb SUPERVISE, superintend, be in charge/control of, be responsible for, look after, keep an eye on, inspect, administer, organize, manage, direct, preside over

overseer ▶ noun SUPERVISOR, foreman, forewoman, team leader, controller, (line) manager, manageress, head (of department), superintendent, captain; *informal* boss, chief, governor, *Brit informal* gaffer, *guv'nor*, *N Amer informal* straw boss, *Austral informal* pannikin boss; *Mining* overman

overshadow ▶ verb ① a massive hill overshadows the town CAST A SHADOW OVER, shade, darken, conceal, obscure, screen, dominate, overlook. ② this feeling of tragedy overshadowed his story. CAST GLOOM OVER, blight, take the edge off, mar, spoil, ruin ③ he was overshadowed by his brilliant elder brother. OUTSHINE, eclipse, surpass, exceed, be superior to, out-



class, outstrip, outdo, upstage, *informal* be head and shoulders above

oversight ▶ **noun** ① *a stupid oversight* MISTAKE, error, omission, lapse, slip, blunder, *informal* slip-up, boo-boo, *Brit informal* boob, *N Amer informal* goof ② *the omission was due to oversight* CARELESSNESS, inattention, negligence, forgetfulness, laxity ③ *school governors have oversight of the curriculum* SUPERVISION, surveillance, superintendence, charge, care, administration, management

overstate ▶ **verb** EXAGGERATE, overdo, overemphasize, overplay, dramatize, embroider, embellish, *informal* blow up out of all proportion

—OPPOSITES understate

overstatement ▶ **noun** EXAGGERATION, overemphasis, dramatization, embroidery, embellishment, enhancement, hyperbole

overt ▶ **adjective** UNDISGUISED, unconcealed, plain (to see), clear, apparent, conspicuous, obvious, noticeable, manifest, patent, open, blatant

—OPPOSITES covert

overtake ▶ **verb** ① *a green car overtook the taxi* PASS, go past/by, get/pull ahead of, leave behind, outdistance, outstrip ② *tourism overtook coffee as the main earner of foreign currency* OUST, surpass, overshadow, eclipse, outshine, outclass, dwarf, put in the shade, exceed, top, cap, *archaic* outrival ③ *the calamity which overtook us* BEFALL, happen to, come upon, hit, strike, overwhelm, overcome, be visited on, *poetic/literary* betide

overthrow ▶ **verb** ① *the President was overthrown* REMOVE (FROM OFFICE POWER), bring down, topple, depose, oust, displace, unseat ② *an attempt to overthrow Soviet rule* PUT AN END TO, defeat, conquer

▶ **noun** ① *the overthrow of the Shah* REMOVAL (FROM OFFICE/POWER), downfall, fall, toppling, deposition, ousting, displacement, supplanting, unseating ② *the overthrow of capitalism* ENDING, defeat, displacement, fall, collapse, downfall, demise

overtone ▶ **noun** CONNOTATION, hidden meaning, implication, association, undercurrent, undertone, echo, vibrations, hint, suggestion, insinuation, intimation, suspicion, feeling, nuance

overture ▶ **noun** ① *the overture to Don Giovanni* PRELUDE, introduction, opening, introductory movement ② *the overture to a long debate* PRELIMINARY, prelude, introduction, lead-in, precursor, start, beginning ③ *peace overtures* (OPENING) MOVE, approach, advances, feeler, signal, proposal, proposition

overturn ▶ **verb** ① *the boat overturned* CAPSIZE, turn turtle, keel over, tip over, topple over, turn over, *Nautical* pitchpole, *archaic* overset ② *I overturned the stool* UPSET, tip over, topple over, turn over, knock over, upend. ③ *the Senate may overturn this ruling* CANCEL, reverse, rescind, repeal, revoke, retract, countermand, disallow, override, overrule, veto, quash, overthrow, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void, *Law* vacate, *formal* abrogate, *archaic* recall

overused ▶ **adjective** HACKNEYED, overworked, worn out, time-worn, tired, played out, clichéd, stale, trite, banal, stock, unoriginal

overweening ▶ **adjective** OVERCONFIDENT, conceited, cocksure, cocky, smug, haughty, supercilious, lofty, patronizing, arrogant, proud, vain, self-important, imperious, overbearing, *informal* high and mighty, uppish

—OPPOSITES unassuming

overweight ▶ **adjective** FAT, obese, stout, corpulent, gross, fleshy, plump, portly, chubby, rotund, paunchy, pot-bellied, flabby, well upholstered, well padded, broad in the beam, *informal* porky, tubby, blubbery, *Brit informal* podgy, fussy, *archaic* puffy

—OPPOSITES skinny

overwhelm ▶ **verb** ① *advancing sand dunes could overwhelm the village* SWAMP, submerge, engulf, bury, deluge, flood, inundate ② *Spain overwhelmed Russia in the hockey* DEFEAT (UTTERLY/HEAVILY), trounce, rout, beat (hollow), conquer, vanquish, be victorious over, triumph over, worst, overcome, overthrow, crush, *informal* thrash, lick, best, clobber, wipe the floor with ③ *she was overwhelmed by a sense of tragedy* OVERCOME, move, stir, affect, touch, strike, dumbfound, shake, devastate, leave speechless, *informal* bowl over, floor, knock sideways, *Brit informal* knock/hit for six

overwhelming ▶ **adjective** ① *an overwhelming number of players were unavailable* VERY LARGE, enormous, immense, inordinate, massive, huge ② *overwhelming desire to laugh* VERY STRONG, forceful, uncontrollable, irrepressible, irresistible, overpowering, compelling

overwork ▶ **verb** ① *we should not overwork* WORK TOO HARD, work/run oneself into the ground, wear oneself to a shadow, work one's fingers to the bone, burn the candle at both ends, overtax oneself, burn oneself out, do too much, overdo it, strain oneself, overload oneself, drive/push oneself too hard, *informal* kill oneself, knock oneself out ② *my colleagues did not overwork me* DRIVE (TOO HARD), exploit, drive into the ground, tax, overtax, overburden, put upon, impose on

overworked ▶ **adjective** ① *overworked staff* STRESSED (OUT), stress-ridden, overtaxed, overburdened, overloaded, exhausted, worn out ② *an overworked phrase* HACKNEYED, overused, worn out, tired, played out, clichéd, threadbare, stale, trite, banal, stock, unoriginal

—OPPOSITES relaxed, original

overwrought ▶ **adjective** ① *she was too overwrought to listen* TENSE, agitated, nervous, on edge, edgy, keyed up, worked up, highly strung, neurotic, overexcited, beside oneself, distracted, distraught, frantic, hysterical, *informal* in a state, in a tizzy, uptight, wound up, het up, *Brit informal* strung up ② *the painting is overwrought* OVER-ELABORATE, over-ornate, overblown, overdone, contrived, overworked, strained

—OPPOSITES calm, understated

owe ▶ **verb** BE IN DEBT (TO), be indebted (to), be in arrears (to), be under an obligation (to)

owing ▶ **adjective** *the rent was owing* UNPAID, to be paid, payable, due, overdue, undischarged, owed, outstanding, in arrears, *N Amer* delinquent

—OPPOSITES paid

■ **owing to** BECAUSE OF, as a result of, on account of, due to, as a consequence of, thanks to, in view of, *formal* by reason of

OWN ▶ **adjective** *he has his own reasons* PERSONAL, individual, particular, private, personalized, unique

▶ **verb** ① *I own this house* BE THE OWNER OF, possess, be the possessor of, have in one's possession, have (to one's name) ② *she had to own that she agreed* ADMIT, concede, grant, accept, acknowledge, agree, confess

■ **get one's own back** (*informal*) HAVE/GET/TAKE ONE'S REVENGE (ON), be revenged (on), hit back, get (back at), get even (with), settle accounts (with), repay, pay someone back, give someone their just deserts, retaliate (against/on), take reprisals (against), exact retribution (on), give someone a taste of their own medicine

■ **hold one's own** STAND FIRM, stand one's ground, keep one's end up, keep one's head above water, compete, survive, cope, get on/along

■ **on one's own** ① *I am all on my own* (ALL) ALONE, (all) by oneself, solitary, unaccompanied, companionless, *informal* by one's lonesome, *Brit informal* on one's tod, on one's Jack Jones ② *she works well on her own* UNAIDED, unassisted, without help, without assistance, (all) by oneself, independently

■ **own up** CONFESS (TO), admit to, admit guilt, plead guilty, accept blame/responsibility, tell the truth (about), make a clean breast of it, tell all, *informal* come clean (about)

owner ▶ **noun** POSSESSOR, holder, proprietor/proprietress, homeowner, freeholder, landlord, landlady

—RELATED TERMS proprietary

ownership ▶ **noun** (RIGHT OF) POSSESSION, freehold, proprietorship, proprietary rights, title

OX ▶ **noun** bull, bullock, steer, *Farming* beef See list at CATTLE



Pp

pace ▶ **noun** ① *he stepped back a pace* STEP, stride ② *a slow, steady pace* GAIT, stride, walk, march ③ *he drove home at a furious pace* SPEED, rate, velocity, *informal* clip, lick

▶ **verb** *she paced up and down* WALK, stride, tread, march, pound, patrol

pacific ▶ **adjective** ① *a pacific community* PEACE-LOVING, peaceable, pacifist, non-violent, non-aggressive, non-belligerent ② *their pacific intentions* CONCILIATORY, peacemaking, placatory, propitiatory, appeasing, mollifying, mediatory, dovish, *formal* irenic ③ *pacific waters* CALM, still, smooth, tranquil, placid, waveless, unruffled, like a millpond

—OPPOSITES aggressive, stormy

pacifism ▶ **noun** PEACEMAKING, conscientious objection(s), passive resistance, peace-mongering, non-violence

pacifist ▶ **noun** PEACE-LOVER, conscientious objector, passive resister, peacemaker, peace-monger, dove, *Brit informal* conchie

—OPPOSITES warmonger

pacify ▶ **verb** PLACATE, appease, calm (down), conciliate, propitiate, assuage, mollify, soothe

—OPPOSITES enrage

pack ▶ **noun** ① *a pack of cigarettes* PACKET, container, package, box, carton, parcel ② *a 45lb pack* BACKPACK, rucksack, knapsack, kitbag, bag, load ③ *a pack of wolves* GROUP, herd, troop ④ *a pack of youngsters* CROWD, mob, group, band, troupe, party, set, clique, gang, rabble, horde, throng, huddle, mass, assembly, gathering, host, *informal* crew, bunch

▶ **verb** ① *she helped pack the hamper* FILL (UP), put things in, load ② *they packed their belongings* STOW, put away, store, box up ③ *the glasses were packed in straw* WRAP (UP), package, parcel, swathe, swaddle, encase, enfold, envelop, bundle ④ *Christmas shoppers packed the store* THROG, crowd (into), fill (to overflowing), cram, jam, squash into, squeeze into ⑤ *pack the cloth against the wall* COMPRESS, press, squash, squeeze, jam, tamp

■ **pack something in** (*informal*) ① *she has packed in her job* RESIGN FROM, leave, give up, *informal* quit, chuck, *Brit informal* jack in ② *he should pack in smoking* GIVE UP, abstain from, drop, desist from, refrain from, discontinue, *informal* quit, leave off, *formal* forswear

■ **pack someone off** (*informal*) SEND OFF, dispatch, bundle off

■ **pack up** ① (*Brit informal*) *something is bound to pack up over Christmas* BREAK (DOWN), stop working, fail, develop a fault, malfunction, go wrong, *informal* act up, conk out, go kaput ② (*informal*) *it's time to pack up* STOP, call it a day, finish, cease, *informal* knock off, quit, pack/jack it in

■ **pack something up** PUT AWAY, tidy up/away, clear up/away

package ▶ **noun** ① *the delivery of a package* PARCEL, packet, container, box ② *a complete package of services* COLLECTION, bundle, combination.

▶ **verb** *goods packaged in recyclable materials* WRAP (UP), gift-wrap, pack (up), parcel (up), box, encase

packaging ▶ **noun** WRAPPING, wrappers, packing, covering

packed ▶ **adjective** CROWDED, full, filled (to capacity), crammed, jammed, solid, overcrowded, overfull, teeming, seething, swarming, *informal* jam-packed, chock-full, chock-a-block, full to the gunwales, bursting/bulging at the seams

packet ▶ **noun** ① *a packet of cigarettes* PACK, carton, (cardboard) box, container, case, package ② (*informal*) *that must have cost a packet* A CONSIDERABLE/LARGE SUM OF MONEY, a king's ransom, millions, billions, *informal* a (small) fortune, pots/heaps of money, a mint, a bundle, a pile, a tidy sum, a pretty penny, big money, *Brit informal* a bomb, loadsamoney, *N Amer informal* big bucks, gazillions, *Austral informal* big bickies, motser

pact ▶ **noun** AGREEMENT, treaty, entente, protocol, deal, settlement, concordat, armistice, truce, *formal* concord

pad¹ ▶ **noun** ① *a pad over the eye* PIECE OF COTTON WOOL, dressing, pack, padding, wadding, wad ② *a seat pad* CUSHION, squab ③ *making notes on a pad* NOTEBOOK, notepad, writing pad, memo pad, jotter, block, sketch pad, sketchbook, *N Amer* scratch pad

▶ **verb** *a quilted jacket padded with duck feathers* STUFF, fill, pack, wad

■ **pad something out** EXPAND UNNECESSARILY, fill out, amplify, increase, flesh out, lengthen, spin out, overdo, elaborate

pad² ▶ **verb** *he padded along towards the bedroom* WALK QUIETLY, tread warily, creep, tiptoe, steal, pussyfoot

padding ▶ **noun** ① *padding around the ankle* WADDING, cushioning, stuffing, packing, filling, lining ② *a concise style with no padding* VERBIAGE, verbosity, wordiness, prolixity, *Brit informal* waffle

paddle¹ ▶ **noun** *use the paddles to row ashore* OAR, scull, blade

▶ **verb** *we paddled around the bay* ROW GENTLY, pull, scull

paddle² ▶ **verb** *children were paddling in the water* SPLASH ABOUT, wade, dabble

paddock ▶ **noun** FIELD, meadow, pasture, pen, pound, *N Amer* corral

paddy ▶ **noun** (*Brit informal*) RAGE, (bad) temper, (bad) mood, pet, fit of pique, tantrum, *informal* grump, stress, *Brit informal* strop, *N Amer informal* blowout, hissy fit

padlock ▶ **verb** LOCK (UP), fasten, secure

padre ▶ **noun** PRIEST, chaplain, minister (of religion), pastor, father, parson, clergyman, cleric, ecclesiastic, man of the cloth, churchman, vicar, rector, curate, preacher, *informal* reverend, Holy Joe, sky pilot, *Austral informal* josses

paeon ► **noun** SONG OF PRAISE, hymn, alleluia, plaudit, glorification, eulogy, tribute, panegyric, accolade, acclamation, *formal* encomium

pagan ► **noun** pagans worshipped the sun HEATHEN, infidel, idolater, idolatress, *archaic* paynim

► **adjective** the pagan festival HEATHEN, ungodly, irreligious, infidel, idolatrous, *rare* nullifidian

page¹ ► **noun** ① a book of 672 pages FOLIO, sheet, side, leaf ② a glorious page in his life PERIOD, time, stage, phase, epoch, era, chapter

page² ► **noun** ① a page in a hotel ERRAND BOY, messenger boy, *N Amer* bellboy, bellhop ② a page at a wedding ATTENDANT, pageboy, train-bearer

► **verb** could you please page Mr Johnson? CALL (FOR), summon, send for

pageant ► **noun** PARADE, procession, cavalcade, tableau (vivant), spectacle, extravaganza, show

pageantry ► **noun** SPECTACLE, display, ceremony, magnificence, pomp, splendour, grandeur, show, *informal* razzle-dazzle, razzmatazz

pain ► **noun** ① she endured great pain SUFFERING, agony, torture, torment, discomfort ② a pain in the stomach ACHE, aching, soreness, throb, throbbing, sting, stinging, twinge, shooting pain, stab, pang, discomfort, irritation, tenderness ③ the pain of losing a loved one SORROW, grief, heartache, heartbreak, sadness, unhappiness, distress, desolation, misery, wretchedness, despair, agony, torment, torture ④ (*informal*) that child is a pain See NUISANCE ⑤ he took great pains to hide his feelings CARE, effort, bother, trouble

► **verb** ① her foot is still paining her HURT, cause pain, be painful, be sore, be tender, ache, throb, sting, twinge, cause discomfort, *informal* kill ② the memory pains her SADDEN, grieve, distress, trouble, perturb, oppress, cause anguish to

► **be at pains** TRY HARD, make a great effort, take (great) pains, put oneself out, strive, endeavour, try, do one's best, do one's utmost, go all out, *informal* bend/fall/lean over backwards

pained ► **adjective** UPSET, hurt, wounded, injured, insulted, offended, aggrieved, displeased, disgruntled, annoyed, angered, angry, cross, indignant, irritated, resentful, *informal* riled, miffed, aggravated, peeved, hacked off, browned off, *Brit informal* narked, cheesed off, *N Amer informal* teed off, ticked off, sore

painful ► **adjective** ① a painful arm SORE, hurting, tender, aching, throbbing ② a painful experience DISAGREEABLE, unpleasant, nasty, bitter, distressing, upsetting, traumatic, miserable, sad, heartbreaking, agonizing, harrowing

painfully ► **adverb** DISTRESSINGLY, disturbingly, unendurably, unbearably, uncomfortably, unpleasantly, dreadfully, *informal* terribly, awfully, *informal, dated* frightfully

painkiller ► **noun** ANALGESIC, pain reliever, anodyne, anaesthetic, narcotic, palliative

painless ► **adjective** ① any killing of animals should be painless WITHOUT PAIN, pain-free ② getting rid of him proved painless EASY, trouble-free, effortless, simple, plain sailing, *informal* as easy as pie, a piece of cake, child's play, a cinch -OPPOSITES painful, difficult

painstaking ► **adjective** CAREFUL, meticulous, thorough, assiduous, sedulous, attentive, dili-

gent, industrious, conscientious, punctilious, scrupulous, rigorous, particular, pedantic, fussy

-OPPOSITES slapdash

paint ► **noun** COLOURING, colourant, tint, dye, stain, pigment, colour See list

► **verb** ① simply paint the ceiling COLOUR, apply paint to, decorate, whitewash, emulsion, gloss, spray-paint, airbrush ② painting slogans on a wall DAUB, smear, spray-paint, airbrush ③ Rembrandt painted his mother PORTRAY, picture, paint a picture of, depict, represent ④ you paint a very stark picture of the suffering TELL, recount, outline, sketch, describe, depict, evoke, conjure up

► **paint the town red** (*informal*) CELEBRATE, carouse, enjoy oneself, have a good/wild time, have a party, *informal* go out on the town, whoop it up, make whoopee, live it up, party, have a ball, push the boat out

Types of Paint

acrylic paint	gloss (paint)	poster paint
colour wash	gouache	primer
distemper	masonry paint	undercoat
eggshell	matt paint	watercolour
emulsion	oil paint	whitewash
enamel		

painter ► **noun**. See list at ARTIST

painting ► **noun** PICTURE, illustration, portrayal, depiction, representation, image, artwork, canvas See lists

Painting Techniques and Methods

acrylic painting	mural painting
action painting	oil painting
aquarelle	polychromy
chiaroscuro	pointillism
colour-field painting	sand painting
colour wash	scumbling
divisionism	secco
encaustic	silk painting
genre painting	spray-can painting
gouache	sumi-e
grisaille	tempera
grotesque	tenebrism
impasto	watercolour
miniature painting	Yamato-e

pair ► **noun** ① a pair of gloves SET (OF TWO), matching set, two of a kind ② the pair were arrested TWO, couple, duo, brace, twosome, duplet, twins, *archaic* twain. ③ a pair of lines COUPLET, *Prosody* distich ④ the happy pair COUPLE, man/husband and wife

► **verb** a cardigan paired with a matching skirt MATCH, put together, couple, twin

► **pair off/up** GET TOGETHER, team up, form a couple, make a twosome

pal (*informal*) ► **noun** my best pal. See FRIEND sense 1

► **pal up** BECOME FRIENDLY, make friends, form a friendship; *N Amer informal* buddy up

palace ► **noun** ROYAL/OFFICIAL RESIDENCE, castle, château, schloss, mansion, stately home



Types and Forms of Painting

altarpiece	half-length	pietà
annunciation	icon	polyptych
capriccio	kakemono	portrait
cave	landscape	predella
painting	miniature	retable
cloudscape	mural	riverscape
conversation	nativity	seascape
piece	nocturne	skyscape
crucifixion	noli me	still life
diorama	tangere	tondo
diptych	nude	trompe l'oeil
Ecce Homo	oil	townscape
écorché	old master	vanitas
fête galante	panorama	wall painting
fresco	paysage	watercolour

—RELATED TERMS palatial

palatable ▶ **adjective** ① *palatable meals* TASTY, appetizing, flavoured, flavoursome, delicious, mouth-watering, toothsome, succulent, *informal* scrumptious, yummy, scrummy, moreish, *formal* comestible ② *the truth is not always palatable* PLEASANT, acceptable, pleasing, agreeable, to one's liking

—OPPOSITES disagreeable

palate ▶ **noun** ① *the tea burned her palate* ROOF OF THE MOUTH, hard/soft palate ② *menus to suit the tourist palate* (SENSE OF) TASTE, appetite, stomach ③ *wine with a peachy palate* FLAVOUR, savour, taste

palatial ▶ **adjective** LUXURIOUS, de luxe, magnificent, sumptuous, splendid, grand, opulent, lavish, stately, regal, fancy, *Bnt* upmarket, *informal* plush, swanky, posh, ritzy, swish

—OPPOSITES modest

palaver (*informal*) ▶ **noun** ① *what was all that palaver about?* FUSS (AND BOTHER), bother, commotion, trouble, rigmarole, folderol, *informal* song and dance, performance, to-do, carrying-on, kerfuffle, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo ② (*dated*) *they were having a palaver* See PARLEY noun

▶ **verb** *don't stand there palavering* See TALK verb sense 3

pale¹ ▶ **noun** ① *the pales of a fence* STAKE, post, pole, picket, upright ② *outside the pale of decency* BOUNDARY, confines, bounds, limits

■ **beyond the pale** UNACCEPTABLE, unseemly, improper, unsuitable, unreasonable, intolerable, disgraceful, deplorable, outrageous, scandalous, shocking, *informal* not on, not the done thing, out of order, out of line, *Austral/NZ informal* over the fence, *formal* exceptional

pale² ▶ **adjective** ① *she looked pale and drawn* WHITE, pallid, pasty, wan, colourless, anaemic, bloodless, washed out, peaky, ashen, grey, whitish, whey-faced, drained, sickly, sallow, as white as a sheet, deathly pale, milky, creamy, cream, ivory, milk-white, alabaster, *informal* like death warmed up ② *pale colours* LIGHT, light-coloured, pastel, muted, subtle, soft, faded, bleached, washed out. ③ *the pale light of morning* DIM, faint, weak, feeble ④ *a pale imitation* FEEBLE, weak, insipid, bland, poor, inadequate, uninspired, unimaginative, lacklustre, spiritless, lifeless, *informal* pathetic.

—OPPOSITES dark

▶ **verb** ① *his face paled* GO/TURN WHITE, grow/turn

pale, blanch, lose colour ② *everything else pales by comparison* DECREASE IN IMPORTANCE, lose significance, pale into insignificance

palisade ▶ **noun** FENCE, paling, barricade, stockade

pall¹ ▶ **noun** ① *a rich velvet pall* FUNERAL CLOTH, coffin covering ② *a pall of black smoke* CLOUD, covering, cloak, veil, shroud, layer, blanket

■ **cast a pall over** SPOIL, cast a shadow over, overshadow, cloud, put a damper on

pall² ▶ **verb** *the high life was beginning to pall* BECOME/GROW TEDIOUS, become/grow boring, lose its/their interest, lose attraction, wear off, weary, sicken, nauseate, irritate, irk

palliate ▶ **verb** ① *the treatment works by palliating symptoms* ALLEVIATE, ease, relieve, soothe, take the edge off, assuage, moderate, temper, diminish, decrease, blunt, deaden ② *there is no way to palliate his dirty deed* DISGUISE, hide, gloss over, conceal, cover (up), camouflage, mask, excuse, justify, extenuate, mitigate

palliative ▶ **adjective** *palliative medicine* SOOTHING, alleviating, sedative, calmative

▶ **noun** *antibiotics and palliatives* PAINKILLER, analgesic, pain reliever, sedative, tranquillizer, anodyne, calmative, opiate, bromide

pallid ▶ **adjective** ① *a pallid child* PALE, white, pasty, wan, colourless, anaemic, washed out, peaky, whey-faced, ashen, grey, whitish, drained, sickly, sallow, *informal* like death warmed up ② *pallid watercolours* INSIPID, uninspired, colourless, uninteresting, unexciting, unimaginative, lifeless, spiritless, sterile, bland

pallor ▶ **noun** PALENESS, pallidness, lack of colour, wanness, ashen hue, pastiness, peakiness, greyness, sickness, sallowness

pally ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) FRIENDLY, on good terms, close, intimate, *informal* matey, buddy-buddy

palm¹

■ **grease someone's palm** (*informal*) BRIBE, buy (off), corrupt, suborn, give an inducement to, *informal* give a backhander to, give a sweetener to

■ **have someone in the palm of one's hand** HAVE CONTROL OVER, have influence over, have someone eating out of one's hand, have someone on a string, *N Amer* have someone in one's hip pocket

■ **palm something off** FOIST, fob off, get rid of, dispose of, unload

palm² ▶ **noun** *the palm of victory* PRIZE, trophy, award, crown, laurel wreath, laurels, bays

palmistry ▶ **noun** FORTUNE TELLING, palm-reading, clairvoyancy, chiromancy

palmy ▶ **adjective** HAPPY, fortunate, glorious, prosperous, halcyon, golden, rosy.

palpable ▶ **adjective** ① *a palpable bump* TANGIBLE, touchable, noticeable, detectable ② *his reluctance was palpable* PERCEPTIBLE, perceivable, visible, noticeable, discernible, detectable, observable, tangible, unmistakable, transparent, self-evident, obvious, clear, plain (to see), evident, apparent, manifest, staring one in the face, written all over someone

—OPPOSITES imperceptible

palpitate ▶ **verb** ① *her heart began to palpitate* BEAT RAPIDLY, pound, throb, pulsate, pulse, thud, thump, hammer, race ② *palpitating with*

P

terror TREMBLE, quiver, quake, shake (like a leaf)

paltry ▶ **adjective** ① a paltry sum of money SMALL, meagre, trifling, insignificant, negligible, inadequate, insufficient, derisory, pitiful, pathetic, miserable, niggardly, beggarly, informal measly, piddling, poxy, formal exiguous ② naval glory struck him as paltry. WORTHLESS, petty, trivial, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, of little account

—OPPOSITES considerable

pamper ▶ **verb** SPOIL, indulge, overindulge, cosset, mollycoddle, coddle, baby, wait on someone hand and foot

pamphlet ▶ **noun** BROCHURE, leaflet, booklet, circular, flyer, handbill, N Amer mailer, folder, dodger

pan¹ ▶ **noun** ① a heavy pan SAUCEPAN, frying pan, wok, skillet ② salt pans HOLLOW, pit, depression, dip, crater, concavity

▶ **verb** ① (informal) the movie was panned by the critics See CRITICIZE ② prospectors panned for gold SIFT FOR, search for, look for

—OPPOSITES praise

■ **pan out** ① Harold's idea hadn't panned out SUCCEED, be successful, work (out), turn out well ② the deal panned out badly TURN OUT, work out, end (up), come out, fall out, evolve, formal eventuate

pan² ▶ **verb** the camera panned to the building SWING (ROUND), sweep, move, turn, circle

panacea ▶ **noun** UNIVERSAL CURE, cure-all, cure for all ills, universal remedy, elixir, wonder drug, informal magic bullet

panache ▶ **noun** FLAMBOYANCE, confidence, self-assurance, style, flair, élan, dash, verve, zest, spirit, brío, éclat, vivacity, gusto, liveliness, vitality, energy, informal pizzazz, oomph, zip, zing

pancake ▶ **noun** CRÊPE, galette, blin, tortilla, tostada, chapatti, dosa, latke, blintze, N Amer flapjack, slapjack

pandemic ▶ **adjective** WIDESPREAD, prevalent, pervasive, rife, rampant

pandemonium ▶ **noun** BEDLAM, chaos, mayhem, uproar, turmoil, tumult, commotion, confusion, anarchy, furor, hubbub, rumpus, informal hullabaloo

—OPPOSITES peace

pander

■ **pander to** INDULGE, gratify, satisfy, cater to, give in to, accommodate, comply with

pane ▶ **noun** SHEET OF GLASS, windowpane

panegyric ▶ **noun** EULOGY, speech of praise, paean, accolade, tribute

panel ▶ **noun** ① a control panel CONSOLE, instrument panel, dashboard, instruments, controls, dials ② a panel of judges GROUP, team, body, committee, board

pang ▶ **noun** ① hunger pangs (SHARP) PAIN, shooting pain, twinge, stab, spasm ② a pang of remorse QUALM, twinge, prick

panic ▶ **noun** a wave of panic: ALARM, anxiety, nervousness, fear, fright, trepidation, dread, terror, agitation, hysteria, consternation, perturbation, dismay, apprehension, informal flap, fluster, cold sweat, funk, tizzy; N Amer informal swivet.

—OPPOSITES calm

▶ **verb** ① there's no need to panic BE ALARMED, be scared, be nervous, be afraid, take fright, be agitated, be hysterical, lose one's nerve, get overwrought, get worked up, informal flap, get in a flap, lose one's cool, get into a tizzy, run around like a headless chicken, freak out, get in a stew, Bnt informal get the wind up, go into a (flat) spin, have kittens ② talk of love panicked her FRIGHTEN, alarm, scare, unnerve, informal throw into a tizzy, freak out, Bnt informal put the wind up

panic-stricken ▶ **adjective** ALARMED, frightened, scared (stiff), terrified, terror-stricken, petrified, horrified, horror-stricken, fearful, afraid, panicky, frantic, in a frenzy, nervous, agitated, hysterical, beside oneself, worked up, overwrought, informal in a cold sweat, in a (blue) funk, in a flap, in a fluster, in a tizzy, Bnt informal in a flat spin

panoply ▶ **noun** ① the full panoply of America's military might ARRAY, range, collection ② all the panoply of religious liturgy TRAPPINGS, regalia, splendour, spectacle, ceremony, ritual

panorama ▶ **noun** ① he surveyed the panorama (SCENIC) VIEW, vista, prospect, scene, scenery, landscape, seascape ② a panorama of the art scene OVERVIEW, survey, review, presentation, appraisal

panoramic ▶ **adjective** ① a panoramic view SWEEPING, wide, extensive, scenic, commanding ② a panoramic look at the 20th century WIDE-RANGING, extensive, broad, far-reaching, comprehensive, all-embracing

pant ▶ **verb** ① he was panting as they reached the top BREATHE HEAVILY, breathe hard, puff (and blow), huff and puff, gasp, wheeze ② it makes you pant for more YEARN FOR, long for, crave, hanker after/for, ache for, hunger for, thirst for, be hungry for, be thirsty for, wish for, desire, want, informal itch for, be dying for, archaic be athirst for

▶ **noun** breathing in shallow pants GASP, puff, wheeze, breath

panting ▶ **adjective** OUT OF BREATH, breathless, short of breath, puffed out, puffing (and blowing), huffing and puffing, gasping (for breath), wheezing, wheezy

pantry ▶ **noun** LARDER, store, storeroom, Bnt historical still room, archaic spence

pants ▶ **plural noun** ① (Bnt) UNDERPANTS, briefs, Y-fronts, boxer shorts, boxers, long johns, (French) knickers, bikini briefs; Bnt camiknickers, N Amer shorts, undershorts, informal panties, Bnt informal kecks, knicks, smalls; dated drawers, bloomers, unmentionables, N Amer dated step-ins ② (N Amer) See TROUSERS

pap ▶ **noun** ① tasteless pap SOFT FOOD, mush, slop, pulp, purée, mash, informal goo, gloop, gook; N Amer informal glop ② commercial pap TRIVIA, pulp (fiction), rubbish, nonsense, froth, Bnt candyfloss, informal dreck, drivel, trash, twaddle.

paper ▶ **noun** ① a sheet of paper See list. ② the local paper. NEWSPAPER, journal, gazette, periodical, tabloid, broadsheet, quality paper, daily, weekly, evening paper, Sunday paper; informal rag, N Amer informal tab. ③ the paper was peeling off the walls WALLPAPER, wallcovering, Bnt woodchip; trademark Anaglypta ④ toffee papers WRAP-

PER, wrapping ⑤ a three-hour paper EXAM, examination, test ⑥ he has just published a paper ESSAY, article, monograph, thesis, work, dissertation, treatise, study, report, analysis, tract, critique, exegesis, review, *N Amer* theme ⑦ personal papers DOCUMENTS, certificates, letters, files, deeds, records, archives, paperwork, documentation, *Law* muniments ⑧ they asked us for our papers IDENTIFICATION PAPERS/DOCUMENTS, identity card, ID, credentials

► **verb** we papered the walls WALLPAPER, hang wall-paper on

■ **paper something over** COVER UP, hide, conceal, disguise, camouflage, gloss over

■ **on paper** ① he put his thoughts down on paper IN WRITING, in black and white, in print ② the combatants were evenly matched on paper IN THEORY, theoretically, supposedly

Types of Paper

art paper
blotting paper
bond paper
brown paper
carbon paper
cartridge paper
crêpe paper
drawing paper
glasspaper
graph paper
greaseproof paper
India paper
japanese paper
laid paper
manila paper
manuscript paper

notepaper
oil paper
parchment paper
rag paper
ricepaper
sandpaper
satin paper
thermal paper
tissue paper
tracing paper
vellum
waxed paper
wove paper
wrapping paper
writing paper

papery ► **adjective** THIN, paper-thin, flimsy, delicate, insubstantial, light, lightweight

par

■ **below par** ① their performances have been below par SUBSTANDARD, inferior, not up to scratch, under par, below average, second-rate, mediocre, poor, undistinguished, *informal* not up to snuff, *N Amer informal* bush-league ② I'm feeling below par SLIGHTLY UNWELL, not (very) well, not oneself, out of sorts, ill, unwell, poorly, washed out, run down, peaky, *Brit off* (colour), *informal* under the weather, not up to snuff, lousy, rough, *Brit informal* ropy, grotty, *Austral / NZ informal* crook, *dated* queer

■ **on a par with** AS GOOD AS, comparable with, in the same class/league as, equivalent to, equal to, on a level with, of the same standard as

■ **par for the course** NORMAL, typical, standard, usual, what one would expect

■ **up to par** GOOD ENOUGH, up to the mark, satisfactory, acceptable, adequate, up to scratch, *informal* up to snuff

parable ► **noun** ALLEGORY, moral story/tale, fable, exemplum, apologue

parade ► **noun** ① a St George's Day parade: PROCESSION, march, cavalcade, motorcade spectacle, display, pageant; review, dress parade, tattoo; *Brit* march past ② she made a great parade of doing the housework: EXHIBITION, show, display, performance, spectacle, fuss; *informal* hoo-ha, to-do. ③ she walked along the parade: PROMENADE, walkway, esplanade, mall, *N Amer* board-

walk, *Brit informal* prom

► **verb** ① the teams paraded through the city MARCH, process, file, troop ② she paraded up and down STRUT, swagger, stride ③ he was keen to parade his knowledge DISPLAY, exhibit, make a show of, flaunt, show (off), demonstrate

paradigm ► **noun** MODEL, pattern, example, exemplar, standard, prototype, archetype

paradisaal ► **adjective** HEAVENLY, idyllic, blissful, divine, sublime, perfect

paradise ► **noun** ① the souls in paradise (THE KINGDOM OF) HEAVEN, the heavenly kingdom, Elysium, the Elysian Fields, Valhalla, Avalon ② Adam and Eve's expulsion from Paradise: THE GARDEN OF EDEN, Eden ③ a tropical paradise UTOPIA, Shangri-La, heaven, idyll, nirvana ④ this is sheer paradise! BLISS, heaven, ecstasy, delight, joy, happiness, nirvana, heaven on earth

—OPPOSITES hell

paradox ► **noun** CONTRADICTION (IN TERMS), self-contradiction, inconsistency, incongruity, conflict, anomaly, enigma, puzzle, mystery, conundrum

paradoxical ► **adjective** CONTRADICTORY, self-contradictory, inconsistent, incongruous, anomalous, illogical, puzzling, baffling, incomprehensible, inexplicable

paragon ► **noun** PERFECT EXAMPLE, shining example, model, epitome, archetype, ideal, exemplar, nonpareil, embodiment, personification, quintessence, apotheosis, acme, jewel, gem, angel, treasure, *informal* one in a million, the tops, *archaic* a nonsuch

paragraph ► **noun** ① the concluding paragraph SECTION, subdivision, part, subsection, division, portion, segment, passage ② a paragraph in the newspaper REPORT, article, item, piece, write-up, mention

parallel ► **adjective** ① parallel lines SIDE BY SIDE, aligned, collateral, equidistant ② parallel careers SIMILAR, analogous, comparable, corresponding, like, of a kind, akin, related, equivalent, matching ③ a parallel universe COEXISTING, coexistent, concurrent, contemporaneous, simultaneous, synchronous

—OPPOSITES divergent

► **noun** ① an exact parallel COUNTERPART, analogue, equivalent, likeness, match, twin, duplicate, mirror ② there is an interesting parallel between these figures SIMILARITY, likeness, resemblance, analogy, correspondence, equivalence, correlation, relation, symmetry, parity

► **verb** ① his experiences parallel mine RESEMBLE, be similar to, be like, bear a resemblance to, correspond to, be analogous to, be comparable/equivalent to, equate with/to, correlate with, imitate, echo, remind one of, duplicate, mirror, follow, match ② her performance has never been paralleled EQUAL, match, rival, emulate.

paralyse ► **verb** ① both of his legs were paralysed DISABLE, cripple, immobilize, incapacitate, debilitate, *formal* torpify ② Maizie was paralysed by the sight of him IMMOBILIZE, transfix, become rooted to the spot, freeze, stun, render motionless ③ the capital was paralysed by a general strike BRING TO A STANDSTILL, immobilize, bring to a (grinding) halt, freeze, cripple, disable

paralysed ► **adjective** DISABLED, crippled, handicapped, incapacitated, paralytic, power-

less, immobilized, useless, *Medicine* paraplegic, quadriplegic, tetraplegic, monoplegic, hemiplegic, paretic, paraparetic

paralysis ► **noun** ① *the disease can cause paralysis* IMMOBILITY, powerlessness, incapacity, debilitation, *Medicine* paraplegia, quadriplegia, tetraplegia, monoplegia, hemiplegia, diplegia, paresis, paraparesis ② *complete paralysis of the ports* SHUTDOWN, immobilization, stoppage

paralytic ► **adjective** ① *her hands became paralytic* PARALYSED, crippled, disabled, incapacitated, powerless, immobilized, useless ② (*Brit informal*) *everyone was paralytic* See DRUNK adjective

parameter ► **noun** FRAMEWORK, variable, limit, boundary, limitation, restriction, criterion, guideline

paramount ► **adjective** MOST IMPORTANT, of greatest/prime importance, uppermost, supreme, chief, overriding, predominant, foremost, prime, primary, principal, highest, main, key, central, leading, major, top, *informal* number-one

paramour ► **noun** (*archaic*) LOVER, significant other, mistress, girlfriend, kept woman, other woman, innamorata, boyfriend, other man, innamorato, *informal* fancy woman/man, toy boy, sugar daddy, bit on the side, bit of fluff, *archaic* concubine, courtesan

paranoia ► **noun** PERSECUTION COMPLEX, delusions, obsession, psychosis

paranoid ► **adjective** OVER-SUSPICIOUS, paranoid, suspicious, mistrustful, fearful, insecure, *Brit informal* para

parapet ► **noun** ① *Marian leaned over the parapet* BALUSTRADE, barrier, wall ② *the sandbags making up the parapet* BARRICADE, rampart, bulwark, bank, embankment, fortification, defence, earthwork, bastion

paraphernalia ► **plural noun** EQUIPMENT, stuff, things, apparatus, kit, implements, tools, utensils, material(s), appliances, accoutrements, appurtenances, odds and ends, bits and pieces, *informal* gear, *Brit informal* clobber, *archaic* equipage

paraphrase ► **verb** *paraphrasing literary texts* REWORD, rephrase, put/express in other words, rewrite, gloss

► **noun** *this paraphrase of St Paul's words* REWORDING, rephrasing, rewording, rewrite, rendition, rendering, gloss

parasite ► **noun** HANGER-ON, cadger, leech, passenger, *informal* bloodsucker, sponger, scrounger, freeloader, *N Amer informal* mooch, *Austral / NZ informal* bludger

parcel ► **noun** ① *a parcel of clothes* PACKAGE, packet; pack, bundle, box, case, bale ② *a parcel of land* PLOT, piece, patch, tract, *Brit* allotment, *N Amer* lot, plat

► **verb** ① *she parcelled up the papers* PACK (UP), package, wrap (up), gift-wrap, tie up, bundle up ② *parcelling out commercial farmland* DIVIDE UP, portion out, distribute, share out, allocate, allot, apportion, hand out, dole out, dish out, *informal* divvy up

parched ► **adjective** ① *the parched earth*: (BONE) DRY, dried up/out, arid, desiccated, dehydrated, baked, burned, scorched, withered, shrivelled ② (*informal*) *I'm parched* See THIRSTY sense 1 –OPPOSITES soaking

pardon ► **noun** ① *pardon for your sins* FORGIVENESS, absolution, clemency, mercy, lenience, leniency ② *he offered them a full pardon* REPRIEVE, free pardon, amnesty, exoneration, release, acquittal, discharge, *formal* exculpation

► **verb** ① *I know she will pardon me* FORGIVE, absolve, have mercy on, excuse, condone, overlook ② *they were subsequently pardoned* EXONERATE, acquit, amnesty, reprieve, release, free, *informal* let off, *formal* exculpate –OPPOSITES blame, punish

► **exclamation** *Pardon?* WHAT (DID YOU SAY), eh, pardon me, I beg your pardon, sorry, excuse me, *informal* come again

pardonable ► **adjective** EXCUSABLE, forgivable, condonable, understandable, minor, venial, slight –OPPOSITES inexcusable

pare ► **verb** ① *pare the peel from the lemon* CUT (OFF), trim (off), peel (off), strip (off), skin; *technical* decorticate ② *domestic operations have been pared down* REDUCE, diminish, decrease, cut (back/down), trim, slim down, prune, curtail

parent ► **noun** ① *her parents have divorced* MOTHER, FATHER, birth/biological parent, progenitor, adoptive parent, foster-parent, step-parent, guardian, *poetic/literary* begetter ② *the parent of rock and roll* SOURCE, origin, genesis, root, author, architect, precursor, forerunner, predecessor, antecedent, *formal* radix

► **verb** *those who parent young children* BRING UP, look after, take care of, rear, raise

parentage ► **noun** ORIGINS, extraction, birth, family, ancestry, lineage, heritage, pedigree, descent, blood, stock, roots

parenthetical ► **adjective** INCIDENTAL, supplementary, in brackets, in parentheses, parenthetical, explanatory, qualifying

parenthetically ► **adverb** INCIDENTALLY, by the way, by the by(e), in passing, in parenthesis

parenthood ► **noun** CHILDCARE, child-rearing, motherhood, fatherhood, parenting

pariah ► **noun** OUTCAST, persona non grata, leper, undesirable, unperson

parings ► **plural noun** PEELINGS, clippings, peel, rind, cuttings, trimmings, shavings

parish ► **noun** ① *the parish of Poplar* DISTRICT, community ② *the vicar scandalized the parish* PARISHIONERS, churchgoers, congregation, flock, community

–RELATED TERMS parochial

parity ► **noun** EQUALITY, equivalence, uniformity, consistency, correspondence, congruity, levelness, unity, coequality

park ► **noun** ① *we were playing in the park* PUBLIC GARDEN, recreation ground, playground, play area ② *fifty acres of park* PARKLAND, grassland, woodland, garden(s), lawns, grounds, estate. ③ *the liveliest player on the park*. (PLAYING) FIELD, football field, pitch.

► **verb** ① *he parked his car* LEAVE, position, stop, pull up ② (*informal*) *park your bag by the door* PUT (DOWN), place, deposit, leave, stick, shove, dump, *informal* plonk, *Brit informal* bung

■ **park oneself** (*informal*) SIT DOWN, seat oneself, settle (oneself), install oneself; *informal* plonk oneself.

parlance ▶ noun JARGON, language, phraseology, talk, speech, argot, patois, cant; *informal* lingo, -ese, -speak

parley ▶ noun a peace parley NEGOTIATION, talk(s), conference, summit, discussion, powwow, *informal* confab, *formal* colloquy, confabulation, dated palaver

▶ verb the two parties were willing to parley DISCUSS TERMS, talk, hold talks, negotiate, deliberate, *informal* powwow

parliament ▶ noun ① the Queen's speech to Parliament THE HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT, Westminster, the (House of) Commons, the (House of) Lords ② the Russian parliament LEGISLATURE, legislative assembly, congress, senate, (upper/lower) house, (upper/lower) chamber, diet, assembly. See list at LEGISLATIVE

parliamentary ▶ adjective LEGISLATIVE, law-making, governmental, congressional, senatorial, democratic, elected, representative

parlour ▶ noun ① (dated) tea in the parlour SITTING ROOM, living room, lounge, front room, drawing room, *Brit* reception room ② a beauty parlour SALON, shop, establishment, store

parlous ▶ adjective BAD, dire, dreadful, awful, terrible, grave, serious, desperate, precarious, sorry, poor, lamentable, hopeless, unsafe, perilous, dangerous, risky, *informal* dicey, hairy, chronic, woeful

parochial ▶ adjective NARROW-MINDED, small-minded, provincial, narrow, small-town, conservative, illiberal, intolerant, *Brit* parish-pump, *N Amer* *informal* jerkwater
-OPPOSITES broad-minded

parochialism ▶ noun NARROW-MINDEDNESS, provincialism, small-mindedness

parody ▶ noun ① a parody of the gothic novel SATIRE, burlesque, lampoon, pastiche, pasquinade, caricature, imitation, mockery, *informal* spoof, take-off, send-up ② a parody of the truth DISTORTION, travesty, caricature, misrepresentation, perversion, corruption, debasement

▶ verb parodying schoolgirl fiction SATIRIZE, burlesque, lampoon, caricature, mimic, imitate, ape, copy, make fun of, travesty, take off, *informal* send up

paroxysm ▶ noun SPASM, attack, fit, burst, bout, convulsion, seizure, outburst, eruption, explosion, access, *formal* boutade

parrot ▶ noun.

-RELATED TERMS psittacine

▶ verb they parroted slogans without appreciating their significance REPEAT (MINDLESSLY), repeat mechanically, echo

parrot-fashion ▶ adverb MECHANICALLY, by rote, mindlessly, automatically

parry ▶ verb ① Sharpe parried the blow WARD OFF, fend off, deflect, hold off, block, counter, repel, repulse ② I parried her constant questions EVADE, sidestep, avoid, dodge, answer evasively, field, fend off

parsimonious ▶ adjective MEAN, miserly, niggardly, close-fisted, close, penny-pinching, ungenerous, Scrooge-like, *informal* tight-fisted, tight, stingy, mungy; *N Amer* *informal* cheap, *formal* penurious; *archaic* near.
-OPPOSITES generous.

parsimony ▶ noun MEANNESS, miserliness, parsimoniousness, niggardliness, close-fistedness,

closeness, penny-pinching, *informal* stinginess, munginess, tightness, tight-fistedness, *N Amer* cheapness, *formal* penuriousness, *archaic* nearness

parson ▶ noun VICAR, rector, clergyman, cleric, chaplain, pastor, curate, man of the cloth, ecclesiastic, minister, priest, preacher, *informal* reverend, padre, *Austral* *informal* josses

part ▶ noun ① the last part of the cake | a large part of their life BIT, slice, chunk, lump, hunk, wedge, fragment, scrap, piece, portion, proportion, percentage, fraction ② car parts COMPONENT, bit, constituent, element, module ③ body parts PART OF THE BODY, organ, limb, member ④ the third part of the book SECTION, division, volume, chapter, act, scene, instalment ⑤ another part of the country DISTRICT, neighbourhood, quarter, section, area, region ⑥ the part of Juliet (THEATRICAL) ROLE, character, persona ⑦ he's learning his part LINES, words, script, speech, libretto, lyrics, score ⑧ he was jailed for his part in the affair INVOLVEMENT, role, function, hand, work, responsibility, capacity, position, participation, contribution; *informal* bit
-OPPOSITES whole

▶ verb ① the curtains parted SEPARATE, divide (in two), split (in two), move apart ② we parted on bad terms LEAVE, take one's leave, say goodbye/farewell, say one's goodbyes/farewells, go one's (separate) ways, go away, depart
-OPPOSITES join, meet

▶ adjective a part payment INCOMPLETE, partial, half, semi-, limited, inadequate, insufficient, unfinished
-OPPOSITES complete

▶ adverb it is part finished TO A CERTAIN EXTENT/DEGREE, to some extent/degree, partly, partially, in part, half, relatively, comparatively, (up) to a point, somewhat, not totally, not entirely, (very) nearly, almost, just about, all but
-OPPOSITES completely

■ for the most part. See MOST

■ in good part. See GOOD

■ in part to a certain extent/degree, to some extent/degree, partly, partially, slightly, in some measure, (up) to a point

■ on the part of (MADE/DONE) BY, carried out by, caused by, from

■ part with GIVE UP/AWAY, relinquish, forgo, surrender, hand over, deliver up, dispose of

■ take part PARTICIPATE, join in, get involved, enter, play a part/role, be a participant, contribute, have a hand, help, assist, lend a hand, *informal* get in on the act

■ take part in PARTICIPATE IN, engage in, join in, get involved in, share in, play a part/role in, be a participant in, contribute to, be associated with, have a hand in

■ take someone's part SUPPORT, give one's support to, take the side of, side with, stand by, stick up for, be supportive of, back (up), give one's backing to, be loyal to, defend, come to the defence of, champion

partake ▶ verb ① (formal) visitors can partake in golf PARTICIPATE IN, take part in, engage in, join in, get involved in ② she had partaken of lunch. CONSUME, have, eat, drink, devour, wolf down, *informal* polish off ③ Bohemia partakes of both East and West: HAVE THE QUALITIES/ATTRIBUTES OF, suggest, evoke, be characterized by

partial ► **adjective** ① a partial recovery INCOMPLETE, limited, qualified, imperfect, fragmentary, unfinished ② a very partial view of the situation BIASED, prejudiced, partisan, one-sided, slanted, skewed, coloured, unbalanced
-OPPOSITES complete, unbiased

■ **be partial to** LIKE, love, enjoy, have a liking for, be fond of, be keen on, have a soft spot for, have a taste for, have a penchant for, *informal* adore, be mad about/on, have a thing about, be crazy about, be nutty about, *Brit informal* be potty about, *N Amer informal* cotton to, *Austral /NZ informal* be shook on

partiality ► **noun** ① his partiality towards their cause BIAS, prejudice, favouritism, favour, partisanship ② her partiality for brandy LIKING, love, fondness, taste, soft spot, predilection, penchant, passion

partially ► **adverb** TO A LIMITED EXTENT/DEGREE, to a certain extent/degree, partly, in part, not totally, not entirely, relatively, moderately, (up) to a point, somewhat, comparatively, slightly

participant ► **noun** PARTICIPATOR, contributor, party, member, entrant, competitor, player, contestant, candidate

participate ► **verb** TAKE PART, engage, join, get involved, share, play a part/role, be a participant, partake, have a hand in, be associated with, cooperate, help, assist, lend a hand

participation ► **noun** INVOLVEMENT, part, contribution, association

particle ► **noun** ① minute particles of rock (TINY) BIT, (tiny) piece, speck, spot, fleck, fragment, splinter See list ② he never showed a particle of sympathy IOTA, jot, whit, bit, scrap, shred, crumb, drop, hint, touch, trace, suggestion, whisper, suspicion, scintilla, *informal* smidgen

Subatomic Particles

See also QUARK.

antilepton	Higgs	nucleon
antineutron	(boson/	photon
antiparticle	particle)	pion
antiproton	hyperon	positron
antiquark	kaon	proton
axion	lambda	psi particle
baryon	particle	quark
boson	lepton	strange
electron	meson	particle
fermion	muon	tau particle
gluon	neutrino	WIMP
hadron	neutron	

particular ► **adjective** ① a particular group of companies SPECIFIC, certain, distinct, separate, discrete, definite, precise, single, individual ② an issue of particular importance (EXTRA) SPECIAL, especial, exceptional, unusual, singular, uncommon, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, unique, *formal* peculiar ③ he was particular about what he ate Fussy, fastidious, finicky, meticulous, punctilious, discriminating, selective, painstaking, exacting, demanding, *informal* pernickety, choosy, picky, *Brit informal* faddy.
-OPPOSITES general, careless

► **noun** the same in every particular DETAIL, item, point, specific, element, aspect, respect, regard, particularity, fact, feature

■ **in particular** ① nothing in particular SPECIFIC, special. ② the poor, in particular, were hit by rising prices PARTICULARLY, specifically, especially, specially

particularity ► **noun** ① the particularity of each human being INDIVIDUALITY, distinctiveness, uniqueness, singularity, originality ② a great degree of particularity DETAIL, precision, accuracy, thoroughness, scrupulousness, meticulousness

particularize ► **verb** SPECIFY, detail, itemize, list, enumerate, spell out, cite, stipulate, instance.

particularly ► **adverb** ① the acoustics are particularly good ESPECIALLY, specially, very, extremely, exceptionally, singularly, peculiarly, unusually, extraordinarily, remarkably, outstandingly, amazingly, incredibly, really, *informal* seriously, majorly, awfully, terribly, *Brit informal* jolly, dead, well, *dated* devilish, frightfully ② he particularly asked that I should help you SPECIFICALLY, explicitly, expressly, in particular, especially, specially

parting ► **noun** ① an emotional parting FAREWELL, leave-taking, goodbye, adieu, departure, valediction ② they kept their parting quiet SEPARATION, break-up, split, divorce, rift, estrangement, *Brit informal* bust-up ③ the parting of the Red Sea DIVISION, dividing, separation, separating, splitting, breaking up/apart, partition, partitioning

► **adjective** a parting kiss FAREWELL, goodbye, last, final, valedictory

partisan ► **noun** ① Conservative partisans SUPPORTER, follower, adherent, devotee, champion, fanatic, fan, enthusiast, stalwart, zealot, *N Amer* booster ② the partisans opened fire from the woods GUERRILLA, freedom fighter, resistance fighter, underground fighter, irregular (soldier)

► **adjective** partisan attitudes BIASED, prejudiced, one-sided, discriminatory, coloured, partial, interested, sectarian, factional
-OPPOSITES unbiased

partisanship ► **noun** BIAS, prejudice, one-sidedness, discrimination, favour, favouritism, partiality, sectarianism, factionalism

partition ► **noun** ① the partition of Palestine DIVIDING UP, partitioning, separation, division, dividing, subdivision, splitting (up), breaking up, break-up ② room partitions SCREEN, (room) divider, (dividing) wall, barrier, panel, separator

► **verb** ① the resolution partitioned Poland DIVIDE (UP), subdivide, separate, split (up), break up, share (out), parcel out ② the huge hall was partitioned SUBDIVIDE, divide (up), separate (off), section off, screen off

partly ► **adverb** TO A CERTAIN EXTENT/DEGREE, to some extent/degree, in part, partially, a little, somewhat, not totally, not entirely, relatively, moderately, (up) to a point, in some measure, slightly
-OPPOSITES completely.

partner ► **noun** ① business partners' COLLEAGUE, associate, co-worker, fellow worker, collaborator, comrade, teammate; *Brit informal* oppo, *Austral /NZ informal* offside; *archaic* compeer. ② his partner in crime ACCOMPLICE, confederate, accessory, collaborator, fellow conspirator, helper, *informal* sidekick. ③ your relationship with your partner SPOUSE, husband, wife, consort; lover,



girlfriend, boyfriend, fiancé, fiancée, significant other, live-in lover, common-law husband/wife, man, woman, mate, *informal* hubby, missus, old man, old lady/woman, better half, intended, POSSLOQ, *Brit informal* other half

partnership ► **noun** ① *close partnership* CO OPERATION, association, collaboration, coalition, alliance, union, affiliation, relationship, connection ② *thriving partnerships* COMPANY, firm, business, corporation, organization, association, consortium, syndicate

parturition ► **noun** (*formal*) CHILDBIRTH, birth, delivery, labour, *dated* confinement, *poetic/literary* travail, *archaic* childbed, accouchement

party ► **noun** ① *150 people attended the party* (SOCIAL) GATHERING, (social) function, get-together, celebration, reunion, festivity, jamboree, reception, at-home, soirée, social, dance, ball, ceilidh, frolic, carousal, carouse, *N Amer* fête, hoe-down, shower, bake, cookout, levee, *Austral/NZ* corroboree, *informal* bash, shindig, rave, disco, do, shebang, bop, hop, *Brit informal* rave-up, knees-up, beanfeast, beano, bunfight, *N Amer informal* blast, wingding, kegger, *Austral/NZ informal* shivoo, rage, ding, jollo, rort ② *a party of British tourists* GROUP, company, body, gang, band, crowd, pack, contingent, *informal* bunch, crew, load ③ *the left-wing parties* FACTION, political party, group, grouping, cabal, junta, bloc, camp, caucus ④ *don't mention a certain party* PERSON, individual, somebody, someone

► **verb** (*informal*) *let's party!* CELEBRATE, have fun, enjoy oneself, have a party, have a good/wild time, go on a spree, rave it up, carouse, make merry, *informal* go out on the town, paint the town red, whoop it up, let one's hair down, make whoopee, live it up, have a ball

■ **be a party to** GET INVOLVED IN/WITH, be associated with, be a participant in

parvenu ► **noun** UPSTART, social climber, arriviste

pass¹ ► **verb** ① *the traffic passing through the village* GO, proceed, move, progress, make one's way, travel ② *a car passed him* OVERTAKE, go past/by, pull ahead of, overhaul, leave behind ③ *time passed* ELAPSE, go by/past, advance, wear on, roll by, tick by ④ *he passed the time writing letters*, occupy, spend, fill, use (up), employ, while away ⑤ *pass me the salt* HAND (OVER), let someone have, give, reach ⑥ *he passed the ball back* KICK, hit, throw, lob ⑦ *her estate passed to her grandson* BE TRANSFERRED, go, be left, be bequeathed, be handed down/on, be passed on, *Law* devolve ⑧ *his death passed almost unnoticed* HAPPEN, occur, take place, come about, transpire, *poetic/literary* befall ⑨ *the storm passed* COME TO AN END, fade (away), blow over, run its course, die out, finish, end, cease ⑩ *God's peace passes all human understanding* SURPASS, exceed, transcend ⑪ *he passed the exam*: BE SUCCESSFUL IN, succeed in, gain a pass in, get through, *informal* sail through, scrape through ⑫ *the Senate passed the bill* APPROVE, vote for, accept, ratify, adopt, agree to, authorize, endorse, legalize, enact; *informal* OK ⑬ *she could not let that comment pass* GO (UNNOTICED), stand, go unremarked, go undisputed ⑭ *we should not pass judgement*: DECLARE, pronounce, utter, express, deliver, issue ⑮ *passing urine*: DISCHARGE, excrete, evacuate, expel, emit, release.

—OPPOSITES stop, fail, reject

► **noun** ① *you must show your pass* PERMIT, warrant, authorization, licence ② *a cross-field pass* KICK, hit, throw, shot

■ **come to pass** (*poetic/literary*) HAPPEN, come about, occur, transpire, arise, *poetic/literary* befall

■ **make a pass at** MAKE (SEXUAL) ADVANCES TO, proposition, *informal* come on to, make a play for, *N Amer informal* hit on, make time with, put the make on

■ **pass away/on**. See DIE sense 1

■ **pass as/for** BE MISTAKEN FOR, be taken for, be accepted as

■ **pass off** ① *the rally passed off peacefully*, TAKE PLACE, go off, happen, occur, be completed, turn out ② *when the dizziness passed off* he sat up WEAR OFF, fade (away), pass, die down

■ **pass someone off** MISREPRESENT, falsely represent, disguise

■ **pass out** FAINT, lose consciousness, black out

■ **pass something over** DISREGARD, overlook, ignore, pay no attention to, let pass, gloss over, take no notice of, pay no heed to, turn a blind eye to

■ **pass something up** TURN DOWN, reject, refuse, decline, give up, forgo, let pass, miss (out on), *informal* give something a miss

pass² ► **noun** *a pass through the mountains* ROUTE, way, road, passage, cut, gap, *N Amer* notch

passable ► **adjective** ① *the beer was passable* ADEQUATE, all right, fairly good, acceptable, satisfactory, moderately good, not (too) bad, average, tolerable, fair, mediocre, middling, ordinary, indifferent, unremarkable, unexceptional, *informal* OK, so-so, nothing to write home about, no great shakes, not up to much, *NZ informal* half-pie ② *the road is still passable* NAVIGABLE, traversable, negotiable, unblocked, unobstructed, open, clear

passably ► **adverb** QUITE, rather, somewhat, fairly, reasonably, moderately, comparatively, relatively, tolerably, *informal* pretty

passage ► **noun** ① *their passage through the country* TRANSIT, progress, passing, movement, motion, travelling ② *the passage of time* PASSING, advance, course, march ③ *a passage from the embassy* SAFE CONDUCT, warrant, visa, admission, access ④ *the overnight passage* VOYAGE, crossing, trip, journey ⑤ *clearing a passage to the front door* WAY (THROUGH), route, path ⑥ *a passage to the kitchen* See PASSAGEWAY sense 1 ⑦ *a passage between the buildings* See PASSAGEWAY sense 2 ⑧ *the nasal passages*, DUCT, orifice, opening, channel, inlet, outlet ⑨ *the passage to democracy* TRANSITION, development, progress, move, change, shift ⑩ *the passage of the bill* ENACTMENT, passing, ratification, approval, adoption, authorization, legalization ⑪ *a passage from 'Macbeth'* EXTRACT, excerpt, quotation, quote, citation, reading, piece, selection.

passageway ► **noun** ① *secret passageways* CORRIDOR, hall, passage, hallway, walkway, aisle. ② *a narrow passageway off the main street* ALLEY, alleyway, passage, lane, path, pathway, footpath, track, thoroughfare, *N Amer* areaway.

passé ► **adjective**. See OLD-FASHIONED

passenger ► **noun** ① *rail passengers* TRAVELLER, commuter, fare payer ② *we can't afford passengers* HANGER-ON, idler, parasite, *informal* freeloader

passing ► **adjective** ① of passing interest FLEETING, transient, transitory, ephemeral, brief, short-lived, temporary, momentary, poetic/literary evanescent ② a passing glance HASTY, rapid, hurried, brief, quick; cursory, superficial, casual, perfunctory

► **noun** ① the passing of time PASSAGE, course, progress, advance ② Jack's passing DEATH, demise, passing away/on, end, loss, quietus, formal decease ③ the passing of the new bill ENACTMENT, ratification, approval, adoption, authorization, legalization, endorsement
■ **in passing** INCIDENTALLY, by the by/way, en passant.

passion ► **noun** ① the passion of activists FERVOUR, ardour, enthusiasm, eagerness, zeal, zealousness, vigour, fire, fieriness, energy, fervency, animation, spirit, spiritedness, fanaticism ② he worked himself up into a passion (BLIND) RAGE, fit of anger/temper, temper, towering rage, tantrum, fury, frenzy, Brit informal paddy ③ hot with passion: LOVE, (sexual) desire, lust, ardour, infatuation, lasciviousness, lustfulness ④ his passion for football ENTHUSIASM, love, mania, fascination, obsession, fanaticism, fixation, compulsion, appetite, addiction, informal thing ⑤ English literature is a passion with me OBSESSION, preoccupation, craze, mania, hobby horse ⑥ the Passion of Christ CRUCIFIXION, suffering, agony, martyrdom
—OPPOSITES apathy

passionate ► **adjective** ① a passionate entreaty INTENSE, impassioned, ardent, fervent, vehement, fiery, heated, emotional, heartfelt, eager, excited, animated, spirited, energetic, fervid, frenzied, wild, consuming, violent, poetic/literary perfervid ② McGregor is passionate about sport VERY KEEN, very enthusiastic, addicted, informal mad, crazy, hooked, nuts; N Amer informal nutso, Austral/NZ informal shook ③ a passionate kiss AMOROUS, ardent, hot-blooded, aroused, loving, sexy, sensual, erotic, lustful, informal steamy, hot, turned on ④ a passionate woman EXCITABLE, emotional, fiery, volatile, mercurial, quick-tempered, highly strung, impulsive, temperamental.
—OPPOSITES apathetic

passionless ► **adjective** UNEMOTIONAL, cold, cold-blooded, emotionless, frigid, cool, unfeeling, unloving, unresponsive, undemonstrative, impassive

passive ► **adjective** ① a passive role INACTIVE, non-active, non-participative, uninvolved ② passive victims SUBMISSIVE, acquiescent, unresisting, unassertive, compliant, pliant, obedient, docile, tractable, malleable, pliable ③ the woman's face was passive EMOTIONLESS, impassive, unemotional, unmoved, dispassionate, passionless, detached, unresponsive, undemonstrative, apathetic, phlegmatic
—OPPOSITES active

passport ► **noun** ① TRAVEL PERMIT, (travel) papers, visa, laissez-passer ② qualifications are the passport to success KEY, path, way, route, avenue, door, doorway

password ► **noun** WORD OF IDENTIFICATION; Military, archaic watchword, countersign.

past ► **adjective** ① memories of times past: GONE (by), over (and done with), no more, done, by-gone, former, (of) old, olden, long-ago; poetic/literary of yore ② the past few months: LAST, re-

cent, preceding ③ a past chairman: PREVIOUS, former, foregoing, erstwhile, one-time, sometime, ex-, formal quondam
—OPPOSITES present, future

► **noun** details about her past HISTORY, background, life (story)

► **preposition** ① she walked past the cafe IN FRONT OF, by ② he's past retirement age BEYOND, in excess of

► **adverb** they hurried past ALONG, by, on

■ **in the past** FORMERLY, previously, in days/years/times gone by, in former times, in the (good) old days, in days of old, in olden times, once (upon a time), poetic/literary in days of yore, in yesteryear

pasta ► **noun** See list

Types of Pasta

agnolotti	fusilli	rigatoni
angel hair	gramigna	risoni
annellini	lasagne	rotelle
bigoli	linguine	rotini
bucatini	lumache	spaghetti
cannelloni	macaroni	spaghettini
capelli	mafalde	spaghettoni
cappelletti	manicotti	stelline
casarecce	maruzze	tagliatelle
conchiglie	mezzani	tagliolini
cravatine	mostaccioli	tagliori
ditali	noodles	tortellini
ditalini	orecchiette	tortelloni
ditaloni	orzo	tortiglioni
farfalle	paglia e	trenette
farfalline	fieno	tuffoloni
fedellini	pappardelle	vermicelli
fettucce	penne	ziti
fettuccine	pipe	
fidellini	ravioli	

paste ► **noun** ① blend the ingredients to a paste PURÉE, pulp, mush, blend ② wallpaper paste ADHESIVE, glue, gum, fixative, N Amer mucilage ③ fish paste SPREAD, pâté

► **verb** a notice was pasted on the door GLUE, stick, gum, fix, affix

pastel ► **adjective** PALE, soft, light, light-coloured, muted, subtle, subdued, soft-hued
—OPPOSITES dark, bright

pastiche ► **noun** ① a pastiche of literary models MIXTURE, blend, medley, melange, miscellany, mixed bag, pot-pourri, mix, compound, composite, collection, assortment, conglomeration, hotchpotch, jumble, ragbag, N Amer hodge-podge ② a pastiche of 18th-century style IMITATION, parody, informal take-off.

pastille ► **noun** LOZENGE, sweet, drop, tablet, pill

pastime ► **noun** HOBBY, leisure activity/pursuit, sport, game, recreation, amusement, diversion, entertainment, interest, sideline

past master ► **noun** EXPERT, master, wizard, genius, old hand, veteran, maestro, connoisseur, authority, grandmaster; informal ace, pro, star, hotshot, Brit informal dab hand; N Amer informal maven, crackerjack.

pastor ► **noun** PRIEST, minister (of religion), parson, clergyman, cleric, chaplain, padre, ecclesiastic, man of the cloth, churchman, vicar,



rector, curate, preacher, *informal* reverend, *Austral informal* jossler

pastoral ► **adjective** ① *a pastoral scene* RURAL, country, countryside, rustic, agricultural, bucolic, *poetic/literary* sylvan, Arcadian ② *his pastoral duties* PRIESTLY, clerical, ecclesiastical, ministerial
—OPPOSITES urban

pastry ► **noun** ① *pastries for tea* TART, tartlet, pie, pasty, patty ② *two layers of pastry* CRUST, piecrust, croute

pasture ► **noun** GRAZING (LAND), grassland, grass, pastureland, pasturage, ley, meadow, field, *Austral/NZ run, poetic/literary* lea, mead, greensward

pasty ► **adjective** PALE, pallid, wan, colourless, anaemic, ashen, white, grey, pasty-faced, washed out, sallow

pat¹ ► **verb** Brian patted her on the shoulder TAP, slap lightly, clap, touch

► **noun** ① *a pat on the cheek* TAP, light blow, clap, touch ② *a pat of butter* PIECE, dab, lump, portion, knob, mass, gobbet, ball, curl

■ **pat someone on the back** CONGRATULATE, praise, take one's hat off to, commend, compliment, applaud, acclaim

pat² ► **adjective** *pat answers* GLIB, simplistic, facile, unconvincing

► **adverb** *his reply came rather pat* OPPORTUNELY, conveniently, at just/exactly the right moment, expediently, favourably, appropriately, fittingly, auspiciously, providentially, felicitously, propitiously

■ **off pat** WORD-PERFECT, by heart, by rote, by memory, parrot-fashion

■ **get something off pat** MEMORIZE, commit to memory, remember, learn by heart, learn (by rote)

patch ► **noun** ① *a patch over one eye* COVER, eye-patch, covering, pad ② *a reddish patch on her wrist* BLOTCH, mark, spot, smudge, speckle, smear, stain, streak, blemish, *informal* splodge, splotch ③ *a patch of ground* PLOT, area, piece, strip, tract, parcel, bed, *Bnt* allotment, *N Amer* lot ④ (*Bnt informal*) *they are going through a difficult patch* PERIOD, time, spell, phase, stretch, *Bnt informal* spot

► **verb** *her jeans were neatly patched* MEND, repair, put a patch on, sew (up), stitch (up)

■ **patch something up** (*informal*) ① *the houses were being patched up* REPAIR, mend, fix hastily, do a makeshift repair on ② *he's trying to patch things up with his wife* RECONCILE, make up, settle, remedy, put to rights, rectify, clear up, set right, make good, resolve, square

patchwork ► **noun** ASSORTMENT, miscellany, mixture, melange, medley, blend, mixed bag, mix, collection, selection, assemblage, combination, pot-pourri, jumble, mishmash, ragbag, hotchpotch, *N Amer* hodgepodge

patchy ► **adjective** ① *their teaching has been patchy*: UNEVEN, bitty, varying, variable, intermittent, fitful, sporadic, erratic, irregular ② *patchy evidence*: FRAGMENTARY, inadequate, insufficient, rudimentary, limited, sketchy
—OPPOSITES uniform, comprehensive

patent ► **noun** *there is a patent on the chemical* COPYRIGHT, licence, legal protection, registered trademark

► **adjective** ① *patent nonsense* OBVIOUS, clear, plain,

evident, manifest, self-evident, transparent, overt, conspicuous, blatant, downright, bare-faced, flagrant, undisguised, unconcealed, unmistakable ② *patent medicines* PROPRIETARY, patented, licensed, branded

paternal ► **adjective** ① *his face showed paternal concern* FATHERLY, fatherlike, patriarchal, protective, solicitous, compassionate, sympathetic ② *his paternal grandfather* ON ONE'S FATHER'S SIDE, patrilineal
—OPPOSITES maternal

paternity ► **noun** FATHERHOOD

path ► **noun** ① *a path down to the beach*: FOOT PATH, pathway, footway, pavement, track, trail, trackway, bridleway, bridle path, lane, alley, alleyway, passage, passageway, cycle path/track, *N Amer* sidewalk, bikeway ② *journalists blocked his path* ROUTE, way, course, direction, bearing, line, orbit, trajectory ③ *the best path towards a settlement* COURSE OF ACTION, route, road, avenue, line, approach, tack, strategy, tactic

pathetic ► **adjective** ① *a pathetic groan* PITIFUL, pitiable, piteous, moving, touching, poignant, plaintive, distressing, upsetting, heartbreaking, heart-rending, harrowing, wretched, forlorn ② (*informal*) *a pathetic excuse* FEEBLE, woeful, sorry, poor, pitiful, lamentable, deplorable, contemptible, inadequate, paltry, insufficient, insubstantial, unsatisfactory

pathfinder ► **noun** PIONEER, ground-breaker, trailblazer, trendsetter, leader, torch-bearer, pacemaker

pathological ► **adjective** ① *a pathological condition* MORBID, diseased ② (*informal*) *a pathological liar* COMPULSIVE, obsessive, inveterate, habitual, persistent, chronic, hardened, confirmed

pathos ► **noun** POIGNANCY, tragedy, sadness, pitifulness, piteousness, pitableness

patience ► **noun** ① *she tried everyone's patience* FORBEARANCE, tolerance, restraint, self-restraint, stoicism, calmness, composure, equanimity, serenity, tranquillity, imperturbability, understanding, indulgence ② *a task requiring patience* PERSEVERANCE, persistence, endurance, tenacity, assiduity, application, staying power, doggedness, determination, resolve, resolution, resoluteness, *formal* pertinacity

patient ► **adjective** ① *I must ask you to be patient* FORBEARING, uncomplaining, tolerant, resigned, stoical, calm, composed, even-tempered, imperturbable, unexcitable, accommodating, understanding, indulgent, *informal* unflappable, cool ② *a good deal of patient work* PERSEVERING, persistent, tenacious, indefatigable, dogged, determined, resolved, resolute, single-minded, *formal* pertinacious

► **noun** *a doctor's patient* SICK PERSON, case, invalid, convalescent, outpatient, inpatient

patio ► **noun** TERRACE, courtyard, quadrangle, quad, *N Amer* sun deck

patois ► **noun** VERNACULAR, (local) dialect, regional language, jargon, argot, cant; *informal* (local) lingo

patriarch ► **noun** SENIOR FIGURE, father, paterfamilias, leader, elder

patrician ► **noun** *the great patricians* ARISTOCRAT, grandee, noble, nobleman, noblewoman, lord, lady, peer, peeress

► **adjective** *patrician families*: ARISTOCRATIC, noble,



titled, blue-blooded, high-born, upper-class, landowning, *informal* upper-crust; *archaic* gentle

patrimony ► **noun** HERITAGE, inheritance, birthright, legacy, bequest, endowment, bequeathal, *Law, dated* hereditament

patriot ► **noun** NATIONALIST, loyalist, chauvinist, jingoist, flag-waver

patriotic ► **adjective** NATIONALIST, nationalistic, loyalist, loyal, chauvinistic, jingoistic, flag-waving
—OPPOSITES traitorous

patriotism ► **noun** NATIONALISM, patriotic sentiment, allegiance/loyalty to one's country, chauvinism, jingoism, flag-waving

patrol ► **noun** ① anti-poaching patrols VIGIL, guard, watch, monitoring, policing, beat-pounding, patrolling, reconnoitre, surveillance, *informal* recce ② the patrol stopped a suspect PATROLMAN, PATROLOWOMAN, sentinel, sentry, scout, scouting party, task force

► **verb** a security guard was patrolling a housing estate KEEP GUARD (ON), guard, keep watch (on), police, pound the beat (of), make the rounds (of), stand guard (over), keep a vigil (on), defend, safeguard

patron ► **noun** ① a patron of the arts SPONSOR, backer, financier, benefactor, benefactress, contributor, subscriber, donor, philanthropist, promoter, friend, supporter, *informal* angel ② club patrons CUSTOMER, client, frequenter, consumer, user, visitor, guest, *informal* regular

patronage ► **noun** ① art patronage SPONSORSHIP, backing, funding, financing, promotion, assistance, support ② political patronage POWER OF APPOINTMENT, favouritism, nepotism, preferential treatment ③ a slight note of patronage CONDESCENSION, patronizing, patronization, disdain, disrespect, scorn, contempt ④ thank you for your patronage CUSTOM, trade, business

patronize ► **verb** ① don't patronize me! TREAT CONDESCENDINGLY, condescend to, look down on, talk down to, put down, treat like a child, treat with disdain ② they patronized local tradesmen DO BUSINESS WITH, buy from, shop at, be a customer of, be a client of, deal with, trade with, frequent, support ③ he patronized a national museum SPONSOR, back, fund, finance, be a patron of, support, champion

patronizing ► **adjective** CONDESCENDING, disdainful, supercilious, superior, imperious, scornful, contemptuous, *informal* uppity, high and mighty

patter¹ ► **verb** ① raindrops pattered against the window GO PITTER-PATTER, tap, drum, beat, pound, rat-a-tat, go pit-a-pat, thrum. ② she pattered across the floor: SCURRY, scuttle, skip, trip
► **noun** the patter of rain: PITTER-PATTER, tapping, pattering, drumming, beat, beating, pounding, rat-a-tat, pit-a-pat, clack, thrum, thrumming

patter² ► **noun** ① this witty patter PRATTLE, prating, blather, blither, drivel, chatter, jabber, babble; *informal* yabbering, yatter, *archaic* twaddle ② the salesmen's patter (SALES) PITCH, sales talk; *informal* line ③ the local patter SPEECH, language, parlance, dialect; *informal* lingo.

► **verb** she pattered on incessantly PRATTLE, prate, blather, blither, drivel, chatter, jabber, babble, *informal* yabber, yatter, *Brit informal* rabbit, witter.

pattern ► **noun** ① the pattern on the wallpaper DESIGN, decoration, motif, marking, ornament, ornamentation See list ② a change in working patterns SYSTEM, order, arrangement, form, method, structure, scheme, plan, format, framework. ③ this would set the pattern for a generation MODEL, example, criterion, standard, basis, point of reference, gauge, norm, yardstick, touchstone, benchmark, blueprint, archetype, prototype ④ textile patterns SAMPLE, specimen, swatch

► **verb** someone else is patterning my life SHAPE, influence, model, fashion, mould, style, determine, control

Patterns

See also SHAPE.

argyle
check
chequers
clock
dog-tooth
Greek key
houndstooth

herringbone
microcheck
millefleurs
overcheck
paisley
plaid
dolka dot

Prince of Wales
check
shepherd's plaid
tartan
waffle

patterned ► **adjective** DECORATED, ornamented, fancy, adorned, embellished
—OPPOSITES plain

paucity ► **noun** SCARCITY, sparseness, sparsity, dearth, shortage, poverty, insufficiency, deficiency, lack, want, *formal* exiguity
—OPPOSITES abundance

paunch ► **noun** POT BELLY, beer belly, *informal* beer gut, pot, *dated* corporation

pauper ► **noun** POOR PERSON, indigent, down-and-out, *informal* have-not

pause ► **noun** a pause in the conversation STOP, cessation, break, halt, interruption, check, lull, respite, breathing space, discontinuation, hiatus, gap, interlude; adjournment, suspension, rest, wait, hesitation, *informal* let-up, breather

► **verb** Hannah paused for a moment STOP, cease, halt, discontinue, break off, take a break, adjourn, rest, wait, hesitate, falter, waver, *informal* take a breather

pave ► **verb** the yard was paved TILE, surface, flag

► **pave the way for** PREPARE (THE WAY) FOR, make preparations for, get ready for, lay the foundations for, herald, precede

pavement ► **noun** FOOTPATH, walkway, footway, *N Amer* sidewalk.

paw ► **noun** FOOT, forepaw, hind paw.

► **verb** ① their offspring were pawing each other: HAN DLE ROUGHLY, pull, grab, maul, manhandle ② some Casanova tried to paw her FONDLE, feel, maul, molest, *informal* grope, feel up, touch up, goose.

pawn¹ ► **verb** he pawned his watch. PLEDGE, put in pawn, give as security, use as collateral, *informal* hock, put in hock

pawn² ► **noun** a pawn in the battle for the throne PUPPET, dupe, hostage, tool, cat's paw, instrument.

pay ► **verb** ① I must pay him for his work: REWARD, reimburse, recompense, give payment to, remunerate. ② you must pay a few more pounds: SPEND, expend, pay out, dish out, disburse; *infor-*



mal lay out, shell out, fork out, cough up, *N Amer informal* ante up, pony up ① *he paid his debts* DISCHARGE, settle, pay off, clear, liquidate ② *hard work will pay dividends* YIELD, return, produce ③ *he made the buses pay* BE PROFITABLE, make money, make a profit ④ *it may pay you to be early* BE ADVANTAGEOUS TO, benefit, be of advantage to, be beneficial to ⑤ *paying compliments* BESTOW, grant, give, offer ⑥ *he will pay for his mistakes* SUFFER (THE CONSEQUENCES), be punished, atone, pay the penalty/price

► **noun** equal pay for women SALARY, wages, payment, earnings, remuneration, reimbursement, income, revenue; *formal* emolument(s)

■ **pay someone back/out** GET ONE'S REVENGE ON, be revenged on, avenge oneself on, get back at, get even with, settle accounts with, pay someone out, exact retribution on

■ **pay something back** REPAY, pay off, give back, return, reimburse, refund

■ **pay for** DEFRAY THE COST OF, settle up for, finance, fund, treat someone to, *informal* foot the bill for, shell out for, fork out for, cough up for, *N Amer informal* ante up for, pony up for

■ **pay someone off** ① *Tim paid off the driver* PAY WHAT ONE OWES, discharge ② *paying off the police* BRIBE, suborn, buy (off), *informal* grease someone's palm

■ **pay something off** PAY (IN FULL), settle, discharge, clear, liquidate

■ **pay off** (*informal*) MEET WITH SUCCESS, be successful, be effective, get results

■ **pay something out** SPEND, expend, pay, dish out, put up, part with, hand over, *informal* shell out, fork out/up, lay out, cough up

■ **pay up** MAKE PAYMENT, settle up, pay (in full), *informal* cough up

payable ► **adjective** DUE, owed, owing, outstanding, unpaid, overdue, in arrears, *N Amer* delinquent

payment ► **noun** ① discounts for early payment REMITTANCE, settlement, discharge, clearance, liquidation ② *monthly payments* INSTALMENT premium ③ *extra payment for good performance* SALARY, wages, pay, earnings, fee(s), remuneration, reimbursement, income, *formal* emolument(s)

pay-off ► **noun** (*informal*) ① the lure of enormous pay-offs PAYMENT, payout, reward, bribe, inducement, 'incentive', *N Amer* payola, *informal* kickback, sweetener, backhander, *Austral informal* sling ② *a pay-off of £160,000* RETURN (ON INVESTMENT), yield, payback, profit, gain, dividend ③ *a dramatic pay-off* OUTCOME, denouement, culmination, conclusion, development, result

pea ► **noun** See list at BEAN

peace ► **noun** ① *can't a man get any peace around here?* TRANQUILITY, calm, restfulness, peace and quiet, peacefulness, quiet, quietness, privacy, solitude ② *peace of mind* SERENITY, peacefulness, tranquillity, equanimity, calm, calmness, composure, ease, contentment, contentedness. ③ *we pray for peace*: LAW AND ORDER, lawfulness, order, peacefulness, peaceableness, harmony, non-violence, *formal* concord ④ *a lasting peace*: TREATY, truce, ceasefire, armistice, cessation/suspension of hostilities
—OPPOSITES noise, war

peaceable ► **adjective** ① *a peaceable man* PEACE-LOVING, non-violent, non-aggressive, easy-going, placid, gentle, inoffensive, good-natured, even-tempered, amiable, amicable,

friendly, affable, genial, pacific, dove-like, dovish, *formal* irenic ② *a peaceable society* PEACEFUL, strife-free, harmonious, law-abiding, disciplined, orderly, civilized
—OPPOSITES aggressive

peaceful ► **adjective** ① *everything was quiet and peaceful* TRANQUIL, calm, restful, quiet, still, relaxing, soothing, undisturbed, untroubled, private, secluded ② *his peaceful mood* SERENE, calm, tranquil, composed, placid, at ease, untroubled, unworried, content ③ *peaceful relations* HARMONIOUS, at peace, peaceable, on good terms, amicable, friendly, cordial, non-violent
—OPPOSITES noisy, agitated, hostile

peacemaker ► **noun** ARBITRATOR, arbiter, mediator, negotiator, conciliator, go-between, intermediary, pacifier, appeaser, peace-monger, pacifist, peace-lover, dove, *informal* peacenik

peak ► **noun** ① *the peaks of the mountains* SUMMIT, top, crest, pinnacle, apex, crown, cap ② *the highest peak* MOUNTAIN, hill, height, mount, alp, *Scottish* ben, Munro ③ *the peak of a cap* BRIM, visor ④ *the peak of his career* HEIGHT, high point/spot, pinnacle, summit, top, climax, culmination, apex, zenith, crowning point, acme, apogee, prime, heyday

► **verb** *Labour support has peaked* REACH ITS HEIGHT, climax, reach a climax, come to a head

► **adjective** *peak loads* MAXIMUM, top, greatest, highest, ultimate, best, optimum

peaky ► **adjective** PALE, pasty, wan, drained, washed out, drawn, pallid, anaemic, ashen, grey, pinched, sickly, sallow, ill, unwell, poorly, indisposed, run down, *Brit* off (colour), *informal* under the weather, lough, lousy, seedy, *Brit informal* grotty, ropy

peal ► **noun** ① *a peal of bells* CHIME, carillon, ring, ringing, tinnabulation ② *peals of laughter* SHRIEK, shout, scream, howl, gale, fit, roar, hoot ③ *a peal of thunder* RUMBLE, roar, boom, crash, clap, crack

► **verb** ① *the bell pealed* RING (OUT), chime (out), clang, sound, ding, jingle ② *the thunder pealed* RUMBLE, roar, boom, crash, resound

peasant ► **noun** ① *peasants working the land* AGRICULTURAL WORKER, small farmer, rustic, swain, villein, serf ② (*informal*) *you peasants!* See BOOR

peccadillo ► **noun** MISDEMEANOUR, petty offence, indiscretion, lapse, misdeed

peck ► **verb** ① *the cockerel pecked my heel* BITE, nip, strike, hit, tap, rap, jab ② *he pecked her on the cheek* KISS, give someone a peck ③ (*informal*) *the old lady pecked at her food* NIBBLE, pick at, take very small bites from, toy with, play with

peculiar ► **adjective** ① *something peculiar began to happen* STRANGE, unusual, odd, funny, curious, bizarre, weird, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, anomalous, out of the ordinary, exceptional, extraordinary, remarkable, puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, suspicious, eerie, unnatural; *informal* fishy, creepy, spooky. ② *peculiar behaviour* BIZARRE, eccentric, strange, odd, weird, queer, funny, unusual, abnormal, idiosyncratic, unconventional, outlandish, quirky, *informal* wacky, freaky, oddball, offbeat, off the wall, *N Amer informal* wacko ③ (*informal*) *I feel a bit peculiar* See UNWELL ④ *mannerisms peculiar to the islanders* CHARACTERISTIC OF, typical of, represen-



tative of, indicative of, suggestive of, exclusive to. ④ *their own peculiar contribution* DISTINCTIVE, characteristic, distinct, individual, special, unique, personal

—OPPOSITES ordinary

peculiarity ▶ noun ① *a legal peculiarity* ODDITY, anomaly, abnormality ② *a physical peculiarity* IDIOSYNCRASY, mannerism, quirk, foible ③ *one of the peculiarities of the city* CHARACTERISTIC, feature, (essential) quality, property, trait, attribute, hallmark, trademark. ④ *the peculiarity of this notion* STRANGENESS, oddness, bizarreness, weirdness, queeriness, unexpectedness, unfamiliarity, anomalousness, incongruity ⑤ *there is a certain peculiarity about her appearance* OUTLANDISHNESS, bizarreness, unconventionality, idiosyncrasy, weirdness, oddness, eccentricity, unusualness, abnormality, queeriness, strangeness, quirkiness, informal wackiness, freakiness.

pecuniary ▶ adjective FINANCIAL, monetary, money, fiscal, economic

pedagogic ▶ adjective EDUCATIONAL, educative, pedagogical, teaching, instructional, instructive, didactic, academic, scholastic

pedagogue (formal) ▶ noun TEACHER, schoolteacher, schoolmaster, schoolmistress, master, mistress, tutor, lecturer, academic, don, professor, instructor, educator, educationalist, educationist, Austral / NZ informal chalkie

pedant ▶ noun DOGMATIST, purist, literalist, formalist, doctrinaire, perfectionist, quibbler, hair-splitter, casuist, sophist, informal nit-picker.

pedantic ▶ adjective OVER-SCRUPULOUS, scrupulous, precise, exact, perfectionist, punctilious, meticulous, fussy, fastidious, finical, finicky, dogmatic, purist, literalist, literalistic, formalist, casuistic, casuistical, sophistic, sophistical, captious, hair-splitting, quibbling, informal nit-picking, pernicky, archaic overnice

pedantry ▶ noun DOGMATISM, purism, literalism, formalism, over-scrupulousness, scrupulousness, perfectionism, fastidiousness, punctiliousness, meticulousness, captiousness, quibbling, hair-splitting, casuistry, sophistry, informal nit-picking

peddle ▶ verb ① *they are peddling water filters* SELL (FROM DOOR TO DOOR), hawk, tout, vend, trade (in), deal in, traffic in ② *peddling unorthodox views* ADVOCATE, champion, preach, put forward, proclaim, propound, promote

pedestal ▶ noun *a bust on a pedestal* PLINTH, base, support, mounting, stand, foundation, pillar, column, pier, Architecture socle

■ *put someone on a pedestal* IDEALIZE, lionize, look up to, respect, hold in high regard, think highly of, admire, esteem, revere, worship

pedestrian ▶ noun accidents involving pedestrians' WALKER, person on foot
—OPPOSITES driver

▶ adjective *pedestrian lives* DULL, boring, tedious, monotonous, uneventful, unremarkable, tiresome, wearsome, uninspired, unimaginative, unexciting, uninteresting; unvarying, unvaried, repetitive, routine, commonplace, workaday, ordinary, everyday, run-of-the-mill, mundane, humdrum, informal bog-standard, (plain) vanilla; Brit. informal common or garden.
—OPPOSITES exciting.

pedigree ▶ noun *a long pedigree* ANCESTRY, descent, lineage, line (of descent), genealogy, family tree, extraction, derivation, origin(s), heritage, parentage, bloodline, background, roots.

▶ adjective *a pedigree cat* PURE-BRED, thoroughbred, pure-blooded

pedlar ▶ noun ① *pedlars of watches* TRAVELLING SALESMAN, door-to-door salesman, huckster, street trader, hawker, Brit informal fly-pitcher; archaic chapman, packman ② *a drug pedlar* TRAFFICKER, dealer, informal pusher

peek ▶ verb ① *they peeked from behind the curtains* (HAVE A) PEEP, have a peek, spy, take a sly/stealthy look, sneak a look, informal take a gander, have a squint, Brit informal have a dekkko, have/take a butcher's, take a shufti ② *the deer's antlers peeked out from the trees* APPEAR (SLOWLY/PARTLY), show, come into view/sight, become visible, emerge, peep (out)

▶ noun *a peek at the map* SECRET LOOK, sly look, stealthy look, sneaky look, peep, glance, glimpse, hurried/quick look, informal gander, squint, Brit informal dekkko, butcher's, shufti

peel ▶ verb ① *peel and core the fruit* PARE, skin, take the skin/rind off, hull, shell, husk, shuck, technical decorticate ② *use a long knife to peel the veneer* TRIM (OFF), peel off, pare, strip (off), shave (off), remove ③ *the wallpaper was peeling* FLAKE (OFF), peel off, come off in layers/strips

▶ noun *orange peel* RIND, skin, covering, zest, hull, pod, integument, shuck

■ *keep one's eyes peeled* KEEP A (SHARP) LOOKOUT, look out, keep one's eyes open, keep watch, be watchful, be alert, be on the alert, be on the qui vive, be on guard, Brit keep one's eyes skinned

■ *peel something off* (Brit informal) TAKE OFF, strip off, remove

peep¹ ▶ verb ① *I peeped through the keyhole* LOOK QUICKLY, cast a brief look, take a secret look, sneak a look, (have a) peek, glance, informal take a gander, have a squint, Brit informal have a dekkko, have/take a butcher's, take a shufti ② *the moon peeped through the clouds* APPEAR (SLOWLY/PARTLY), show, come into view/sight, become visible, emerge, peek, peer out

▶ noun *I'll just take a peep at it* QUICK LOOK, brief look, sneaky look, peek, glance, informal gander, squint, Brit informal dekkko, butcher's, shufti

peep² ▶ noun ① *I heard a quiet peep* CHEEP, chirp, chirrup, tweet, twitter, chirr, warble ② *there's been not a peep out of the children* SOUND, noise, cry, word ③ *the painting was sold without a peep* COMPLAINT, grumble, mutter, murmur, grouse, objection, protest, protestation, informal moan, gripe, grouch

▶ verb *the fax peeped* CHEEP, chirp, chirrup, tweet, twitter, chirr

peephole ▶ noun OPENING, gap, cleft, spyhole, slit, crack, chink, keyhole, squint, judas (hole)

peer¹ ▶ verb *he peered at the manuscript*. LOOK CLOSELY, try to see, narrow one's eyes, screw up one's eyes, squint

peer² ▶ noun ① *hereditary peers* ARISTOCRAT, lord, lady, peer of the realm, peeress, noble, nobleman, noblewoman, titled man/woman, patrician. ② *his academic peers*: EQUAL, coequal, fellow, confrère; contemporary; formal compeer.

peerage ► **noun** ARISTOCRACY, nobility, peers and peeresses, lords and ladies, patriciate; the House of Lords, the Lords

peerless ► **adjective** INCOMPARABLE, matchless, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare/comparison, unparalleled, unequalled, without equal, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil, unique, consummate, perfect, rare, transcendent, surpassing, *formal* unexampled

peeve ► **verb** (*informal*) IRRITATE, annoy, vex, anger, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, nettle, put out, get on someone's nerves, try someone's patience, ruffle someone's feathers, *Brit* rub up the wrong way, *informal* aggravate, rile, needle, get to, bug, hack off, get someone's goat, get/put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, give someone the hump, *Brit informal* wind up, get on someone's wick, *N Amer informal* tee off, tick off

peevish ► **adjective** (*informal*) IRRITATED, annoyed, cross, angry, vexed, displeased, disgruntled, indignant, exasperated, galled, irked, put out, aggrieved, offended, affronted, piqued, nettled, in high dudgeon, *informal* aggravated, miffed, riled, hacked off, browned off, *Brit informal* narked, cheesed off, brassed off, *N Amer informal* teed off, ticked off, sore

peevish ► **adjective** IRRITABLE, fractious, fretful, cross, petulant, querulous, pettish, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, curmudgeonly, sullen, grumpy, bad-tempered, short-tempered, testy, touchy, tetchy, snappish, irascible, waspish, prickly, crusty, dyspeptic, splenetic, choleric, *N English* mardy, *Brit informal* ratty, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery
-OPPOSITES good-humoured

peg ► **noun** PIN, nail, dowel, skewer, spike, rivet, brad, screw, bolt, hook, spigot, *Mountaineering* piton, *Golf* tee

► **verb** ① the flysheet is pegged to the ground FIX, pin, attach, fasten, secure, make fast ② we decided to peg our prices HOLD DOWN, keep down, fix, set, hold, freeze

■ **peg away** (*informal*) WORK HARD, slog away, plod away, hammer away, grind away, slave away, exert oneself, persevere, persist, keep at it, *informal* beaver away, plug away, stick at it, soldier on, *Brit informal* graft away

■ **take someone down a peg or two** HUMBLE, humiliate, mortify, bring down, shame, embarrass, abash, put someone in their place, chasten, subdue, squash, deflate, make someone eat humble pie, *informal* show up, settle someone's hash, cut down to size, *N Amer informal* make someone eat crow

pejorative ► **adjective** DISPARAGING, derogatory, denigratory, deprecatory, defamatory, slanderous, libellous, abusive, insulting, slighting, *informal* bitchy
-OPPOSITES complimentary

pellet ► **noun** ① a pellet of mud LITTLE BALL, little piece, ② pellet wounds BULLET, shot, lead shot, buckshot, ③ rabbit pellets EXCREMENT, excreta, droppings, faeces, dung

pell-mell ► **adverb** ① men streamed pell-mell from the building HELTER-SKELTER, headlong, (at) full tilt, hotfoot, post-haste, hurriedly, hastily, recklessly, precipitately; *archaic* hurry-scurry, ② the sacks' contents were thrown pell-mell to the ground.

UNTIDILY, anyhow, in disarray, in a mess, in a muddle, *informal* all over the place, every which way, any old how, *Brit informal* all over the shop, *N Amer informal* all over the map, all over the lot

pellucid ► **adjective** ① the pellucid waters TRANS LUCENT, transparent, clear, crystal clear, crystal-line, glassy, limpid, unclouded ② pellucid prose LUCID, limpid, clear, crystal clear, articulate, coherent, comprehensible, understandable, intelligible, straightforward, simple, well constructed, *formal* perspicuous

pelt¹ ► **verb** ① they pelted him with snowballs BOMB, shower, attack, assail, pepper ② rain was pelting down POUR DOWN, teem down, stream down, tip down, rain cats and dogs, rain hard, *Brit informal* bucket down, come down in stair rods ③ (*informal*) they pelted into the factory DASH, run, race, rush, sprint, bolt, dart, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, streak, hasten, hurry, *informal* tear, belt, hotfoot it, scoot, leg it, go like a bat out of hell, *Brit informal* bomb, *N Amer informal* hightail it

pelt² ► **noun** an animal's pelt SKIN, hide, fleece, coat, fur, *archaic* fell

pen¹ ► **noun** you'll need a pen and paper fountain pen, ballpoint (pen), rollerball, fibre tip (pen), felt tip (pen), highlighter, marker pen, *Brit trademark* biro

► **verb** he penned a number of articles WRITE, compose, draft, dash off, write down, jot down, set down, take down, scribble

pen² ► **noun** a sheep pen ENCLOSURE, fold, sheepfold, pound, compound, stockade, sty, coop, *N Amer* corral

► **verb** the hostages had been penned up in a basement CONFINED, coop (up), cage, shut in, box up/in, lock up/in, trap, imprison, incarcerate, immure

penal ► **adjective** ① a penal institution DISCIPLINARY, punitive, corrective, correctional ② penal rates of interest EXORBITANT, extortionate, excessive, outrageous, preposterous, unreasonable, inflated, sky-high

penalize ► **verb** ① if you break the rules you will be penalized PUNISH, discipline, inflict a penalty on ② people with certain medical positions would be penalized HANDICAP, disadvantage, put at a disadvantage, cause to suffer
-OPPOSITES reward

penalty ► **noun** ① increased penalties for dumping oil at sea PUNISHMENT, sanction, punitive action, retribution, fine, forfeit, sentence, penance, *formal* mulct ② the penalties of old age DISADVANTAGE, difficulty, drawback, handicap, downside, minus, trial, tribulation, bane, affliction, burden, trouble
-OPPOSITES reward

penance ► **noun** ATONEMENT, expiation, self-punishment, self-mortification, self-abasement, amends, punishment, penalty

penchant ► **noun** LIKING, fondness, preference, taste, relish, appetite, partiality, soft spot, love, passion, desire, fancy, whim, weakness, inclination, bent, bias, proclivity, predilection, predisposition

pencil ► **noun** ① a sharpened pencil: lead pencil, propelling pencil, ② a pencil of light BEAM, ray, shaft, finger, gleam.

► **verb** ① he pencilled his name inside the cover



WRITE, write down, jot down, scribble, note, take down ② *pencil a line along the top of the moulding* DRAW, trace, sketch

pendant ► noun NECKLACE, locket, medallion

pendent ► adjective HANGING, suspended, dangling, pendulous, pensile, pendant, drooping, droopy, trailing

pending ► adjective ① *nine cases were still pending* UNRESOLVED, undecided, unsettled, awaiting decision/action, undetermined, open, hanging fire, (up) in the air, ongoing, outstanding, not done, unfinished, incomplete, *informal* on the back burner ② *with a general election pending* IMMINENT, impending, about to happen, forthcoming, upcoming, on the way, coming, approaching, looming, gathering, near, nearing, close, close at hand, in the offing, to come
► **preposition** *they were released on bail pending an appeal* AWAITING, until, till, until there is/are

pendulous ► adjective DROOPING, dangling, trailing, droopy, sagging, saggy, floppy, hanging, pendent, pensile

penetrable ► adjective ① *a penetrable subsoil* PERMEABLE, pervious, porous ② *books which are barely penetrable to anyone under 50* UNDERSTANDABLE, fathomable, comprehensible, intelligible

penetrate ► verb ① *the knife penetrated his lungs* PIERCE, puncture, make a hole in, perforate, stab, prick, gore, spike ② *they penetrated the enemy territory* INFILTRATE, slip into, sneak into, insinuate oneself into ③ *fear penetrated her bones* PERMEATE, pervade, fill, spread throughout, suffuse, seep through ④ *he seemed to have penetrated the mysteries of nature* UNDERSTAND, comprehend, apprehend, fathom, grasp, perceive, discern, get to the bottom of, solve, resolve, make sense of, interpret, puzzle out, work out, unravel, decipher, make head or tail of, *informal* crack, get, figure out, *Brit informal* suss out ⑤ *his words finally penetrated* REGISTER, sink in, be understood, be comprehended, become, clear, fall into place; *informal* click.

penetrating ► adjective ① *a penetrating wind* PIERCING, cutting, biting, stinging, keen, sharp, harsh, raw, freezing, chill, wintry, cold ② *a penetrating voice* SHRILL, strident, piercing, carrying, loud, high, high-pitched, piping, ear-splitting, screechy, intrusive ③ *a penetrating smell* PUNGENT, pervasive, strong, powerful, sharp, acrid; heady, aromatic ④ *her penetrating gaze* OBSERVANT, searching, intent, alert, shrewd, perceptive, probing, piercing, sharp, keen ⑤ *a penetrating analysis* PERCEPTIVE, insightful, keen, sharp, sharp-witted, intelligent, clever, smart, incisive, piercing, razor-edged, trenchant, astute, shrewd, clear, acute, percipient, perspicacious, discerning, sensitive, thoughtful, deep, profound
—OPPOSITES mild, soft

penetration ► noun ① *skin penetration by infective larvae* PERFORATION, piercing, puncturing, puncture, stabbing, pricking ② *remarks of great penetration* INSIGHT, discernment, perception, perceptiveness, intelligence, sharp-wittedness, cleverness, incisiveness, keenness, sharpness, trenchancy, astuteness, shrewdness, acuteness, clarity, acuity, percipience, perspicacity, discrimination, sensitivity, thoughtfulness, profundity; *formal* perspicuity

peninsula ► noun CAPE, promontory, point, head, headland, foreland, ness, horn, bill, bluff, mull

penitence ► noun REPENTANCE, contrition, regret, remorse, remorsefulness, ruefulness, sorrow, sorrowfulness, pangs of conscience, self-reproach, shame, guilt, compunction, *archaic* rue

penitent ► adjective REPENTANT, contrite, remorseful, sorry, apologetic, regretful, conscience-stricken, rueful, ashamed, shamefaced, abject, in sackcloth and ashes
—OPPOSITES unrepentant

pen name ► noun PSEUDONYM, nom de plume, assumed name, alias, professional name *See list at PSEUDONYM*

pennant ► noun FLAG, standard, ensign, colour(s), banner, banderole, guidon, *Brit* pendant, *Nautical* burgee

penniless ► adjective DESTITUTE, poverty-stricken, impoverished, poor, indigent, impecunious, in penury, moneyless, without a sou, necessitous, needy, on one's beam-ends, bankrupt, insolvent, *Brit* on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name), *informal* (flat) broke, cleaned out, strapped for cash, on one's uppers, without a brass farthing, bust, *Brit informal* stony broke, skunt, *N Amer informal* stone broke, *formal* penurious
—OPPOSITES wealthy

penny

■ **a pretty penny** (*informal*) A LOT OF MONEY, millions, billions, a king's ransom, *informal* a (small) fortune, lots/pots/heaps of money, a mint, a killing, a bundle, a packet, a tidy sum, big money, telephone numbers, an arm and a leg, *Brit informal* a bomb, loadsamoney, *N Amer informal* big bucks, *Austral informal* big bickies, motser, motza

■ **two/ten a penny** (*informal*) NUMEROUS, abundant, thick on the ground, plentiful, in large numbers, by the yard, very common, ubiquitous, *N Amer informal* a dime a dozen

penny-pincher ► noun MISER, Scrooge, niggard, *informal* skinflint, meanie, money-grubber, cheapskate, *N Amer informal* tightwad
—OPPOSITES spendthrift

penny-pinching ► adjective MEAN, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious, close-fisted, cheese-paring, grasping, Scrooge-like, *informal* stingy, mingy, tight, tight-fisted, money-grubbing, *formal* penurious, *archaic* near
—OPPOSITES generous

pension ► noun OLD-AGE PENSION, retirement pension, regular payment, superannuation, allowance, benefit, support, welfare

pensioner ► noun RETIRED PERSON, old-age pensioner, OAP, senior citizen; *N Amer* senior, retiree

pensive ► adjective THOUGHTFUL, reflective, contemplative, musing, meditative, introspective, ruminative, absorbed, preoccupied, deep/lost in thought, in a brown study, brooding, *formal* cogitative.

pent-up ► adjective REPRESSED, suppressed, stifled, smothered, restrained, confined, bottled up, held in/back, kept in check, curbed, bridled.



Peoples

EUROPE

Adyghe/Adygei
Alsations
Andalusians
Angevins
Apulians
Aragonese
Armoricans
Ashkenazim
Asturians
Athenians
Avars
Azens
Basques
Bavarians
Bessarabians
Bohemians
Bretons
Bulgars
Burgundians
Calabrians
Cantabrians
Castillians
Catalans
Caucasians
Celts
Chechens
Cheremis
Chuvash
Circassians
Cornish
Corsicans
Cossacks
Cretans
English
Faeroese
Flemings
Frisians
Friulians
Gael
Gagauz
Galicians
Gascons
Ghegs
Gypsies

Helvetians
Herzegovinians
Hibernians
Iberians
Ingush
Kabardians
Karelians
Kashubians
Khanty
Komi
Lapps
Livonians
Lusatians
Magyars
Manx
Mari
Mingrelians
Moravians
Mordvins
Navarrese
Neapolitans
Orcadians
Ossetes/
Ossetians
Picards
Piedmontese
Poltevis
Provençals
Prussians
Rhinelanders
Ruthenians
Saarländers
Sardinians
Savoyards
Saxons
Scandinavians
Scots
Sephardim
Shetlanders
Sicilians
Silesians
Slavs
Sorbs
Styrians

Swabians
Thuringians
Tosks
Transylvanians
Tuscans
Tyroleans
Udmurts
Umbrians
Venetians
Viennese
Vlachs
Wallachians
Walloon
Welsh
Wends
Westphalians

ASIA

Abkhaz
Achinese
Adivasi
Alnu
Annamese
Arabs
Assamese
Ballinese
Baluchis
Bashkirs
Batak
Bedouin
Bengalis
Bhils/Bheels
Biharis
Bikol
Brahui
Buryats
Cham
Chamorro
Chins
Chukchi/
Chukchee
Dards
Dargva
Dayak/Dyak
Dravidians

Dusuns
Even
Evenki
Goanese
Gond
Gujaratis
Gurkhas
Hakkas
Hiligaynon
Hmong
Jat
Javanese
Iban
Ibanag
Ilocano
Kachins
Kafirs
Kalmyk/
Kalmuck
Kanarese
Karakalpaks
Karens
Kashmiris
Kayan
Kenyah
Khalkhas
Khmers
Kuki
Kurds
Lahu
Lao
Lepchas
Lushai
Maharashtrians
Malays
Malayalis
Manchus
Marathas
Marsh Arabs
Miao/Meo
Mizo
Moluccans
Mon
Munda
Mundari

Nagas
Nenets
Nicobarese
Ostyaks
Palau
Pathans
Punan
Punjabis
Rajasthanis
Samales
Samoyeds
Senoi
Shan
Sherpas
Sindhis
Sinhalese
Sumatrans
Sundanese
Tagalogs
Talaings
Tamang
Tamil
Tatars
Telugu
Uighurs/Uigurs
Veddahs
Wa
Waziris
Yakuts
Yao

AUSTRALASIA AND OCEANIA

Aborigines
Anangu
Aranda/
Arunta/
Arremte
Motu
Kamilaroi
Kumali
Maoris
Marquesans
Melanesians
Micronesians

Motu
Negritos
Pintupi
Polynesians
Warlpiri

ESKIMO

Aleut
Inuit
Inupiaq
Yupik

SOUTH AND CENTRAL AMERICA

Araucanians
Arawaks
Aymara
Caribs
Guarani
Incas
Jivaro
Kuna
Lengua
Mapuche
Miskito
Nahuatl
Quechua
Quiché
Ticuna
Tupí
Yanomami

AFRICA

See AFRICA.

NORTH AMERICA, INCLUDING MEXICO

See NORTH
AMERICAN
INDIAN.



penurious ► adjective (formal) ① a penurious student POOR, as poor as a church mouse, poverty-stricken, destitute, necessitous, impecunious, impoverished, indigent, needy, in need/want, badly off, in reduced/strained circumstances, hard up, on one's beam-ends, unable to make ends meet, penniless, without a sou, *Brit* on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name), *informal* (flat) broke, strapped for cash, on one's uppers, *Brit informal* stony broke, skint, without a brass farthing, in Queer Street, *N Amer informal* stone broke ② a penurious old skinflint: MEAN, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious, penny-pinching, close-fisted, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like, *informal* stingy, minging, tight, tight-fisted, money-grubbing; *archaic* near -OPPOSITES wealthy, generous.

penury ► noun EXTREME POVERTY, destitution, pennilessness, impecuniousness, impoverishment, indigence, pauperism, privation, beggary

people ► noun ① crowds of people: HUMAN BEINGS, persons, individuals, humans, mortals,

(living) souls, personages, (men, women, and children), *informal* folk, peeps ② the British people: CITIZENS, subjects, electors, voters, taxpayers, residents, inhabitants, (general) public, citizenry, nation, population, populace See list ③ a man of the people: THE COMMON PEOPLE, the proletariat, the masses, the populace, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians, *derogatory* the hoi polloi, the common herd, the great unwashed, the proles, the plebs. ④ her people don't live far away FAMILY, parents, relatives, relations, folk, kinsmen, kinswomen, kin, kith and kin, kinsfolk, flesh and blood, nearest and dearest, *informal* folks. ⑤ the peoples of Africa: RACE, (ethnic) group, tribe, clan.

► verb the Indians who once peopled Newfoundland POPULATE, settle (in), colonize, inhabit, live in, occupy, *formal* reside in, be domiciled in, dwell in.

pep (*informal*) ► noun a performance full of pep DYNAMISM, life, energy, spirit, liveliness, animation, bounce, sparkle, effervescence, verve,

spiritedness, ebullience, high spirits, enthusiasm, vitality, vivacity, fire, dash, panache, elan, zest, exuberance, vigour, gusto, brio, *informal* feistiness, get-up-and-go, oomph, pizzazz, vim
■ pep something up ENLIVEN, animate, liven up, put some/new life into, invigorate, vitalize, revitalize, vivify, ginger up, energize, galvanize, put some spark into, stimulate, get something going, perk up, brighten up, cheer up, *informal* buck up

pepper ► **verb** ① salt and pepper the potatoes ADD PEPPER TO, season, flavour ② stars peppered the desert skies SPRINKLE, fleck, dot, spot, stipple, cover, fill ③ another burst of bullets peppered the tank: BOMBARD, pelt, shower, rain down on, attack, assail, batter, strafe, rake, blitz, hit

peppery ► **adjective** ① a peppery sauce. SPICY, spiced, peppered, hot, highly seasoned, piquant, pungent, sharp ② a peppery old man: IRRITABLE, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, short-tempered, tetchy, testy, crusty, crabby, curmudgeonly, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, prickly, waspish, *informal* snappish, snappy, chippy, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery
 —OPPOSITES mild, bland, affable

perceive ► **verb** ① I immediately perceived the flaws in her story DISCERN, recognize, become aware of, see, distinguish, realize, grasp, understand, take in, make out, find, identify, hit on, comprehend, apprehend, appreciate, sense, divine, *informal* figure out, *Brit informal* twig, *formal* become cognizant of ② he perceived a flush creeping up her neck SEE, discern, detect, catch sight of, spot, observe, notice ③ he was perceived as too negative REGARD, look on, view, consider, think of, judge, deem, adjudge

perceptible ► **adjective** NOTICEABLE, perceivable, detectable, discernible, visible, observable, recognizable, appreciable, obvious, apparent, evident, manifest, patent, clear, distinct, plain, conspicuous

perception ► **noun** ① our perception of our own limitations: RECOGNITION, awareness, consciousness, appreciation, realization, knowledge, grasp, understanding, comprehension, apprehension; *formal* cognizance ② popular perceptions of old age IMPRESSION, idea, conception, notion, thought, belief, judgement, estimation ③ he talks with great perception INSIGHT, perceptiveness, percipience, perspicacity, understanding, sharpness, sharp-wittedness, intelligence, intuition, cleverness, incisiveness, trenchancy, astuteness, shrewdness, acuteness, acuity, discernment, sensitivity, penetration, thoughtfulness, profundity, *formal* perspicuity.

perceptive ► **adjective** INSIGHTFUL, discerning, sensitive, intuitive, observant, piercing, penetrating, percipient, perspicacious, penetrative, clear-sighted, far-sighted, intelligent, clever, canny, keen, sharp, sharp-witted, astute, shrewd, quick, smart, acute, discriminating; *informal* on the ball, *N Amer informal* heads-up.
 —OPPOSITES obtuse

perch ► **noun** the budgerigar's perch POLE, rod, branch, roost, rest, resting place

► **verb** ① three swallows perched on the telegraph wire: ROOST, sit, rest; alight, settle, land, come to rest. ② she perched her glasses on her nose: PUT, place, set, rest, balance. ③ the church is perched

on a hill BE LOCATED, be situated, be positioned, be sited, stand

perchance ► **adverb** (*poetic/literary*) MAYBE, perhaps, possibly, for all one knows, it could be, it's possible, conceivably; *N English* happen, *poetic/literary* peradventure

percipient ► **adjective**. See PERCEPTIVE

percolate ► **verb** ① water percolated through the soil FILTER, drain, drip, ooze, seep, trickle, dribble, leak, leach ② these views began to percolate through society as a whole SPREAD, be disseminated, filter, pass, permeate, pervade ③ he put some coffee on to percolate BREW, *informal* perk

percussion ► **noun**. See list.

Percussion Instruments

agogo	drum	slit drum
angel chimes	frame drum	snare drum
anvil	glockenspiel	stamping tube
balafon	gong	steel drum
banana	gong chimes	tabla
drum	goombay	tabor
barrel drum	handbell	taiko
bass drum	hi-hat	tambour
bells	cymbals	tambourine
bhaya	idiophone	tam-tam
bodhrán	jew's harp	tassa drum
bongos	kettledrum	tenor drum
castanets	kick drum	temple block
celesta	lithophone	thumb piano
changko	maracas	timbales
chengcheng	mbila	timpani
chime bar	mridangam	tom-tom
Chinese	piano	triangle
block	rattle	tubular bells
clappers	rommelpot	Turkish crescent
claves	rototom	vibraphone
conga drum	saron	vibraslap
cowbell	scraper	washboard
crotales	sekere	whip
cylindrical	shaker	wobble-board
drums	side drum	wood block
cymbals	sistrum	xylophone
dhol	sleigh bells	xyloimba

perdition ► **noun** DAMNATION, eternal punishment, hell, hellfire, doom

peregrinations ► **plural noun** (*archaic*) TRAVELS, wanderings, journeys, globetrotting, voyages, expeditions, odysseys, trips, treks, excursions, *formal* perambulations.

peremptory ► **adjective** ① a peremptory reply BRUSQUE, imperious, high-handed, brisk, abrupt, summary, commanding, dictatorial, autocratic, overbearing, dogmatic, arrogant, overweening, lordly, magisterial, authoritarian, emphatic, firm, insistent, *informal* bossy ② a peremptory order of the court. IRREVERSIBLE, binding, absolute, final, conclusive, decisive, definitive, categorical, irrefutable, incontrovertible; *Law* unappealable

perennial ► **adjective** ABIDING, enduring, lasting, everlasting, perpetual, eternal, continuing, unending, unceasing, never-ending, endless, undying, ceaseless, persisting, permanent, constant, continual, unfailing, unchanging, never-changing.

perfect ► **adjective** ① she strove to be the perfect wife: IDEAL, model, without fault, faultless, flaw-

less, consummate, quintessential, exemplary, best, ultimate, copybook, unrivalled, unequalled, matchless, unparalleled, beyond compare, without equal, second to none, too good to be true, Utopian, incomparable, nonpareil, peerless, inimitable, unexcelled, unsurpassed, unsurpassable ② *an E-type Jaguar in perfect condition* **FLAWLESS**, mint, as good as new, pristine, impeccable, immaculate, superb, superlative, optimum, prime, optimal, peak, excellent, faultless, as sound as a bell, unspoiled, unblemished, undamaged, spotless, unmarred, *informal* tip-top, A1 ③ *a perfect copy* **EXACT**, precise, accurate, faithful, correct, unerring, right, true, strict, *Brit informal* spot on, *N Amer informal* on the money ④ *the perfect Christmas present for golfers everywhere* **IDEAL**, just right, right, appropriate, fitting, fit, suitable, apt, made to order, tailor-made, very, *Brit informal* spot on, just the job ⑤ *she felt a perfect idiot* **ABSOLUTE**, complete, total, real, out-and-out, thorough, thoroughgoing, downright, utter, sheer, arrant, unmitigated, unqualified, veritable, in every respect, unalloyed, *Brit informal* right, *Austral/NZ informal* fair

► **verb** *he's busy perfecting his bowling technique* **IMPROVE**, better, polish (up), hone, refine, put the finishing/final touches to, brush up, fine-tune

perfection ► **noun** ① *the perfection of his technique* **IMPROVEMENT**, betterment, refinement, refining, honing ② *for her, he was still perfection* **THE IDEAL**, a paragon, the ne plus ultra, the beau idéal, a nonpareil, the crème de la crème, the last word, the ultimate, *informal* one in a million, the tops, the best/greatest thing since sliced bread, the bee's knees, *archaic* a nonsuch

perfectionist ► **noun** **PURIST**, stickler for perfection, idealist, pedant, *archaic* precisian

perfectly ► **adverb** ① *a perfectly cooked meal* **SUPERBLY**, superlatively, excellently, flawlessly, faultlessly, to perfection, without fault, ideally, inimitably, incomparably, impeccably, immaculately, exquisitely, consummately, *N Amer* to a fare-thee-well, *informal* like a dream, to a T ② *I think we understand each other perfectly* **ABSOLUTELY**, utterly, completely, altogether, entirely, wholly, totally, thoroughly, fully, in every respect ③ *you know perfectly well that is not what I meant* **VERY**, quite, full, *informal* damn, damned, *Brit informal* jolly, bloody, *N Amer informal* darned, *N English* right

perfidious ► **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) **TREACHEROUS**, duplicitous, deceitful, disloyal, faithless, unfaithful, traitorous, treasonous, false, false-hearted, double-dealing, two-faced, untrustworthy

—OPPOSITES faithful

perfidy ► **noun** (*poetic/literary*) **TREACHERY**, duplicity, deceit, deceitfulness, disloyalty, infidelity, faithlessness, unfaithfulness, betrayal, treason, double-dealing, untrustworthiness, breach of trust, *poetic/literary* perfidiousness

perforate ► **verb** **PIERCE**, penetrate, enter, puncture, prick, bore through, riddle.

perforce ► **adverb** (*formal*) **NECESSARILY**, of necessity, inevitably, unavoidably, by force of circumstances, needs must, *informal* like it or not, *formal* nolens volens

perform ► **verb** ① *I have my duties to perform* **CARRY OUT**, do, execute, discharge, bring about,

bring off, accomplish, achieve, fulfil, complete, conduct, effect, dispatch, work, implement; *informal* pull off, *formal* effectuate, *archaic* acquit oneself of ② *a car which performs well at low speeds* **FUNCTION**, work, operate, run, go, respond, behave, act, acquit oneself/itself ③ *the play has been performed in Britain* **STAGE**, put on, present, mount, enact, act, produce ④ *the band performed live in Hyde Park* **APPEAR**, play, be on stage

—OPPOSITES neglect

performance ► **noun** ① *the evening performance* **SHOW**, production, showing, presentation, staging, concert, recital, *Brit* house, *informal* gig ② *their performance of Mozart's concerto in E flat* **RENDITION**, rendering, interpretation, playing, acting, representation ③ *the continual performance of a single task* **CARRYING OUT**, execution, discharge, accomplishment, completion, fulfilment, dispatch, implementation, *formal* effectuation ④ *the performance of the processor* **FUNCTIONING**, working, operation, running, behaviour, capabilities, capability, capacity, power, potential ⑤ (*informal*) *he made a great performance of telling her about it* **FUSS**, production, palaver, scene, *NZ* bobsy-die, *informal* song and dance, to-do, hoo-ha, business, pantomime

performer ► **noun** **ENTERTAINER**, artiste, artist
See lists at **ENTERTAINER**, **PLAYER**, **SINGER** For individual people, see lists at **BALLET**, **CONDUCTOR**, **INSTRUMENTALIST**, **JAZZ**, **OPERA**

perfume ► **noun** ① *a bottle of perfume* **SCENT**, fragrance, eau de toilette, toilet water, eau de cologne, cologne, aftershave ② *the heady perfume of lilacs* **SMELL**, scent, fragrance, aroma, bouquet, redolence

perfumed ► **adjective** **SWEET-SMELLING**, scented, fragrant, fragranced, perfumy, aromatic

perfunctory ► **adjective** **CURSORY**, desultory, quick, brief, hasty, hurried, rapid, fleeting, token, casual, superficial, careless, half-hearted, sketchy, mechanical, automatic, routine, off-hand, inattentive

—OPPOSITES careful, thorough

perhaps ► **adverb** **MAYBE**, for all one knows, it could be, it may be, it's possible, possibly, conceivably, *N English* happen, *poetic/literary* peradventure, perchance

peril ► **noun** **DANGER**, jeopardy, risk, hazard, insecurity, uncertainty, menace, threat, perilousness, pitfall, problem

perilous ► **adjective** **DANGEROUS**, fraught with danger, hazardous, risky, unsafe, treacherous, precarious, vulnerable, uncertain, insecure, exposed, at risk, in jeopardy, in danger, touch-and-go, *informal* dicey

—OPPOSITES safe

perimeter ► **noun** ① *the perimeter of a circle* **CIRCUMFERENCE**, outside, outer edge. ② *the perimeter of the vast estate* **BOUNDARY**, border, limits, bounds, confines, edge, margin, fringe(s), periphery, borderline, verge, *poetic/literary* bourn, marge

period ► **noun** ① *a six-week period* **TIME**, spell, interval, stretch, term, span, phase, bout, run, duration, chapter, stage, while, *Brit informal* patch. ② *the post-war period*: **ERA**, age, epoch, time, days, years, *Geology* aeon See list at **AGE** ③ *a double Maths period* **LESSON**, class, session ④ *women who suffer from painful periods*: **MEN-**



STRUATION, menstrual flow, *informal* the curse, monthlies, time of the month, *technical* menses
 ① (N Amer) a comma instead of a period FULL STOP, full point, point, stop

periodic ▶ **adjective** REGULAR, periodical, at fixed intervals, recurrent, recurring, repeated, cyclical, cyclic, seasonal, occasional, infrequent, intermittent, sporadic, spasmodic, odd

periodical ▶ **noun** he wrote for two periodicals JOURNAL, publication, magazine, newspaper, paper, review, digest, gazette, newsletter, organ, quarterly, *informal* mag, book, glossy

▶ **adjective** the island has periodical earthquakes See PERIODIC

peripatetic ▶ **adjective** NOMADIC, itinerant, travelling, wandering, roving, roaming, migrant, migratory, unsettled

peripheral ▶ **adjective** ① the city's peripheral housing estates OUTLYING, outer, on the edge/outskirts, surrounding ② peripheral issues SECONDARY, subsidiary, incidental, tangential, marginal, minor, unimportant, lesser, inessential, non-essential, immaterial, ancillary
 -OPPOSITES central

periphery ▶ **noun** EDGE, outer edge, margin, fringe, boundary, border, perimeter, rim, verge, borderline, outskirts, outer limits/reaches, bounds, *poetic/literary* bourn, marge
 -OPPOSITES centre

periphrastic ▶ **adjective** CIRCUMLOCUTORY, circuitous, roundabout, indirect, tautological, pleonastic, prolix, verbose, wordy, long-winded, rambling, wandering, tortuous, diffuse

perish ▶ **verb** ① millions of soldiers perished DIE, lose one's life, be killed, fall, expire, meet one's death, be lost, lay down one's life, breathe one's last, pass away, go the way of all flesh, give up the ghost, go to glory, meet one's maker, go to one's last resting place, cross the great divide, *informal* kick the bucket, turn up one's toes, shuffle off this mortal coil, buy it, croak, *Brit informal* snuff it, pop one's clogs, *N Amer informal* bite the big one, buy the farm, *archaic* de cease, depart this life ② must these hopes perish so soon? COME TO AN END, die (away), disappear, vanish, fade, dissolve, evaporate, melt away, wither ③ the wood had perished GO BAD, go off, spoil, rot, go mouldy, moulder, putrefy, decay, decompose

perjure

■ **perjure oneself** LIE UNDER OATH, lie, commit perjury, give false evidence/testimony, *formal* forswear oneself, be forsworn

perjury ▶ **noun** LYING UNDER OATH, giving false evidence/testimony, making false statements, wilful falsehood

perk¹

■ **perk up** ① you seem to have perked up CHEER UP, brighten up, liven up, take heart, *informal* buck up ② the economy has been slow to perk up RECOVER, rally, improve, revive, take a turn for the better, look up, pick up, bounce back.

■ **perk someone/something up** you could do with something to perk you up CHEER UP, liven up, brighten up, raise someone's spirits, give someone a boost/lift, revitalize, invigorate, energize, enliven, ginger up, put new life/heart into, put some spark into, rejuvenate, refresh, vitalize, *informal* buck up, pep up.

perk² ▶ **noun** a job with a lot of perks FRINGE BENEFIT, additional benefit, benefit, advantage, bonus, extra, plus, *informal* freebie; *Brit informal* golden hello, *formal* perquisite

perky ▶ **adjective** CHEERFUL, lively, vivacious, animated, bubbly, effervescent, bouncy, spirited, high-spirited, in high spirits, cheery, merry, buoyant, ebullient, exuberant, jaunty, frisky, sprightly, spry, bright, sunny, jolly, full of the joys of spring, sparkly, pert, *informal* full of beans, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed, chirpy, chipper, *N Amer informal* peppy, *dated* gay

permanence ▶ **noun** STABILITY, durability, permanency, fixity, fixedness, changelessness, immutability, endurance, constancy, continuity, immortality, indestructibility, perpetuity, endlessness

permanent ▶ **adjective** ① permanent brain damage LASTING, enduring, indefinite, continuing, perpetual, everlasting, eternal, abiding, constant, irreparable, irreversible, lifelong, indissoluble, indelible, standing, perennial, unending, endless, never-ending, immutable, undying, imperishable, indestructible, ineradicable, *poetic/literary* sempiternal, perdurable ② a permanent job LONG-TERM, stable, secure, durable
 -OPPOSITES temporary

permanently ▶ **adverb** ① the attack left her permanently disabled FOR ALL TIME, forever, for good, for always, for ever and ever, (for) evermore, until hell freezes over, in perpetuity, indelibly, immutably, until the end of time, *N Amer* forevermore, *informal* for keeps, until the cows come home, until doomsday, until kingdom come, *archaic* for aye ② I was permanently hungry CONTINUALLY, constantly, perpetually, always

permeable ▶ **adjective** POROUS, pervious, penetrable, absorbent, absorptive

permeate ▶ **verb** ① the delicious smell permeated the entire flat PERVADE, spread through, fill, filter through, diffuse through, imbue, penetrate, pass through, percolate through, perfuse, charge, suffuse, steep, impregnate, inform ② these resins are able to permeate the timber SOAK THROUGH, penetrate, seep through, saturate, percolate through, leach through

permissible ▶ **adjective** PERMITTED, allowable, allowed, acceptable, legal, lawful, legitimate, admissible, licit, authorized, sanctioned, tolerated, *informal* legit, OK
 -OPPOSITES forbidden

permission ▶ **noun** AUTHORIZATION, consent, leave, authority, sanction, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, seal of approval, approbation, endorsement, blessing, imprimatur, clearance, allowance, tolerance, sufferance, empowerment; *informal* the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light, say-so

permissive ▶ **adjective** LIBERAL, broad-minded, open-minded, free, free and easy, easy-going, live-and-let-live, latitudinarian, laissez-faire, libertarian, unprescriptive, tolerant, forbearing, indulgent, lenient; overindulgent, lax, soft.
 -OPPOSITES intolerant, strict.

permit ▶ **verb** I cannot permit you to leave: ALLOW, let, authorize, give someone permission, sanction, grant, give someone the right, license,



empower, enable, entitle, qualify, consent to, assent to, give one's blessing to, give the nod to, acquiesce in, agree to, tolerate, countenance, admit of, legalize, legitimize, legitimate, *informal* give the go-ahead to, give the thumbs up to, OK, give the OK to, give the green light to, say the word, *formal* accede to, *archaic* suffer

—OPPOSITES ban, forbid

► **noun** I need to see your **permit** AUTHORIZATION, licence, pass, ticket, warrant, document, certification, passport, visa

permutation ► **noun** VARIATION, alteration, modification, change, shift, transformation, transmutation, mutation, *humorous* transmogrification

pernicious ► **adjective** HARMFUL, damaging, destructive, injurious, hurtful, detrimental, deleterious, dangerous, adverse, inimical, unhealthy, unfavourable, bad, evil, baleful, wicked, malign, malevolent, malignant, noxious, poisonous, corrupting, *poetic/literary* maleficent

—OPPOSITES beneficial

pernickety ► **adjective** (*informal*) FUSSY, difficult to please, difficult, finicky, over-fastidious, fastidious, over-particular, particular, faddish, punctilious, hair-splitting, critical, overcritical, *informal* nit-picking, choosy, picky, *Brit informal* faddy, *N Amer informal* pernickety

—OPPOSITES easy-going

peroration ► **noun** ① the peroration of his speech CONCLUSION, ending, close, closing remarks, summation, summing-up ② an hour-long peroration SPEECH, lecture, talk, address, oration, sermon, disquisition, discourse, declamation, harangue, diatribe, *informal* spiel

perpendicular ► **adjective** ① the perpendicular stones UPRIGHT, vertical, erect, plumb, straight (up and down), on end, standing, upended ② lines perpendicular to each other AT RIGHT ANGLES, at 90 degrees ③ the perpendicular hillside STEEP, sheer, precipitous, abrupt, bluff, vertiginous

—OPPOSITES horizontal

perpetrate ► **verb** COMMIT, carry out, perform, execute, do, effect, bring about, accomplish, be guilty of, be to blame for, be responsible for, inflict, wreak, *informal* pull off, *formal* effectuate

perpetual ► **adjective** ① deep caves in perpetual darkness EVERLASTING, never-ending, eternal, permanent, unending, endless, without end, lasting, long-lasting, constant, abiding, enduring, perennial, timeless, ageless, deathless, undying, immortal; unfailing, unchanging, never-changing, changeless, unfading, *poetic/literary* sempiternal, perdurable ② a perpetual state of fear: CONSTANT, permanent, uninterrupted, continuous, unrelenting, unending, unceasing, persistent, unbroken. ③ her mother's perpetual nagging: INTERMINABLE, incessant, ceaseless, endless, without respite, relentless, unrelenting, persistent, continual, continuous, non-stop, never-ending, recurrent, repeated, unrelenting, sustained, round-the-clock, unabating, *informal* eternal.

—OPPOSITES temporary, intermittent

perpetuate ► **verb** KEEP ALIVE, keep going, preserve, conserve, sustain, maintain, continue,

extend, carry on, keep up, prolong, immortalize, commemorate, memorialize, eternalize

perpetuity

► **in perpetuity** FOREVER, permanently, for always, for good, for good and all, perpetually, (for) evermore, for ever and ever, for all time, until the end of time, until hell freezes over, eternally, for eternity, everlastingly, *N Amer* forevermore, *informal* for keeps, until doomsday, *archaic* for aye

perplex ► **verb** PUZZLE, baffle, mystify, bemuse, bewilder, confound, confuse, nonplus, disconcert, dumbfound, throw, throw/catch off balance, exercise, worry, *informal* flummox, be all Greek to, stump, bamboozle, floor, beat, faze, fox, *N Amer informal* discombobulate, *archaic* wider, maze

perplexing ► **adjective** PUZZLING, baffling, mystifying, mysterious, bewildering, confusing, disconcerting, worrying, unaccountable, difficult to understand, beyond one, paradoxical, peculiar, funny, strange, weird, odd

perplexity ► **noun** ① he scratched his head in perplexity CONFUSION, bewilderment, puzzlement, bafflement, incomprehension, mystification, bemusement, *informal* bamboozlement, *N Amer informal* discombobulation. ② the perplexities of international relations COMPLEXITY, complication, intricacy, problem, difficulty, mystery, puzzle, enigma, paradox

perquisite ► **noun** (*formal*) See PERK²

per se ► **adverb** IN ITSELF, of itself, by itself, as such, intrinsically, by its very nature, in essence, by definition, essentially

persecute ► **verb** ① they were persecuted for their religious beliefs OPPRESS, abuse, victimize, ill-treat, mistreat, maltreat, tyrannize, torment, torture, martyr ② she was persecuted by the press HARASS, hound, plague, badger, harry, intimidate, pick on, pester, bother, bedevil, bully, victimize, terrorize, *N Amer* devil, *informal* hassle, give someone a hard time, get on someone's back, *Austral informal* heavy

persecution ► **noun** ① victims of religious persecution OPPRESSION, victimization, maltreatment, ill-treatment, mistreatment, abuse, ill-usage, discrimination, tyranny, *informal* witch hunt ② the persecution I endured at school HARASSMENT, hounding, intimidation, bullying

perseverance ► **noun** PERSISTENCE, tenacity, determination, staying power, indefatigability, steadfastness, purposefulness, patience, endurance, application, diligence, dedication, commitment, doggedness, assiduity, tirelessness, stamina, intransigence, obstinacy, *informal* stickability, *N Amer informal* stuck-to-it-iveness, *formal* pertinacity

persevere ► **verb** PERSIST, continue, carry on, go on, keep on, keep going, struggle on, hammer away, be persistent, be determined, see/follow something through, keep at it, press on/ahead, not take no for an answer, be tenacious, stand one's ground, stand fast/firm, hold on, go the distance, stay the course, plod on, plough on, stop at nothing, leave no stone unturned, *informal* soldier on, hang on, plug away, peg away, stick to one's guns, stick it out, hang in there

—OPPOSITES give up



persist ▶ **verb** ① *Corbett persisted with his questioning* See PERSEVERE ② *if dry weather persists, water the lawn thoroughly* CONTINUE, hold, carry on, last, keep on, keep up, remain, linger, stay, endure

persistence ▶ **noun** See PERSEVERANCE

persistent ▶ **adjective** ① *a very persistent man* TENACIOUS, persevering, determined, resolute, purposeful, dogged, single-minded, tireless, indefatigable, patient, unflagging, untiring, insistent, importunate, relentless, unrelenting; stubborn, intransigent, obstinate, obdurate, *formal* pertinacious ② *persistent rain* CONSTANT, continuous, continuing, continual, non-stop, never-ending, steady, uninterrupted, unbroken, interminable, incessant, unceasing, endless, unending, perpetual, unremitting, unrelenting, relentless, unrelieved, sustained ③ *a persistent cough* CHRONIC, permanent, nagging, frequent, repeated, habitual
—OPPOSITES irresolute, intermittent

person ▶ **noun** HUMAN BEING, individual, man/woman, human, being, (living) soul, mortal, creature, personage, character, customer, *informal* type, sort, beggar, cookie, *Brit informal* bod, *informal, dated* body, dog, cove, *archaic* wight
■ **in person** PHYSICALLY, in the flesh, in *propria persona*, personally, oneself, *informal* as large as life

persona ▶ **noun** IMAGE, face, public face, character, personality, identity, self, front, facade, guise, exterior, role, part

personable ▶ **adjective** PLEASANT, agreeable, likeable, nice, amiable, affable, charming, congenial, genial, engaging, pleasing, attractive, presentable, good-looking, nice-looking, pretty, appealing, *Scottish* counthy, *Scottish & N English* bonny, canny; *dated* taking
—OPPOSITES disagreeable, unattractive

personage ▶ **noun** IMPORTANT PERSON, VIP, luminary, celebrity, personality, name, famous name, household name, public figure, star, leading light, dignitary, notable, notability, worthy, panjandrum, person, *informal* celeb, somebody, big shot, big noise, *Brit informal* nob, *N Amer informal* big wheel, big kahuna

personal ▶ **adjective** ① *a highly personal style* DISTINCTIVE, characteristic, unique, individual, one's own, particular, peculiar, idiosyncratic, individualized, personalized ② *a personal appearance* IN PERSON, in the flesh, actual, live, physical ③ *his personal life* PRIVATE, intimate, confidential, secret ④ *a personal friend* INTIMATE, close, dear, great, bosom ⑤ *I have personal knowledge of the family* DIRECT, empirical, firsthand, immediate, experiential ⑥ *personal remarks* DEROGATORY, disparaging, belittling, insulting, critical, rude, slighting, disrespectful, offensive, pejorative
—OPPOSITES public, general

personality ▶ **noun** ① *her cheerful personality* CHARACTER, nature, disposition, temperament, make-up, persona, psyche ② *she had loads of personality*: CHARISMA, magnetism, strength/force of personality, character, charm, presence ③ *a famous personality*: CELEBRITY, VIP, star, superstar, name, famous name, household name, big name, somebody, leading light, luminary, notable, personage, notability; *informal* celeb

personalize ▶ **verb** ① *products which can be personalized to your requirements* CUSTOMIZE, individualize ② *attempts to personalize God*: PERSONIFY, humanize, anthropomorphize

personally ▶ **adverb** ① *I'd like to thank him personally* IN PERSON, oneself. ② *personally, I think it's a good idea* FOR MY PART, for myself, to my way of thinking, to my mind, in my estimation, as far as I am concerned, in my view/opinion, from my point of view, from where I stand, as I see it, if you ask me, for my money, in my book, privately

■ **take something personally** TAKE OFFENCE, take something amiss, be offended, be upset, be affronted, take umbrage, take exception, feel insulted, feel hurt

personification ▶ **noun** EMBODIMENT, incarnation, epitome, quintessence, essence, type, symbol, soul, model, exemplification, exemplar, image, representation

personify ▶ **verb** EPITOMIZE, embody, be the incarnation of, typify, exemplify, represent, symbolize, stand for, body forth

personnel ▶ **noun** STAFF, employees, workforce, workers, labour force, manpower, human resources, *informal* liveware

perspective ▶ **noun** ① *her perspective on things had changed* OUTLOOK, view, viewpoint, point of view, standpoint, position, stand, stance, angle, slant, attitude, frame of mind, frame of reference, approach, way of looking, interpretation ② *a perspective of the whole valley* VIEW, vista, panorama, prospect, bird's-eye view, outlook, aspect

perspicacious ▶ **adjective** DISCERNING, shrewd, perceptive, astute, penetrating, observant, percipient, sharp-witted, sharp, smart, alert, clear-sighted, far-sighted, acute, clever, canny, intelligent, insightful, wise, sage, sensitive, intuitive, understanding, aware, discriminating, *informal* on the ball, *N Amer informal* heads-up
—OPPOSITES stupid

perspicuous ▶ **adjective** (formal) See CLEAR adjective sense 1

perspiration ▶ **noun** SWEAT, moisture; a *lather*, *informal* a muck sweat, *Medicine* diaphoresis, hidrosis

perspire ▶ **verb** SWEAT, be dripping/pouring with sweat, glow, *informal* be in a muck sweat

persuadable ▶ **adjective** MALLEABLE, tractable, pliable, compliant, amenable, adaptable, accommodating, cooperative, flexible, acquiescent, yielding, biddable, complaisant, like putty in one's hands, suggestible

persuade ▶ **verb** ① *he tried to persuade her to come with him* PREVAIL ON, talk into, coax, convince, make, get, induce, win over, bring round, coerce, influence, sway, inveigle, entice, tempt, lure, cajole, wheedle; *Law* procure, *informal* sweet-talk, twist someone's arm ② *shortage of money persuaded them to abandon the scheme*: CAUSE, lead, move, dispose, incline
—OPPOSITES dissuade, deter

persuasion ▶ **noun** ① *Monica needed plenty of persuasion*: COAXING, persuading, coercion, inducement, convincing, blandishment, encouragement, urging, inveiglement, cajolery, enticement, wheedling; *informal* sweet-talking,



arm-twisting, *formal* suasion. ② various political and religious persuasions **GROUP**, grouping, sect, denomination, party, camp, side, faction, affiliation, school of thought, belief, creed, credo, faith, philosophy

persuasive ▶ **adjective** **CONVINCING**, cogent, compelling, potent, forceful, powerful, eloquent, impressive, influential, sound, valid, strong, effective, winning, telling, plausible, credible

—**OPPOSITES** unconvincing

pert ▶ **adjective** ① a pert little hat **JAUNTY**, neat, trim, stylish, smart, perky, rakish, *informal* natty, *N Amer informal* saucy ② a young girl with a pert manner **IMPUDENT**, impertinent, cheeky, irreverent, forward, insolent, disrespectful, flippant, familiar, presumptuous, bold, as bold as brass, brazen, *informal* fresh, lippy, saucy, *N Amer informal* sassy, *archaic* malapert

pertain ▶ **verb** ① developments pertaining to the economy **CONCERN**, relate to, be related to, be connected with, be relevant to, apply to, be pertinent to, refer to, have a bearing on, appertain to, bear on, affect, involve, touch, *archaic* regard ② the stock and assets pertaining to the business **BELONG TO**, be a part of, be included in ③ the economic situation which pertained in Britain at that time **EXIST**, be the order of the day, be the case, prevail, *formal* obtain

pertinacious ▶ **adjective** (*formal*) **DETERMINED**, tenacious, persistent, persevering, purposeful, resolute, dogged, indefatigable, insistent, single-minded, unrelenting, relentless, tireless, unshakeable, stubborn, obstinate, inflexible, unbending

—**OPPOSITES** irresolute, tentative

pertinent ▶ **adjective** **RELEVANT**, to the point, apposite, appropriate, suitable, fitting, fit, apt, applicable, material, germane, to the purpose, apropos, *formal* ad rem

—**OPPOSITES** irrelevant

perturb ▶ **verb** **WORRY**, upset, unsettle, disturb, concern, trouble, disquiet, disconcert, discomfit, unnerv, alarm, bother, distress, dismay, gnaw at, agitate, fluster, ruffle, discountenance, exercise, *informal* rattle

—**OPPOSITES** reassure

perturbed ▶ **adjective** **UPSET**, worried, unsettled, disturbed, concerned, troubled, anxious, ill at ease, uneasy, disquieted, fretful, disconcerted, discomposed, distressed, unnerved, alarmed, bothered, dismayed, agitated, flustered, ruffled, shaken, discountenanced, *informal* twitchy, rattled, fazed, *N Amer informal* discom-bolulated

—**OPPOSITES** calm

peruse ▶ **verb** **READ**, study, scrutinize, inspect, examine, wade through, look through, browse through, leaf through, scan, run one's eye over, glance through, flick through, skim through, thumb through, dip into, *archaic* con

pervade ▶ **verb** **PERMEATE**, spread through, fill, suffuse, be diffused through, imbue, penetrate, filter through, percolate through, infuse, per-fuse, flow through, charge, steep, saturate, im-pregnate, inform.

pervasive ▶ **adjective** **PREVALENT**, pervading, permeating, extensive, ubiquitous, omnipres-ent, universal, rife, widespread, general.

perverse ▶ **adjective** ① he is being deliberately perverse **AWKWARD**, contrary, difficult, unreasonable, uncooperative, unhelpful, obstructive, dis-obliging, recalcitrant, stubborn, obstinate, ob-durate, mulish, pig-headed, bull-headed, *informal* cussed, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, bolshie, *N Amer informal* balky, *formal* refractory, *archaic* for-ward, contumacious ② a verdict that is manifestly perverse **ILLOGICAL**, irrational, unreasonable, wrong, wrong-headed ③ an evil life dedicated to perverse pleasure **PERVERTED**, depraved, unnat-ural, abnormal, deviant, degenerate, immoral, warped, twisted, corrupt, wicked, base, evil, *in-formal* kinky, sick, pervy

—**OPPOSITES** accommodating, reasonable

perversion ▶ **noun** ① a twisted perversion of the truth **DISTORTION**, misrepresentation, falsifica-tion, travesty, misinterpretation, misconstruc-tion, twisting, corruption, subversion, misuse, misapplication, debasement ② sexual perversion **DEVIANCE**, abnormality, depravity, degeneracy, debauchery, corruption, vice, wickedness, im-morality

perversity ▶ **noun** ① out of sheer perversity, he refused **CONTRARIENESS**, awkwardness, recalci-trance, stubbornness, obstinacy, obduracy, mul-ishness, pig-headedness, *informal* cussedness, *Brit informal* bloody-mindedness, *formal* retractoriness ② the perversity of the decision **UNREASONABLE-NESS**, irrationality, illogicality, wrong-headed-ness

pervert ▶ **verb** ① people who attempt to pervert the rules **DISTORT**, corrupt, subvert, twist, bend, abuse, misapply, misuse, misrepresent, misin-terpret, falsify ② men can be perverted by power **CORRUPT**, lead astray, debase, warp, pollute, poison, deprave, debauch

▶ **noun** a sexual pervert **DEVIAN**, degenerate, *infor-mal* perv, dirty old man, sicko

perverted ▶ **adjective** **UNNATURAL**, deviant, warped, corrupt, twisted, abnormal, unhealthy, depraved, perverse, aberrant, immoral, de-bauched, debased, degenerate, evil, wicked, vile, amoral, wrong, bad, *informal* sick, sicko, kinky, pervy

pessimism ▶ **noun** **DEFEATISM**, negativity, doom and gloom, gloominess, cynicism, fatal-ism, hopelessness, depression, despair, des-pendency, angst, *informal* looking on the black side

pessimist ▶ **noun** **DEFEATIST**, fatalist, prophet of doom, cynic, doomsayer, doomster, Cassan-dra, sceptic, doubter, doubting Thomas, mis-ery, killjoy, Job's comforter, *informal* doom (and gloom) merchant, wet blanket, *N Amer informal* gloomy Gus

—**OPPOSITES** optimist

pessimistic ▶ **adjective** **GLOOMY**, negative, de-featist, downbeat, cynical, bleak, fatalistic, dark, black, despairing, despondent, depressed, hopeless, suspicious, distrustful, doubting

—**OPPOSITES** optimistic

pest ▶ **noun** **NUISANCE**, annoyance, irritation, ir-ritant, thorn in one's flesh/side, vexation, trial, the bane of one's life, menace, trouble, prob-lem, worry, bother, *informal* pain (in the neck), aggravation, headache, *Scottish informal* skelf; *N Amer informal* nudnik, *Austral / NZ informal* mark.

pester ▶ **verb** **BADGER**, hound, harass, plague, annoy, bother, trouble, keep after, persecute,



torment, bedevil, harry, worry, beleaguer, chivvy, nag, *informal* hassle, bug, get on someone's back, *N English informal* mither, *N Amer informal* devil

pestilence ► *noun* (archaic) See PLAGUE *noun* sense 1

pestilential ► *adjective* ① *pestilential* fever PLAGUE-LIKE, infectious, contagious, communicable, epidemic, virulent, *informal* catching, poetic/literary pestiferous ② (informal) a pestilential man! ANNOYING, irritating, infuriating, exasperating, maddening, tiresome, irksome, vexing, vexatious, *informal* aggravating, pesky, infernal

pet¹ ► *noun* the teacher's pet FAVOURITE, darling, the apple of one's eye, *Bnt informal* blue-eyed boy/girl, *N Amer informal* fair-haired boy/girl

► *adjective* ① a pet lumb TAME, domesticated, domestic, *Bnt* house-trained, *N Amer* house-broken ② his pet theory FAVOURITE, favoured, cherished, dear to one's heart, particular, special, personal

► *verb* ① the cats came to be petted STROKE, caress, fondle, pat ② she had always been petted by her parents PAMPER, spoil, mollycoddle, coddle, cosset, baby, indulge, overindulge, wrap in cotton wool ③ couples were petting in their cars KISS AND CUDDLE, kiss, cuddle, embrace, caress, *informal* canoodle, neck, smooch, *Bnt informal* snog, *N Amer informal* make out, get it on, *informal*, dated spoon

■ **pet name** AFFECTIONATE NAME, term of endearment, endearment, nickname, diminutive, hypocoristic

pet² ► *noun* Mum's in a pet BAD MOOD, mood, bad temper, temper, sulk, fit of pique, huff, *Bnt informal* paddy, strop

peter

■ **peter out** FIZZLE OUT, fade (away), die away/out, dwindle, diminish, taper off, tail off, trail away/off, wane, ebb, melt away, evaporate, disappear, come to an end, subside

petite ► *adjective* SMALL, dainty, diminutive, slight, little, tiny, elfin, delicate, small-boned, Scottish wee, *informal* pint-sized

petition ► *noun* ① over 1,000 people signed the petition APPEAL, round robin ② petitions to Allah ENTREATY, supplication, plea, prayer, appeal, request, invocation, suit, archaic orison

► *verb* they petitioned the king to revoke the decision APPEAL TO, request, ask, call on, entreat, beg, implore, plead with, apply to, press, urge, formal adjure, poetic/literary beseech

petrified ► *adjective* ① she looked petrified TERRIFIED, terror-stricken, horrified, scared/frightened out of one's wits, scared/frightened to death ② petrified remains of prehistoric animals OSSIFIED, fossilized, calcified

petrify ► *verb* TERRIFY, horrify, frighten, scare, scare/frighten to death, scare/frighten the living daylight out of, scare/frighten the life out of, strike terror into, put the fear of God into, paralyse, transfix, *informal* scare the pants off, *lsh informal* scare the bejesus out of

petrol ► *noun* FUEL, unleaded, superunleaded, diesel; *N Amer* gasoline, gas; *informal* juice.

petticoat ► *noun* SLIP, underskirt, half-slip, underslip, undergarment, historical crinoline; archaic kirtle

petty ► *adjective* ① petty regulations TRIVIAL, trifling, minor, small, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, inconsiderable, negligible, paltry, footling, pettifogging, *informal* piffling, piddling, fiddling ② a petty form of revenge SMALL-MINDED, mean, ungenerous, shabby, spiteful
-OPPOSITES important, magnanimous

petulant ► *adjective* PEEVISH, bad-tempered, querulous, pettish, fretful, cross, irritable, sulky, snappish, crotchety, touchy, tetchy, testy, fractious, grumpy, disgruntled, crabbed, clabby, *informal* grouchy, *Bnt informal* ratty, *N English informal* mardy, *N Amer informal* cranky
-OPPOSITES good-humoured

phantasmagorical ► *adjective* DREAMLIKE, psychedelic, kaleidoscopic, surreal, unreal, hallucinatory, fantastic, fantastical, chimerical

phantom ► *noun* ① a phantom who haunts lonely roads GHOST, apparition, spirit, spectre, wraith, *informal* spook, poetic/literary phantasm, shade ② the phantoms of an overactive imagination DELUSION, figment of the imagination, hallucination, illusion, chimera, vision, mirage

phase ► *noun* ① the final phase of the campaign STAGE, period, chapter, episode, part, step, point, time, juncture ② he's going through a difficult phase PERIOD, stage, time, spell, *Bnt informal* patch ③ the phases of the moon ASPECT, shape, form, appearance, state, condition

■ **phase something in** INTRODUCE GRADUALLY, begin to use, ease in

■ **phase something out** WITHDRAW GRADUALLY, discontinue, stop using, run down, wind down

phenomenal ► *adjective* REMARKABLE, exceptional, extraordinary, amazing, astonishing, astounding, sensational, stunning, incredible, unbelievable, marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, outstanding, singular, out of the ordinary, unusual, unprecedented, *informal* fantastic, terrific, tremendous, stupendous, awesome, out of this world, poetic/literary wondrous
-OPPOSITES ordinary

phenomenon ► *noun* ① a rare phenomenon OCCURRENCE, event, happening, fact, situation, circumstance, experience, case, incident, episode ② the band was a pop phenomenon MARVEL, sensation, wonder, prodigy, miracle, rarity, nonpareil

philander ► *verb* WOMANIZE, have affairs, flirt, *informal* play around, carry on, play the field, play away, sleep around, *N Amer informal* fool around

philanderer ► *noun* WOMANIZER, Casanova, Don Juan, Lothario, flirt, ladies' man, playboy, rake, roué, *informal* stud, skirt-chaser, ladykiller, wolf; *informal*, dated gay dog

philanthropic ► *adjective* CHARITABLE, generous, benevolent, humanitarian, public-spirited, altruistic, magnanimous, munificent, open-handed, bountiful, liberal, generous to a fault, beneficent, caring, compassionate, unselfish, kind, kind-hearted, big-hearted; formal eleemosynary.

-OPPOSITES selfish, mean

philanthropist ► *noun* BENEFACITOR, benefactress, patron, patroness, donor, contributor, sponsor, backer, helper, good Samaritan; do-gooder, Lady Bountiful, historical almsgiver.

philanthropy ► *noun* BENEVOLENCE, generosity, humanitarianism, public-spiritedness, altru-

Philosophers

- Abelard, Peter (French)
 Adorno, Theodor Wiesengrund (German)
 Agnesi, Maria (Italian)
 al-Farabi, Mohammed Ibn Tarkhan (Persian)
 al-Ghazali, Abū Hamīd Muhammad (Islamic, b. in Iran)
 Al-Kindi, Abu Yusuf Ya'qub ibn Ishaq (Arabic)
 Althusser, Louis (French)
 Anaxagoras (Greek)
 Anaximander (Greek)
 Anaximenes (Greek)
 Anselm, St (Italian)
 Aquinas, St Thomas (Italian)
 Arendt, Hannah (American, b. in Germany)
 Aristippus (Greek)
 Aristotle (Greek)
 Augustine of Hippo, St (North African)
 Austin, J. L. (British)
 Averroës (Islamic, b. in Spain; Arabic name: ibn-Rushd)
 Avicenna (Islamic, b. in Persia; Arabic name: ibn-Sina)
 Ayer, A. J. (English)
 Bacon, Francis (English)
 Bacon, Roger (English)
 Barthes, Roland (French)
 Beauvoir, Simone de (French)
 Berlin, Isaiah (British, b. in Latvia)
 Bentham, Jeremy (English)
 Bergson, Henri (French)
 Berkeley, George (Irish)
 Boethius, Anicius Manlius Severinus (Roman)
 Bruno, Giordano (Italian)
 Buber, Martin (Israeli, b. in Austria)
 Carnap, Rudolf (American)
 Cassirer, Ernst (German)
 Chomsky, Noam (American)
 Cicero, Marcus Tullius (Roman)
 Comte, Auguste (French)
 Condillac, Étienne Bonnot de (French)
 Confucius (Chinese)
 Cousin, Victor (French)
 Crescas, Hasdai ben Abraham (Jewish, b. in Spain)
 Croce, Benedetto (Italian)
 Cudworth, Ralph (English)
 Democritus (Greek)
 Derrida, Jacques (French)
 Descartes, René (French)
 Dewey, John (American)
 Diderot, Denis (French)
 Diogenes Laërtius (Greek)
 Diogenes of Sinope (Greek)
 Emerson, Ralph Waldo (American)
 Empedocles (Greek)
 Engels, Friedrich (German)
 Epicurus (Greek)
 Epicurus (Greek)
 Feuerbach, Ludwig (German)
 Fichte, Johann Gottlieb (German)
 Foucault, Michel (French)
 Frege, Gottlob (German)
 Gentile, Giovanni (Italian)
 Geulincx, Arnold (Belgian)
 Godwin, William (English)
 Grosseteste, Robert (English)
 Habermas, Jürgen (German)
 Han fei tzu (Chinese)
 Hegel, Georg (German)
 Heidegger, Martin (German)
 Helvétius, Claude (French)
 Heraclitus (Greek)
 Hobbes, Thomas (English)
 Horkheimer, Max (German)
 Hume, David (Scottish)
 Husserl, Edmund (German)
 Hypatia (Greek)
 Iqbal, Muhammad (Indian)
 James, William (American)
 Jaspers, Karl (Theodor) (German)
 Judah ha-Levi (Jewish)
 Kant, Immanuel (German)
 Kierkegaard, Søren (Danish)
 Kuhn, Thomas (American)
 Lacan, Jacques (French)
 Lakatos, Imre (Hungarian)
 Langer, Susanne (American)
 Lao-tzu (Chinese)
 Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm (German)
 Leucippus (Greek)
 Littré, Émile (French)
 Locke, John (English)
 Lukács, György (Hungarian)
 Lucretius (Roman)
 Lyotard, Jean-François (French)
 Maimonides, Moses (Moshé ben Maymun; Jewish)
 Marcuse, Herbert (American)
 Marx, Karl (German)
 Mencius (Chinese)
 Mill, John Stuart (English)
 Montesquieu, Charles, Baron de (French)
 Moore, G. E. (English)
 Nagel, Ernest (American, b. in Czechoslovakia)
 Nagel, Thomas (American)
 Nietzsche, Friedrich (German)
 Ortega y Gasset, José (Spanish)
 Paine, Thomas (American)
 Parmenides (Greek)
 Pascal, Blaise (French)
 Peirce, Charles (American)
 Philo Judaeus (of Alexandria)
 Plato (Greek)
 Plotinus (Roman)
 Poincaré, Jules (French)
 Popper, Karl (British, b. in Austria)
 Posidonius of Apamea (Greek)
 Protagoras (Greek)
 Proudhon, Pierre Joseph (French)
 Pyrrho (Greek)
 Pythagoras (Greek)
 Quine, Willard van Orman (American)
 Radakrishnan, Sarvepalli (Indian)
 Ramanuja (Indian)
 Ramus, Petrus (Pierre de la Ramée; French)
 Rand, Ayn (American, b. in Russia)
 Rawls, John (American)
 Reid, Thomas (Scottish)
 Roscelin (French)
 Rousseau, Jean Jacques (French)
 Russell, Bertrand (English)
 Ryle, Gilbert (English)
 Saint-Simon, Claude-Henri, Comte de (French)
 Sankara (Indian)
 Santayana, George (American)
 Sartre, Jean-Paul (French)
 Schelling, Friedrich (German)
 Schlegel, Friedrich von (German)
 Schlick, Moritz (German)
 Schopenhauer, Arthur (German)
 Sextus Empiricus (Greek)
 Simplicius of Cilicia (Greek)
 Smith, Adam (Scottish)
 Socrates (Greek)
 Solovyov, Vladimir (Russian)
 Sorel, Georges (French)
 Spencer, Herbert (English)
 Spengler, Oswald (German)
 Spinoza, Baruch (Dutch)
 Steiner, Rudolf (Austrian)
 Strawson, Peter (English)
 Suárez, Francisco (Spanish)
 Swedenborg, Emanuel (Swedish)
 Tarski, Alfred (American, b. in Poland)
 Teilhard de Chardin (French)
 Telesio, Bernardino (Italian)
 Thales (Greek)
 Theophrastus (Greek)
 Tillich, Paul (American, b. in Germany)
 Unamuno y Jugo, Miguel de (Spanish)
 Vico, Giambattista (Italian)
 Weil, Simone (French)
 Whitehead, A. N. (English)
 William of Ockham (English)
 Wittgenstein, Ludwig (British, b. in Austria)
 Xenophanes of Colophon (Greek)
 Zeno of Citium (Greek)
 Zeno of Elea (Greek)

ism, social conscience, charity, charitableness, brotherly love, fellow feeling, magnanimity, munificence, liberality, largesse, open-handedness, bountifulness, beneficence, unselfishness, humanity, kindness, kind-heartedness, compassion; *historical* almsgiving

philippic ► noun (*poetic/literary*) TIRADE, diatribe, harangue, lecture, attack, onslaught, denunciation, rant, polemic, broadside, fulmination, condemnation, criticism, censure, *informal* blast

philistine ► adjective UNCULTURED, lowbrow, anti-intellectual, uncultivated, uncivilized, un-

educated, unenlightened, commercial, materialist, bourgeois, ignorant, crass, boorish, barbarian

philosopher ► **noun** THINKER, theorist, theorizer, theoretician, metaphysicist, metaphysician, scholar, intellectual, sage, wise man See list

philosophical ► **adjective** ① a philosophical question THEORETICAL, metaphysical ② a philosophical mood THOUGHTFUL, reflective, pensive, meditative, contemplative, introspective, ruminative, formal cogitative ③ he was philosophical about losing the contract CALM, composed, cool, collected, (cool, calm, and collected), self-possessed, serene, tranquil, stoical, impassive, dispassionate, phlegmatic, unperturbed, imperturbable, unruffled, patient, forbearing, long-suffering, resigned, rational, realistic

philosophize ► **verb** THEORIZE, speculate, pontificate, preach, sermonize, moralize

philosophy ► **noun** ① the philosophy of Aristotle THINKING, thought, reasoning See list ② her political philosophy BELIEFS, credo, convictions, ideology, ideas, thinking, notions, theories, doctrine, tenets, principles, views, school of thought See list at POLITICS

Branches of Philosophy

aesthetics
analytical philosophy
axiology
bioethics
cosmology
deontology
epistemology
ethics
formal logic
gnosiology
legal ethics
linguistic philosophy
logic
medical ethics
metaethics
metaphysics
metemprics

modal logic
moral philosophy
ontology
pataphysics
phenomenology
philosophy of language
philosophy of law
philosophy of mathematics
philosophy of mind
philosophy of psychology
philosophy of religion
philosophy of science
political philosophy
teleology

phlegm ► **noun** ① MUCUS, catarrh ② British phlegm and perseverance CALMNESS, coolness, composure, equanimity, tranquillity, placidity, placidness, impassivity, stolidity, imperturbability, impassiveness, dispassionateness, informal/cool, unflappability

phlegmatic ► **adjective** CALM, cool, composed, {cool, calm, and collected}, controlled, serene, tranquil, placid, impassive, stolid, imperturbable, unruffled, dispassionate, philosophical, informal unflappable
—OPPOSITES excitable

phobia ► **noun** ABNORMAL FEAR, irrational fear, obsessive fear, dread, horror, terror, hatred, loathing, detestation, aversion, antipathy, revulsion, complex, neurosis, informal thing, hang-up. See list

phone ► **noun** ① she spent hours on the phone TELEPHONE, mobile (phone), cellphone, car phone, cordless phone, speakerphone, extension, Brit informal blower, Brit rhyming slang dog and bone ② give me a phone sometime CALL, telephone call, phone call, Brit ring, informal

buzz, Brit informal tinkle, bell

► **verb** I'll phone you later TELEPHONE, call, give someone a call, Brit ring, ring up, give someone a ring, informal call up, give someone a buzz, Brit informal give someone a bell/tinkle, get on the blower to, N Amer informal get someone on the horn

phonetic alphabet ► **noun** See list

Phonetic Alphabet

Alpha	Hotel	Oscar	Victor
Bravo	India	Papa	Whisky
Charlie	Juliet	Quebec	X-ray
Delta	Kilo	Romeo	Yankee
Echo	Lima	Sierra	Zulu
Foxtrot	Mike	Tango	
Golf	November	Uniform	

phoney (informal) ► **adjective** a phoney address BOGUS, false, fake, fraudulent, spurious, counterfeit, forged, feigned, pseudo, imitation, sham, man-made, mock, ersatz, synthetic, artificial, simulated, pretended, contrived, affected, insincere, informal pretend, put-on, Brit informal cod
—OPPOSITES authentic

► **noun** ① he's nothing but a phoney IMPOSTOR, sham, fake, fraud, charlatan, informal con artist ② the diamond's a phoney FAKE, imitation, counterfeit, forgery

photocopy ► **noun** COPY, facsimile, duplicate, trademark Xerox, photostat, Ozalid

photograph ► **noun** a photograph of her father PICTURE, photo, snap, snapshot, shot, likeness, print, slide, transparency, still, enlargement, Brit enprint, informal tranny

► **verb** she was photographed leaving the castle TAKE SOMEONE'S PICTURE/PHOTO, snap, shoot, film

photographer ► **noun** LENSMAN, paparazzo, cameraman, informal snapper, N Amer informal shutterbug See list

photographic ► **adjective** ① a photographic record PICTORIAL, in photographs, cinematic, filmic ② a photographic memory DETAILED, graphic, exact, precise, accurate, vivid

phrase ► **noun** familiar words and phrases EXPRESSION, group of words, construction, locution, term, turn of phrase, idiom, idiomatic expression, saying, tag

► **verb** how could I phrase the question? EXPRESS, put into words, put, word, style, formulate, couch, frame, articulate, verbalize

phraseology ► **noun** WORDING, choice of words, phrasing, way of speaking/writing, usage, idiom, diction, parlance, words, language, vocabulary, terminology, jargon, informal lingo, -speak, -ese

physical ► **adjective** ① physical pleasure: BODILY, corporeal, corporal, somatic; carnal, fleshly, non-spiritual. ② hard physical work. MANUAL, labouring, blue-collar ③ the physical universe: MATERIAL, concrete, tangible, palpable, solid, substantial, real, actual, visible.
—OPPOSITES mental, spiritual.

physician ► **noun** DOCTOR, doctor of medicine, MD, medical practitioner; informal doc, medic, medico; Brit informal quack, informal, dated sawbones

Phobias

OBJECT OF FEAR OR DISLIKE	PHOBIA	OBJECT OF FEAR OR DISLIKE	PHOBIA
air travel	aerophobia	freedom	eileutherophobia
American people and things	Americophobia	French people and things	Francophobia/ Gallophebia
animals	zoophobia	fur	doraphobia
bacteria	bacteriophobia	German people and things	Germanophobia/ Teutophobia
beards	pogonophobia	germs	spermophobia/ bacteriophobia
beating	mastigophobia	ghosts	phasmophobia
bed	clinophobia	giving birth to monsters	teratophobia
bees	apiphobia	glass	nelophobia
being buried alive	taphephobia	God	theophobia
birds	ornithophobia	gold	chrysophobia/ aurophobia
blood	haemophobia	hair	trichophobia
blushing	erythrophobia	heart disease	cardiophobia
body odour	bromidrosiphobia	heat	thermophobia
bridges	gephyrophobia	heaven	uranophobia
bullets	ballistophobia	hell	hadephobia/ stygiophobia
cancer	carcinophobia	heredity	patroioiphobia
cats	allurophobia	high buildings	batophobia
childbirth	tocophobia	high places	acrophobia/ hypsophobia
children	paedophobia	home	oikophobia
Chinese people and things	Sinophobia	homosexuals	homophobia
church	ecclesiophobia	horses	hippophobia
clouds	nephophobia	ice	cryophobia
coitus	coitophobia	ideas	ideophobia
cold	cheimaphobia	idleness	thassophobia
colour	chromophobia	illness	nosophobia
comets	cometophobia	imperfection	atelophobia
computers	cyberphobia	infinity	apeirophobia
constipation	coprostatophobia	injury	traumatophobia
corpses	necrophobia	inoculation	trypanophobia/ vaccinophobia
correspondence	epistolophobia	insanity	lyssophobia/ maniphobia
crowds	demophobia/ ochlophobia	insects	entomophobia
dampness	hygrophobia	insect stings	cnidophobia
darkness	scotophobia	Italian people and things	Italophobia
dawn	eosophobia	itching	acarophobia
death	thanatophobia	jealousy	zelotypophobia
depth	bathophobia	justice	dikephobia
dirt	mysophobia	lakes	limnophobia
disease	pathophobia/ nosophobia	leprosy	leprophobia
dogs	cynophobia	lice	pediculophobia
dreams	oneirophobia	light	photophobia
drink	potophobia	lightning	astraphobia
drugs	pharmacophobia	lists	pinaciphobia/ katastichophobia
dust	koniophobia	loneliness	autophobia/ ermitophobia
electricity	electrophobia	machinery	mechanophobia
enclosed places	claustrophobia	magic	rhabdophobia
English people and things	Anglophobia	marriage	gametophobia
everything	panophobia/ pantophobia	men	androphobia
eyes	ommetaphobia	metal	metallophobia
faeces	coprophobia	mice	musophobia
failure	kakorrhaphiaphobia	microbes	bacillophobia/ microbiophobia
fatigue	kopophobia	mirrors	eisoptrophobia
fear	phobophobia	mites	acarophobia
feathers	pteronophobia	moths	ochlophobia
fever	febriphobia	money	chrematophobia
fire	pyrophobia	motion	kinetophobia
fish	ichthyophobia		
flesh	selephobia		
floods	antlophobia		
flowers	anthophobia		
fog	homichlophobia		
food	cleophobia/astrophobia		
foreigners	xenophobia		

Phobias (cont.)

OBJECT OF FEAR OR DISLIKE	PHOBIA	OBJECT OF FEAR OR DISLIKE	PHOBIA
music	musicophobia	smell	olfactophobia/ osmophobia
names	onomatophobia	smothering	pnigerophobia
narrowness	anginophobia	snakes	ophidlophobia
needles	belonephobia	snow	chionophobia
new things	neophobia	solitude	eremophobia
night	nyctophobia	sound	acousticophobia
nudity	gymnophobia	sourness	acerophobia
open places	agoraphobia	speech	lalophobia/ glossophobia/ phonophobia
pain	algophobia	speed	tachophobia
parasites	parasitophobia	spiders	arachnophobia
people	anthropophobia	standing	stasophobia
philosophy	philosophobia	stars	siderophobia
pins	enetophobia	stealing	kleptophobia
places	topophobia	string	linonophobia
pleasure	hedonophobia	stuttering	laliophobia
poison	toxiphobia	sun	heliohobia
politics	politicophobia	swallowing	phagophobia
Pope	papaphobia	symmetry	symmetrophobia
poverty	peniaphobia	taste	geumatophobia
precipices	cremnophobia	technology	technophobia
priests	hierophobia	teeth	odontophobia
punishment	poinephobia	telephone	telephonophobia
rabies	hydrophobophobia	thinking	phronemophobia
rail travel	siderodromophobia	thirteen	triskaidekaphobia
religious works of art	iconophobia	thunder	brontophobia/ tonitrophobia/ keraunophobia
reptiles	batrachophobia	time	chronophobia
responsibility	hegegiaphobia	touch	haptophobia
ridicule	katagelophobia	travel	hodophobia
rivers	potamophobia	tuberculosis	phthisisophobia
robbers	harpaxophobia	tyrants	tyrannophobia
ruin	atephobia	vehicles	ochophobia
Russian people and things	Russophobia	venereal disease	syphilophobia
saints	haglophobia	voids	kenophobia
Satan	Satanophobia	vomiting	emetophobia
scabies	scabiophobia	water	hydrophobia
Scottish people and things	Scotophobia	waves	cymophobia
sea	thalassophobia	weakness	asthenophobia
sex	erotophobia	wind	anemophobia
shadows	sclophobia	women	gynophobia
sharpness	acrophobia	words	logophobia
shock	hornephobia	work	ergophobia
sin	hamartophobia	worms	helminthophobia
skin disease	dermatosiophobia/ dermatopathophobia	writing	graphophobia
sleep	hypnophobia		
slime	blennophobia		
small things	microphobia		

physiognomy ► noun FACE, features, countenance, expression, look, mien, *informal* mug, *Brit informal* phizog, phiz, *Brit rhyming slang* boat face, *N Amer informal* puss, *poetic/literary* visage, lineaments

physique ► noun BODY, build, figure, frame, anatomy, shape, form, proportions, muscles, musculature, *informal* vital statistics, bod

pick ► verb ① *I got a job picking apples* HARVEST, gather (in), collect, pluck, *poetic/literary* cull ② *pick the time that suits you best* CHOOSE, select, pick out, single out, take, opt for, plump for, elect, decide on, settle on, fix on, sift out, sort out, name, nominate ③ *Beth picked at her food* NIBBLE, toy with, play with, eat like a bird ④ *people were singing and picking guitars* STRUM, twang, thrum, pluck ⑤ *he tried to pick a fight*

PROVOKE, start, cause, incite, stir up, whip up, instigate, prompt, bring about.

► noun ① *take your pick*: CHOICE, selection, option, decision, preference, favourite ② *the pick of the crop* BEST, finest, top, choice, choicest, prime, cream, flower, prize, pearl, gem, jewel, jewel in the crown, crème de la crème, elite.

■ **pick on** BULLY, victimize, tyrannize, torment, persecute, criticize, harass, hound, taunt, tease, *informal* get at, have it in for, have a down on, be down on, needle

■ **pick something out** ① *one painting was picked out for special mention*: CHOOSE, select, pick, single out, opt for, plump for, decide on, elect, settle on, fix on, sift out, sort out; name, nominate. ② *she picked out Jessica in the crowd*: SEE, make out, distinguish, discern, spot, per-

Photographers

Adams, Ansel (American)
 Arbus, Diane (American)
 Atget, Jean-Eugène Auguste (French)

Bailey, David (English)

Beaton, Cecil (English)

Bourke-White, Margaret (American)

Brady, Matthew (American)

Brandt, Bill (British, b. in Germany)

Brassai (French, b. in Hungary)

Cameron, Julia Margaret (British, b. in India)

Capa, Robert (Hungarian)

Cartier-Bresson, Henri (French)

Cunningham, Imogen (Canadian)

Curtis, Edward (American)

Daguerre, Louis-Jacques-Mandé (French)

Doisneau, Robert (French)

Eisenstaedt, Alfred (Polish)

Evans, Walker (American)

Fenton, Roger (English)

Godwin, Fay Simmonds (British, b. in Germany)

Hardy, Bert (English)

Hill, David Octavius (Scottish)

Hine, Lewis (American)

Karsh, Yousuf (Turkish)

Kertész, André (American, b. in Hungary)

Land, Edwin (American)

Lange, Dorothea (American)

Lartigue, Jacques-Henri (French)

Leibovitz, Annie (American)

Mapplethorpe, Robert (American)

Martin, Paul (French)

McBean, Angus (Welsh)

McCullin, Don (English)

Moholy-Nagy, László (American, b. in Hungary)

Muybridge, Eadweard (English)

Nadar (French)

Nilsson, Lennart (Swedish)

Parer, Damien (Australian)

Parkinson, Norman (English)

Penn, Irving (American)

Ray, Man (American)

Robinson, Henry Peach (English)

Rodchenko, Alexander (Russian)

Sander, August (German)

Sheeler, Charles (American)

Siskind, Aaron (American)

Snowdon, Earl of (Anthony

Armstrong Jones; English)

Steichen, Edward (American, b. in Luxembourg)

Stieglitz, Alfred (American)

Strand, Paul (American)

Sutcliffe, Frank Meadow (English)

Talbot, William Henry Fox (English)

Weston, Edward (American)

White, Minor (American)

Wolcott, Marion (American)

ceive, detect, notice, recognize, identify, catch sight of, glimpse, poetic/literary espy, behold, des cry

■ **pick up** IMPROVE, recover, be on the road to recovery, rally, make a comeback, bounce back, perk up, look up, take a turn for the better, turn the/a corner, be on the mend, make headway, make progress

■ **pick someone/something up** LIFT, take up, raise, hoist, scoop up, gather up, snatch up

■ **pick someone up** ① I'll pick you up after lunch FETCH, collect, call for ② (informal) he was picked up by the police ARREST, apprehend, detain, take into custody, seize, informal nab, run in, bust, Brit informal nick ③ (informal) he picked her up in a club TAKE UP WITH, informal get off with, pull, cop off with

■ **pick something up** ① we picked it up at a flea market FIND, discover, come across, stumble across, happen on, chance on, acquire, obtain, come by, get, procure, purchase, buy, informal get hold of, get/lay one's hands on, get one's mitts on, bag, land ② he picked up the story in the 1950s RESUME, take up, start again, recommence, continue, carry on with, go on with ③ she picked up a virus CATCH, contract, get, go/come down with ④ he told us the bits of gossip he'd picked up HEAR, hear tell, get wind of, be told, learn, glean, garner ⑤ we're picking up a distress signal RECEIVE, detect, get, hear

■ **picket** ► noun ① forty pickets were arrested STRIKER, demonstrator, protester, objector, picketer, flying picket ② fences made of cedar pickets STAKE, post, paling, upright, stanchion, pier, piling

► verb over 200 people picketed the factory DEMONSTRATE AT, form a picket at, man the picket line at, blockade, shut off

■ **pickle** ► noun ① a jar of pickle: RELISH, chutney, piccalilli. ② steep the vegetables in pickle: MARINADE, brine, vinegar. ③ (informal) they got into an awful pickle. FLIGHT, predicament, mess, difficulty, trouble, dire/desperate straits, problem, informal tight corner, tight spot, jam, fix, scrape, bind, hole, hot water, fine kettle of fish; Brit informal spot of bother

► verb fish pickled in brine PRESERVE, souse, marinate, conserve, bottle, can, tin

■ **pick-me-up** ► noun (informal) ① a drink that's a very good pick-me-up TONIC, restorative, energizer, stimulant, refresher, reviver, informal bracer, Medicine analeptic ② his winning goal was a perfect pick-me-up BOOST, boost to the spirits, fillip, stimulant, stimulus, informal shot in the arm

■ **pickpocket** ► noun THIEF, petty thief, sneak thief, archaic cutpurse

■ **pickup** ► noun IMPROVEMENT, recovery, revival, upturn, upswing, rally, comeback, resurgence, renewal, turn for the better
 -OPPOSITES slump

■ **picnic** ► noun ① a picnic on the beach OUTDOOR MEAL, alfresco meal, N Amer cookout ② (informal) working for him was no picnic EASY TASK JOB, child's play, five-finger exercise, gift, walkover, informal doddle, piece of cake, money for old rope, money for jam, cinch, breeze, kids' stuff, cakewalk, pushover, N Amer informal duck soup, Austral/NZ informal bludge

■ **pictorial** ► adjective ILLUSTRATED, in pictures, in picture form, in photographs, photographic, graphic

■ **picture** ► noun ① pictures in an art gallery PAINTING, DRAWING, sketch, oil painting, watercolour, print, canvas, portrait, portrayal, illustration, artwork, depiction, likeness, representation, image, icon, miniature, fresco, mural, wall painting, informal oil ② we were told not to take pictures PHOTOGRAPH, photo, snap, snapshot, shot, print, slide, transparency, exposure, still, enlargement, Brit engraving ③ a picture of the sort of person the child should be CONCEPT, idea, impression, view, (mental) image, vision, visualization, notion ④ the picture of health PERSONIFICATION, embodiment, epitome, essence, quintessence, perfect example, soul, model ⑤ a picture starring Robert de Niro FILM, movie, feature film, motion picture, informal flick, dated moving picture ⑥ we went to the pictures THE CINEMA, the movies, the silver screen, the big screen; informal the flicks.



► **verb** ① *he was pictured with his guests* PHOTOGRAPH, take a photograph/photo of, snap, shoot, film ② *in the drawing they were pictured against a snowy background* PAINT, DRAW, sketch, depict, delineate, portray, show, illustrate ③ *Anne still pictured Richard as he had been* VISUALIZE, see in one's mind's eye, conjure up a picture/image of, imagine, sec, evoke
 ■ **put someone in the picture** INFORM, fill in, explain the situation/circumstances to, bring up to date, update, brief, keep posted, *informal* clue in, bring up to speed

picturesque ► **adjective** ① *a picturesque village* ATTRACTIVE, pretty, beautiful, lovely, scenic, charming, quaint, pleasing, delightful ② *a picturesque description* VIVID, graphic, colourful, impressive, striking.
 -OPPOSITES ugly, dull

piddling ► **adjective** (*informal*) TRIVIAL, trifling, petty, footling, slight, small, insignificant, unimportant, inconsequential, inconsiderable, negligible, meagre, inadequate, insufficient, paltry, scant, scanty, derisory, pitiful, miserable, puny, niggardly, beggarly, mere, *informal* measly, pathetic, piffling, mingy, poxy, *N Amer informal* nickel-and-dime

pie ► **noun** PASTRY, tart, tartlet, quiche, pasty, patty, turnover, strudel See lists here and at CAKE
 ■ **pie in the sky** (*informal*) FALSE HOPE, illusion, delusion, fantasy, pipe dream, daydream, castle in the air, castle in Spain

Savoury Pies

cottage pie	pork pie	stargazy pie
coulbiac	pot pie	steak and
fidget pie	shepherd's	kidney pie
game pie	pie	tourtière
prog	squab pie	

piebald ► **adjective** See PIED

piece ► **noun** ① *a piece of cheese* | *a piece of wood* BIT, slice, chunk, segment, section, lump, hunk, wedge, slab, block, cake, bar, cube, stick, length, offcut, sample, fragment, sliver, splinter, wafer, chip, crumb, scrap, remnant, shred, shard, snippet, mouthful, morsel, *Brit informal* wodge ② *the pieces of a clock* COMPONENT, part, bit, section, segment, constituent, element, unit, module ③ *a piece of furniture* ITEM, article, specimen ④ *a piece of the profit* SHARE, portion, slice, quota, part, bit, percentage, amount, quantity, ration, fraction, division, *informal* cut, rake-off, *Brit informal* whack ⑤ *pieces from his private collection* WORK (OF ART), creation, production, composition, opus ⑥ *the reporter who wrote the piece* ARTICLE, item, story, report, essay, study, review, composition, column ⑦ *the pieces on a chess board* TOKEN, counter, man, disc, chip, marker

■ **in one piece** ① *the camera was still in one piece* UNBROKEN, entire, whole, intact, undamaged, unharmed ② *I'll bring her back in one piece* UNHURT, uninjured, unscathed, safe, safe and sound

■ **in pieces** BROKEN, in bits, shattered, smashed, in smithereens; *informal* bust

■ **go/fall to pieces** HAVE A BREAKDOWN, break down, go out of one's mind, lose control, lose

one's head, fall apart, *informal* crack up, lose it, come/fall apart at the seams, freak, freak out.

pièce de résistance ► **noun** MASTERPIECE, magnum opus, chef-d'œuvre, masterwork, tour de force, showpiece, prize, jewel in the crown

piecemeal ► **adverb** A LITTLE AT A TIME, piece by piece, bit by bit, gradually, slowly, in stages, in steps, step by step, little by little, by degrees, in/by fits and starts

pled ► **adjective** PARTICOLOURED, multicoloured, variegated, black and white, brown and white, piebald, skewbald, dappled, brindled, spotted, mottled, speckled, flecked, *N Amer* pinto

pier ► **noun** ① *a boat was tied to the pier* JETTY, quay, wharf, dock, landing, landing stage ② *the piers of the bridge* SUPPORT, cutwater, pile, piling, abutment, buttress, stanchion, prop, stay, upright, pillar, post, column

pierce ► **verb** ① *the metal pierced his flesh* PENE- TRATE, puncture, perforate, prick, lance, stab, spike, stick, impale, transfix, bore through, drill through ② *his anguish pierced her to the quick* HURT, wound, pain, sting, sear, grieve, distress, upset, trouble, harrow, afflict, affect, move

piercing ► **adjective** ① *a piercing shriek* SHRILL, ear-splitting, high-pitched, penetrating, strident, loud ② *the piercing wind* BITTER, biting, cutting, penetrating, sharp, keen, stinging, raw, freezing, frigid, glacial, arctic, chill ③ *a piercing pain* INTENSE, excruciating, agonizing, sharp, stabbing, shooting, stinging, severe, extreme, fierce, searing, racking ④ *his piercing gaze* SEARCHING, probing, penetrating, penetrative, shrewd, sharp, keen ⑤ *his piercing intelligence* PERCEPTIVE, perceptive, perspicacious, penetrating, discerning, discriminating, intelligent, quick-witted, sharp, sharp-witted, shrewd, insightful, keen, acute, astute, clever, smart, incisive, razor-edged, trenchant

piety ► **noun** DEVOUTNESS, devotion, piouness, religion, holiness, godliness, saintliness, veneration, reverence, faith, religious duty, spirituality, religious zeal, fervour, pietism, religiosity

piffle ► **noun** (*informal*) See NONSENSE sense 1

piffling ► **adjective** (*informal*) INADEQUATE, insufficient, tiny, small, minimal, trifling, paltry, pitiful, negligible, miserly, miserable, *informal* measly, stingy, lousy, pathetic, piddling, mingy, poxy

pig ► **noun** ① *a herd of pigs* HOG, boar, sow, porker, swine, piglet, *children's word* piggy See list ② (*informal*) *he's eaten the lot, the pig* GLUTTON, guzzler, *informal* hog, greedy guts, *Brit informal* gannet ③ (*informal*) *he's been an absolute pig lately* *informal* BASTARD, beast, louse, swine, *Brit informal* toerag, *informal*, doted rotter, heel, stinker
 -RELATED TERMS porcine.

pigeonhole ► **noun** *journalistic* pigeonholes CAT- EGORY, categorization, class, classification, group, grouping, designation, slot

► **verb** ① *they were pigeonholed as an indie guitar band* CATEGORIZE, compartmentalize, classify, characterize, label, brand, tag, designate. ② *the plan was pigeonholed last year* POSTPONE, put off, put back, defer, shelve, hold over, put to one side, put on ice, mothball, put in cold storage. *N Amer* table; *informal* put on the back burner

Pigs

DOMESTIC PIGS

Berkshire
British Lop
British Saddleback
Chester White
Duroc
Gloucester Old Spot
Hampshire
Landrace
Middle White
Oxford Sandy and Black
Pietrain
Poland China

Saddleback
Tamworth
Vietnamese Pot-Bellied
Welsh

WILD PIGS

babirusa
bush pig
hog
peccary
razorback
warthog
wild boar

pig-headed ► **adjective** OBSTINATE, stubborn (as a mule), mulish, bull-headed, obdurate, headstrong, self-willed, wilful, perverse, contrary, recalcitrant, stiff-necked, uncooperative, inflexible, uncompromising, intractable, intransigent, unyielding, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, *holshie*, *formal* refractory

pigment ► **noun** COLOURING MATTER, colouring, colourant, colour, tint, dye, dyestuff

pile¹ ► **noun** ① a pile of stones HEAP, stack, mound, pyramid, mass, quantity, collection, accumulation, assemblage, store, stockpile, hoard ② (*informal*) I've a pile of work to do GREAT DEAL, lot, large quantity/amount, quantities, reams, mountain, abundance, cornucopia, plethora, *informal* load, heap, mass, slew, ocean, stack, ton, *Brit informal* shedload, *Austral/NZ informal* swag ③ (*informal*) he'd made his pile in the fur trade FORTUNE, millions, billions, *informal* small fortune, bomb packet, bundle, wad, *Brit informal* loadsamoney ④ a huge Victorian pile MANSION, stately home, manor, manor house, country house, *formal* edifice

► **verb** ① he piled up the plates HEAP (UP), stack (up), put on top of each other ② he piled his plate with fried eggs LOAD, heap, fill (up), lade, stack, charge, stock ③ his debts were piling up INCREASE, grow, mount up, escalate, soar, spiral, leap up, shoot up, rocket, climb, accumulate, accrue, build up, multiply ④ we piled into the car CROWD, climb, pack, squeeze, push, shove

■ **pile it on** (*informal*) EXAGGERATE, overstate the case, make a mountain out of a molehill, overdo it, overplay it, over-dramatize, *informal* lay it on thick, lay it on with a trowel

pile² ► **noun** a wall supported by timber piles POST, stake, pillar, column, support, foundation, piling, abutment, pier, cutwater, buttress, stanchion, upright

pile³ ► **noun** a carpet with a short pile NAP, fibres, threads

pile-up ► **noun** CRASH, multiple crash, collision, multiple collision, smash, accident, road accident, *Brit* RTA (road traffic accident), *N Amer* wreck, *informal* smash-up, *Brit informal* shunt

pilfer ► **verb** STEAL, thief, take, snatch, purloin, loot, *informal* swipe, rob, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle, *Brit informal* pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock off, nobble, *N Amer informal* heist

pilgrim ► **noun** worshipper, devotee, believer, traveller, crusader, haji, *poetic/literary* wayfarer, *historical* palmer

pilgrimage ► **noun** RELIGIOUS JOURNEY, religious expedition, hajj, crusade, mission

pill ► **noun** TABLET, capsule, caplet, pellet, lozenge, pastille, *Veterinary Medicine* bolus

pillage ► **verb** ① the abbey was pillaged RAN SACK, rob, plunder, despoil, raid, loot, sack, devastate, lay waste, ravage, rape ② columns pillaged from an ancient town STEAL, pilfer, thief, take, snatch, purloin, loot, *informal* swipe, rob, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle, *Brit informal* pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock off, nobble, *N Amer informal* heist

► **noun** the rebels were intent on pillage ROBBERY, robbing, raiding, plunder, looting, sacking, rape, marauding, *poetic/literary* rapine

pillar ► **noun** ① stone pillars COLUMN, post, support, upright, baluster, pier, pile, pilaster, stanchion, prop, newel, obelisk, monolith ② a pillar of the community STALWART, mainstay, bastion, rock, leading light, worthy, backbone, support, upholder, champion

pillory ► **noun** offenders were put in the pillory STOCKS

► **verb** ① he was pilloried by the press ATTACK, criticize, censure, condemn, denigrate, lambaste, savage, stigmatize, denounce, *informal* knock, slam, pan, bash, crucify, hammer, *Brit informal* slate, rubbish, slag off, *N Amer informal* pummel, *Austral/NZ informal* bag, monster, *formal* excoriate ② they were pilloried at school RIDICULE, jeer at, sneer at, deride, mock, scorn, make fun of, poke fun at, laugh at, scoff at, tease, taunt, rag, *informal* kid, rib, josh, take the mickey out of, *N Amer informal* razz, pull someone's chain

pillow ► **noun** his head rested on the pillow CUSHION, bolster, pad, headrest

► **verb** she pillowed her head on folded arms CUSHION, cradle, rest, lay, support

pilot ► **noun** ① a fighter pilot AIRMAN, AIRWOMAN, flyer, captain, commander, co-pilot, wingman, *informal* skipper, *N Amer informal* jock, dated aviator, aeronaut *Six list* ② a harbour pilot NAVIGATOR, helmsman, steersman, coxswain ③ a pilot for a TV series TRIAL EPISODE, sample, experiment

► **adjective** a pilot project EXPERIMENTAL, exploratory



Pilots

Alcock, John (English)
Bader, Douglas (English)
Batten, Jean (New Zealand)
Blériot, Louis (French)
Bong, Richard (American)
Brown, Arthur Whitten (Scottish)
Cochran, Jacqueline (American)
Curtiss, Glenn (American)

Earhart, Amelia (American)
Hinkler, Herbert (Australian)
Hughes, Howard (American)
Johnson, Amy (English)
Lindbergh, Charles (American)
Nobile, Umberto (Italian)
Richthofen, Manfred von ('the Red Baron'; German)

Saint-Exupéry, Antoine de (French)
Smith, Keith (Australian)
Wright, Orville (American)
Wright, Wilbur (American)
Yeager, Chuck (American)

tory, trial, test, sample, speculative, preliminary

- **verb** ① *he piloted the jet to safety* NAVIGATE, guide, manoeuvre, steer, control, direct, captain, shepherd, fly, aviate, drive, sail, *informal skipper*
② *the questionnaire has been piloted* TEST, trial, try out, assess, investigate, examine, appraise, evaluate

pimp ► **noun** PROCURER, procuress, brothel-keeper, madam, *Brit informal ponce, archaic bawd*

pimple ► **noun** SPOT, pustule, bleb, boil, swelling, eruption, blackhead, carbuncle, blister, (pimples) acne, *informal whitehead, zit, Scottish informal plook, technical comedo, papule*

pin ► **noun** ① *fasten the hem with a pin* TACK, safety pin, nail, staple, fastener ② *a broken pin in the machine* BOLT, peg, rivet, dowel, screw ③ *they wore name pins* BADGE, brooch

- **verb** ① *she pinned the brooch to her dress* ATTACH, fasten, affix, fix, tack, clip, join, secure ② *they pinned him to the ground* HOLD, press, hold fast, hold down, restrain, pinion, immobilize ③ *they pinned the crime on him* BLAME FOR, hold responsible for, attribute to, impute to, ascribe to, lay something at someone's door, *informal stick on*
■ **pin someone/something down** ① *our troops can pin down the enemy* CONFINE, TRAP, hem in, corne, close in, shut in, hedge in, pen in, restrain, entangle, enmesh, immobilize ② *she tried to pin him down to a plan* CONSTRAIN, make someone commit themselves, pressure, pressurize, tie down, nail down ③ *it evoked a memory but he couldn't pin it down* DEFINE, put one's finger on, put into words, express, name, specify, identify, pinpoint, place

pinch ► **verb** ① *he pinched my arm* NIP, tweak, squeeze, grasp ② *my new shoes pinch my toes* HURT, pain, squeeze, crush, cramp, be uncomfortable ③ *I scraped and pinched to afford it* ECONOMIZE, scrimp (and save), be sparing, be frugal, cut back, tighten one's belt, retrench, cut one's coat according to one's cloth, *informal* be stingy, be tight ④ *(informal) he was pinched for drink-driving* ARREST, apprehend, take into custody, detain, seize, catch, take in, haul in, *informal* collar, nab, pick up, run in, nick, bust, nail, do ⑤ *(Brit informal) you pinched his biscuits* STEAL, thief, take, snatch, pilfer, purloin, loot, *informal* swipe, rob, nab, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, *Brit informal* nick, half-inch, whip, knock off, noggle, *N Amer informal* heist

► **noun** ① *he gave her arm a pinch* NIP, tweak, squeeze ② *a pinch of salt* BIT, touch, dash, spot, trace, soupçon, speck, taste, *informal* smidgen, tad

■ **at a pinch** IF NECESSARY, if need be, in an emergency, just possibly, with difficulty, *N Amer* in a pinch, *Brit informal* at a push

■ **feel the pinch** SUFFER HARDSHIP, be short of money, be poor, be impoverished

pinched ► **adjective** *their pinched faces* STRAINED, stressed, fraught, tense, taut, tired, worn, drained, sapped, wan, peaky, pale, grey, blanched, thin, drawn, haggard, gaunt
-OPPOSITES healthy.

pine ► **verb** ① *I am pining away from love* LANGUISH, decline, weaken, waste away, wilt, wither, fade, sicken, droop, brood, mope, moon ② *he was pining for his son* YEARN, long, ache, sigh, hunger, languish, miss, mourn,

lament, grieve over, shed tears for, bemoan, rue, eat one's heart out over, *informal* itch.

pinion ► **verb** HOLD DOWN, pin down, restrain, hold fast, immobilize, tie, bind, truss (up), shackle, fetter, hobble, manacle, handcuff; *informal* cuff

pink ► **adjective** ROSE, rosy, rosé, pale red, salmon, coral, flushed, blushing

► **noun** (*informal*) *she's in the pink of condition* PRIME, perfection, best, finest, height, utmost, greatest, apex, zenith, acme, bloom

■ **in the pink** (*informal*) IN GOOD HEALTH, very healthy, in rude health, very well, hale and hearty, blooming, flourishing, thriving, vigorous, strong, lusty, robust, in fine fettle, (as) fit as a fiddle, in excellent shape

pinnacle ► **noun** ① *pinnacles of rock* PEAK, needle, aiguille, hoodoo, crag, tor, summit, crest, apex, tip, *Geology* inselberg ② *the pinnacles of the clock tower* TURRET, minaret, spire, finial, shikara, mirador ③ *the pinnacle of the sport* HIGHEST LEVEL, peak, height, high point, top, apex, zenith, apogee, acme
-OPPOSITES nadir

pinpoint ► **noun** *a pinpoint of light* POINT, spot, speck, dot, speckle

► **adjective** *pinpoint accuracy* PRECISE, strict, exact, meticulous, scrupulous, punctilious, accurate, careful

► **verb** *pinpoint the cause of the trouble* IDENTIFY, determine, distinguish, discover, find, locate, detect, track down, spot, diagnose, recognize, pin down, home in on, put one's finger on

pioneer ► **noun** ① *the pioneers of the Wild West* SETTLER, colonist, colonizer, frontiersman/woman, explorer, trailblazer See list at EXPLORER ② *a pioneer of motoring* DEVELOPER, innovator, trailblazer, ground-breaker, spearhead, founder, founding father, architect, creator

► **verb** *he pioneered the sale of insurance* INTRODUCE, develop, evolve, launch, instigate, initiate, spearhead, institute, establish, found, be the father/mother of, originate, set in motion, create, lay the groundwork, prepare the way, blaze a trail, break new ground

pious ► **adjective** ① *a pious family* RELIGIOUS, devout, God-fearing, churchgoing, spiritual, prayerful, holy, godly, saintly, dedicated, reverent, dutiful, righteous ② *a pious platitude* SANCTIMONIOUS, hypocritical, insincere, self-righteous, holier-than-thou, pietistic, churchy, *informal* goody-goody, *Brit informal* pi ③ *a pious hope* FOR LORN, vain, doomed, hopeless, desperate, unlikely, unrealistic
-OPPOSITES irreligious, sincere

pip ► **noun** SEED, stone, pit

pipe ► **noun** ① *a central-heating pipe* TUBE, conduit, hose, main, duct, line, channel, pipeline, drain, tubing, piping, siphon ② *he smokes a pipe* briar (pipe), meerschaum, chibouk; hoo-kah, narghile, hubble-bubble, bong; *Brit* churchwarden, *Scottish & N English* cutty ③ *she was playing a pipe*: WHISTLE, penny whistle, flute, recorder, fife; chanter. ④ *regimental pipes and drums*: BAGPIPES, uilleann pipes; pan pipes.

► **verb** ① *the beer is piped into barrels*: SIPHON, feed, channel, run, convey ② *programmes piped in from London*: TRANSMIT, feed, patch. ③ *he heard a tune being piped*. PLAY ON A PIPE, tootle, whistle,

poetic/literary flute ④ a curlew piped CHIRP, cheep, chirrup, twitter, warble, trill, peep, sing, shrill
 ■ **pipe down** (informal) BE QUIET, be silent, hush, stop talking, hold one's tongue, informal shut up, shut one's mouth, button it, button one's lip, belt up, put a sock in it

pipe dream ► noun FANTASY, false hope, illusion, delusion, daydream, chimera, castle in the air, castle in Spain, informal pie in the sky

pipeline ► noun a gas pipeline PIPE, conduit, main, line, duct, tube

■ **in the pipeline** ON THE WAY, coming, forthcoming, upcoming, imminent, about to happen, near, close, brewing, in the offing, in the wind

pipsqueak ► noun (informal) NOBODY, nonentity, insignificant person, non-person, cipher, small fry, upstart, stripling; informal squirt, whippersnapper, N Amer informal picayune, archaic, informal dandiprat

piquant ► adjective ① a piquant sauce SPICY, tangy, peppery, hot, tasty, flavoursome, flavourful, appetizing, savoury, pungent, sharp, tart, zesty, strong, salty ② a piquant story INTRIGUING, stimulating, interesting, fascinating, colourful, exciting, lively, spicy, provocative, racy, informal juicy

—OPPOSITES bland, dull

pique ► noun a fit of pique IRRITATION, annoyance, resentment, anger, displeasure, indignation, petulance, ill humour, vexation, exasperation, disgruntlement, discontent, offence, umbrage

► verb ① his curiosity was piqued STIMULATE, arouse, rouse, provoke, whet, awaken, excite, kindle, stir, galvanize ② she was piqued by his neglect IRRITATE, annoy, bother, vex, displease, upset, offend, affront, anger, exasperate, infuriate, gall, irk, nettle, informal peeve, aggravate, miff, rile, bug, needle, get someone's back up, hack off, get someone's goat, Brit informal nark, give someone the hump, N Amer informal tick off, tee off

piracy ► noun ① piracy on the high seas ROBBERY AT SEA, freebooting, archaic buccaneering ② software piracy ILLEGAL COPYING, plagiarism, copy-right infringement, bootlegging

pirate ► noun ① pirates boarded the ship FREE BOOTER, marauder, raider, historical privateer, archaic buccaneer, corsair ② software pirates COPY RIGHT INFRINGER, plagiarist, plagiarizer

► verb designers may pirate good ideas REPRODUCE ILLEGALLY, copy illegally, plagiarize, poach, steal, appropriate, bootleg, informal crib, lift, rip off, Brit informal nick, pinch

pirouette ► noun she did a little pirouette SPIN, twirl, whirl, turn

► verb she pirouetted before the mirror SPIN ROUND, twirl, whirl, turn round, revolve, pivot

pistol ► noun REVOLVER, gun, handgun, side arm, automatic, six-shooter, thirty-eight, deringer, informal gat, N Amer informal piece, shooting iron, trademark Colt, Luger

pit¹ ► noun ① a pit in the ground HOLE, ditch, trench, trough, hollow, excavation, cavity, crater, pothole, shaft, mineshaft. ② pit closures COAL MINE, colliery, quarry ③ the pits in her skin POCKMARK, pock, hollow, indentation, depression, dent, dint, dimple

► verb ① his skin had been pitted by acne MARK,

pockmark, scar, blemish, disfigure ② raindrops pitted the bare earth MAKE HOLES IN, make hollows in, dent, indent, dint

■ **pit someone/something against** SET AGAINST, match against, put in opposition to, put in competition with, compete with, contend with, vie with, wrestle with

■ **the pits** (informal) THE WORST, the lowest of the low, rock bottom, extremely bad, awful, terrible, dreadful, deplorable, informal appalling, lousy, abysmal, dire, Brit informal chronic

pit² ► noun cherry pits STONE, pip, seed

pitch¹ ► noun ① the pitch was unfit for cricket PLAYING FIELD, field, ground, sports field, stadium, arena, Brit park ② her voice rose in pitch TONE, timbre, key, modulation, frequency ③ the pitch of the roof GRADIENT, slope, slant, angle, steepness, tilt, incline, inclination ④ her anger reached such a pitch that she screamed LEVEL, intensity, point, degree, height, extent ⑤ a pitch of the ball THROW, fling, hurl, toss, lob, delivery, informal chuck, heave ⑥ his sales pitch PATTERN, talk, informal spiel, line ⑦ street traders reserved their pitches SITE, place, spot, station, Scottish stance, Brit informal patch

► verb ① he pitched the note into the fire THROW, toss, fling, hurl, cast, lob, flip, propel, bowl, informal chuck, sling, heave, bung, N Amer informal peg, Austral informal hoy, NZ informal bish, dated shy ② he pitched overboard FALL, tumble, topple, plunge, plummet ③ they pitched their tents PUT UP, set up, erect, raise ④ the boat pitched LURCH, toss (about), plunge, roll, reel, sway, rock, keel, list, wallow, labour

■ **make a pitch for** TRY TO OBTAIN, try to acquire, try to get, bid for, make a bid for

■ **pitch in** HELP (OUT), assist, lend a hand, join in, participate, contribute, do one's bit, chip in, cooperate, collaborate, Brit informal muck in

■ **pitch into** ATTACK, turn on, lash out at, set upon, assault, fly at, tear into, weigh into, belabour, informal lay into, let someone have it, take a pop at, N Amer informal light into

pitch² ► noun cement coated with pitch bitumen, asphalt, tar

pitch-black ► adjective BLACK, dark, pitch-dark, inky, jet-black, coal-black, jet, ebony, starless, moonless, poetic/literary Stygian

pitcher ► noun JUG, ewer, jar, N Amer creamer, historical jorum

piteous ► adjective SAD, pitiful, pitiable, pathetic, heart-rending, heartbreaking, moving, touching, plaintive, poignant, forlorn, poor, wretched, miserable

pitfall ► noun HAZARD, danger, risk, peril, difficulty, catch, snag, stumbling block, drawback

pith ► noun ① the pith of the argument ESSENCE, main point, fundamentals, heart, substance, nub, core quintessence, crux, gist, meat, kernel, marrow, burden, informal nitty-gritty ② he writes with pith and exactitude. SUCCINCTNESS, conciseness, concision, pithiness, brevity; cogency, weight, depth, force.

pithy ► adjective SUCCINCT, terse, concise, compact, short (and sweet), brief, condensed, to the point, epigrammatic, crisp, thumbnail; significant, meaningful, expressive, telling, formal compendious.

—OPPOSITES verbose.



pittiful ▶ **adjective** ① a child in a *pittiful* state DIS-
TRESSING, sad, piteous, pitiable, pathetic,
heart-rending, heartbreaking, moving, touch-
ing, tear-jerking, plaintive, poignant, forlorn,
poor, sorry, wretched, abject, miserable ② a
pittiful £50 a month PALTRY, miserable, meagre,
insufficient, trifling, negligible, pitiable, deri-
sory, *informal* pathetic, measly, piddling, mungy,
Brit informal poxy ③ his performance was *pittiful*
DREADFUL, awful, terrible, lamentable, hopeless,
poor, bad, feeble, pitiable, woeful, inadequate,
below par, deplorable, laughable, *informal* path-
etic, useless, appalling, lousy, abysmal, dire

pittiless ▶ **adjective** MERCILESS, unmerciful, un-
pitying, ruthless, cruel, heartless, remorseless,
hard-hearted, cold-hearted, harsh, callous, se-
vere, unsparing, unforgiving, unfeeling, uncar-
ing, unsympathetic, uncharitable, brutal, in-
human, inhumane, barbaric, sadistic
-OPPOSITES merciful

pittance ▶ **noun** A TINY AMOUNT, next to noth-
ing, very little, *informal* peanuts, chicken feed,
slave wages, *N Amer informal* chump change

pitted ▶ **adjective** ① his skin was *pitted*
POCKMARKED, pocked, scarred, marked, blem-
ished ② the *pitted* lane POTHOLED, rutted, ratty,
holey, bumpy, rough, uneven
-OPPOSITES smooth

pity ▶ **noun** ① a voice full of *pity* COMPASSION,
commiseration, condolence, sympathy, fellow
feeling, understanding, sorrow, regret, sadness
② it's a *pity* he never had children SHAME, sad
thing, bad luck, misfortune, *informal* crime,
bummer, sin
-OPPOSITES indifference, cruelty

▶ **verb** they *pity* me FEEL SORRY FOR, feel for,
sympathize with, empathize with, commiserate
with, take pity on, be moved by, condole with,
grieve for

■ **take pity on** FEEL SORRY FOR, relent, be com-
passionate towards, be sympathetic towards,
have mercy on, help (out), put someone out of
their misery

pivot ▶ **noun** ① the machine turns on a *pivot* FUL-
CRUM, axis, axle, swivel, pin, shaft, hub, spin-
dle, hinge, kingpin, gudgeon. ② the *pivot* of gov-
ernment policy CENTRE, focus, hub, heart, nu-
cleus, crux, keystone, cornerstone, linchpin,
kingpin

▶ **verb** ① the panel *pivots* inwards ROTATE, turn,
swivel, revolve, spin ② it all *pivoted* on his re-
sponse DEPEND, hinge, turn, centre, hang, rely,
rest, revolve around

pivotal ▶ **adjective** CENTRAL, crucial, vital, critic-
al, focal, essential, key, decisive

pixie ▶ **noun** ELF, fairy, sprite, imp, brownie,
puck, leprechaun, *poetic/literary* faerie, fay

placard ▶ **noun** NOTICE, poster, sign, bill, adver-
tisement, banner, *informal* ad, *Brit informal* advert

placate ▶ **verb** PACIFY, calm, appease, mollify,
soothe, win over, conciliate, propitiate, make
peace with, humour, *Austral/NZ* square someone
off

-OPPOSITES provoke

place ▶ **noun** ① an ideal *place* for dinner: LOCA-
TION, site, spot, setting, position, situation,
area, region, locale; venue; *technical* locus ② for-
eign *places*: COUNTRY, state, area, region, town,
city, locality, district, *poetic/literary* clime. ③ a
place of her own HOME, house, flat, apartment;

accommodation, property, pied-à-terre, rooms,
quarters, *informal* pad, digs, *Brit informal* gaff, *formal*
residence, abode, dwelling (place), domicile,
habitation ④ if I were in *your place*, I'd agree
SITUATION, position, circumstances, *informal*
shoes ⑤ a *place* was reserved for her SEAT, chair,
space ⑥ I offered him a *place* in the company, JOB,
position, post, appointment, situation, office,
employment ⑦ I know my *place* STATUS, pos-
ition, standing, rank, niche, *dated* estate, sta-
tion ⑧ it was not her *place* to sort it out: RESPON-
SIBILITY, duty, job, task, role, function, concern,
affair, charge; right, privilege, prerogative

▶ **verb** ① books were *placed* on the table PUT (DOWN),
set (down), lay, deposit, position, plant, rest,
stand, station, situate, leave, *informal* stick,
dump, bung, park, plonk, pop, *N Amer informal*
plunk ② the trust you *placed* in me PUT, lay, set,
invest ③ a survey *placed* the company sixth RANK,
order, grade, class, classify, categorize, put, set,
assign ④ Joe couldn't quite *place* her IDENTIFY,
recognize, remember, put a name to, pin
down, locate, pinpoint ⑤ we were *placed* with
foster-parents ACCOMMODATE, house, allocate, as-
sign, appoint

■ **in place** ① the veil was held in *place* by pearls
IN POSITION, in situ ② the plans are in *place*
READY, set up, all set, established, arranged, in
order

■ **in place of** INSTEAD OF, rather than, as a sub-
stitute for, as a replacement for, in exchange
for, in lieu of, in someone's stead

■ **out of place** ① she never had a hair out of
place OUT OF POSITION, out of order, in disarray,
disarranged, in a mess, messy, topsy-turvy,
muddled ② he said something out of *place* IN-
APPROPRIATE, unsuitable, unseemly, improper,
untoward, out of keeping, unbecoming, wrong
③ she seemed out of *place* in a launderette INCON-
GRUOUS, out of one's element, like a fish out of
water, uncomfortable, uneasy

■ **put someone in their place** HUMILIATE, take
down a peg or two, deflate, crush, squash,
humble, *informal* cut down to size, settle
someone's hash, *N Amer informal* make someone
eat crow

■ **take place** HAPPEN, occur, come about, trans-
pire, crop up, materialize, arise, *N Amer infor-*
mal go down, *poetic/literary* come to pass, befall,
betide

■ **take the place of** REPLACE, stand in for,
substitute for, act for, fill in for, cover for, re-
lieve

placement ▶ **noun** ① the *placement* of the
chairs POSITIONING, placing, arrangement, pos-
ition, deployment, location, disposition
② teaching *placements* JOB, post, assignment,
posting, position, appointment, engagement

placid ▶ **adjective** ① she's normally very *placid*
EVEN-TEMPERED, calm, tranquil, equable,
equanimous, unexcitable, serene, mild, (cool,
calm, and collected), composed, self-possessed,
poised, easy-going, level-headed, steady, unruf-
fled, unperturbed, phlegmatic; *informal* unflap-
pable ② a *placid* village: QUIET, calm, tranquil,
still, peaceful, undisturbed, restful, sleepy.
-OPPOSITES excitable, bustling.

plagiarism ▶ **noun** COPYING, infringement of
copyright, piracy, theft, stealing; *informal* crib-
bing.

plagiarize ▶ **verb** **1** *COPY*, infringe the copyright of, pirate, steal, poach, appropriate, *informal* rip off, crib, 'borrow', *Bnt* *informal* pinch, nick

plague ▶ **noun** **1** *they died of the plague* **BUBONIC PLAGUE**, pneumonic plague, the Black Death, disease, sickness, epidemic, *dated* contagion, *archaic* pestilence **2** *a plague of cat fleas* **INFESTATION**, epidemic, invasion, swarm, multitude, host **3** *theft is the plague of restaurants* **BANE**, curse, scourge, affliction, blight *See list*

▶ **verb** **1** *he was plagued by poor health* **AFFLICT**, bedevil, torment, trouble, beset, dog, curse **2** *he plagued her with questions* **PESTER**, harass, badger, bother, torment, persecute, bedevil, harry, hound, trouble, irritate, nag, annoy, vex, molest, *informal* hassle, bug, aggravate, *N English* *informal* mither, *N Amer* *informal* devil

The Ten Biblical Plagues of Egypt

water into blood	flies	locusts
frogs	cattle	darkness
lice	boils	death of firstborn
	hail	

plain ▶ **adjective** **1** *it was plain that something was wrong* **OBVIOUS**, (crystal) clear, evident, apparent, manifest, patent, discernible, perceptible, noticeable, recognizable, unmistakable, transparent, pronounced, marked, striking, conspicuous, self-evident, indisputable, as plain as a pikestaff, wit large, *informal* standing/sticking out like a sore thumb, standing/sticking out a mile **2** *plain English* **INTELLIGIBLE**, comprehensible, understandable, clear, coherent, uncomplicated, lucid, unambiguous, simple, straightforward, user-friendly, *formal* perspicuous **3** *plain speaking* **CANDID**, frank, outspoken, forthright, direct, honest, truthful, blunt, bald, explicit, unequivocal, *informal* upfront **4** *a plain dress* **SIMPLE**, ordinary, unadorned, unembellished, unornamented, unostentatious, unfussy, homely, basic, modest, unsophisticated, without frills, restrained, muted, everyday, workaday **5** *a plain girl* **UNATTRACTIVE**, unprepossessing, ugly, ill-favoured, unlovely, ordinary, *N Amer* homely, *informal* not much to look at, *Bnt* *informal* no oil painting **6** *it was plain bad luck* **SHEER**, pure, downright, out-and-out, unmitigated

—**OPPOSITES** obscure, fancy, attractive, pretentious

▶ **adverb** *this is just plain stupid* **DOWNRIGHT**, utterly, absolutely, completely, totally, really, thoroughly, positively, simply, unquestionably, undeniably; *informal* plumb

▶ **noun** *the plains of North America* **GRASSLAND**, flatland, lowland, pasture, meadowland, prairie, savannah, steppe, tableland, tundra, pampas, veld.

plain-spoken ▶ **adjective** **CANDID**, frank, outspoken, forthright, direct, honest, truthful, open, blunt, straightforward, explicit, unequivocal, unambiguous, not afraid to call a spade a spade, *informal* upfront

—**OPPOSITES** evasive.

plaintive ▶ **adjective** **MOURNFUL**, sad, wistful, doleful, pathetic, pitiful, piteous, melancholy,

sorrowful, unhappy, wretched, woeful, forlorn, woebegone, *poetic/literary* dolorous

plan ▶ **noun** **1** *a plan for raising money* **SCHEME**, idea, proposal, proposition, suggestion, project, programme, system, method, procedure, strategy, stratagem, formula, recipe, way, means, measure, tactic **2** *her plan was to win a medal* **INTENTION**, aim, idea, intent, objective, object, goal, target, ambition **3** *plans for the clubhouse* **BLUEPRINT**, drawing, diagram, sketch, layout, illustration, representation, *N Amer* plat

▶ **verb** **1** *plan your route in advance* **ORGANIZE**, arrange, work out, design, outline, map out, prepare, schedule, formulate, frame, develop, devise, concoct, plot, scheme hatch, brew, *N Amer* slate **2** *he plans to buy a house* **INTEND**, aim, propose, mean, hope, want, wish, desire, envisage, *formal* purpose **3** *I'm planning a new garden* **DESIGN**, draw up, sketch out, map out, *N Amer* plat

plane¹ ▶ **noun** **1** *a horizontal plane* **FLAT SURFACE**, level surface, the flat, horizontal **2** *a higher plane of achievement* **LEVEL**, degree, standard, status, position, rung, echelon

▶ **adjective** *a plane surface* **FLAT**, level, horizontal, even, smooth, regular, uniform, *technical* planar

▶ **verb** **1** *seagulls planed overhead* **SOAR**, glide, float, drift, wheel **2** *boats planed across the water* **SKIM**, glide

plane² ▶ **noun** *the plane took off* **AIRCRAFT**, airliner, jet, jetliner, flying machine, *Bnt* aeroplane, *N Amer* airplane, ship *See list at AIRCRAFT*

planet ▶ **noun** **CELESTIAL BODY**, heavenly body, satellite, moon, earth, asteroid, planetoid, *poetic/literary* orb *See list*

Planets and Their Satellites

PLANET	SATELLITES
Mercury	—
Venus	—
Earth	Moon
Mars	Phobos, Deimos
Jupiter	Metis,Adrastea,Amalthea,Thebe,Io, Europa,Ganymede,Callisto,Leda, Himalia,Lysithea,Elara,Ananke, Carme,Pasiphae,Sinope
Saturn	Atlas,Prometheus,Pandora, Epimetheus,Janus,Mimas,Enceladus, Tethys,Telesto,Calypto,Dione, Helene,Rhea,Titan,Hyperion, Iapetus,Phoebe
Uranus	Cordelia,Ophelia,Bianca,Cressida, Desdemona,Juliet,Portia,Rosalind, Belinda,Puck,Miranda,Ariel, Umbriel,Titania,Oberon
Neptune	Naiad,Thalassa,Despina,Galatea, Larissa,Proteus,Triton,Nereid
Pluto	Charon

plangent ▶ **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) **MELANCHOLY**, mournful, plaintive, sonorous, resonant, loud

plank ▶ **noun** **BOARD**, floorboard, timber, stave

planning ▶ **noun** **PREPARATION(S)**, organization, arrangement, design, forethought, groundwork.

plant ▶ **noun** **1** *garden plants*, flower, vegetable, herb, shrub, weed, (**plants**) vegetation, green-



ery, flora, herbage, verdure See lists here and at FLOWER, FRUIT, FUNGUS, GRASS, NUT, POISON, TREE, VEGETABLE ② a CIA plant SPY, informant, informer, (secret) agent, mole, infiltrator, operative, N Amer informal spook ③ the plant commenced production FACTORY, works, foundry, mill, workshop, yard, archaic manufactory

—RELATED TERMS phyto-, phyte

► **verb** ① plant the seeds this autumn sow, scatter, seed, bed out, transplant ② he planted his feet on the ground PLACE, put, set, position, situate, settle, informal plonk ③ she planted the idea in his mind INSTIL, implant, impress, imprint, put, place, introduce, fix, establish, lodge ④ letters were planted to embarrass them HIDE, conceal, secrete

Types of Plant

algae	ferns	liverworts
angiosperms	fungi	mosses
bryophytes	gymnosperms	pteridophytes
conifers	horworts	vascular plants
cycads	horsetails	
clubmosses	lichens	

Parts of a Plant

bark	leaf	stem
flower	phloem	stoma
fruit	root	tap root
guard cell	root cap	vascular bundle
lateral root	root hair	xylem

plaque ► **noun** PLATE, tablet, panel, sign, plaque, cartouche, Brit brass

plaster ► **noun** ① the plaster covering the bricks PLASTERWORK, stucco, partering, trademark Artex ② a statuette made of plaster PLASTER OF PARIS, gypsum ③ waterproof plasters STICKING PLASTER, (adhesive) dressing, bandage, trademark Elastoplast, Band-Aid

► **verb** ① bread plastered with butter COVER THICKLY, smother, spread, smear, cake, coat ② his hair was plastered down with sweat FLATTEN (DOWN), smooth down, slick down

plastic ► **adjective** ① at high temperatures the rocks become plastic MALLEABLE, mouldable, pliable, pliant, ductile, flexible, soft, workable, bendable, informal bendy ② the plastic minds of children IMPRESSIONABLE, malleable, receptive, pliable, pliant, flexible, compliant, tractable, biddable, persuadable, susceptible, manipulable ③ a plastic smile ARTIFICIAL, false, fake, superficial, pseudo, bogus, unnatural, insincere, informal phoney, pretend —OPPOSITES rigid, intractable, genuine

plate ► **noun** ① a dinner plate DISH, platter, salver, paten, historical trencher, archaic charger ② a plate of spaghetti PLATEFUL, helping, portion, serving ③ steel plates. PANEL, sheet, layer, pane, slab ④ a brass plate on the door PLAQUE, sign, tablet, plaque, cartouche, Brit brass ⑤ the book has colour plates PICTURE, print, illustration, photograph, photo

► **verb** the roof was plated with steel COVER, coat, overlay, laminate, veneer; electroplate, galvanize, gild.

plateau ► **noun** ① a windswept plateau. UPLAND, tableland, plain, mesa, highland ② prices reached a plateau. quiescent period, let-up, respite, lull

platform ► **noun** ① he made a speech from the platform. STAGE, dais, rostrum, podium, soapbox ② the Democratic Party's platform POLICY, programme, party line, manifesto, plan, principles, objectives, aims

platitude ► **noun** CLICHE, truism, commonplace, banality, old chestnut, bromide

platitudinous ► **adjective** HACKNEYED, overworked, overused, clichéd, banal, trite, commonplace, well worn, stale, tired, unoriginal, informal corny, old hat —OPPOSITES original

platonic ► **adjective** NON-SEXUAL, non-physical, chaste, intellectual, friendly —OPPOSITES sexual

platoon ► **noun** UNIT, patrol, troop, squad, squadron, team, company, corps, outfit, detachment, contingent

platter ► **noun** PLATE, dish, salver, paten, tray, historical trencher, archaic charger

plaudits ► **plural noun** PRAISE, acclaim, commendation, congratulations, accolades, compliments, cheers, applause, tributes, bouquets, a pat on the back, informal a (big) hand —OPPOSITES criticism

plausible ► **adjective** CREDIBLE, reasonable, believable, likely, feasible, tenable, possible, conceivable, imaginable, convincing, persuasive, cogent, sound, rational, logical, thinkable —OPPOSITES unlikely

play ► **verb** ① the children played with toys AMUSE ONESELF, entertain oneself, enjoy oneself, have fun, relax, occupy oneself, divert oneself, frolic, frisk, romp, caper, informal mess about/around, lark (about/around), dated sport ② I used to play football TAKE PART IN, participate in, be involved in, compete in, do ③ Liverpool play Oxford on Sunday COMPETE AGAINST, take on, challenge, vie with ④ he was to play Macbeth ACT (THE PART OF), take the role of, appear as, portray, depict, impersonate, represent, render, perform, formal personate ⑤ he learned to play the flute PERFORM ON, make music on, blow, sound ⑥ the sunlight played on the water DANCE, flit, ripple, touch, sparkle, glint

► **noun** ① a balance between work and play AMUSEMENT, entertainment, relaxation, recreation, diversion, distraction, leisure, enjoyment, pleasure, fun, games, fun and games, horseplay, merrymaking, revelry, informal living it up, dated sport ② a Shakespeare play DRAMA, theatrical work, production, performance, show, sketch See lists here and at SHAKESPEARE. ③ she knew the play of the real world ACTION, activity, operation, working, function, interaction, interplay ④ there was a little play in the rope MOVEMENT, slack, give, room to manoeuvre, scope, latitude

■ **play around** (informal) WOMANIZE, philander, have affairs, flirt, informal carry on, mess about/around, play the field, sleep around; Brit Informal play away, N Amer informal fool around

■ **play at** PRETEND TO BE, pass oneself off as, masquerade as, profess to be, pose as, impersonate, fake, feign, simulate, affect; N. Amer. informal make like.

■ **play ball** (informal) COOPERATE, collaborate, play the game, show willing, help, lend a hand, assist, contribute, informal pitch in

■ **play something down** MAKE LIGHT OF, make little of, gloss over, de-emphasize, downplay, understate, soft-pedal, tone down, diminish, trivialize, underrate, underestimate, under-value, disparage, belittle, scoff at, sneer at, shrug off, informal pooh-poo

■ **play for time** STALL, temporize, delay, hold back, hang fire, procrastinate, drag one's feet

■ **play it by ear** IMPROVISE, extemporize, ad lib, make it up as one goes along, think on one's feet, informal busk it, wing it

■ **play on** they play on our fears EXPLOIT, take advantage of, use, turn to (one's) account, profit by, capitalize on, trade on, milk, abuse

■ **play the fool** CLOWN ABOUT/AROUND, fool about/around, mess about/around, lark about/around, monkey about/around, joke, informal horse about/around, act the goat, Brit informal muck about/around

■ **play the game** PLAY FAIR, be fair, play by the rules, conform, be a good sport, toe the line

■ **play up** (Brit informal) ① the boys really did play up MISBEHAVE, be bad, be naughty, get up to mischief, be disobedient, cause trouble ② the boiler's playing up MALFUNCTION, not work, be defective, be faulty, informal go on the blink, act up ③ his leg was playing up BE PAINFUL, hurt, ache, be sore, cause discomfort, informal kill someone, give someone gyp

■ **play something up** EMPHASIZE, accentuate, call attention to, point up, underline, highlight, spotlight, foreground, feature, stress, accent

■ **play up to** INGRATiate ONESELF WITH, curry favour with, court, fawn over, make up to, keep someone sweet, toady to, crawl to, pander to, flatter, informal soft-soap, suck up to, butter up, lick someone's boots

Types of Play and Drama

See also THEATRE.

antimasque	Greek drama	mystery play
burlesque	harlequinade	nativity play
closet play	improvisation	Noh
comedy	kabuki	pantomime
comedy of manners	kitchen-sink drama	passion play
commedia dell'arte	kyogen	psychodrama
docudrama	masque	school drama
dumbshow	melodrama	sociodrama
duologue	mime	teleplay
fabula	miracle play	tragedy
farce	monodrama	tragicomedy
Grand Guignol	morality play	two-hander
	mummers' play	verse drama
	music drama	

playboy ► noun SOCIALITE, pleasure-seeker, sybarite, ladies' man, womanizer, philanderer, rake, roué; informal ladykiller.

player ► noun ① a tournament for young players PARTICIPANT, contestant, competitor, contender, sportsman/woman, athlete. ② the players in the orchestra: MUSICIAN, performer, instrumentalist, soloist, virtuoso. See lists at JAZZ, INSTRUMENTALIST, MUSICIAN. ③ the players of the Royal Shake-

speare Company. ACTOR, actress, performer, thespian, entertainer, artist(e), trouper

playful ► adjective ① a playful mood FRISKY, jolly, lively, full of fun, sportive, high-spirited, exuberant, perky, mischievous, impish, rascally, tricky, informal full of beans, poetic/literary frolicsome, dated gay, formal ludic ② a playful remark LIGHT-HEARTED, in jest, joking, jokey, teasing, humorous, jocular, good-natured, tongue-in-cheek, facetious, frivolous, flippant, arch, informal waggish

—OPPOSITES serious

playground ► noun PLAY AREA, park, playing field, recreation ground, Brit informal rec

playmate ► noun FRIEND, playfellow, companion, informal chum, pal, Brit informal mate, N Amer informal buddy

plaything ► noun TOY, game

playwright ► noun DRAMATIST, dramaturge, scriptwriter, screenwriter, writer, scenarist, tragedian See list at DRAMATIST

plea ► noun ① a plea for aid APPEAL, entreaty, supplication, petition, request, call, suit, solicitation ② her plea of a headache was unconvincing CLAIM, explanation, defence, justification, excuse, pretext

plead ► verb ① he pleaded with her to stay BEG, implore, entreat, appeal to, supplicate, petition, request, ask, call on, poetic/literary beseech ② she pleaded ignorance CLAIM, use as an excuse, assert, allege, argue, state

pleasant ► adjective ① a pleasant evening ENJOYABLE, pleasurable, nice, agreeable, pleasing, satisfying, gratifying, good, entertaining, amusing, delightful, charming, fine, balmy, informal lovely, great ② the staff are pleasant FRIENDLY, agreeable, amiable, nice, genial, cordial, likeable, amicable, good-humoured, good-natured, personable, hospitable, approachable, gracious, courteous, polite, obliging, helpful, considerate, charming, lovely, delightful, sweet, sympathetic, N English & Scottish canny, Scottish couthy

—OPPOSITES disagreeable

pleasantry ► noun ① we exchanged pleasantries BANTER, badinage, polite remark, casual remark, N Amer informal josh ② he laughed at his own pleasantry JOKE, witticism, quip, jest, gag, bon mot, informal wisecrack, crack

please ► verb ① he'd do anything to please her MAKE HAPPY, give pleasure to, make someone feel good, delight, charm, amuse, entertain, satisfy, gratify, humour, oblige, content, suit, informal tickle someone pink ② do as you please LIKE, want, wish, desire, see fit, think fit, choose, will, prefer

—OPPOSITES annoy

► adverb please sit down IF YOU PLEASE, if you wouldn't mind, if you would be so good, kindly, pray, archaic prthee

pleased ► adjective HAPPY, glad, delighted, gratified, grateful, thankful, content, contented, satisfied, thrilled, elated, overjoyed, cock-a-hoop; informal over the moon, tickled pink, on cloud nine, Brit informal chuffed, N English informal made up; Austral informal wrapped, humorous grunted.

—OPPOSITES unhappy

pleasing ► adjective ① a pleasing day. NICE, agreeable, pleasant, pleasurable, satisfying,



gratifying, good, enjoyable, entertaining, amusing, delightful, *informal* lovely, great ② *her pleasuring manner* FRIENDLY, amiable, pleasant, agreeable, affable, nice, genial, likeable, good-humoured, charming, engaging, delightful, *informal* lovely

pleasurable ▶ **adjective** PLEASANT, enjoyable, delightful, nice, pleasing, agreeable, gratifying, fun, entertaining, amusing, diverting, *informal* lovely, great

pleasure ▶ **noun** ① *she smiled with pleasure* HAPPINESS, delight, joy, gladness, glee, satisfaction, gratification, contentment, enjoyment, amusement ② *his greatest pleasures in life* JOY, amusement, diversion, recreation, pastime, treat, thrill ③ *don't mix business and pleasure* ENJOYMENT, fun, entertainment, recreation, leisure, relaxation, *informal* jollies ④ *a life of pleasure* HE DONISM, indulgence, self-indulgence, self-gratification, lotus-eating ⑤ *what's your pleasure?* WISH, desire, preference, will, inclination, choice

■ **take pleasure in** ENJOY, delight in, love, like, adore, appreciate, relish, savour, revel in, glory in, *informal* get a kick out of, get a thrill out of

■ **with pleasure** GLADLY, willingly, happily, readily, by all means, of course, *archaic* fain

pleat ▶ **noun** a curtain pleat FOLD, crease, gather, tuck, crimp, pucker

▶ **verb** the dress is pleated at the front FOLD, crease, gather, tuck, crimp, pucker

plebeian ▶ **noun** plebeians and gentry lived together PROLETARIAN, commoner, working-class person, worker, peasant, *informal* pleb, prole
—OPPOSITES aristocrat

▶ **adjective** ① *people of plebeian descent* LOWER-CLASS, working-class, proletarian, common, peasant, mean, humble, lowly ② *plebeian tastes* UNCULTURED, uncultivated, unrefined, lowbrow, philistine, uneducated, coarse, uncouth, common, vulgar, *informal* plebby, *Brit informal* non-U
—OPPOSITES noble, refined

plebiscite ▶ **noun** VOTE, referendum, ballot, poll

pledge ▶ **noun** ① *his election pledge* PROMISE, undertaking, vow, word (of honour), commitment, assurance, oath, guarantee ② *he gave it as a pledge to a creditor* SURETY, bond, security, collateral, guarantee, deposit ③ *a pledge of my sincerity* TOKEN, symbol, sign, earnest, mark, testimony, proof, evidence

▶ **verb** ① *he pledged to root out corruption* PROMISE, vow, swear, undertake, engage, commit oneself, declare, affirm, avow ② *they pledged £100 million* PROMISE (TO GIVE), donate, contribute, give, put up, *Brit* covenant ③ *his home is pledged as security against the loan* MORTGAGE, put up as collateral, guarantee, pawn

plenary ▶ **adjective** ① *the council has plenary powers* UNCONDITIONAL, unlimited, unrestricted, unqualified, absolute, sweeping, comprehensive; plenipotentiary ② *a plenary session of the parliament* FULL, complete, entire

plenipotentiary ▶ **noun** a plenipotentiary in Paris DIPLOMAT, dignitary, ambassador, minister, emissary, chargé d'affaires, envoy

▶ **adjective** plenipotentiary powers See PLENARY sense 1

plenitude ▶ **noun** (formal) ABUNDANCE, lot, wealth, profusion, cornucopia, plethora, superabundance, *informal* load, slew, heap, ton, *Brit informal* shedload

plenteous ▶ **adjective** (poetic/literary) See PLENTIFUL

plentiful ▶ **adjective** ABUNDANT, copious, ample, profuse, rich, lavish, generous, bountiful, large, great, bumper, superabundant, inexhaustible, prolific, *informal* a gogo, galore, *poetic/literary* plenteous

—OPPOSITES scarce

plenty ▶ **noun** times of plenty PROSPERITY, affluence, wealth, opulence, comfort, luxury, plentifulness, abundance, *poetic/literary* plenteousness

▶ **pronoun** there are plenty of books A LOT OF, many, a great deal of, a plethora of, enough (and to spare), no lack of, sufficient, a wealth of, *informal* loads of, lots of, heaps of, stacks of, masses of, tons of, oodles of, scads of, a slew of

plethora ▶ **noun** EXCESS, abundance, superabundance, surplus, glut, superfluity, surfeit, profusion, too many, too much, enough and to spare, *informal* more — than one can shake a stick at

—OPPOSITES dearth

pliable ▶ **adjective** ① *leather is pliable* FLEXIBLE, pliant, bendable, elastic, supple, malleable, workable, plastic, springy, ductile, *informal* bendy ② *pliable teenage minds* MALLEABLE, impressionable, flexible, adaptable, pliant, compliant, biddable, tractable, yielding, amenable, susceptible, suggestible, persuadable, manipulable, receptive

—OPPOSITES rigid, obdurate

pliant ▶ **adjective**. See PLIABLE senses 1, 2

plight ▶ **noun** PREDICAMENT, difficult situation, dire straits, trouble, difficulty, extremity, bind, *informal* dilemma, tight corner, tight spot, hole, pickle, jam, fix

plod ▶ **verb** ① *Mum plodded wearily upstairs* TRUDGE, walk heavily, clump, stomp, tramp, lumber, slog, *Brit informal* trog ② *I have to plod through the whole book* WADE, plough, trawl, toil, labour, *informal* slog

plot ▶ **noun** ① *a plot to overthrow him* CONSPIRACY, intrigue, secret plan, machinations ② *the plot of her novel* STORYLINE, story, scenario, action, thread, *formal* diegesis ③ *a three-acre plot* PIECE OF GROUND, patch, area, tract, acreage, *Brit* allotment, *N Amer* lot, plat, *N Amer & Austral/NZ* homestead

▶ **verb** ① *he plotted their downfall* PLAN, scheme, arrange, organize, hatch, concoct, devise, dream up, *informal* cook up. ② *his brother was plotting against him* CONSPIRE, scheme, intrigue, collude, connive, machinate ③ *the fifty-three sites were plotted* MARK, chart, map, represent, graph

plotter ▶ **noun** CONSPIRATOR, schemer, intriguer, machinator, planner.

plough ▶ **verb** ① *the fields were ploughed* TILL, furrow, harrow, cultivate, work, break up ② *the car ploughed into a lamp post* CRASH, smash, career, plunge, bulldoze, hurtle, cannon, run, drive; *N Amer informal* barrel. ③ *they ploughed through deep snow* TRUDGE, plod, toil, wade, *informal* slog, *Brit informal* trog.

ploy ► **noun** RUSE, tactic, move, device, stratagem, scheme, trick, gambit, plan, manoeuvre, dodge, subterfuge, wile, *Bnt informal wheeze*

pluck ► **verb** ① *he plucked a thread from his lapel* REMOVE, pick (off), pull (off/out), extract, take (off) ② *she plucked at his T-shirt* PULL (AT), tug (at), clutch (at), snatch (at), grab, catch (at), tweak, jerk, *informal yank* ③ *the turkeys are plucked* DEPLUME, remove the feathers from ④ *she plucked the guitar strings* STRUM, pick, thrum, twang, play pizzicato

► **noun** the task took a lot of pluck COURAGE, bravery, nerve, backbone, spine, daring, spirit, intrepidity, fearlessness, mettle, grit, determination, fortitude, resolve, stout-heartedness, dauntlessness, valour, heroism, audacity, *informal guts*, spunk, gumption, *Bnt informal bottle, N Amer informal moxie*

plucky ► **adjective** BRAVE, courageous, bold, daring, fearless, intrepid, spirited, game, valiant, valorous, stout-hearted, dauntless, resolute, determined, undaunted, unflinching, audacious, unafraid, doughty, mettlesome, *informal gutsy*, spunky

—OPPOSITES timid

plug ► **noun** ① *she pulled out the plug* STOPPER, bung, cork, seal, spigot, spile, *N Amer stopple* ② *a plug of tobacco* WAD, quid, twist, chew ③ *(informal) a plug for his new book* ADVERTISE MENT, promotion, commercial, recommendation, mention, good word, *informal hype*, push, puff, ad, boost, ballyhoo, *Bnt informal advert*

► **verb** ① *plug the holes* STOP (UP), seal (up/off), close (up/off), cork, stopper, bung, block (up/off), fill (up), *N Amer stopple* ② *(informal) she plugged her new film* PUBLICIZE, promote, advertise, mention, bang the drum for, draw attention to, *informal hype* (up), push, puff ③ *(informal) don't move or I'll plug you* SHOOT, gun down, *informal blast*, pump full of lead

■ **plug away** (*informal*) TOIL, labour, slave away, soldier on, persevere, persist, keep on, plough on, *informal slog away*, beaver away, peg away

plum ► **adjective** (*informal*) a plum job EXCELLENT, very good, wonderful, marvellous, choice, first-class, *informal great*, terrific, cushy

plumb¹ ► **verb** an attempt to plumb her psyche EXPLORE, probe, delve into, search, examine, investigate, fathom, penetrate, understand

► **adverb** ① (*informal*) it went plumb through the screen RIGHT, exactly, precisely, directly, dead, straight, *informal (slap) bang* ② (*N Amer informal*) he's plumb crazy UTTERLY, absolutely, completely, downright, totally, quite, thoroughly ③ (*archaic*) the bell hangs plumb VERTICALLY, perpendicularly, straight down

► **adjective** a plumb drop VERTICAL, perpendicular, straight

■ **plumb the depths** FIND, experience the extremes, reach the lowest point, reach rock bottom

plumb² ► **verb** he plumbed in the washing machine INSTALL, put in, fit

plume ► **noun** ostrich plumes FEATHER, quill, Ornithology plumule, covert

■ **plume oneself** CONGRATULATE ONESELF, preen oneself, pat oneself on the back, pride oneself, boast about

plummet ► **verb** ① *the plane plummeted to the ground* PLUNGE, nosedive, dive, drop, fall, des-

cend, hurtle ② *share prices plummeted* FALL STEEPLY, plunge, tumble, drop rapidly, go down, slump, *informal crash*, nosedive

plummy ► **adjective** (*Bnt informal*) a plummy voice UPPER-CLASS, refined, aristocratic, grand, *Bnt Home Counties, Scottish Kelvinside, Moineside, Bnt informal posh*, Sloaneys

plump¹ ► **adjective** a plump child CHUBBY, fat, stout, rotund, well padded, ample, round, chunky, portly, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, bulky, corpulent, *informal tubby*, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery, *Bnt informal podgy*, fussy, *N Amer informal zaftig*, corn-fed

—OPPOSITES thin

plump² ► **verb** ① *Jack plumped down on to a chair* FLOP, COLLAPSE, sink, fall, drop, slump, *informal plonk oneself*, *N Amer informal plank oneself* ② *she plumped her bag on the table* PUT (DOWN), set (down), place, deposit, dump, stick, *informal plonk*, *Bnt informal bung*, *N Amer informal plunk* ③ *I plumped for a cream cake* CHOOSE, decide on, go for, opt for, pick settle on, select, take, elect

plunder ► **verb** ① *they plundered the countryside* PILLAGE, loot, rob, raid, ransack, despoil, strip, ravage, lay waste, devastate, sack, rape ② *money plundered from pension funds* STEAL, purloin, thief, seize, pillage, embezzle

► **noun** ① *the plunder of the villages* LOOTING, pillaging, plundering, raiding, ransacking, devastation, sacking, *poetic/literary rapine* ② *the army took huge quantities of plunder* BOOTY, loot, stolen goods, spoils, ill-gotten gains, *informal swag*

plunge ► **verb** ① *joy plunged into the sea* DIVE, jump, throw oneself, launch oneself ② *the aircraft plunged to the ground* PLUMMET, nosedive, drop, fall, pitch, tumble, descend ③ *the car plunged down an alley* CHARGE, hurtle, career, plough, cannon, tear, *N Amer informal barrel* ④ *oil prices plunged* FALL SHARPLY, plummet, drop, go down, tumble, slump, *informal crash*, nosedive ⑤ *he plunged the dagger into her back* THRUST, jab, stab, sink, stick, ram, drive, push, shove, force ⑥ *plunge the pearls into water* IMMERSE, submerge, dip, dunk ⑦ *the room was plunged into darkness* THROW, cast, pitch

► **noun** ① *a plunge into the deep end* DIVE, jump, nosedive, fall, pitch, drop, plummet, descent ② *a plunge in profits* FALL, drop, slump, *informal nosedive*, crash

■ **take the plunge** COMMIT ONESELF, go for it, throw caution to the wind(s), risk it, *informal jump in at the deep end*, go for broke

plurality ► **noun** a plurality of theories WIDE VARIETY, diversity, range, lot, multitude, multiplicity, galaxy, wealth, profusion, abundance, plethora, host, *informal load*, stack, heap, mass

plus ► **preposition** ① *three plus three makes six* AND, added to ② *he wrote four novels plus various poems* AS WELL AS, together with, along with, in addition to, and, not to mention, besides

—OPPOSITES minus

► **noun** one of the pluses of the job ADVANTAGE, good point, asset, pro, (fringe) benefit, bonus, extra, attraction, *informal perk*, *formal perquisite*

—OPPOSITES disadvantage

plush ► **adjective** (*informal*) LUXURIOUS, luxury, deluxe, sumptuous, palatial, lavish, opulent, magnificent, lush, rich, expensive, fancy, grand, *Bnt*

upmarket, informal posh, ritzy, swanky, classy,
Bnt informal swish, N Amer informal swank
-OPPOSITES austere

plutocrat ▶ noun RICH PERSON, magnate, millionaire, billionaire, multimillionaire, nouveau riche, informal fat cat, moneybags

ply¹ ▶ verb ① the gondolier *plied* his oar USE, wield, work, manipulate, handle, operate, utilize, employ ② he *plied* a profitable trade ENGAGE IN, carry on, pursue, conduct, practise, archaic prosecute ③ *ferries ply between* all lake resorts GO REGULARLY, travel, shuttle, go back and forth ④ she *plied* me with *scenes* PROVIDE, supply, lavish, shower, regale ⑤ he *plied* her with questions BOMBARD, assail, beset, pester, plague, harass, importune, informal hassle

ply² ▶ noun a three-ply tissue LAYER, thickness, strand, sheet, leaf

poach ▶ verb ① he's been *poaching* salmon HUNT ILLEGALLY, catch illegally, steal ② workers were *poached* by other firms STEAL, appropriate, purloin, take, informal nab, swipe, Bnt informal nick, pinch

pocket ▶ noun ① a bag with two pockets POUCH, compartment ② the jewellery was beyond her pocket MEANS, budget, resources, finances, funds, money, wherewithal, N Amer pocket book ③ pockets of disaffection (ISOLATED) AREA, patch, region, island, cluster, centre

▶ adjective a pocket dictionary SMALL, little, miniature, mini, compact, concise, abridged, potted, portable, N Amer vest-pocket

▶ verb he *pocketed* \$900,000 of their money STEAL, take, appropriate, thief, purloin, misappropriate, embezzle, informal filch, swipe, snaffle, Bnt informal pinch, nick, whip

pockmark ▶ noun SCAR, pit, pock, mark, blemish

pod ▶ noun SHELL, husk, hull, case, N Amer shuck, Botany pericarp, capsule

podgy ▶ adjective (Bnt informal) CHUBBY, plump, fat, stout, rotund, well padded, ample, round, chunky, portly, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, bulky, corpulent, informal tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery, N Amer informal zaftig, corn-fed
-OPPOSITES thin

podium ▶ noun PLATFORM, stage, dais, rostrum, stand, soapbox

poem ▶ noun VERSE, rhyme, piece of poetry, song, verselet See list

poet ▶ noun WRITER OF POETRY, versifier, rhymester, rhymor, sonneteer, lyricist, lyrinst, laureate, poetic/literary bard, derogatory poetaster, historical troubadour, balladeer, archaic thymist See list

poetic ▶ adjective ① poetic compositions POETICAL, verse, metrical, lyrical, lyric, elegiac ② poetic language EXPRESSIVE, figurative, symbolic, flowery, artistic, elegant, fine, beautiful, sensitive, imaginative, creative

poetry ▶ noun POEMS, verse, versification, metrical composition, rhymes, balladry, archaic poesy See lists here and at VERSE

pogrom ▶ noun MASSACRE, slaughter, mass murder, annihilation, extermination, decimation, carnage, bloodbath, bloodletting, butchery, genocide, holocaust, ethnic cleansing

Types of Poem

aubade	epode	prothalamion
ballad	epyllion	quatorzain
ballade	georgic	renga
bucolic	ghazal	rondeau
chanson	haiku	roundel
clerihew	idyll	roundelay
dirge	lay	saga
dithyramb	limerick	sapphics
dramatic	lyric	satire
monologue	madrigal	sestina
eclogue	monody	sonnet
elegy	nursery	tanka
encomium	rhyme	threnody
epic	ode	triolet
epigram	palinode	vilanelle
epithalamium	pastoral	virelay

poignancy ▶ noun PATHOS, pitifulness, pit eousness, sadness, sorrow, mournfulness, wretchedness, misery, tragedy

poignant ▶ adjective TOUCHING, moving, sad, affecting, pitiful, piteous, pathetic, sorrowful, mournful, wretched, miserable, distressing, heart-rending, tear-jerking, plaintive, tragic

point¹ ▶ noun ① the point of a needle TIP, (sharp) end, extremity, prong, spike, tine, nub, barb ② points of light PINPOINT, dot, spot, speck, fleck ③ a meeting point PLACE, position, location, site, spot, area ④ this point in her life TIME, stage, juncture, period, phase ⑤ the tension had reached such a high point LEVEL, degree, stage, pitch, extent ⑥ an important point DETAIL, item, fact, thing, argument, consideration, factor, element, subject, issue, topic, question, matter ⑦ get to the point HEART OF THE MATTER, most important part, essence, nub, keynote, core, pith, crux, meaning, significance, gist, substance, thrust, burden, relevance, informal brass tacks, nitty-gritty ⑧ what's the point of this? PURPOSE, aim, object, objective, goal, intention, use, sense, value, advantage ⑨ he had his good points ATTRIBUTE, characteristic, feature, trait, quality, property, aspect, side

▶ verb ① she *pointed* the gun at him AIM, direct, level, train ② the evidence *pointed* to his guilt IN DICATE, suggest, evidence, signal, signify, denote, bespeak, reveal, manifest

■ **beside the point** IRRELEVANT, immaterial, unimportant, neither here nor there, inconsequential, incidental, out of place, unconnected, peripheral, tangential, extraneous

■ **in point of fact** IN FACT, as a matter of fact, actually, in actual fact, really, in reality, as it happens, in truth

■ **make a point of** MAKE AN EFFORT TO, go out of one's way to, put emphasis on

■ **on the point of (JUST)** ABOUT TO, on the verge of, on the brink of, going to, all set to

■ **point of view** OPINION, view, belief, attitude, feeling, sentiment, thoughts, position, perspective, viewpoint, standpoint, outlook

■ **point something out** IDENTIFY, show, designate, draw attention to, indicate, specify, detail, mention

■ **point something up** EMPHASIZE, highlight, draw attention to, accentuate, underline, spotlight, foreground, put emphasis on, stress, play up, accent, bring to the fore.

Poets

- Acock, Fleur (New Zealand)
 Akhmatova, Anna (Russian)
 Alcaeus (Greek)
 Anacreon (Greek)
 Angelou, Maya (American)
 Apollinaire, Guillaume (Wilhelm de Kostrowitzki; French)
 Archilochus (Greek)
 Ariosto, Ludovico (Italian)
 Arnold, Matthew (English)
 Auden, W. H. (American)
 Baraka, Imamu Amiri (American)
 Barbour, John (Scottish)
 Bashō Matsuo (Matsuo Munefusa; Japanese)
 Baudelaire, Charles (French)
 Baxter, James (New Zealand)
 Belloc, Hilaire (British, b. in France)
 Betjeman, John (English)
 Bishop, Elizabeth (American)
 Blake, William (English)
 Blok, Aleksandr (Russian)
 Blunden, Edmund (English)
 Borges, Jorge (Argentinian)
 Breton, André (French)
 Bridges, Robert (English)
 Brodsky, Joseph (American, b. in Russia)
 Brontë, Emily (English)
 Brooke, Rupert (English)
 Browning, Elizabeth Barrett (English)
 Browning, Robert (English)
 Bunin, Ivan (Russian)
 Bürger, Gottfried (German)
 Bunting, Basil (English)
 Burns, Robert (Scottish)
 Butler, Samuel (English)
 Byron, George Gordon, Lord (English)
 Caedmon (Anglo-Saxon)
 Callimachus (Greek)
 Camões, Luís de (Portuguese)
 Campbell, Roy (South African)
 Carew, Thomas (English)
 Castilho, Antonio Feliciano de (Portuguese)
 Catullus (Roman)
 Cavafy, Constantine (Greek)
 Cavalcanti, Guido (Italian)
 Chapman, George (English)
 Chatterton, Thomas (English)
 Chaucer, Geoffrey (English)
 Chrétien de Troyes (French)
 Clare, John (English)
 Clough, Arthur Hugh (English)
 Coleridge, Samuel Taylor (English)
 Cowley, Abraham (English)
 Cowper, William (English)
 Crabbe, George (English)
 Crane, Hart (American)
 Cummings, e. e. (American)
 Cynewulf (Anglo-Saxon)
 Dafydd ap Gwilym (Welsh)
 D'Annunzio, Gabriele (Italian)
 Dante Alighieri (Italian)
 Da Ponte, Lorenzo (Italian)
 Davies, W. H. (English)
 Day Lewis, C. (English)
 de la Mare, Walter (English)
 Dickinson, Emily (American)
 Donne, John (English)
 Doolittle, Hilda (American)
 Dowson, Ernest (English)
 Dryden, John (English)
 Dunbar, William (Scottish)
 Eliot, T. S. (British, b. in America)
 Éluard, Paul (French)
 Elytis, Odysseus (Greek)
 Emerson, Ralph Waldo (American)
 Empson, William (English)
 Ennius (Roman)
 Ferlinghetti, Lawrence (American)
 Firdausi (Abu al-Qasim Mansur; Persian)
 Fitzgerald, Edward (English)
 Flecker, James Elroy (English)
 Foscolo, Ugo (Italian)
 Freneau, Philip (American)
 Frost, Robert (American)
 Gautier, Théophile (French)
 Gay, John (English)
 Gibran, Khalil (American, b. in Lebanon)
 Ginsberg, Allen (American)
 Goethe, Johann Wolfgang von (German)
 Góngora y Argote, Luis de (Spanish)
 Graves, Robert (English)
 Gray, Thomas (English)
 Gunn, Thom (English)
 Gurney, Ivor (English)
 Haavikko, Paavo (Finnish)
 Hardy, Thomas (English)
 Harrison, Tony (English)
 Heaney, Seamus (Irish)
 Heine, Heinrich (German)
 Herbert, George (English)
 Herbert, Zbigniew (Polish)
 Herrick, Robert (English)
 Hesiod (Greek)
 Hofmannsthal, Hugo von (Austrian)
 Hogg, James (Scottish)
 Hölderlin, Friedrich (German)
 Homer (Greek)
 Hood, Thomas (English)
 Hopkins, Gerard Manley (English)
 Horace (Roman)
 Housman, A. E. (English)
 Hughes, Ted (English)
 Hugo, Victor (French)
 Iqbal, Muhammad (Indian)
 Jonson, Ben (English)
 Kalidasa (Indian)
 Kavanagh, Patrick (Irish)
 Keats, John (English)
 La Fontaine, Jean de (French)
 Laforgue, Jules (French)
 Lamartine, Alphonse de (French)
 Landor, Walter Savage (English)
 Langland, William (English)
 Larkin, Philip (English)
 Lawrence, D. H. (English)
 Layamon (English)
 Lear, Edward (English)
 Leconte de Lisle, Charles (French)
 Leopardi, Giacomo (Italian)
 Lermontov, Mikhail (Russian)
 Li Po (Chinese)
 Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth (American)
 Lorca, Federico García (Spanish)
 Lovelace, Richard (English)
 Lowell, Amy (American)
 Lowell, Robert (American)
 Lucan (Roman)
 Lucretius (Roman)
 Lydgate, John (English)
 Macdiamid, Hugh (Christopher Grieve; Scottish)
 MacNeice, Louis (Northern Irish)
 Malherbe, François de (French)
 Mallarmé, Stéphane (French)
 Mandelstam, Osip (Russian, b. in Poland)
 Marinetti, Filippo (Italian)
 Martial (Roman)
 Marvell, Andrew (English)
 Masefield, John (English)
 Mayakovsky, Vladimir (Russian)
 Meleager (Greek)
 Millay, Edna St Vincent (American)
 Miłosz, Czesław (American, b. in Lithuania)
 Milton, John (English)
 Montale, Eugenio (Italian)
 Moore, Marianne (American)
 Moore, Thomas (Irish)
 Motion, Andrew (English)
 Muir, Edwin (Scottish)
 Murray, Les (Australian)
 Nash, Ogden (American)
 Neruda, Pablo (Néfalí Reyes; Chilean)
 Omar Khayyam (Persian)
 Ovid (Roman)
 Owen, Wilfred (English)
 Pasternak, Boris (Russian)
 Patmore, Coventry (English)
 Paz, Octavio (Mexican)
 Péguy, Charles (French)
 Petrarca (Italian)
 Pindar (Greek)
 Plath, Sylvia (American)
 Pope, Alexander (English)
 Porter, Peter (British, b. in Australia)
 Pound, Ezra (American)
 *Propertius, Sextus (Roman)
 Pushkin, Aleksandr (Russian)
 Quasimodo, Salvatore (Italian)
 Raine, Craig (British)
 Rilke, Rainer Maria (German, b. in Czechoslovakia)
 Rimbaud, Arthur (French)
 Rochester, 2nd Earl of (John Wilmot; English)
 Rossetti, Christina (English)
 Rossetti, Dante Gabriel (English)
 Russell, George (Irish)
 Sadi (Persian)
 Sappho (Greek)
 Sassoon, Siegfried (English)
 Schiller, Friedrich von (German)



Poets (cont.)

Shakespeare, William (English)
 Shelley, Percy Bysshe (English)
 Sidney, Philip (English)
 Simonides (Greek)
 Sitwell, Edith (English)
 Skelton, John (English)
 Smith, Stevie (English)
 Southey, Robert (English)
 Spender, Stephen (English)
 Spenser, Edmund (English)
 Statius, Publius Papinius (Roman)
 Stevens, Wallace (American)
 Suckling, John (English)
 Swinburne, Algernon Charles (English)
 Tagore, Rabindranath (Indian)
 TalliesIn (Welsh)
 Tannhäuser (German)
 Tasso, Torquato (Italian)

Tate, Nahum (Irish)
 Tennyson, Alfred, Lord (English)
 Theocritus (Greek)
 Thespis (Greek)
 Thomas, Dylan (Welsh)
 Thomas, Edward (English)
 Thomas, R. S. (Welsh)
 Thompson, Francis (English)
 Thomson, James (Scottish)
 Tibullus, Albius (Roman)
 Traherne, Thomas (English)
 Tu Fu (Chinese)
 Tulsidas (Indian)
 Tzara, Tristan (French, b. in Romania)
 Ungaretti, Giuseppe (Italian)
 Valéry, Paul (French)
 Vaughan, Henry (Welsh)
 Verlaine, Paul (French)

Vigny, Alfred Victor, Comte de (French)
 Villon, François (French)
 Virgil (Roman)
 Vogelweide, Walther von der (German)
 Walcott, Derek (St. Lucian)
 Warren, Robert Penn (American)
 Whitman, Walt (American)
 Williams, William Carlos (American)
 Wordsworth, William (English)
 Wright, Judith (Australian)
 Wyatt, Thomas (English)
 Yeats W. B. (Irish)
 Yesenin, Sergei (Russian)
 Yevtushenko, Yevgeniy (Russian)

■ **to the point** RELEVANT, pertinent, apposite, germane, applicable, apropos, appropriate, apt, fitting, suitable, material, *formal ad rem*

■ **up to a point** PARTLY, to some extent, to a certain degree, in part, somewhat, partially

point² ► **noun** the ship rounded the point PROMONTORY, headland, foreland, cape, peninsula, bluff, ness, horn

point-blank ► **adverb** ① he fired the pistol point-blank AT CLOSE RANGE, close up, close to ② she couldn't say it point-blank BLUNTLY, directly, straight, frankly, candidly, openly, explicitly, unequivocally, unambiguously, plainly, flatly, categorically, outright

► **adjective** a point-blank refusal BLUNT, direct, straight, straightforward, frank, candid, forthright, explicit, unequivocal, plain, clear, flat, decisive, unqualified, categorical, outright

pointed ► **adjective** ① a pointed stick SHARP, tapering, tapered, conical, jagged, spiky, spiked, barbed, *informal* pointy ② a pointed remark CUTTING, trenchant, biting, incisive, acerbic, caustic, scathing, venomous, sarcastic, *informal* sarky, *N Amer informal* snarky

pointer ► **noun** ① the pointer moved to 100rpm INDICATOR, needle, arrow, hand ② he used a pointer on the chart STICK, rod, cane, cursor ③ a pointer to the outcome of the election INDICATION, indicator, clue, hint, sign, signal, evidence, intimation, inkling, suggestion ④ I can give you a few pointers TIP, hint, suggestion, guideline, recommendation

pointless ► **adjective** SENSELESS, futile, hopeless, fruitless, useless, needless, in vain, unavailing, aimless, idle, worthless, valueless, absurd, insane, stupid, silly, foolish
 -OPPOSITES valuable

poise ► **noun** ① poise and good deportment GRACE, gracefulness, elegance, balance, control ② in spite of the setback she retained her poise COMPOSURE, equanimity, self-possession, aplomb, presence of mind, self-assurance, self-control, nerve, calm, sangfroid, dignity, *informal* cool, unflappability

► **verb** ① she was poised on one foot BALANCE, hold (oneself) steady, be suspended, remain motionless, hang, hover ② he was poised for action PRE

PARE ONESELF, ready oneself, brace oneself, gear oneself up, stand by

poison ► **noun** ① a deadly poison TOXIN, toxicant, venom, *archaic* bane See lists ② Marianne would spread her poison MALICE, ill will, hate, malevolence, bitterness, spite, spitefulness, venom, acrimony, rancor, bad influence, cancer, corruption, pollution

-RELATED TERMS TOXIC

► **verb** ① her mother poisoned her GIVE POISON TO, murder ② a blackmailer poisoning baby foods CONTAMINATE, put poison in, adulterate, spike, lace, doctor ③ the Amazon is being poisoned POLLUTE, contaminate, taint, blight, spoil, *poetic/literary* befoul ④ they poisoned his mind PREJUDICE, bias, jaundice, embitter, sour, envenom, warp, corrupt, subvert

poisonous ► **adjective** ① a poisonous snake VENOMOUS, deadly ② a poisonous chemical TOXIC, noxious, deadly, fatal, lethal, mortal, death-dealing ③ a poisonous glance MALICIOUS, malevolent, hostile, vicious, spiteful, bitter, venomous, vindictive, vitriolic, rancorous, malign, pernicious, mean, nasty, *informal* bitchy, catty
 -OPPOSITES harmless, non-toxic, benevolent

poke ► **verb** ① she poked him in the ribs PROD, jab, dig, nudge, butt, shove, jolt, stab, stick ② leave the cable poking out STICK OUT, jut out, protrude, project, extend

► **noun** ① Carrie gave him a poke PROD, jab, dig, elbow, nudge ② a poke in the arm JAB, dig, nudge, shove, stab

■ **poke about/around** SEARCH, hunt, rummage (around), forage, grub, root about/around, scavenge, nose around, ferret (about/around), sift through, rifle through, scour, comb, probe, *Bnt informal* rootle (around)

■ **poke fun at** MOCK, make fun of, ridicule, laugh at, jeer at, sneer at, deride, scorn, scoff at, pillory, lampoon, tease, taunt, rag, chaff, jibe at, *informal* send up, take the mickey out of, kid, rib, *Bnt informal* wind up; *N Amer informal* goof on, rag on, *Austral / NZ informal* poke mullock at

■ **poke one's nose into** PRY INTO, interfere in, intrude on, butt into, meddle with; *informal* snoop into.

poker ► **noun** See list

Poisonous Substances and Gases

aconitine	hyoscyamine
afterdamp	iodine
Agent Orange	lewisite
aldrin	lindane
allyl alcohol	mercuric chloride
ammonia	methanol
antifreeze	muscarine
arsenic	nerve gas
arsine	nitric acid
atropine	nitrogen dioxide
bleach	osmium tetroxide
blister gas	ouabain
bromine	oxalic acid
cacodyl	paraquat
cacodylic acid	parathion
carbon disulphide	Paris green
carbon monoxide	perchloric acid
caustic soda	perchloroethylene
chlordane	phenol
chlorine	phosgene
conine	quinine
curare	rat poison
cyanic acid	ricin
cyanide	rotenone
cyanogen	santonin
diazomethane	sarin
diborane	solanine
digitalin	strophanthin
digoxin	strychnine
dioxane	sulphur dioxide
endrin	tartar emetic
ethylene oxide	tetrodotoxin
fluorine	turpentine
formaldehyde	veratrine
hydrocyanic acid	warfarin
hydrogen cyanide	white spirit
hydrogen sulphide	zinc chromate

Poisonous Plants and Fungi

aconite	lucky bean
baneberry	manchineel
belladonna	meadow saffron
black bryony	mezeoreon
buttercup	monkshood
cowbane	naked boys
deadly nightshade	naked ladies
death cap	oleander
desert rose	panther cap
destroying angel	poison ivy
dog's mercury	privet
fly agaric	the sickener
fool's parsley	spurge laurel
foxglove	stavesacre
greater celandine	thorn apple
hellebore	upas (tree)
hemlock	water dropwort
henbane	water hemlock
Indian poke	white snakeroot
laburnum	wolfbane

poky ► **adjective** SMALL, little, tiny, cramped, confined, restricted, boxy, *euphemistic* compact, bijou
—**OPPOSITES** spacious

polar ► **adjective** ① *polar weather* ARCTIC, cold, freezing, icy, glacial, chilly, gelid. ② *two polar*

Poker Hands

royal flush	full house	3 of a kind
straight flush	flush	2 pairs
4 of a kind	straight	1 pair

types of interview OPPOSITE, opposed, dichotomous, extreme, contrary, contradictory, antithetical

polarity ► **noun** DIFFERENCE, dichotomy, separation, opposition, contradiction, antithesis, antagonism

pole¹ ► **noun** POST, pillar, stanchion, paling, stake, stick, support, prop, batten, bar, rail, rod, beam, staff, stave, cane, baton

pole² ► **noun** *points of view at opposite poles* EXTREMITY, extreme, limit, antipode

■ **poles apart** COMPLETELY DIFFERENT, directly opposed, antithetical, incompatible, irreconcilable, worlds apart, at opposite extremes, *Brit* like chalk and cheese

polemic ► **noun** ① *a polemic against injustice* DIATRIBE, invective, rant tirade, broadside, attack, harangue, condemnation, criticism, stricture, admonition, rebuke, abuse, *informal* blast, *formal* castigation, *poetic/literary* philippic ② *he is skilled in polemics* ARGUMENTATION, argument, debate, contention, disputation, discussion, altercation, *formal* contestation

► **adjective** *his famous polemic book* See POLEMICAL

polemical ► **adjective** CRITICAL, hostile, bitter, polemic, virulent, vitriolic, venomous, caustic, trenchant, cutting, acerbic, sardonic, sarcastic, scathing, sharp, incisive, devastating

police ► **noun** the police force, police officers, policemen, policewomen, officers of the law, the forces of law and order, *Brit* constabulary, *informal* the cops, the fuzz, (the long arm of) the law, the boys in blue, *Brit* *informal* the (Old) Bill, coppers, bobbies, busies, the force, *N Amer* *informal* the heat, *informal, derogatory* pigs, the filth

► **verb** ① *we must police the area* GUARD, watch over, protect, defend, patrol, control, regulate ② *the regulations will be policed by the ministry* ENFORCE, regulate, oversee, supervise, monitor, observe, check

police officer ► **noun** POLICEMAN, POLICE WOMAN, officer (of the law), *Brit* constable, *N Amer* patrolman, trooper, roundsman, *informal* cop, *Brit* *informal* copper, hobby, rozzer, busy, (PC) plod, *N Amer* *informal* uniform, *informal, derogatory* pig, *archaic* peeler

policy ► **noun** ① *government policy* PLANS, strategy, stratagem, approach, code, system, guidelines, theory, line, position, stance, attitude ② (*archaic*) *it's good policy to listen* PRACTICE, custom, procedure, conduct, convention

polish ► **verb** ① *I polished his shoes* SHINE, wax, buff, rub up/down, gloss, burnish, varnish, oil, glaze, lacquer, japan, shellac ② *polish up your essay* PERFECT, refine, improve, hone, enhance, brush up, revise, edit, correct, rewrite, go over, touch up, *informal* clean up

► **noun** ① *furniture polish* WAX, glaze, varnish, lacquer, japan, shellac ② *a good surface polish* SHINE, gloss, lustre, sheen, sparkle, patina, finish ③ *his polish made him stand out* SOPHISTICATION, refinement, urbanity, suaveness, elegance, style, grace, finesse, cultivation, civility,



gentility, breeding, courtesy, (good) manners, informal class

■ **polish something off** (informal) ① *he polished off an apple pie* EAT, finish, consume, devour, guzzle, wolf down, down, bolt; drink up, drain, quaff, gulp (down), informal binge on, stuff oneself with, get outside of, murder, put away, scoff, shovel down, pig out on, sink, swill, knock back, *Brit* informal shift, gollop, *N Amer* informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up) ② *the enemy tried to polish him off* DESTROY, finish off, despatch, do away with, eliminate, kill, liquidate, informal bump off, knock off, do in, take out, dispose of, *N Amer* informal rub out ③ *I'll polish off the last few pages* COMPLETE, finish, deal with, accomplish, discharge, do, end, conclude, close, finalize, round off, wind up, informal wrap up, sew up

polished ► **adjective** ① *a polished table* SHINY, glossy, gleaming, lustrous, glassy, waxed, buffed, burnished, varnished, glazed, lacquered, japanned, shellacked ② *a polished performance* EXPERT, accomplished, masterly, masterful, skilful, adept, adroit, dexterous, impeccable, flawless, perfect, consummate, exquisite, outstanding, excellent, superb, superlative, first-rate, fine, informal ace ③ *polished manners* REFINED, cultivated, civilized, well bred, polite, courteous, genteel, decorous, respectable, urbane, suave, sophisticated
—OPPOSITES dull, inept, gauche

polite ► **adjective** ① *a very polite girl* WELL MANNERED, civil, courteous, mannerly, respectful, deferential, well behaved, well bred, gentlemanly, ladylike, genteel, gracious, urbane, tactful, diplomatic ② *polite society* CIVILIZED, refined, cultured, sophisticated, genteel, courtly
—OPPOSITES rude, uncivilized

politic ► **adjective** WISE, prudent, sensible, judicious, canny, sagacious, shrewd, astute, recommended, advantageous, beneficial, profitable, desirable, advisable, appropriate, suitable, fitting, apt
—OPPOSITES unwise

political ► **adjective** ① *the political affairs of the nation* GOVERNMENTAL, government, constitutional, ministerial, parliamentary, diplomatic, legislative, administrative, bureaucratic, public, civic, state ② *he's a political man* POLITICALLY ACTIVE, party (political), militant, factional, partisan

politician ► **noun** LEGISLATOR, elected official, Member of Parliament, MP, minister, statesman, stateswoman, public servant, senator, congressman/woman, informal politico, pol

politics ► **noun** ① *a career in politics* GOVERNMENT, affairs of state, public affairs, diplomacy See list ② *he studies politics* POLITICAL SCIENCE, civics, statecraft. ③ *what are his politics?* POLITICAL VIEWS, political leanings, party politics ④ *office politics* POWER STRUGGLE, machinations, manoeuvring, opportunism, realpolitik

poll ► **noun** ① *a second-round poll* VOTE, ballot, show of hands, referendum, plebiscite, election. ② *the poll was unduly low* VOTING FIGURES, vote, returns, count, tally ③ *a poll to investigate holiday choices* SURVEY, opinion poll, straw poll, canvass, market research, census

► **verb** ① *most of those polled supported him* CANVASS, survey, ask, question, interview, ballot

Political Philosophies and Systems

absolutism	neo-Marxism
anarchism	pluralism
anarcho-syndicalism	plutocracy
authoritarianism	populism
Bolshevism	republicanism
collectivism	rightism
communism	situationism
conservatism	social democracy
democracy	socialism
egalitarianism	Sovietism
Eurocommunism	Stalinism
fascism	state capitalism
federalism	state socialism
imperialism	statism
individualism	syndicalism
laissez-faire	technocracy
leftism	Thatcherism
Leninism	theocracy
liberalism	the third way
libertarianism	timocracy
Maoism	Titoism
Marxism	totalitarianism
meritocracy	Trotskyism
monarchism	utilitarianism
nationalism	Utopianism

② *she polled 119 votes* GET, gain, register, record, return

pollute ► **verb** ① *fish farms will pollute the lake* CONTAMINATE, adulterate, taint, poison, foul, dirty, soil, infect, poetic/literary befoul ② *propaganda polluted this nation* CORRUPT, poison, warp, pervert, deprave, defile, blight, sully, poetic/literary besmirch
—OPPOSITES purify

pollution ► **noun** ① *pollution in the rivers* CONTAMINATION, adulteration, impurity, dirt, filth, infection. ② *the pollution of young minds* CORRUPTION, defilement, poisoning, warping, depravation, sully, violation

pomp ► **noun** CEREMONY, ceremonial, solemnity, ritual, display, spectacle, pageantry, show, showiness, ostentation, splendour, grandeur, magnificence, majesty, stateliness, glory, opulence, brilliance, drama, resplendence, splendour, *informal* razzmatazz

pompous ► **adjective** SELF-IMPORTANT, imperious, overbearing, domineering, magisterial, pontifical, sententious, grandiose, affected, pretentious, puffed up, arrogant, vain, haughty, proud, conceited, egotistic, supercilious, condescending, patronizing, informal snooty, uppity, uppish
—OPPOSITES modest

pond ► **noun** POOL, waterhole, lake, tarn, reservoir, swim, *Brit* stew, *Scottish* lochan, *N Amer* pothole, *Austral/NZ* tank

ponder ► **verb** THINK ABOUT, contemplate, consider, review, reflect on, mull over, meditate on, muse on, deliberate about, cogitate on, dwell on, brood on, ruminate on, chew over, puzzle over, turn over in one's mind

ponderous ► **adjective** ① *a ponderous dance* CLUMSY, heavy, awkward, lumbering, slow, cumbersome, ungainly, graceless, uncoordinated, blundering; informal clodhopping, clunky

Popes since 1492

DATES IN OFFICE		DATES IN OFFICE		DATES IN OFFICE	
Alexander VI	1492-1503	Leo XI	1605	Clement XIV	1769-1774
Pius III	1503	Paul V	1605-1621	Pius VI	1775-1799
Julius II	1503-1513	Gregory XV	1621-1623	Pius VII	1800-1823
Leo X	1513-1521	Urban VIII	1623-1644	Leo XII	1823-1829
Adrian VI	1522-1523	Innocent X	1644-1655	Pius VIII	1829-1830
Clement VII	1523-1534	Alexander VII	1655-1667	Gregory XVI	1831-1846
Paul III	1534-1549	Clement IX	1667-1669	Pius IX	1846-1878
Julius III	1550-1555	Clement X	1670-1676	Leo XIII	1878-1903
Marcellus II	1555	Innocent XI	1676-1689	Pius X	1903-1914
Paul IV	1555-1559	Alexander VIII	1689-1691	Benedict XV	1914-1922
Pius IV	1559-1565	Innocent XII	1691-1700	Pius XI	1922-1939
Pius V	1566-1572	Clement XI	1700-1721	Pius XII	1939-1958
Gregory XIII	1572-1585	Innocent XIII	1721-1724	John XXIII	1958-1963
Sixtus V	1585-1590	Benedict XIII	1724-1730	Paul VI	1963-1978
Urban VII	1590	Clement XII	1730-1740	John Paul I	1978
Gregory XIV	1590-1591	Benedict XIV	1740-1758	John Paul II	from 1978
Innocent IX	1591	Clement XIII	1758-1769		
Clement VIII	1592-1605				

② his ponderous sentences LABOURED, laborious, awkward, clumsy, forced, stilted, unnatural, artificial, stodgy, lifeless, plodding, pedestrian, boring, dull, tedious, monotonous, over-elaborate, convoluted, windy
-OPPOSITES light, lively

pontifical ▶ adjective POMPOUS, cocksure, self-important, arrogant, superior, opinionated, dogmatic, doctrinaire, authoritarian, domineering, adamant, obstinate, stubborn, single-minded, inflexible
-OPPOSITES humble

pontificate ▶ verb HOLD FORTH, expound, declaim, preach, lay down the law, sound off, dogmatize, sermonize, moralize, lecture, *informal* preachify, mouth off

pony ▶ noun. See list at HORSE

pooh-pooh ▶ verb (*informal*) DISMISS, reject, spurn, rebuff, wave aside, disregard, discount, play down, make light of, belittle, deride, mock, scorn, scoff at, sneer at, *Austral/NZ informal* wipe

pool¹ ▶ noun ① pools of water PUDDLE, pond, poetic/literary plash ② the hotel has a pool SWIMMING POOL, baths, lido, *Brit* swimming bath(s), *N Amer* natatorium

pool² ▶ noun ① a pool of skilled labour SUPPLY, reserve(s), reservoir, fund, store, stock, accumulation, cache ② a pool of money for emergencies FUND, reserve, kitty, pot, bank, purse

▶ verb they pooled their skills COMBINE, amalgamate, group, join, unite, merge, fuse, conglomerate, integrate, share

poor ▶ adjective ① a poor family POVERTY-STRICKEN, penniless, moneyless, impoverished, necessitous, impecunious, indigent, needy, destitute, pauperized, on one's beam-ends, unable to make ends meet, without a sou, insolvent, in debt, *Brit* on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name); *informal* (flat) broke, hard up, cleaned out, strapped, on one's uppers, without two pennies to rub together, *Brit informal* skint, in Queer Street, *formal* penurious ② poor workmanship SUBSTANDARD, below par, bad, deficient, defective, faulty, imperfect, inferior, appalling, abysmal, atrocious, awful, terrible,

dreadful, unsatisfactory, second-rate, third-rate, shoddy, crude, lamentable, deplorable, inadequate, unacceptable, *informal* crummy, rubbishy, dire, dismal, bum, rotten, tenth-rate, *Brit informal* ropy, duff, rubbish, dodgy ③ a poor crop MEAGRE, scanty, scant, paltry, disappointing, limited, reduced, modest, insufficient, inadequate, sparse, spare, deficient, insubstantial, skimpy, short, small, lean, slender, *informal* measly, stingy, pathetic, piddling, *formal* exiguous ④ poor soil UNPRODUCTIVE, barren, unyielding, unfruitful, uncultivable, arid, sterile ⑤ the waters are poor in nutrients DEFICIENT, lacking, wanting, short of, low on ⑥ you poor thing! UNFORTUNATE, unlucky, luckless, unhappy, hapless, ill-fated, ill-starred, pitiable, pitiful, wretched

-OPPOSITES rich, superior, good, fertile, lucky

poorly ▶ adverb the text is poorly written BADLY, deficiently, defectively, imperfectly, incompetently, appallingly, abysmally, atrociously, awfully, dreadfully, crudely, shoddily, inadequately

▶ adjective she felt poorly ILL, unwell, not (very) well, ailing, indisposed, out of sorts, under/below par, peaky, sick, queasy, nauseous, *Brit* off colour, *informal* under the weather, funny, peculiar, lousy, rough, *Brit informal* ropy, grotty, *Scottish informal* wabbit, *Austral/NZ informal* crook, *Brit informal*, dated queer, dated seedy

pop ▶ verb ① champagne corks popped GO BANG, go off, crack, snap, burst, explode ② I'm just popping home GO, drop in, stop by, visit, *informal* tootle, whip, *Brit informal* nip ③ pop a bag over the pot PUT, place, slip, slide, stick, set, lay, install, position, arrange

▶ noun ① the balloons burst with a pop BANG, crack, snap, explosion, report ② (*informal*) a bottle of pop FIZZY DRINK, soft drink, carbonated drink, *N Amer* soda, *Scottish informal* scoosh

■ pop up APPEAR (SUDDENLY), occur (suddenly), arrive, materialize, come along, happen, emerge, arise, crop up, turn up, present itself, come to light, *informal* show up

pope ▶ noun PONTIFF, Bishop of Rome, Holy Father, Vicar of Christ, His Holiness See list
-RELATED TERMS papal, pontifical.

poppycrack ▶ noun (informal) NONSENSE, rubbish, claptrap, balderdash, blather, moonshine, garbage, informal rot, tripe, hogwash, baloney, drivel, bilge, bosh, bunk, eyewash, piffle, phooey, twaddle, *Brit informal* cobblers, codswallop, tosh, *N Amer informal* applesauce, bushwa, informal, dated bunkum, tommyrot

populace ▶ noun POPULATION, inhabitants, residents, natives, community, country, (general) public, people, nation, common people, man/woman in the street, masses, multitude, rank and file, commonality, commonalty, third estate, plebeians, proletariat, informal proles, plebs, *Brit informal* Joe Public, formal denizens, derogatory the hoi polloi, common herd, rabble, riff-raff

popular ▶ adjective ① the restaurant is very popular WELL LIKED, favoured, sought-after, in demand, desired, wanted, commercial, marketable, fashionable, in vogue, all the rage, hot, informal in, cool, big, *Brit informal*, dated all the go ② popular science NON-SPECIALIST, non-technical, amateur, lay person's, general, middle-of-the-road, accessible, simplified, plain, simple, easy, straightforward, understandable, mass-market, middlebrow, lowbrow, pop ③ popular opinion WIDESPREAD, general, common, current, prevalent, prevailing, standard, stock, ordinary, usual, accepted, established, acknowledged, conventional, orthodox ④ a popular movement for independence MASS, general, communal, collective, social, collaborative, group, civil, public

—OPPOSITES highbrow

popularize ▶ verb ① tobacco was popularized by Sir Walter Raleigh MAKE POPULAR, make fashionable, market, publicize, informal hype ② he popularized the subject SIMPLIFY, make accessible, give mass-market appeal to ③ the report popularized the unfounded notion GIVE CURRENCY TO, spread, propagate, give credence to

popularly ▶ adverb ① old age is popularly associated with illness WIDELY, generally, universally, commonly, usually, customarily, habitually, conventionally, traditionally, as a rule ② the rock was popularly known as 'Arthur's Seat' INFORMALLY, unofficially, by lay people ③ the President is popularly elected DEMOCRATICALLY, by the people

populate ▶ verb ① the state is populated by 40,000 people INHABIT, occupy, people, live in, reside in ② an attempt to populate the island SETTLE, colonize, people, occupy, move into, make one's home in

population ▶ noun INHABITANTS, residents, people, citizens, citizenry, public, community, populace, society, natives, occupants, formal denizens

—RELATED TERMS demo-

populous ▶ adjective DENSELY POPULATED, heavily populated, congested, crowded, packed, jammed, crammed, teeming, swarming, seething, crawling, informal jam-packed

—OPPOSITES deserted

porcelain ▶ noun. See list at POTTERY

porch ▶ noun VESTIBULE, foyer, entrance (hall), entry, portico, lobby; *N Amer* ramada, stoop, *Architecture* lanai, tambour, narthex.

pore¹ ▶ noun pores in the skin OPENING, orifice, aperture, hole, outlet, inlet, vent, *Biology* stoma, foramen

pore² ▶ verb they pored over the map STUDY, read intently, peruse, scrutinize, scan, examine, go over

pornographic ▶ adjective OBSCENE, indecent, crude, lewd, dirty, vulgar, smutty, filthy, erotic, titillating, arousing, suggestive, sexy, risqué, off colour, adult, X-rated, hard-core, soft-core, informal porn, porno, blue, skin.

—OPPOSITES wholesome

pornography ▶ noun EROTICA, pornographic material, dirty books, smut, filth, vice, informal (hard/soft) porn, porno, girlie magazines, skin flicks

porous ▶ adjective PERMEABLE, penetrable, pervious, cellular, holey, absorbent, absorptive, spongy

—OPPOSITES impermeable

port¹ ▶ noun ① the German port of Kiel SEAPORT, entrepôt ② shells exploded down by the port HARBOUR, dock(s), haven, marina, anchorage, moorage, harbourage, roads

port² ▶ noun push the supply pipes into the ports APERTURE, opening, outlet, inlet, socket, vent

portable ▶ adjective TRANSPORTABLE, movable, mobile, travel, lightweight, compact, handy, convenient

portal ▶ noun DOORWAY, gateway, entrance, exit, opening, door, gate, *N Amer* entryway, formal egress

portend ▶ verb PRESAGE, augur, foreshadow, foretell, prophesy, be a sign, warn, be an omen, indicate, herald, signal, bode, promise, threaten, signify, spell, denote, poetic/literary betoken, foretoken, forebode

portent ▶ noun ① a portent of things to come OMEN, sign, signal, token, forewarning, warning, foreshadowing, prediction, forecast, prophesy, harbinger, augury, auspice, presage, writing on the wall, indication, hint, poetic/literary foretoken ② the word carries terrifying portent SIGNIFICANCE, importance, import, consequence, meaning, weight, formal moment

portentous ▶ adjective ① portentous signs OMINOUS, warning, premonitory, prognosticatory, threatening, menacing, ill-omened, foreboding, inauspicious, unfavourable ② portentous dialogue POMPOUS, bombastic, self-important, pontifical, solemn, sonorous, grandiloquent

porter¹ ▶ noun a porter helped with the bags CARRIER, bearer, *N Amer* redcap, skycap

porter² ▶ noun (*Brit*) the college porter DOORMAN, doorkeeper, commissioner, gatekeeper

portion ▶ noun ① the upper portion of the chimney PART, piece, bit, section, segment ② her portion of the allowance SHARE, slice, quota, quantum, part, percentage, amount, quantity, ration, fraction, division, allocation, measure, informal cut, rake-off, *Brit informal* whack. ③ a portion of cake: HELPING, serving, amount, quantity, plateful, bowlful, slice, piece, chunk, wedge, slab, hunk, *Brit informal* wodge. ④ (archaic) poverty was certain to be his portion. See DESTINY sense 1 ▶ verb she portioned out the food SHARE OUT, allocate, allot, apportion; distribute, hand out, deal out, dole out, give out, dispense, mete out; informal divvy up.

portly ▶ **adjective** STOUT, plump, fat, overweight, heavy, corpulent, fleshy, paunchy, pot-bellied, well padded, rotund, stocky, bulky, *informal* tubby, roly-poly, beefy, porky, pudgy, *Bnt informal* podgy, *N Amer informal* corn-fed
—OPPOSITES slim

portrait ▶ **noun** ① a portrait of the King PAINTING, picture, drawing, sketch, likeness, image, study, miniature, *informal* oil, *formal* portraiture ② a vivid portrait of Italy DESCRIPTION, portrayal, representation, depiction, impression, account, sketch, vignette, profile

portray ▶ **verb** ① he portrays Windermere in sunny weather PAINT, draw, sketch, picture, depict, represent, illustrate, render ② the dons portrayed by Waugh DESCRIBE, depict, characterize, represent, delineate, evoke ③ he portrays her as a doorman REPRESENT, depict, characterize, describe, present ④ the actor portrays a spy PLAY, act the part of, take the role of, represent, appear as, *formal* personate

portrayal ▶ **noun** ① a portrayal of a parrot PAINTING, picture, portrait, drawing, sketch, representation, depiction, study ② her portrayal of adolescence DESCRIPTION, representation, characterization, depiction, evocation ③ Brando's portrayal of Corleone PERFORMANCE AS, representation, interpretation, rendering, *formal* personation

pose ▶ **verb** ① pollution poses a threat to health CONSTITUTE, present, create, cause, produce, be ② the question posed earlier RAISE, ask, put, set, submit, advance, propose, suggest, moot ③ she posed for the artist BE A MODEL, model, sit ④ he posed her on the sofa POSITION, place, put ⑤ arrange, dispose, locate, situate ⑥ fashion victims were posing at the bar BEHAVE AFFECTEDLY, strike a pose, posture, attitudinize, put on airs, *informal* show off

▶ **noun** ① a sexy pose POSTURE, position, stance, attitude, bearing ② her pose of aggrieved innocence PRETENCE act, affectation, facade, show, front, display, masquerade, posture

■ **pose as** PRETEND TO BE, impersonate, pass oneself off as, masquerade as, profess to be, represent oneself as, *formal* personate

poser¹ ▶ **noun** this situation's a bit of a poser DIFFICULT QUESTION, vexed question, awkward problem, tough one, puzzle, mystery, conundrum, puzzle, enigma, riddle, *informal* dilemma, facer, toughie, stumper

poser² ▶ **noun** he's such a poser EXHIBITIONIST, poseur, poseuse, posturer, *informal* show-off, pseud

poseur ▶ **noun**. See POSER²

posh ▶ **adjective** ① (*informal*) a posh hotel SMART, stylish, fancy, high-class, fashionable, chic, luxurious, luxury, de luxe, exclusive, opulent, lavish, grand, showy, *Bnt* upmarket, *informal* classy, swanky, snazzy, plush, ritzy, flash, la-di-da, *Bnt informal* swish, *N Amer informal* swank, tony ② (*Bnt informal*) a posh accent UPPER-CLASS, aristocratic, *Bnt* upmarket, Home Counties, *informal* upper-crust, top-drawer, *Bnt informal* plummy, Sloaneys, U

posit ▶ **verb** POSTULATE, put forward, advance, propound, submit, hypothesize, propose, assert.

position ▶ **noun** ① the aircraft's position LOCATION, place, situation, spot, site, locality, set-

ting, area, whereabouts, bearings, orientation, technical locus ② a standing position POSTURE, stance, attitude, pose ③ our financial position SITUATION, state, condition, circumstances, predicament, plight, strait(s) ④ the two parties jockeyed for position ADVANTAGE, the upper hand, the edge, the whip hand, primacy, *Austral/NZ* the box seat, *N Amer informal* the catbird seat ⑤ their position in society STATUS, place, level, rank, standing, stature, prestige, influence, reputation, importance, consequence, class, dated station ⑥ a secretarial position JOB, post, situation, appointment, role, occupation, employment, office, capacity, duty, function, opening, vacancy, placement ⑦ the government's position on the matter VIEWPOINT, opinion, outlook, attitude, stand, standpoint, stance, perspective, approach, slant, thinking, policy, feelings

▶ **verb** he positioned a chair between them PUT, place, locate, situate, set, site, stand, station, plant, stick, install, arrange, dispose, *informal* plonk park

positive ▶ **adjective** ① a positive response AFFIRMATIVE, favourable, good, approving, enthusiastic, supportive, encouraging ② do something positive CONSTRUCTIVE, practical, useful, productive, helpful, worthwhile, beneficial, effective ③ she seems a lot more positive OPTIMISTIC, hopeful, confident, cheerful, sanguine, buoyant, *informal* upbeat ④ positive economic signs FAVOURABLE, good, promising, encouraging, heartening, propitious, auspicious ⑤ positive proof DEFINITE, conclusive, certain, categorical, unequivocal, incontrovertible, indisputable, undeniable, unmistakable, irrefutable, reliable, concrete, tangible, clear-cut, explicit, firm, decisive, real, actual ⑥ I'm positive he's coming back CERTAIN, sure, convinced, confident, satisfied, assured, as sure as eggs is eggs

—OPPOSITES negative, pessimistic, doubtful, unsure

positively ▶ **adverb** ① I could not positively identify the voice CONFIDENTLY, definitely, emphatically, categorically, with certainty, conclusively, unquestionably, undoubtedly, indisputably, unmistakably, assuredly ② he was positively livid ABSOLUTELY, really, downright, thoroughly, completely, utterly, totally, extremely, fairly, *informal* plain

possess ▶ **verb** ① the only hat she possessed OWN, have (to one's name), hold ② he did not possess a sense of humour HAVE, be blessed with, be endowed with, enjoy, boast ③ a supernatural force possessed him TAKE CONTROL OF, take over, control, dominate, influence, bewitch, enchant, enthrall ④ she was possessed by a need to talk to him OBSESS, haunt, preoccupation, consume, eat someone up, prey on one's mind

■ **possess oneself of** ACQUIRE, obtain, get (hold of), procure, get one's hands on, take, seize, *informal* get one's mitts on

possessed ▶ **adjective** MAD, demented, insane, crazed, berserk, out of one's mind, bewitched, enchanted, haunted, under a spell

possession ▶ **noun** ① the estate came into their possession OWNERSHIP, control, hands, keeping, care, custody, charge, hold, title, guardianship ② her possession of the premises OCCUPANCY, occupation, tenure, holding, tenancy ③ she packed her possessions BELONGINGS, things, property,

(worldly) goods, (personal) effects, assets, chattels, movables, valuables, stuff, bits and pieces, luggage, baggage, *informal* gear, junk, *Bnt informal* clobber ④ colonial possessions COLONY, dependency, territory, holding, protectorate

■ **take possession of** SEIZE, appropriate, impound, expropriate, sequester, sequester, confiscate, take, get, acquire, obtain, procure, possess oneself of, get hold of, get one's hands on, capture, commandeer, requisition, *Law* dis-train, *Scottish Law* poud, *informal* get one's mitts on

possessive ▶ **adjective** ① he was very possessive PROPRIETORIAL, overprotective, controlling, dominating, jealous, clingy ② kids are possessive of their own property COVETOUS, selfish, unwilling to share, grasping, greedy, acquisitive, *N Amer informal* grabby

possibility ▶ **noun** ① there is a possibility that he might be alive CHANCE, likelihood, probability, hope, risk, hazard, danger, fear ② they discussed the possibility of launching a new project FEASIBILITY, practicability, chances, odds, achievability, probability ③ buying a smaller house is one possibility OPTION, alternative, choice, course of action, solution ④ the idea has distinct possibilities POTENTIAL, promise, prospects

possible ▶ **adjective** ① it's not possible to check the figures FEASIBLE, practicable, viable, within the bounds/realms of possibility, attainable, achievable, workable, *informal* on, doable ② a possible reason for his disappearance CONCEIVABLE, plausible, imaginable, believable, likely, potential, probable, credible ③ a possible future leader POTENTIAL, prospective, likely, probable -OPPOSITES unlikely

possibly ▶ **adverb** ① possibly he took the boy with him PERHAPS, maybe, it is possible, for all one knows, very likely, poetic/literary peradventure, perchance, mayhap ② you can't possibly refuse CONCEIVABLY, under any circumstances, by any means ③ could you possibly help me? PLEASE, kindly, be so good as to

post¹ ▶ **noun** wooden posts POLE, stake, upright, shaft, prop, support, picket, strut, pillar, pale, paling, stanchion, puncheon

▶ **verb** ① the notice posted on the wall AFFIX, attach, fasten, display, pin (up), put up, stick (up), tack (up) ② the group posted a net profit ANNOUNCE, report, make known, publish

post² ▶ **noun** (*Bnt*) ① the winners will be notified by post MAIL, the postal service, airmail, surface mail, registered mail, *informal* snail mail ② did we get any post? LETTERS, correspondence, mail

▶ **verb** ① (*Bnt*) post the order form today SEND (OFF), mail, put in the post/mail, get off ② post the transaction in the second column RECORD, write in, enter, register

■ **keep someone posted** KEEP INFORMED, keep up to date, keep in the picture, keep briefed, update, fill in, *informal* keep up to speed

post³ ▶ **noun** ① there were seventy candidates for the post JOB, position, appointment, situation, place, vacancy, opening, *Austral informal* grip ② Back to your posts! (ASSIGNED) POSITION, station, observation post.

▶ **verb** ① he'd been posted to Berlin SEND, assign to a post, dispatch ② armed guards were posted beside the exit PUT ON DUTY, station, position, situate, locate

poster ▶ **noun** NOTICE, placard, bill, sign, advertisement, affiche, playbill, *Bnt* fly-poster

posterior ▶ **adjective** ① the posterior part of the skull REAR, hind, back, hinder, technical dorsal, caudal ② (formal) a date posterior to the Reform Bill LATER THAN, subsequent to, following, after -OPPOSITES anterior, previous

▶ **noun** (humorous) her plump posterior See BOTTOM noun sense 6

posterity ▶ **noun** ① their names are recorded for posterity FUTURE GENERATIONS, the future ② (archaic) the posterity of Abraham DESCENDANTS, heirs, successors, offspring, children, progeny, *Law* issue, archaic seed

post-haste ▶ **adverb** AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE, without delay, (very) quickly, speedily, without further/more ado, with all speed, promptly, immediately, at once, straight away, right away, *informal* pronto, straight off

postman, postwoman ▶ **noun** POSTAL WORKER, *N Amer* mailman, *Bnt informal* postie

post-mortem ▶ **noun** ① the hospital carried out a post-mortem AUTOPSY, post-mortem examination, PM, necropsy ② a post-mortem of her failed relationship ANALYSIS, evaluation, assessment, appraisal, examination, review

postpone ▶ **verb** PUT OFF BACK, delay, defer, reschedule, adjourn, shelve, *N Amer* put over, take a rain check on, *informal* put on ice, put on the back burner, rare remit, respite -OPPOSITES bring forward

postponement ▶ **noun** DEFERRAL, deferment, delay, putting off/back, rescheduling, adjournment, shelving

postscript ▶ **noun** ① a handwritten postscript AFTERTHOUGHT, PS, additional remark ② he added postscripts of his own ADDENDUM, supplement, appendix, codicil, afterword, addition

postulate ▶ **verb** PUT FORWARD, suggest, advance, posit, hypothesize, propose, assume, presuppose, presume, take for granted

posture ▶ **noun** ① a kneeling posture POSITION, pose, attitude, stance ② good posture BEARING, carriage, stance, comportment, *Bnt* deportment ③ trade unions adopted a militant posture ATTITUDE, stance, standpoint, point of view, opinion, position, frame of mind

▶ **verb** Keith postured, flexing his biceps POSE, strike an attitude, strut

posy ▶ **noun** BOUQUET, bunch (of flowers), spray, nosegay, corsage, buttonhole, boutonnière

pot ▶ **noun** ① pots and pans COOKING UTENSIL, pan, saucepan, casserole, stewpot, stockpot, dixie ② earthenware pots FLOWERPOT, planter, jardinière ③ Jim raked in half the pot BANK, kitty, pool, purse, jackpot

■ **go to pot** (*informal*) DETERIORATE, decline, degenerate, go to (rack and) ruin, go downhill, go to seed, become run down, *informal* go to the dogs, go down the tubes, *Austral/NZ informal* go to the pack

pot-bellied ▶ **adjective** PAUNCHY, beer-bellied, portly, rotund, *informal* tubby, roly-poly

pot belly ▶ **noun** PAUNCH, (beer) belly, *informal* beer gut, pot, tummy

potency ▶ **noun** ① the potency of his words FORCEFULNESS, force, effectiveness, persuasiveness, cogency, influence, strength, authoritativeness, authority, power, powerfulness,



poetic/literary puissance ② *the potency of the drugs* STRENGTH, powerfulness, power, effectiveness, formal efficacy, efficaciousness

potent ► **adjective** ① *a potent political force* POWERFUL, strong, mighty, formidable, influential, dominant, forceful, *poetic/literary* puissant ② *a potent argument* FORCEFUL, convincing, cogent, compelling, persuasive, powerful, strong ③ *a potent drug* STRONG, powerful, effective, formal efficacious
—OPPOSITES weak

potentate ► **noun** RULER, monarch, sovereign
See list at RULER

potential ► **adjective** *a potential source of conflict* POSSIBLE, likely, prospective, future, probable, latent, inherent, undeveloped

► **noun** economic potential POSSIBILITIES, potentiality, prospects, promise, capability capacity

potion ► **noun** CONCOCTION, mixture, brew, elixir, philtre, drink, decoction, medicine, tonic, *poetic/literary* draught

pot-pourri ► **noun** MIXTURE, assortment, collection, selection, assemblage, medley, miscellany, mix, variety, mixed bag, patchwork, ragbag, hotchpotch, mishmash, jumble, farrago, *N Amer* hodgepodge

potter ► **verb** *we potted down to the library* AMBLE, wander, meander, stroll, saunter, meander, *informal* mosey, tootle, toddle, *N Amer informal* putter

► **potter about/around** DO NOTHING MUCH, fiddle about/around, tootle about/around, *informal* mess about/around, *Brit informal* muck about/around, *N Amer informal* putter about/around, lollygag

pottery ► **noun** CHINA, crockery, ceramics, earthenware, stoneware See list

potty ► **adjective** (*Brit informal*) ① *I'm going potty* See CRAZY sense 1 ② *she's potty about you* See CRAZY sense 3

pouch ► **noun** ① *a leather pouch* BAG, purse, sack, sac, pocket, *Scottish* sporran ② *a kangaroo's pouch* Zoology marsupium

pounce ► **verb** *two men pounced on him* JUMP ON, spring, leap, dive, lunge, fall on, set on, attack suddenly, *informal* jump, mug

► **noun** *a sudden pounce* LEAP, spring, jump, dive, lunge, bound

pound¹ ► **verb** ① *the two men pounded him with their fists* BEAT, strike, hit, batter, thump, pummel, punch, rain blows on, belabour, hammer, thrash, set on, tear into, *informal* bash, clobber, wallop, beat the living daylights out of, whack, thwack, lay into, pitch into, *Brit informal* slosh, *N Amer informal* light into, whale ② *waves pounded the seafloor* BEAT AGAINST, crash against, batter, dash against, lash, buffet ③ *gunships pounded the capital* BOMBARD, bomb, shell, fire on, *archaic* cannonade ④ *pound the cloves with salt* CRUSH, grind, pulverize, mill, mash, pulp, *technical* triturate, *archaic* levigate ⑤ *I heard him pounding along the gangway* WALK/RUN HEAVILY, stomp, lumber, clomp, clump, tramp, trudge ⑥ *her heart was pounding* THROB, thump, thud, hammer, pulse, race, go pit-a-pat, *poetic/literary* pant, thrill

pound² ► **noun** ① *a pound of apples* pound weight, lb ② *ten pounds* pound sterling, £, *Brit informal* quid, smacker, nicker

Types of Pottery and Porcelain

Anta
barbotine
biscuit ware
bisque ware
black-figure ware
bone china
Capo di Monte
Castleford ware
celadon
champlevé
Chelsea ware
Chün
cloisonné
Coalport
creamware
Crown Derby
Delft
(Royal) Doulton
(trademark)
Dresden china
faience
famille jaune/noire/
rose/verte
graniteware
greenware
grooved ware
Halaf ware
Imari
Iznik ware
ironstone
Kakiemon ware

Kutani ware
lustreware
maiolica
majolica
Martinware
Meissen
Ming
Minton (trademark)
Nabeshima ware
Parian ware
pearlware
Peterborough ware
queensware
raku
red-figure ware
Rockingham ware
Samian ware
Satsuma ware
Sèvres
Seto ware
slipware
spatterware
Spode (trademark)
Staffordshire ware
terra sigillata
transferware
Toft ware
Wedgwood (trademark)
willowware
(Royal) Worcester
(trademark)

pound³ ► **noun** *a dog pound* ENCLOSURE, compound, pen, yard

pour ► **verb** ① *blood was pouring from his nose* STREAM, flow, run, gush, course, jet, spurt, surge, spill ② *Amv poured wine into his glass* TIP, let flow, splash, spill, decant, *informal* slosh, slop ③ *it was pouring with rain* RAIN HEAVILY/HARD, teem down, pelt down, tip down, come down in torrents/sheets, rain cats and dogs, *informal* be chucking it down, *Brit informal* bucket down, come down in stail rods, *N Amer informal* rain pitchforks ④ *people poured off the train* THROG, crowd, swarm, stream, flood

pout ► **verb** *Crystal pouted sullenly* LOOK PETULANT, pull a face, look sulky

► **noun** *a childish pout* PETULANT EXPRESSION, sulky expression, moue

poverty ► **noun** ① *abject poverty* PENURY, destitution, pauperism, pauperdom, indigence, pennilessness, impoverishment, neediness, need, hardship, impecuniousness ② *the poverty of choice* SCARCITY, deficiency, dearth, shortage, paucity, insufficiency, absence, lack ③ *the poverty of her imagination* INFERIORITY, mediocrity, poorness, sterility
—OPPOSITES wealth, abundance

poverty-stricken ► **adjective** EXTREMELY POOR, impoverished, destitute, penniless, on one's beam-ends, as poor as a church mouse, in penury, impecunious, indigent, needy, in need/want, *Brit* on the breadline, without a penny (to one's name), *informal* on one's uppers, without two pennies/farthings to rub together, *Brit informal* in Queer Street, *formal* pennurious

powder ► **noun** DUST, fine particles, talcum powder, talc; *historical* pounce



► **verb** ① *she powdered her face* DUST, sprinkle/cover with powder ② *the grains are powdered* CRUSH, grind, pulverize, pound, mill, *technical* comminute, *archaic* levigate ③ *powdered milk* dry, freeze-dry, *technical* lyophilize

powdered ► **adjective** dried, freeze-dried, *technical* lyophilized

powdery ► **adjective** FINE, dry, fine-grained, powder-like, dusty, chalky, floury, sandy, crumbly, friable

power ► **noun** ① *the power of speech* ABILITY, capacity, capability, potential, faculty, competence ② *the unions wield enormous power* CONTROL, authority, influence, dominance, mastery, domination, dominion, sway, weight, leverage, *informal* clout, teeth, *N Amer informal* drag, *poetic/literary* puissance ③ *police have the power to stop and search* AUTHORITY, right, authorization, warrant, licence ④ *a major European power* STATE, country, nation ⑤ *he hit the ball with as much power as he could* STRENGTH, powerfulness, might, force, forcefulness, vigour, energy, brawn, muscle, *informal* punch, *Brit informal welly*, *poetic/literary* thew ⑥ *the power of his arguments* FORCEFULNESS, powerfulness, potency, strength, force, cogency, persuasiveness ⑦ *the new engine has more power* DRIVING FORCE, horsepower, hp, acceleration, *informal* oomph, grunt ⑧ *generating power from waste* ENERGY, electrical power See list at ENERGY ⑨ *(informal) the holiday did him a power of good* A GREAT DEAL OF, a lot of, much, *informal* lots of, loads of

—OPPOSITES inability, weakness

■ **have someone in/under one's power** HAVE CONTROL OVER, have influence over, have under one's thumb, have at one's mercy, have in one's clutches, have in the palm of one's hand, *N Amer* have in one's hip pocket, *informal* have over a barrel

■ **the powers that be** THE AUTHORITIES, the people in charge, the government

powerful ► **adjective** ① *powerful shoulders* STRONG, muscular, muscly, sturdy, strapping, robust, brawny, burly, athletic, manly, well built, solid, *informal* beefy, hunky, *dated* stalwart, *poetic/literary* staid, thewy ② *a powerful drink* IN TOXICATING, hard, strong, stiff, *formal* spirituous ③ *a powerful blow* VIOLENT, forceful, hard, mighty ④ *he felt a powerful desire to kiss her* INTENSE, keen, fierce, passionate, ardent, burning, strong, irresistible, overpowering, overwhelming ⑤ *a powerful nation* INFLUENTIAL, strong, important, dominant, commanding, potent, forceful, formidable, *poetic/literary* puissant ⑥ *a powerful critique* COGENT, compelling, convincing, persuasive, forceful, dramatic, graphic, vivid, moving

—OPPOSITES weak, gentle

powerless ► **adjective** IMPOTENT, helpless, ineffectual, ineffective, useless, defenceless, vulnerable, *poetic/literary* impuissant

practicable ► **adjective** REALISTIC, feasible, possible, within the bounds/realms of possibility, viable, reasonable, sensible, workable, achievable, *informal* doable

practical ► **adjective** ① *practical experience* EMPIRICAL, hands-on, actual, active, applied, heuristic, experiential ② *there are no practical alternatives* FEASIBLE, practicable, realistic, viable, workable, possible, reasonable, sensible, *informal* doable ③ *practical clothes*, FUNCTIONAL, sensible,

utilitarian, workaday ④ *try to be more practical* REALISTIC, sensible, down-to-earth, businesslike, commonsensical, hard-headed, no-nonsense, *informal* hard-nosed ⑤ *a practical certainty* VIRTUAL, effective, near

—OPPOSITES theoretical

practicality ► **noun** ① *the practicality of the proposal* FEASIBILITY, practicability, viability, workability ② *practicality of design* FUNCTIONALISM, functionality, serviceability, utility ③ *his calm practicality* (COMMON) SENSE, realism, pragmatism ④ *the practicalities of army life* PRACTICAL DETAILS, *informal* nitty gritty, nuts and bolts

practical joke ► **noun** TRICK, joke, prank, jape, hoax, *informal* leg-pull

practically ► **adverb** ① *the cinema was practically empty* ALMOST, (very) nearly, virtually, just about, all but, more or less, as good as, well-nigh, to all intents and purposes, verging on, bordering on, *informal* pretty nearly, pretty well ② *'You can't afford it,' he pointed out practically* REALISTICALLY, sensibly, reasonably

practice ► **noun** ① *the practice of radiotherapy* APPLICATION, exercise, use, operation, implementation, execution ② *common practice* CUSTOM, procedure, policy, convention, tradition, *formal* praxis ③ *it takes lots of practice | the team's final practice* TRAINING, rehearsal, repetition, preparation, practice session, dummy run, run-through, *informal* dry run ④ *the practice of medicine* PROFESSION, career, business, work ⑤ *a small legal practice* BUSINESS, firm, office, company, *informal* outfit

■ **in practice** IN REALITY, realistically, practically

■ **out of practice** RUSTY, unpractised

■ **put something into practice** USE, make use of, put to use, utilize, apply

practise ► **verb** ① *he practised the songs every day* REHEARSE, run through, go over/through, work on/at, polish, perfect ② *the performers were practising* TRAIN, rehearse, prepare, go through one's paces ③ *we still practise these rituals today* CARRY OUT, perform, observe ④ *she practises medicine* WORK AT, pursue a career in

practised ► **adjective** EXPERT, experienced, seasoned, skilled, skilful, accomplished, proficient, talented, able, adept, consummate, master, masterly, *informal* crack, ace, mean, *N Amer informal* crackerjack

pragmatic ► **adjective** PRACTICAL, matter of fact, sensible, down-to-earth, commonsensical, businesslike, having both/one's feet on the ground, hard-headed, no-nonsense, *informal* hard-nosed

—OPPOSITES impractical

praise ► **verb** ① *the police praised Pauline for her courage* COMMEND, express admiration for, applaud, pay tribute to, speak highly of, eulogize, compliment, congratulate, sing the praises of, rave about, go into raptures about, heap praise on, wax lyrical about, make much of, pat on the back, take one's hat off to, lionize, admire, hail, *N Amer informal* ballyhoo, *formal* laud ② *we praise God* WORSHIP, glorify, honour, exalt, adore, pay tribute to, give thanks to, venerate, reverence, *formal* laud, *archaic* magnify.

—RELATED TERMS laudatory.

—OPPOSITES criticize

► **noun** ① *James was full of praise for the medical*

teams **APPROVAL**, acclaim, admiration, approbation, acclamation, plaudits, congratulations, commendation, tribute, accolade, compliment, a pat on the back, eulogy, panegyric, *formal* laudation, encomium ② *give praise to God* **HONOUR**, thanks, glory, worship, devotion, adoration, reverence

praiseworthy ▶ **adjective** **COMMENDABLE**, admirable, laudable, worthy (of admiration), meritorious, estimable, exemplary

pram ▶ **noun** (*Brit*) pushchair, *N Amer* baby carriage, stroller, *formal* perambulator

prance ▶ **verb** **CAVORT**, dance, jig, trip, caper, jump, leap, spring, bound, skip, hop, frisk, romp, frolic

prank ▶ **noun** (**PRACTICAL**) **JOKE**, trick, piece of mischief, escapade, stunt, caper, jape, game, hoax, antic, *informal* lark, leg pull

prattle ▶ **verb** he prattled on for ages See **CHAT** verb

▶ **noun** childish prattle See **CHATTER** noun

pray ▶ **verb** ① let us pray SAY ONE'S PRAYERS, make one's devotions, offer a prayer/prayers ② she prayed God to forgive her **INVOKE**, call on, implore, appeal to, entreat, beg, petition, supplicate, *poetic/literary* beseech

prayer ▶ **noun** ① the priest's murmured prayers **INVOCATION**, intercession, devotion, *archaic* orison ② a quick prayer that she wouldn't bump into him **APPEAL**, plea, entreaty, petition, supplication, invocation, *rare* obsecration

■ **not have a prayer** (*informal*) **HAVE NO HOPE**, have/stand no chance, not have/stand (the ghost of) a chance, *informal* not have a hope in hell, not have/stand an earthly, *Austral/NZ informal* not have Buckley's (chance)

preach ▶ **verb** ① he preached to a large congregation GIVE A **SERMON**, sermonize, address, speak ② preaching the good news of Jesus **PROCLAIM**, teach, spread, propagate, expound ③ they preach toleration **ADVOCATE**, recommend, advise, urge, teach, counsel ④ who are you to preach at me? **MORALIZE**, sermonize, pontificate, lecture, harangue, *informal* preachify
—RELATED TERMS homiletic

preacher ▶ **noun** **MINISTER (OF RELIGION)**, parson, clergyman, clergywoman, member of the clergy, priest, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of God, cleric, churchman, churchwoman, evangelist, *informal* reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot, *N Amer informal* preacher man, *Austral informal* jossler

preaching ▶ **noun** **RELIGIOUS TEACHING**, message, sermons

preachy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) **MORALISTIC**, moralizing, sanctimonious, self-righteous, holier-than-thou, sententious

preamble ▶ **noun** **INTRODUCTION**, preface, prologue, foreword, prelude, front matter, *informal* intro, prelims, *formal* exordium, proem, prolegomenon

pre-arranged ▶ **adjective** **ARRANGED BEFORE HAND**, agreed in advance, predetermined, pre-established, pre-planned

precarious ▶ **adjective** **UNCERTAIN**, insecure, unpredictable, risky, parlous, hazardous, dangerous, unsafe, unsettled, unstable, unsteady, shaky; *informal* dicey, chancy, iffy, *Brit informal* dodgy

—OPPOSITES safe

precaution ▶ **noun** **SAFEGUARD**, preventative/preventive measure, safety measure, insurance, *informal* backstop

precautionary ▶ **adjective** **PREVENTATIVE**, preventive, safety

precede ▶ **verb** ① adverts preceded the film GO **COME BEFORE**, lead (up) to, pave/prepare the way for, herald, introduce, usher in, *archaic* foigo ② Catherine preceded him into the studio GO **AHEAD OF**, go in front of, go before, go first, lead the way ③ he preceded the book with a poem **PREFACE**, introduce, begin, open

—OPPOSITES follow

precedence ▶ **noun** quarrels over precedence **PRIORITY**, rank, seniority, superiority, primacy, pre-eminence, eminence

■ **take precedence over** **TAKE PRIORITY OVER**, outweigh, prevail over, come before

precedent ▶ **noun** **MODEL**, exemplar, example, pattern, previous case, prior instance/example, paradigm, criterion, yardstick, standard

preceding ▶ **adjective** **FOREGOING**, previous, prior, former, precedent, earlier, above, afore mentioned, antecedent, *formal* anterior, *prevenient*

precept ▶ **noun** ① the precepts of Orthodox Judaism **PRINCIPLE**, rule, tenet, canon, doctrine, command, order, decree, dictate, dictum, injunction, commandment, Judaism *mitzvah*, *formal* precept ② precepts that her grandmother used to quote **MAXIM**, saying, adage, axiom, aphorism, apophthegm

precinct ▶ **noun** ① a pedestrian precinct **AREA**, zone, sector ② within the precincts of the City **BOUNDS**, boundaries, limits, confines ③ the cathedral precinct **ENCLOSURE**, close, court

precious ▶ **adjective** ① precious works of art **VALUABLE**, costly, expensive invaluable, priceless, beyond price ② her most precious possession **VALUED**, cherished treasured, prized, favourite, dear, dearest, beloved, darling, adored, loved, special ③ his precious manners **AFFECTED**, over-refined, pretentious, *informal* la-di-da, *Brit informal*poncey

precipice ▶ **noun** **CLIFF (FACE)**, steep cliff, rock face, sheer drop, crag, bluff, escarpment, scarp, *poetic/literary* steep

precipitate ▶ **verb** ① the incident precipitated a crisis **BRING ABOUT**, ON, cause, lead to, give rise to, instigate, trigger, spark, touch off, provoke, hasten, accelerate, expedite ② they were precipitated down the mountain **HURL**, catapult, throw, plunge, launch, fling, propel

▶ **adjective** ① their actions were precipitate **HASTY**, overhasty, rash, hurried, rushed, impetuous, impulsive, spur-of-the-moment, precipitous, incautious, imprudent, injudicious, ill-advised, reckless, harum-scarum, *informal* previous, *poetic/literary* temerarious ② a precipitate decline See **PRECIPITOUS** sense 2

precipitous ▶ **adjective** ① a precipitous drop **STEEP**, sheer, perpendicular, abrupt, sharp, vertical ② his fall from power was precipitous **SUDDEN**, rapid, swift, abrupt, headlong, speedy, quick, fast ③ he was too precipitous See **PRECIPITATE** adjective sense 1

precis ▶ **noun** a precis of the report **SUMMARY**, synopsis, résumé, abstract, outline, summariza-



tion, summation, abridgement, digest, overview, epitome, *N Amer* wrap-up, *rare* conspectus

► **verb** *precising a passage* SUMMARIZE, sum up, give a summary/precis of, give the main points of, abridge, condense, shorten, synopsise, abstract, outline, abbreviate, *archaic* epitomize

precise ► **adjective** ① *precise measurements* EXACT, accurate, correct, specific, detailed, explicit, unambiguous, definite ② *at that precise moment the car stopped* EXACT, particular, very, specific ③ *the attention to detail is very precise* METICULOUS, careful, exact, scrupulous, punctilious, conscientious, particular, methodical, strict, rigorous
—OPPOSITES inaccurate

precisely ► **adverb** ① *at 2 o'clock precisely* EXACTLY, sharp, on the dot, promptly, prompt, dead (on), on the stroke of —, on the dot of —, *informal* bang (on), *Brit informal* spot on, *N Amer informal* on the button/nose ② *precisely the kind of man I am looking for* EXACTLY, absolutely, just, in all respects, *informal* to a T ③ *fertilization can be timed precisely* ACCURATELY, exactly, clearly, distinctly, strictly ④ *'So it's all done'* 'Precisely' YES, exactly, absolutely, (that's) right, quite so, indubitably, definitely, *informal* you bet, I'll say

precision ► **noun** EXACTNESS, exactitude, accuracy, correctness, preciseness, care, carefulness, meticulousness, scrupulousness, punctiliousness, methodicalness, rigour, rigorousness

preclude ► **verb** PREVENT, make it impossible for, rule out, stop, prohibit, debar, bar, hinder, impede, inhibit, exclude

precocious ► **adjective** ADVANCED FOR ONE'S AGE, forward, mature, gifted, talented, clever, intelligent, quick, *informal* smart
—OPPOSITES backward

preconceived ► **adjective** PREDETERMINED, prejudged, prejudiced, biased

preconception ► **noun** PRECONCEIVED IDEA, NOTION, presupposition, assumption, presumption, prejudice, judgement, prejudice

precondition ► **noun** PREREQUISITE, (necessary/essential) condition, requirement, necessity, essential, imperative, *sine qua non*, *informal* must

precursor ► **noun** ① *a three-stringed precursor of the guitar* FORERUNNER, predecessor, forefather, father, antecedent, ancestor, forebear ② *a precursor of disasters to come* HARBINGER, herald, sign, indication, portent, omen

precursory ► **adjective** PRELIMINARY, prior, previous, introductory, preparatory, ptefatory, *formal* anterior, convenient

predatory ► **adjective** ① *predatory birds* PREDACIOUS, carnivorous, hunting, raptorial, of prey ② *a predatory gleam in his eyes* EXPLOITATIVE, wolfish, rapacious, vulturine, vulturous

predecessor ► **noun** ① *the Prime Minister's predecessor* FORERUNNER, precursor, antecedent ② *our Victorian predecessors* ANCESTOR, forefather, forebear, antecedent
—OPPOSITES successor, descendant

predestined ► **adjective** PREORDAINED, ordained, predetermined, destined, fated

predetermined ► **adjective** ① *a predetermined budget*: PRE-ARRANGED, established in advance,

preset, set, fixed, agreed ② *our predetermined fate* PREDESTINED, preordained

predicament ► **noun** DIFFICULT SITUATION, mess, difficulty, plight, quandary, muddle, mare's nest, *informal* hole, fix, jam, pickle, scrape, bind, tight spot/corner, dilemma

predicate ► **verb** BASE, be dependent, found, establish, rest, ground, premise

predict ► **verb** FORECAST, foretell, foresee, prophesy, anticipate, tell in advance, envision, envisage, *poetic/literary* prewise, *archaic* augur, presage

predictable ► **adjective** FORESEEABLE, (only) to be expected, anticipated, foreseen, unsurprising, *informal* inevitable

prediction ► **noun** FORECAST, prophecy, prognosis, prognostication, augury, projection, conjecture, guess

predilection ► **noun** LIKING, fondness, preference, partiality, taste, penchant, weakness, soft spot, fancy, inclination leaning, bias, propensity, bent, proclivity, predisposition, appetite
—OPPOSITES dislike

predispose ► **verb** ① *lack of exercise may predispose an individual to high blood pressure* MAKE SUSCEPTIBLE, make liable, make prone, make vulnerable, put at risk of ② *attitudes which predispose people to behave badly* LEAD, influence, sway, induce, prompt, dispose, bias, prejudice

predisposed ► **adjective** INCLINED, prepared, ready, of a mind, disposed, minded, willing

predisposition ► **noun** ① *a predisposition to heart disease* SUSCEPTIBILITY, pioneness, tendency, liability, inclination, disposition, vulnerability ② *their political predispositions* PREFERENCE, predilection, inclination, leaning

predominance ► **noun** ① *the predominance of women carers* PREVALENCE, dominance, preponderance ② *Soviet military predominance* SUPREMACY, mastery, control, power, ascendancy, dominance, pre-eminence, superiority

predominant ► **adjective** ① *our predominant objectives* MAIN, chief, principal, most important, primary, prime, central, leading, foremost, key, paramount, *informal* number-one ② *the predominant political forces* CONTROLLING, dominant, predominating, more/most powerful, pre-eminent, ascendant, superior, in the ascendancy
—OPPOSITES subsidiary

predominantly ► **adverb** MAINLY, mostly, for the most part, chiefly, principally, primarily, predominately, in the main, on the whole, largely, by and large, typically, generally, usually

predominate ► **verb** ① *small-scale producers predominate* BE IN THE MAJORITY, preponderate, be predominant, prevail, be most prominent ② *private interest predominates over the public good* PREVAIL, dominate, be dominant, carry most weight, override, outweigh

pre-eminence ► **noun** SUPERIORITY, supremacy, greatness, excellence, distinction, prominence, predominance, eminence, importance, prestige, stature, fame, renown, celebrity

pre-eminent ► **adjective** GREATEST, leading, foremost, best, finest, chief, outstanding, excellent, distinguished, prominent, eminent, important, top, famous, renowned, celebrated, illustrious, supreme, *N Amer* marquee



—OPPOSITES undistinguished

pre-eminently ► **adverb** PRIMARILY, principally, above all, chiefly, mostly, mainly, in particular

pre-empt ► **verb** ① his action may have pre-empted war FORESTALL, prevent ② many tables were already pre-empted by family parties COMMUNDEER, occupy, seize, arrogate, appropriate, take over, secure, reserve

preen ► **verb** ① the robin preened its feathers CLEAN, tidy, groom, smooth, arrange, archaic plume ② she preened before the mirror ADMIRE ONESELF, primp oneself, prink oneself, groom oneself, spruce oneself up, informal titivate oneself, doll oneself up, *Bnt* informal tart oneself up, *N Amer* informal gussy oneself up

■ **preen oneself** CONGRATULATE ONESELF, be pleased with oneself, be proud of oneself, pat oneself on the back, feel self-satisfied

preface ► **noun** the preface to the novel INTRO DUCTION, foreword, preamble, prologue, prelude, front matter, informal prelims, intro, formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon

► **verb** the chapter is prefaced by a poem PRECEDE, introduce, begin, open, start

prefatory ► **adjective** INTRODUCTORY, preliminary, opening, initial, preparatory, initiatory, precursory

—OPPOSITES closing

prefect ► **noun** (*Bnt*) MONITOR, *Bnt* praepositor

prefer ► **verb** ① I prefer white wine to red LIKE BETTER, would rather (have), would sooner (have), favour, be more partial to, choose, select, pick, opt for, go for, plump for ② (formal) do you want to prefer charges? BRING, press, file, lodge, lay ③ (archaic) he was preferred to the post PROMOTE, upgrade, raise, elevate

preferable ► **adjective** BETTER, best, more desirable, more suitable, advantageous, superior, preferred, recommended

preferably ► **adverb** IDEALLY, if possible, for preference, from choice

preference ► **noun** ① her preference for boys' games LIKING, partiality, predilection, proclivity, fondness, taste, inclination, leaning, bias, bent, penchant, predisposition ② my preference is rock FAVOURITE, (first) choice, selection, informal cup of tea, thing, *N Amer* informal druthers ③ preference will be given to applicants speaking Japanese PRIORITY, favour, precedence, preferential treatment

■ **In preference to** RATHER THAN, instead of, in place of, sooner than

preferential ► **adjective** SPECIAL, better, privileged, superior, favourable, partial, discriminatory, partisan, biased

preferment ► **noun** PROMOTION, advancement, elevation, being upgraded, a step up (the ladder), informal a kick upstairs

—OPPOSITES demotion

prefigure ► **verb** FORESHADOW, presage, be a harbinger of, herald, poetic/literary foretoken.

pregnancy ► **noun** gestation

—RELATED TERMS antenatal, maternity

pregnant ► **adjective** ① she is heavily pregnant EXPECTING A BABY, expectant, carrying a child, informal expecting, in the family way, preppers, with a bun in the oven; *Bnt* informal up the duff, in the (pudding) club, up the spout, *N Amer* in-

formal knocked up, having swallowed a watermelon seed, *Austral* informal with a joey in the pouch, informal, dated in trouble, archaic with child, in a delicate condition, in an interesting condition, technical gravid, parturient ② a ceremony pregnant with religious significance FILLED, charged, heavy, full of ③ a pregnant pause MEANINGFUL, significant, suggestive, expressive, charged

prehistoric ► **adjective** ① prehistoric times PRIMITIVE, primeval, primordial, primal, ancient, early, antediluvian ② (informal) the special effects look prehistoric OUT OF DATE, outdated, outmoded, old-fashioned, démodé, passé, antiquated, superannuated, archaic, behind the times, primitive, antediluvian, informal out of the ark, *Bnt* informal past its sell-by date, *N Amer* informal horse-and-buggy, clunky

—RELATED TERMS archaico-

—OPPOSITES modern

prejudice ► **noun** ① male prejudices about women PRECONCEIVED IDEA, preconception, pre-judgement ② they are motivated by prejudice BIG OTRY, bias, partisanship, partiality, intolerance, discrimination, unfairness, inequality ③ with out prejudice to the interests of others DETRIMENT, harm, damage, injury, hurt, loss

► **verb** ① the article could prejudice the jury BIAS, influence, sway, predispose, make biased, make partial, colour ② this could prejudice his chances of victory DAMAGE, be detrimental to, be prejudicial to, injure, harm, hurt, spoil, impair, undermine, hinder, compromise

prejudiced ► **adjective** BIASED, bigoted, discriminatory, partisan, intolerant, narrow-minded, unfair, unjust, inequitable, coloured

—OPPOSITES impartial

prejudicial ► **adjective** DETRIMENTAL, damaging, injurious, harmful, disadvantageous, hurtful, deleterious

—OPPOSITES beneficial

preliminary ► **adjective** the discussions are still at a preliminary stage PREPARATORY, introductory, initial, opening, prefatory, precursory, early, exploratory

—OPPOSITES final

► **noun** ① he began without any preliminaries INTRO DUCTION, preamble, opening/prefatory remarks, formalities ② a preliminary to the resumption of war PRELUDE, preparation, preparatory measure, preliminary action

■ **preliminary to** IN PREPARATION FOR, before, in advance of, prior to, preparatory to

prelims ► **plural noun** (informal) FRONT MATTER, preliminary material, introduction, foreword, preface, preamble, informal intro, formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon

prelude ► **noun** ① a ceasefire was a prelude to peace negotiations PRELIMINARY, overture, opening, preparation, introduction, start, commencement, beginning, lead-in, precursor ② an orchestral prelude OVERTURE, introductory movement, introduction, opening ③ the passage forms a prelude to Part III INTRODUCTION, preface, prologue, foreword, preamble, informal intro, formal exordium, proem, prolegomenon

premature ► **adjective** ① his premature death UNTIMELY, (too) early, unseasonable, before time ② a premature baby PRETERM, informal prem ③ such a step would be premature. RASH



overhasty, hasty, precipitate, precipitous, impulsive, impetuous, *informal* previous
—OPPOSITES overdue

prematurely ► **adverb** ① Sam was born *prematurely* TOO SOON, too early, ahead of time, *pieterm* ② don't act *prematurely* RASHLY, overhastily, hastily, precipitately, precipitously

premeditated ► **adjective** PLANNED, intentional, deliberate, pre-planned, calculated, cold-blooded, conscious, pre-arranged
—OPPOSITES spontaneous

premeditation ► **noun** (ADVANCE) PLANNING, forethought, pre-planning, (criminal) intent, *Law* malice aforethought

premier ► **adjective** a *premier chef* LEADING, foremost, chief, principal, head, top-ranking, top, prime, primary, first, highest, pre-eminent, senior, outstanding, master, *N Amer* ranking, *informal* top-notch

► **noun** the *Italian premier* HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, prime minister, PM, president, chancellor

premiere ► **noun** FIRST PERFORMANCE, first night, opening night

premise ► **noun** the *premise* that human life consists of a series of choices PROPOSITION, assumption, hypothesis, thesis, presupposition, postulation, postulate, supposition, presumption, surmise, conjecture, speculation, assertion, belief

► **verb** they *premised* that the cosmos is indestructible POSTULATE, hypothesize, conjecture, posit, theorize, suppose, presuppose, surmise, assume

premises ► **plural noun** BUILDING(S), property, site, office

premium ► **noun** ① monthly *premiums* of £30 (REGULAR) PAYMENT, instalment ② you must pay a *premium* for organic fruit SURCHARGE, additional payment, extra amount ③ a foreign service *premium* BONUS, extra, incentive, inducement, *informal* perk, *formal* perquisite

■ **at a premium** SCARCE, in great demand, hard to come by, in short supply, thin on the ground

■ **put/place a premium on** ① I place a high *premium* on our relationship VALUE GREATLY, attach great/special importance to, set great store by, put a high value on ② the high price of oil put a *premium* on the coal industry MAKE VALUABLE, make invaluable, make important

premonition ► **noun** FOREBODING, presentiment, intuition, (funny) feeling, hunch, suspicion, feeling in one's bones, misgiving, apprehension, fear, *archaic* presage

preoccupation ► **noun** ① an air of *preoccupation* PENSIVENESS, concentration, engrossment, absorption, self-absorption, musing, thinking, deep thought, brown study, brooding, abstraction, absent-mindedness, distraction, forgetfulness, inattentiveness, wool-gathering, day-dreaming ② their main *preoccupation* was feeding their family OBSESSION, concern, passion, enthusiasm, hobby horse

preoccupied ► **adjective** ① officials *preoccupied* with their careers OBSESSED, concerned, absorbed, engrossed, intent, involved, wrapped up ② she looked *preoccupied*. LOST/DEEP IN THOUGHT, in a brown study, pensive, absent-minded, distracted, abstracted

preoccupy ► **verb** ENGROSS, concern, absorb, take up someone's attention, distract, obsess, occupy, prey on someone's mind

preordain ► **verb** PREDESTINE, destine, foreordain, ordain, fate, predetermine, determine

preparation ► **noun** ① the *preparation* of contingency plans DEVSING, putting together, drawing up, construction, composition, production, getting ready, development ② *preparations* for the party ARRANGEMENTS, planning, plans, preparatory measures ③ *preparation* for exams INSTRUCTION, teaching, coaching, training, tutoring, drilling, priming ④ a *preparation* to kill off mites MIXTURE, compound, concoction, solution, tincture, medicine, potion, cream, ointment, lotion

preparatory ► **adjective** preparatory work PRELIMINARY, initial, introductory, prefatory, opening, preparative, precursory

■ **preparatory to** IN PREPARATION FOR, before, prior to, preliminary to

prepare ► **verb** ① I want you to *prepare* a report MAKE GET READY, put together, draw up, produce, arrange, assemble, construct, compose, formulate ② the meal was easy to *prepare* COOK, make, get, put together, concoct, *informal* fix, rustle up, *Brit informal* knock up ③ *preparing* for war GET READY, make preparations, arrange things, make provision, get everything set ④ athletes *preparing* for the Olympics TRAIN, get into shape, practise, get ready ⑤ I must *prepare* for my exams STUDY, revise, *Brit informal* swot ⑥ this course *prepares* students for their exams INSTRUCT, coach, train, tutor, drill, prime ⑦ *prepare* yourself for a shock BRACE, make ready, tense, steel, steady

prepared ► **adjective** ① he needs to be well *prepared* READY, (all) set, equipped, primed, waiting, on hand, poised, in position ② I'm not *prepared* to cut the price WILLING, ready, disposed, predisposed, (favourably) inclined, of a mind, minded

preponderance ► **noun** ① the *preponderance* of women among older people PREVALENCE, predominance, dominance ② the *preponderance* of the evidence BULK, majority, greater quantity, larger part, best/better part, most, almost all ③ the *preponderance* of the trade unions PREDOMINANCE, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy, power

preponderant ► **adjective** DOMINANT, predominant, pre-eminent, in control, more/most powerful, superior, supreme, ascendant, in the ascendancy

preponderate ► **verb** BE IN THE MAJORITY, predominate, be predominant, be more/most important, prevail, dominate

prepossessing ► **adjective** ATTRACTIVE, beautiful, pretty, handsome, good-looking, fetching, charming, delightful, enchanting, captivating, *archaic* fair
—OPPOSITES ugly

preposterous ► **adjective** ABSURD, ridiculous, foolish, stupid, ludicrous, farcical, laughable, comical, risible, nonsensical, senseless, insane, outrageous, monstrous, *informal* crazy
—OPPOSITES sensible

prerequisite ► **noun** a *prerequisite* for the course' (NECESSARY) CONDITION, precondition, essential, requirement, requisite, necessity, sine

qua non, *informal* must

- **adjective** the prerequisite qualifications: NECESSARY, required, called for, essential, requisite, obligatory, compulsory
—OPPOSITES unnecessary

prerogative ► **noun** ENTITLEMENT, right, privilege, advantage, due, birthright

presage ► **verb** the owl's hooting presages death PORTEND, augur, foreshadow, foretell, prophesy, be an omen of, herald, be a sign of, be the harbinger of, warn of, be a presage of, signal, bode, promise, threaten, *poetic/literary* betoken, foretoken, forebode

► **noun** a sombre presage of his final illness OMEN, sign, indication, portent, warning, forewarning, harbinger, augury, prophecy, foretoken

prescience ► **noun** FAR-SIGHTEDNESS, foresight, foreknowledge, psychic powers, clairvoyance, prediction, prognostication, divination, prophesy, augury, insight, intuition, perception, percipience

prescient ► **adjective** PROPHEPIC, predictive, visionary, psychic, clairvoyant, far-sighted, prognostic, divinatory, insightful, intuitive, perceptive, percipient

prescribe ► **verb** ① the doctor prescribed antibiotics WRITE A PRESCRIPTION FOR, authorize ② traditional values prescribe a life of domesticity ADVISE, recommend, advocate, suggest, endorse, champion, promote ③ rules prescribing your duty STIPULATE, lay down, dictate, specify, determine, establish, fix

prescription ► **noun** ① the doctor wrote a prescription INSTRUCTION, authorization, *informal* script, *archaic* recipe ② he fetched the prescription from the chemist MEDICINE, drug, medication ③ a painless prescription for improvement METHOD, measure, recommendation, suggestion, recipe, formula

prescriptive ► **adjective** DICTATORIAL, narrow, rigid, authoritarian, arbitrary, repressive, dogmatic

presence ► **noun** ① presence of a train was indicated electrically EXISTENCE, being there ② I requested the presence of an adjudicator ATTENDANCE, appearance, company, companionship ③ a woman of great presence AURA, charisma, (strength/force of) personality, poise, self-assurance, self-confidence ④ she felt a presence in the castle GHOST, spirit, spectre, phantom, apparition, supernatural being, *informal* spook, *poetic/literary* shade
—OPPOSITES absence

■ **presence of mind** COMPOSURE, equanimity, self-possession, level-headedness, self-assurance, calmness, sangfroid, imperturbability, alertness, quick-wittedness, *informal* cool, unflapability

present¹ ► **adjective** ① a doctor must be present at the ringside IN ATTENDANCE, here, there, near, nearby, (close/near) at hand, available ② organic compounds are present in the waste, IN EXISTENCE, existing, existent ③ the present economic climate: CURRENT, present-day, existing, *archaic* instant
—OPPOSITES absent

► **noun** forget the past and think about the present NOW, today, the present time/moment, the here and now.
—OPPOSITES past, future.

■ **at present** AT THE MOMENT, just now, right now, at the present time, currently, at this moment in time

■ **for the present** FOR THE TIME BEING, for now, for the moment, for a while, temporarily, pro tem

■ **the present day** MODERN TIMES, nowadays

present² ► **verb** ① Eddy presented a cheque to the winner HAND OVER/OUT, give (out), confer, bestow, award, grant, accord ② the committee presented its report SUBMIT, set forth, put forward, proffer, offer, tender, table ③ may I present my wife? INTRODUCE, make known, acquaint someone with ④ I called to present my warmest compliments OFFER, give, express ⑤ they presented their new product last month DEMONSTRATE, show, put on show/display, exhibit, display, launch, unveil ⑥ presenting good quality opera STAGE, put on, produce, perform ⑦ she presents a TV show HOST, introduce, compère, be the presenter of; *N Amer informal* emcee ⑧ the authorities present him as a common criminal REPRESENT, describe, portray, depict

■ **present oneself** ① he presented himself at ten BE PRESENT, make an appearance, appear, turn up, arrive ② an opportunity that presented itself OCCUR, arise, happen, come about/up, appear, crop up, turn up

present³ ► **noun** a birthday present GIFT, donation, offering, contribution, *informal* prezzie, freebie, *formal* benefaction

presentable ► **adjective** ① I'm making the place look presentable TIDY, neat, straight, clean, spick and span, in good order, shipshape (and Bristol fashion) ② make yourself presentable SMARTLY DRESSED, tidily dressed, tidy, well groomed, trim, spruce, *informal* natty ③ presentable videos FAIRLY GOOD, passable, all right, satisfactory, moderately good, not (too) bad, average, fair; *informal* OK

presentation ► **noun** ① the presentation of his certificate AWARDING, presenting, giving, handing over/out, bestowal, granting, award ② the presentation of food APPEARANCE, arrangement, packaging, disposition, display, layout ③ her presentation to the Queen INTRODUCTION, making known ④ the presentation of new proposals SUBMISSION, proffering, offering, tendering, advancing, proposal, suggestion, mooted, tabling ⑤ a sales presentation DEMONSTRATION, talk, lecture, address, speech, show, exhibition, display, introduction, launch, launching, unveiling ⑥ a presentation of his latest play STAGING, production, performance, mounting, showing

present-day ► **adjective** CURRENT, present, contemporary, latter-day, present-time, modern, twenty-first-century, up to date, up to the minute, fashionable, trendsetting, the latest, new, newest, newfangled, *informal* trendy, now

presentiment ► **noun** PREMONITION, foreboding, intuition, (funny) feeling, hunch, feeling in one's bones, sixth sense, *archaic* presage.

presently ► **adverb** ① I shall see you presently SOON, shortly, directly, quite soon, in a short time, in a little while, at any moment/minute/second, in next to no time, before long, *N Amer* momentarily, *informal* pretty soon, any moment now, in a jiffy, before you can say Jack Robinson, in two shakes of a lamb's tail, *Brit informal* in a mo; *poetic/literary* ere long. ② he is presently abroad AT PRESENT, currently, at the/this mo-

ment, at the present moment/time, now, nowadays, these days, *Brit informal* at the minute

preservation ▶ noun ① wood preservation CONSERVATION, protection, care ② the preservation of the status quo CONTINUATION, conservation, maintenance, upholding, sustaining, perpetuation ③ the preservation of food CONSERVING, bottling, canning, freezing, drying, curing, smoking, pickling

preserve ▶ verb ① oil helps preserve wood CONSERVE, protect, maintain, care for, look after ② they wish to preserve the status quo CONTINUE (WITH), conserve, keep going, maintain, uphold, sustain, perpetuate ③ preserving him from harassment GUARD, protect, keep, defend, safeguard, shelter, shield ④ spices enable us to preserve food CONSERVE, bottle, can, freeze, dry, cure, smoke, pickle

▶ noun ① strawberry preserve JAM, jelly, marmalade, conserve ② the preserve of an educated middle-class DOMAIN, area, field, sphere, orbit, realm, province, territory, *informal* turf, bailiwick ③ a game preserve SANCTUARY, (game) reserve, reservation

preside ▶ verb the chairman presides at the meeting CHAIR, be chairman/chairwoman/chairperson, officiate (at), conduct, lead

■ **preside over** BE IN CHARGE OF, be responsible for, be at the head/helm of, head, be head of, manage, administer, be in control of, control, direct, lead, govern, rule, command, supervise, oversee, *informal* head up, be boss of, be in the driving/driver's seat, be in the saddle

president ▶ noun ① terrorists assassinated the president HEAD OF STATE See list ② the president of the society HEAD, chief, director, leader, governor, principal, master, *N Amer informal* prexy ③ the president of the company CHAIRMAN, chairwoman, managing director, MD, chief executive (officer), CEO

press ▶ verb ① press the paper down firmly PUSH (DOWN), press down, depress, hold down, force, thrust, squeeze, compress ② his shirt was pressed SMOOTH (OUT), iron, remove creases from ③ we pressed the grapes CRUSH, squeeze, squash, mash, pulp, pound, pulverize, macerate ④ she pressed the child to her bosom CLASP, hold close, hug, cuddle, squeeze, clutch, grasp, embrace ⑤ Winnie pressed his hand SQUEEZE, grip, clutch ⑥ the crowd pressed round CLUSTER, gather, converge, congregate, flock, swarm, throng, crowd ⑦ the government pressed its claim PLEAD, urge, advance insistently, present, submit, put forward ⑧ they pressed him to agree URGE, put pressure on, pressurize, force, push, coerce, dragoon, steamroller, browbeat, *informal* lean on, put the screws on, twist someone's arm, railroad, bulldoze ⑨ they pressed for a ban on the ivory trade CALL, ask, clamour, push, campaign, demand

▶ noun ① a private press PUBLISHING HOUSE, printing company, printing press. ② the freedom of the press THE MEDIA, the newspapers, the papers, the news media, the fourth estate, journalists, reporters, newspapermen, newsmen, newspaper women, pressmen, presswomen, *informal* journos, news hounds, *N Amer informal* newbies, *Brit dated* Fleet Street ③ the company had some bad press (PRESS) REPORTS, press coverage, press articles, press reviews

Presidents of the USA

DATES IN OFFICE

1	George Washington	1789-1797
2	John Adams	1797-1801
3	Thomas Jefferson	1801-1809
4	James Madison	1809-1817
5	James Monroe	1817-1825
6	John Quincy Adams	1825-1829
7	Andrew Jackson	1829-1837
8	Martin Van Buren	1837-1841
9	William Henry Harrison	1841
10	John Tyler	1841-1845
11	James Knox Polk	1845-1849
12	Zachary Taylor	1849-1850
13	Millard Fillmore	1850-1853
14	Franklin Pierce	1853-1857
15	James Buchanan	1857-1861
16	Abraham Lincoln	1861-1865
17	Andrew Johnson	1865-1869
18	Ulysses Simpson Grant	1869-1877
19	Rutherford Birchard Hayes	1877-1881
20	James Abram Garfield	1881
21	Chester Alan Arthur	1881-1885
22	(Stephen) Grover Cleveland	1885-1889
23	Benjamin Harrison	1889-1893
24	(Stephen) Grover Cleveland	1893-1897
25	William McKinley	1897-1901
26	Theodore Roosevelt	1901-1909
27	William Howard Taft	1909-1913
28	(Thomas) Woodrow Wilson	1913-1921
29	Warren Gamaliel Harding	1921-1923
30	Calvin Coolidge	1923-1929
31	Herbert Clark Hoover	1929-1933
32	Franklin Delano Roosevelt	1933-1945
33	Harry S. Truman	1945-1953
34	Dwight David Eisenhower	1953-1961
35	John Fitzgerald Kennedy	1961-1963
36	Lyndon Baines Johnson	1963-1969
37	Richard Milhous Nixon	1969-1974
38	Gerald Rudolph Ford	1974-1977
39	James Earl Carter, Jr.	1977-1981
40	Ronald Wilson Reagan	1981-1989
41	George Herbert Walker Bush	1989-1993
42	William Jefferson Clinton	1993-2001
43	George Walker Bush	from 2001

■ **be pressed for** HAVE TOO LITTLE, be short of, have insufficient, lack, be lacking (in), be deficient in, need, be/stand in need of, *informal* be strapped for

■ **press on** PROCEED, keep going, continue, carry on, make progress, make headway, press ahead, forge on/ahead, push on, keep on, struggle on, persevere, keep at it, stay with it, plod on, plough on, *informal* soldier on, plug away, peg away, stick at it

pressing ▶ adjective ① a pressing problem URGENT, critical, crucial, acute, desperate, serious, grave, life-and-death ② a pressing engagement IMPORTANT, high-priority, critical, crucial, compelling, inescapable

pressure ▶ noun ① a confined gas exerts a constant pressure PHYSICAL FORCE, load, stress, thrust, compression, weight ② they put pressure on us to borrow money COERCION, force, compulsion, constraint, duress, pestering, harassment, nagging, badgering, intimidation, arm-twisting, pressurization, persuasion ③ she had a lot of

pressure from work STRAIN, stress, tension, trouble, difficulty, *informal* hassle

► **verb** they pressured him into resigning See PRESSURIZE

pressurize ► **verb** he tried to pressurize Buffy into selling COERCE, pressure, put pressure on, press, push, persuade, force, bulldoze, hound, harass, nag, harry, badger, goad, pester, browbeat, bully, bludgeon, intimidate, dragoon, twist someone's arm, *informal* railroad, lean on, *N Amer informal* hustle

prestige ► **noun** STATUS, standing, stature, prestigiousness, reputation, repute, regard, fame, note, renown, honour, esteem, celebrity, importance, prominence, influence, eminence, kudos, cachet, *informal* clout

prestigious ► **adjective** ① prestigious journals REPUTABLE, distinguished, respected, esteemed, eminent, august, highly regarded, well thought of, acclaimed, authoritative, celebrated, illustrious, leading, renowned ② a prestigious job IMPRESSIVE, important, prominent, high-ranking, influential, powerful, glamorous, well paid, expensive, *Brit* upmarket
-OPPOSITES obscure, minor

presumably ► **adverb** I PRESUME, I expect, I assume, I take it, I suppose, I imagine, I dare say, I guess, in all probability, probably, in all likelihood, as likely as not, doubtless, undoubtedly, no doubt

presume ► **verb** ① I presumed that it had once been an attic ASSUME, suppose, dare say, imagine, take it, expect, believe, think, surmise, guess, judge, conjecture, speculate, postulate, presuppose ② let me presume to give you some advice VENTURE, dare, have the audacity/effrontery, be so bold as take the liberty of
■ **presume on** TAKE (UNFAIR) ADVANTAGE OF, exploit, take liberties with, count on, bank on, place reliance on

presumption ► **noun** ① this presumption may be easily rebutted ASSUMPTION, supposition, pre-supposition, belief, guess, judgement, surmise, conjecture, speculation, hypothesis, postulation, inference, deduction, conclusion ② he apologized for his presumption BRAZENNESS, audacity, boldness, audaciousness, temerity, arrogance, presumptuousness, forwardness, cockiness, insolence, impudence, bumptiousness, impertinence, effrontery, cheek, cheekiness, rudeness, impoliteness, disrespect, familiarity, *informal* nerve, brass neck, chutzpah, *N Amer informal* sass, sassiness, *archaic* assumption

presumptive ► **adjective** ① a presumptive diagnosis CONJECTURAL, speculative, tentative, theoretical, unproven, unconfirmed ② the heir presumptive PROBABLE, likely, prospective, assumed, supposed, expected

presumptuous ► **adjective** BRAZEN, overconfident, arrogant, bold, audacious, forward, familiar, impertinent, insolent, impudent, cocky, cheeky, rude, impolite, uncivil, bumptious, *N Amer informal* sassy, *archaic* assumptive

presuppose ► **verb** ① this presupposes the existence of a policy-making group REQUIRE, necessitate, imply, entail, mean, involve, assume ② I had presupposed that theme parks make people happy PRESUME, assume, take it for granted, take it as read, suppose, surmise, think, accept, consider

presupposition ► **noun** PRESUMPTION, assumption, preconception, supposition, hypothesis, surmise, thesis, theory, premise, belief, postulation

pretence ► **noun** ① cease this pretence MAKE-BELIEVE, putting on an act, acting, dissembling, shamming, faking, feigning, simulation, dissimulation, play-acting, posturing, deception, deceit, deceitfulness, fraud, fraudulence, duplicity, subterfuge, trickery, dishonesty, hypocrisy, falsity, lying, mendacity ② he made a pretence of being unconcerned (FALSE) SHOW, semblance, affectation, (false) appearance, outward appearance, impression, (false) front, guise, facade, display ③ she had dropped any pretence to faith CLAIM, profession ④ he was absolutely without pretence PRETENTIOUSNESS, display, ostentation, affectation, showiness, posturing, humbug
-OPPOSITES honesty

pretend ► **verb** ① they just pretend to listen MAKE AS IF, profess, affect, dissimulate, dissemble, put it on, put on a false front, go through the motions, sham, fake it ② I'll pretend to be the dragon PUT ON AN ACT, make believe, play at, act, play-act, impersonate ③ it was useless to pretend innocence FEIGN, sham, fake, simulate, put on, counterfeit, affect ④ he cannot pretend to sophistication CLAIM, lay claim to, purport to have, profess to have

► **adjective** (*informal*) a pretend conversation IMAGINARY, imagined, pretended, make-believe, made-up, fantasy, fantasized, dreamed-up, unreal, invented, fictitious, mythical, feigned, fake, mock, sham, simulated, artificial, ersatz, false, pseudo, *informal* phoney

pretended ► **adjective** FAKE, faked, affected, assumed, professed, spurious, mock, imitation, simulated, make-believe, pseudo, sham, false, bogus, *informal* pretend, phoney

pretender ► **noun** CLAIMANT, aspirant

pretension ► **noun** ① the author has no pretension to exhaustive coverage ASPIRATION, claim, assertion, pretence, profession ② she spoke without pretension PRETENTIOUSNESS, affectation, affectedness, ostentation, ostentatiousness, artificiality, airs, posing, posturing, show, flashiness, pomposity, pompousness, grandiosity, grandiloquence, magniloquence

pretentious ► **adjective** AFFECTED, ostentatious, showy, overambitious, pompous, artificial, inflated, overblown, high-sounding, flowery, grandiose, elaborate, extravagant, flamboyant, ornate, grandiloquent, magniloquent, *N Amer* sophomoric, *informal* flashy, highfalutin, la-di-da, pseudo, *Brit informal* poncey

preternatural ► **adjective** EXTRAORDINARY, exceptional, unusual, uncommon, singular, unprecedented, remarkable, phenomenal, abnormal, inexplicable, unaccountable, strange, mysterious, fantastic

pretext ► **noun** (FALSE) EXCUSE, ostensible reason, alleged reason, guise, ploy, pretence, ruse

prettify ► **verb** BEAUTIFY, make attractive, make pretty, titivate, adorn, ornament, decorate, smarten (up), *informal* doll up, do up, give something a facelift, *Brit informal* tart up

pretty ► **adjective** a pretty child ATTRACTIVE, lovely, good-looking, nice-looking, personable, fetching, prepossessing, appealing, charming,



delightful, cute, as pretty as a picture; *Scottish & N English* bonny, *informal* easy on the eye, *poetic/literary* beauteous, *archaic* fair, comely

—OPPOSITES plain, ugly

► **adverb** a pretty large sum: QUITE, rather, somewhat, fairly, reasonably, comparatively, relatively

► **verb** she's prettying herself: BEAUTIFY, make attractive, make pretty, prettify, titivate, adorn, ornament, smarten, *informal* do oneself up, *Brit informal* tart oneself up

prevail ► **verb** ① common sense will prevail WIN (OUT/THROUGH), triumph, be victorious, carry the day, come out on top, succeed, prove superior, conquer, overcome, rule, reign ② the conditions that prevailed in the 1950s EXIST, be in existence, be present, be the case, occur, be prevalent, be current, be the order of the day, be customary, be common, be widespread, be in force/effect, formal obtain

■ **prevail on/upon** PERSUADE, induce, talk someone into, coax, convince, make, get, press someone into, argue someone into, urge, pressure someone into, pressurize someone into, coerce, *informal* sweet-talk, soft-soap

prevailing ► **adjective** CURRENT, existing, prevalent, usual, common, general, widespread

prevalence ► **noun** COMMONNESS, currency, widespread presence, generality, popularity, pervasiveness, universality, extensiveness, rampancy, rfeness

prevalent ► **adjective** WIDESPREAD, prevailing, frequent, usual, common, current, popular, general, universal, endemic, rampant, rife

—OPPOSITES rare

prevaricate ► **verb** BE EVASIVE, beat about the bush, hedge, fence, shilly-shally, dodge (the issue), sidestep (the issue), equivocate, temporize, stall (for time), *Brit* hum and haw, *archaic* palter, *rare* tergiversate

prevent ► **verb** STOP, put a stop to, avert, nip in the bud, fend off, stave off, ward off, hinder, impede, hamper, obstruct, baulk, foil, thwart, forestall, counteract, inhibit, curb, restrain, preclude, pre-empt, save, help, disallow, prohibit, forbid, proscribe, exclude, debar, bar, *poetic/literary* stay
—OPPOSITES allow

preventive ► **adjective** ① preventive maintenance PRE-EMPTIVE, deterrent, precautionary, protective ② preventive medicine PROPHYLACTIC, disease-preventing

► **noun** ① a preventive against crime. PRECAUTIONARY MEASURE, deterrent, safeguard, security, protection, defence ② disease preventives PROPHYLACTIC (DEVICE), prophylactic medicine, preventive drug

previous ► **adjective** ① the previous five years | her previous boyfriend FOREGOING, preceding, antecedent; old, earlier, prior, former, ex-, past, last, sometime, one-time, erstwhile, *formal* quondam, anterior; *archaic* whilom. ② (informal) I was a bit previous: OVERHAUGHTY, hasty, premature, precipitate, impetuous; *informal* ahead of oneself.
—OPPOSITES next.

■ **previous to** BEFORE, prior to, until, (leading) up to, earlier than, preceding; *formal* anterior to

previously ► **adverb** FORMERLY, earlier (on), before, hitherto, once, at one time, in the past, in days/times gone by, in bygone days, in times

past, in former times, in advance, already, beforehand, *formal* heretofore

prey ► **noun** ① the lions killed their prey QUARRY, kill ② she was easy prey VICTIM, target, dupe, gull, *informal* sucker, soft touch, pushover; *N Amer informal* patsy, sap, schlemiel; *Austral/NZ informal* dill

—OPPOSITES predator

■ **prey on** ① hoverfly larvae prey on aphids HUNT, catch, eat, feed on, live on/off ② they prey on the elderly EXPLOIT, victimize, pick on, take advantage of, trick, swindle, cheat, hoodwink, fleece, *informal* con ③ the problem preyed on his mind: OPPRESS, weigh (heavily) on, lie heavy on, gnaw at; trouble, worry, beset, disturb, distress, haunt, nag, torment, plague, obsess

price ► **noun** ① the purchase price COST, asking price, charge, fee, fare, levy, amount, sum, outlay, expense, expenditure, valuation, quotation, estimate, *humorous* damage ② spinsterhood was the price of her career CONSEQUENCE, result, cost, penalty, sacrifice, downside, snag, drawback, disadvantage, minus ③ he had a price on his head REWARD, bounty, premium

► **verb** a ticket is priced at £5.00 FIX/SET THE PRICE OF, cost, value, rate, estimate

■ **at a price** AT A HIGH PRICE/COST, at considerable cost, for a great deal of money

■ **at any price** WHATEVER THE PRICE, at whatever cost, no matter (what) the cost

■ **beyond price**. See PRICELESS sense 1

priceless ► **adjective** ① priceless works of art: OF INCALCULABLE VALUE/WORTH, of immeasurable value/worth, invaluable, beyond price, irreplaceable, incomparable, unparalleled ② (informal) that's priceless! See HILARIOUS sense 1

—OPPOSITES worthless, cheap

pricey ► **adjective** (informal) See EXPENSIVE

prick ► **verb** ① prick the potatoes with a fork PIERCE, puncture, make/put a hole in, stab, perforate, nick, jab ② his eyes began to prick STING, smart, burn, prickle ③ his conscience pricked him TROUBLE, worry, distress, perturb, disturb, cause someone anguish, afflict, torment, plague, prey on, gnaw at ④ ambition pricked him on to greater effort GOAD, prod, incite, provoke, urge, spur, stimulate, encourage, inspire, motivate, push, propel, impel ⑤ the horse pricked up its ears: RAISE, erect

► **noun** ① a prick in the leg JAB, sting, pinprick, stab. ② the prick of tears behind her eyelids STING, stinging, smart, smarting, burning ③ the prick of conscience PANG, twinge, stab.

■ **prick up one's ears** LISTEN CAREFULLY, pay attention, become attentive, begin to take notice, attend; *informal* be all ears; *poetic/literary* hark.

prickle ► **noun** ① the cactus is covered with prickles THORN, needle, barb, spike, point, spine, technical spicule. ② Willie felt a cold prickle of fear TINGLE, tingling (sensation), prickling sensation, chill, thrill; *Medicine* paraesthesia.

► **verb** its tiny spikes pricked his skin: STING, prick.

prickly ► **adjective** ① a prickly hedgehog: SPIKY, spiked, thorny, barbed, spiny; briary, brambly; rough, scratchy; technical spiculate, spicular, aculeate, spinose. ② my skin feels prickly: TINGLY, tingling, prickling. ③ a prickly character See IRRITABLE. ④ the prickly question of the refugees: PROBLEMATIC, awkward, ticklish, tricky, delicate, sensitive, difficult, knotty, thorny, irksome, tough, troublesome, bothersome, vexatious.

pride ► **noun** ① *their triumphs were a source of pride* SELF-ESTEEM, dignity, honour, self-respect, self-worth, self-regard, pride in oneself ② *take pride in a good job well done* PLEASURE, joy, delight, gratification, fulfilment, satisfaction, sense of achievement ③ *he refused her offer out of pride* ARROGANCE, vanity, self-importance, hubris, conceit, conceitedness, self-love, self-adulation, self-admiration, narcissism, egotism, superciliousness, haughtiness, snobbery, snobishness, *informal* big-headedness, *poetic/literary* vainglory ④ *the bull is the pride of the herd* BEST, finest, top, cream, pick, choice, prize, glory, the jewel in the crown. ⑤ *the vegetable garden was the pride of the gardener* SOURCE OF SATISFACTION, pride and joy, treasured possession, joy, delight

—OPPOSITES shame, humility

■ **pride oneself on** BE PROUD OF, be proud of oneself for, take pride in, take satisfaction in, congratulate oneself on, pat oneself on the back for, *archaic* pique oneself on/in

priest ► **noun** CLERGYMAN, CLERGYWOMAN, minister (of religion), cleric, clerk in holy orders, ecclesiastic, pastor, parson, father, curé, churchman, churchwoman, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of God, *Scottish* kirkman, *N Amer* dominie, *informal* reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot, *Austral informal* jossler, *dated* divine
See list

priestly ► **adjective** CLERICAL, pastoral, priest-like, ecclesiastical, sacerdotal, hieratic, rectorial, *archaic* vicarial

prig ► **noun** PRUDE, puritan, killjoy, Mrs Grundy, *informal* goody-goody, holy Joe, *N Amer informal* bluenose

priggish ► **adjective** SELF-RIGHTEOUS, holier-than-thou, sanctimonious, moralistic, prudish, puritanical, prim, strait-laced, stuffy, prissy, narrow-minded, *informal* goody-goody, starchy
—OPPOSITES broad-minded

prim ► **adjective** DEMURE, (prim and) proper, formal, stuffy, strait-laced, prudish, prissy, mimsy, priggish, puritanical, *Brit* po-faced, *informal* starchy

primacy ► **noun** GREATER IMPORTANCE, priority, precedence, pre-eminence, superiority, supremacy, ascendancy, dominance, dominion, leadership

prima donna ► **noun** LEADING SOPRANO, leading lady, diva, (opera) star, principal singer

primal ► **adjective** ① *primal masculine instincts* BASIC, fundamental, essential, elemental, vital, central, intrinsic, inherent. ② *the primal source of living things* ORIGINAL, initial, earliest, first, primitive, primeval

primarily ► **adverb** ① *the bishop was primarily a leader of the local community* FIRST (AND FOREMOST), firstly, essentially, in essence, fundamentally, principally, predominantly, basically ② *such work is undertaken primarily for large institutions* MOSTLY, for the most part, chiefly, mainly, in the main, on the whole, largely, to a large extent, especially, generally, usually, typically, commonly, as a rule

primary ► **adjective** ① *our primary role*: MAIN, chief, key, prime, central, principal, foremost, first, most important, predominant, paramount; *informal* number-one. ② *the primary cause*

Priests, Religious Officials, and Members of Religious Orders

ANCIENT ROMAN

augur
flamen
haruspex
oracle
pontifex
Pythia

ANCIENT CELTIC

druid
ovate

BUDDHIST

Dalai Lama
lama
Panchen Lama
pongyi
talapoin

CHRISTIAN

abess
abbott
acolyte
almoner
anchoress
anchorite
archimandrite
archbishop
archdeacon
beadle
bishop
brother
canon
canoness
cantor
cardinal
chaplain
churchwarden
confessor
curate
deacon
deaconess
dean
elder
friar
lay brother
lay sister
mendicant
minister
monk
Monsignor
mother superior
nun
nuncio
patriarch
pope
precentor
prelate
presbyter
primate
prior
prioress
rector
rural dean
seminarist/seminarian

sexton
sister
succentor
thurifer
verger
vicar
See also CHRISTIAN
RELIGIOUS ORDERS.

HINDU

rishi
Brahman
guru
mahant
panda
pandit
pujari
rishi

JEWISH

cantor
chief rabbi
hazzan
kohen/cohen
Levite
rabbi
rebbe
rebbeztzin

MUSLIM

ayatollah
caliph
fakir
Imam
muezzin
mullah
sheikh

SIKH

guru

VOODOO

houngan
mamaloi
mambo
papaloi

ZOROASTRIAN/ PARSEE

dastur
magus

GENERAL/OTHER

archpriest
cleric
hierarch
hierophant
high priest
preacher
priest
priestess
santero
witch
witch doctor

ORIGINAL, earliest, initial, first; essential, fundamental, basic

Prime Ministers of the UK

	DATES IN OFFICE		DATES IN OFFICE
Robert Walpole	1721-1742	Earl of Derby	1866-1868
Earl of Wilmington	1742-1743	Benjamin Disraeli	1868
Henry Pelham	1743-1754	William Ewart Gladstone	1868-1874
Duke of Newcastle	1754-1756	Benjamin Disraeli	1874-1880
Duke of Devonshire	1756-1757	William Ewart Gladstone	1880-1885
Duke of Newcastle	1757-1762	Marquis of Salisbury	1885-1886
Earl of Bute	1762-1763	William Ewart Gladstone	1886
George Grenville	1763-1765	Marquis of Salisbury	1886-1892
Marquis of Rockingham	1765-1766	William Ewart Gladstone	1892-1894
Earl of Chatham (Pitt the Elder)	1766-1768	Earl of Rosebery	1894-1895
Duke of Grafton	1768-1770	Marquis of Salisbury	1895-1902
Lord North	1770-1782	Arthur James Balfour	1902-1905
Marquis of Rockingham	1782	Henry Campbell-Bannerman	1905-1908
Earl of Shelburne	1782-1783	Herbert Henry Asquith	1908-1915
Duke of Portland	1783	Herbert Henry Asquith	1915-1916
William Pitt (Pitt the Younger)	1783-1801	David Lloyd George	1916-1922
Henry Addington	1801-1804	Andrew Bonar Law	1922-1923
William Pitt (Pitt the Younger)	1804-1807	Stanley Baldwin	1923-1924
Lord William Grenville	1806-1807	James Ramsay MacDonald	1924
Duke of Portland	1807-1809	Stanley Baldwin	1924-1929
Spencer Perceval	1809-1812	James Ramsay MacDonald	1929-1931
Earl of Liverpool	1812-1827	James Ramsay MacDonald	1931-1935
George Canning	1827	Stanley Baldwin	1935-1937
Viscount Goderich	1827-1828	Neville Chamberlain	1937-1940
Duke of Wellington	1828-1830	Winston Spencer Churchill	1940-1945
Earl Grey	1830-1834	Clement Attlee	1945-1951
Viscount Melbourne	1834	Winston Spencer Churchill	1951-1955
Robert Peel	1834-1835	Anthony Eden	1955-1957
Viscount Melbourne	1835-1841	Harold Macmillan	1957-1963
Robert Peel	1841-1846	Alec Douglas-Home	1963-1964
Lord John Russell	1846-1852	Harold Wilson	1964-1970
Earl of Derby	1852	Edward Heath	1970-1974
Earl of Aberdeen	1852-1855	Harold Wilson	1974-1976
Viscount Palmerston	1855-1858	James Callaghan	1976-1979
Earl of Derby	1858-1859	Margaret Thatcher	1979-1990
Viscount Palmerston	1859-1865	John Major	1990-1997
Earl Russell	1865-1866	Tony Blair	from 1997

—OPPOSITES secondary

prime¹ ▶ **adjective** ① *his prime reason for leaving* MAIN, chief, key, primary, central, principal, foremost, first, most important, paramount, major, *informal* number-one ② *the prime cause of flooding* FUNDAMENTAL, basic, essential, primary, central ③ *prime agricultural land* TOP-QUALITY, top, best, first-class, first-rate, grade A, superior, supreme, choice, select, finest, excellent, superb, fine, *informal* tip-top, A1, top-notch ④ *a prime example* ARCHETYPAL, prototypical, typical, classic, excellent, characteristic, quintessential

—OPPOSITES secondary, inferior

▶ **noun** *he is in his prime* HEYDAY, best days/years, prime of one's life, youth, salad days, peak, pinnacle, high point/spot, zenith

prime² ▶ **verb** ① *he primed the gun* PREPARE, load, get ready ② *Lucy had primed him carefully* BRIEF, fill in, prepare, put in the picture, inform, advise, instruct, coach, drill, *informal* clue in, give someone the low-down

prime minister ▶ **noun** PREMIER, first minister, head of the government, *Bnt* First Lord of the Treasury *See list*

primeval ▶ **adjective** ① *primeval forest* ANCIENT, earliest, first, prehistoric, antediluvian, primordial, pristine, original, virgin ② *primeval fears*

INSTINCTIVE, primitive, basic, primal, primordial, intuitive, inborn, innate, inherent

primitive ▶ **adjective** ① *primitive times* ANCIENT, earliest, first, prehistoric, antediluvian, primordial, primeval, primal ② *primitive peoples* UNCIVILIZED, barbarian, barbaric, barbarous, savage, ignorant, uncultivated ③ *primitive tools* CRUDE, simple, rough (and ready), basic, rudimentary, unrefined, unsophisticated, rude, makeshift ④ *primitive art* SIMPLE, natural, unsophisticated, unaffected, undeveloped, unpretentious —OPPOSITES sophisticated, civilized

primordial ▶ **adjective** ① *the primordial oceans* ANCIENT, earliest, first, prehistoric, antediluvian, primeval ② *their primordial desires* INSTINCTIVE, primitive, basic, primal, primeval, intuitive, inborn, innate, inherent

primp ▶ **verb** GROOM, tidy, arrange, brush, comb; smarten (up), spruce up, *informal* titivate, doll up, *Bnt informal* tart up, *N Amer informal* gussy up

prince ▶ **noun** RULER, sovereign, monarch, king, princeling, crown prince, emir, sheikh, sultan, maharaja, raja

princely ▶ **adjective** ① *princely buildings* *See* SPLENDID sense 1 ② *a princely sum* *See* HAND SOME sense 3



principal ▶ **adjective** *the principal cause of poor air quality* MAIN, chief, primary, leading, foremost, first, most important, predominant, dominant, (most) prominent, key, crucial, vital, essential, basic, prime, central, focal, premier, paramount, major, overriding, cardinal, pre-eminent, uppermost, highest, top, topmost, *informal* number-one

—OPPOSITES minor

▶ **noun** ① *the principal of the firm* CHIEF, chief executive (officer), CEO, chairman, chairwoman, managing director, MD, president, director, manager, head, *informal* boss, *Brit informal* gaffer, governor ② *the school's principal* HEAD (TEACHER), headmaster, headmistress, dean, rector, chancellor, vice-chancellor, president, provost, *N Amer informal* prexy ③ *a principal in a soap opera* LEADING ACTOR ACTRESS, leading player/performer, leading role, lead, star ④ *repayment of the principal* CAPITAL (SUM), debt, loan

principally ▶ **adverb** MAINLY, mostly, chiefly, for the most part, in the main, on the whole, largely, to a large extent, predominantly, basically, primarily

principle ▶ **noun** ① *elementary principles* TRUTH, proposition, concept, idea, theory, assumption, fundamental, essential ② *the principle of laissez-faire* DOCTRINE, belief, creed, credo, (golden) rule, criterion, tenet, code, ethic, dictum, canon, law ③ *a woman of principle | sticking to one's principles* MORALS, morality, (code of) ethics, beliefs, ideals, standards, integrity, uprightness, righteousness, virtue, probity, (sense of) honour, decency, conscience, scruples

■ **in principle** ① *there is no reason, in principle, why we couldn't work together* IN THEORY, theoretically, on paper ② *he has accepted the idea in principle* IN GENERAL, in essence, on the whole, in the main

principled ▶ **adjective** MORAL, ethical, virtuous, righteous, upright, upstanding, high-minded, honourable, honest, incorruptible

prink ▶ **verb** GROOM, tidy, arrange, smarten (up), spruce up, preen, pimp, *informal* titivate, doll up, *Brit informal* tait up, *N Amer informal* gussy up

print ▶ **verb** ① *four newspapers are printed in the town* SET IN PRINT, send to press, run off, reprint ② *patterns were printed on the cloth* IM PRINT, impress, stamp, mark ③ *they printed 30,000 copies* PUBLISH, issue, release, circulate ④ *the incident is printed on her memory* REGISTER, record, impress, imprint, engrave, etch, stamp, mark

▶ **noun** ① *small print* TYPE, printing, letters, lettering, characters, type size, typeface, font ② *prints of his left hand* IMPRESSION, fingerprint, footprint ③ *sporting prints* PICTURE, design, engraving, etching, lithograph, linocut, woodcut ④ *prints and negatives* PHOTOGRAPH, photo, snap, snapshot, picture, still, *Brit* enprint ⑤ *soft floral prints* PRINTED CLOTH/FABRIC, patterned cloth/fabric, chintz

■ **in print** PUBLISHED, printed, available in bookshops

■ **out of print** NO LONGER AVAILABLE, unavailable, unobtainable

prior ▶ **adjective** *by prior arrangement* EARLIER, previous, preceding, foregoing, antecedent, advance; *formal* anterior

—OPPOSITES subsequent

■ **prior to** BEFORE, until, till, up to, previous to, earlier than, preceding, leading up to, *formal* anterior to

priority ▶ **noun** ① *safety is our priority* PRIME CONCERN, most important consideration, primary issue ② *giving priority to primary education* PRECEDENCE, greater importance, preference, pre-eminence, predominance, primacy, first place ③ *traffic on the roundabout has priority* RIGHT OF WAY

priory ▶ **noun** RELIGIOUS HOUSE, abbey, cloister, monastery, friary, convent, nunnery

prise ▶ **verb** ① *I prised the lid off* LEVER, jemmy, wrench, wrest, twist, *N Amer* pry, jimmy ② *he had to prise information from them* WRING, wrest, worm out, wrinkle out, screw, squeeze, extract

prison ▶ **noun** JAIL, lock-up, penal institution, detention centre, *Brit* young offender institution, *N Amer* jailhouse, penitentiary, correctional facility, *informal* clink, cooler, slammer, stir, jug, bug, *Brit informal* nuck, *N Amer informal* can, pen, pokey, slam, *Brit informal, dated* chokey, quod, *Brit historical* approved school, horstal, bidewell, *Brit Military* glasshouse, (be in prison) *informal* be inside, be behind bars, do time, *Brit informal* do bird, do porridge

—RELATED TERMS custodial

prisoner ▶ **noun** ① *a prisoner serving a life sentence* CONVICT, detainee, inmate, *informal* jailbird, con, *Brit informal* (old) lag, *N Amer informal* yardbird ② *the army took many prisoners* PRISONER OF WAR, POW, internee, captive

prissy ▶ **adjective** PRUDISH, priggish, prim, prim and proper, strait-laced, Victorian, old-maidish, schoolmistressy, schoolmarmish, *Brit* po-faced, *informal* starchy

—OPPOSITES broad-minded

pristine ▶ **adjective** IMMACULATE, perfect, in mint condition, as new, unspoilt, spotless, flawless, clean, fresh new, virgin, pure, unused

—OPPOSITES dirty, spoilt

privacy ▶ **noun** SECLUSION solitude, isolation, freedom from disturbance, freedom from interference

private ▶ **adjective** ① *his private plane* PERSONAL, own, individual, special, exclusive, privately owned ② *private talks* CONFIDENTIAL, secret, classified, unofficial, off the record, closet in camera, backstage, privileged, one-on-one, tête-à-tête ③ *private thoughts* INTIMATE, personal, secret, innermost, undisclosed, unspoken, unvoiced ④ *a very private man* RESERVED, introvert, introverted, self-contained, reticent, discreet, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, retiring, unsociable, withdrawn, solitary, reclusive, hermitic ⑤ *they found a private place in which to talk* SECLUDED, solitary, undisturbed, concealed, hidden, remote, isolated, out of the way, sequestered ⑥ *we can be private here* UNDISTURBED, uninterrupted, alone, by ourselves ⑦ *the Queen attended in a private capacity* UNOFFICIAL, personal ⑧ *private industry* INDEPENDENT, non-state, privatized, denationalized, commercial, private-enterprise

—OPPOSITES public, open, extrovert, busy, crowded, official, state, nationalized

▶ **noun** *a private in the army* PRIVATE SOLDIER, common soldier, trooper, *Brit* sapper, gunner, ranker, *US* GI, *Brit informal* Tommy, squaddie



■ **in private** IN SECRET, secretly, privately, behind closed doors, in camera, à huis clos, in confidence, confidentially, between ourselves, entre nous, off the record, *formal sub rosa*

private detective ► **noun** PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR, *Brit* enquiry agent, *informal* private eye, PI, sleuth, snoop, *N Amer informal* shamus, gumshoe, *informal, dated* private dick

privately ► **adverb** ① we must talk *privately* IN SECRET, secretly, in private, behind closed doors, in camera, à huis clos, in confidence, confidentially, between ourselves, entre nous, off the record, *formal sub rosa* ② *privately*, I am glad SECRETLY, inwardly, deep down, personally, unofficially ③ he lived very *privately* OUT OF THE PUBLIC EYE, out of public view, in seclusion, in solitude, alone
-OPPOSITES publicly

privation ► **noun** DEPRIVATION, hardship, destitution, impoverishment, want, need, neediness, austerity
-OPPOSITES plenty, luxury

privilege ► **noun** ① senior pupils have certain *privileges* ADVANTAGE, benefit, prerogative, entitlement, right, concession, freedom, liberty ② it was a *privilege* to meet her HONOUR, pleasure ③ parliamentary *privilege* IMMUNITY, exemption, dispensation

privileged ► **adjective** ① a *privileged* background WEALTHY, rich, affluent, prosperous, LUCKY, fortunate, elite, favoured, (socially) advantaged ② *privileged* information CONFIDENTIAL, private, secret, restricted, classified, not for publication, off the record, inside, *informal* hush-hush ③ MPs are *privileged* IMMUNE (FROM PROSECUTION), protected, exempt, excepted
-OPPOSITES underprivileged, disadvantaged, public, liable

privy ► **adjective** he was not *privy* to the discussions IN THE KNOW ABOUT, acquainted with, in on, informed of, advised of, apprised of, *informal* genned up on, clued up on, wise to, *formal* cognizant of

► **noun** he went out to the *privy* See TOILET sense 1

prize ► **noun** ① an art *prize* AWARD, reward, premium, purse, trophy, medal, honour, accolade, crown, laurels, palm. ② the *prizes* of war SPOILS, booty, plunder, loot, pickings

► **adjective** ① a *prize* bull CHAMPION, award-winning, prize-winning, winning, top, best ② a *prize* example OUTSTANDING, excellent, superlative, superb, supreme, very good, prime, fine, magnificent, marvellous, wonderful, *informal* great, terrific, tremendous, fantastic ③ a *prize* idiot. UTTER, complete, total, absolute, real, perfect, positive, veritable, *Brit informal* right, bloody; *Austral/NZ informal* fair
-OPPOSITES second-rate

► **verb** many collectors *prize* his work VALUE, set great store by, rate highly, attach great importance to, esteem, hold in high regard, think highly of, treasure, cherish

prized ► **adjective** TREASURED, precious, cherished, much loved, beloved, valued, esteemed, highly regarded.

prizewinner ► **noun** CHAMPION, winner, gold medallist, victor; *informal* champ, number one.

probability ► **noun** ① the *probability* of winning LIKELIHOOD, prospect, expectation, chance, chances, odds ② *relegation* is a distinct *probability*

ity PROBABLE EVENT, prospect, possibility, good/fair/reasonable bet

probable ► **adjective** LIKELY, most likely, odds-on, expected, anticipated, predictable, foreseeable, ten to one, *informal* on the cards, a good/fair/reasonable bet

-OPPOSITES unlikely

probably ► **adverb** IN ALL LIKELIHOOD, in all probability, as like(ly) as not, (very/most) likely, ten to one, the chances are, doubtless, no doubt, *archaic* like enough

probation ► **noun** TRIAL PERIOD, test period, experimental period, trial

probe ► **noun** a *probe* into an air crash INVESTIGATION, enquiry, examination, inquest, exploration, study, analysis

► **verb** ① hands *probed* his body EXAMINE, feel, feel around, explore, prod, poke, check ② *police probed* the tragedy INVESTIGATE, enquire into, look into, study, examine, scrutinize, go into, carry out an inquest into

probity ► **noun** INTEGRITY, honesty, uprightness, decency, morality, rectitude, goodness, virtue, right-mindedness, trustworthiness, truthfulness, honour

-OPPOSITES untrustworthiness

problem ► **noun** ① they ran into a *problem* DIFFICULTY, trouble, worry, complication, difficult situation, snag, hitch, drawback, stumbling block, obstacle, hurdle, hiccup, setback, catch, predicament, plight, misfortune, mishap, misadventure, *informal* dilemma, headache, prob, facer ② I don't want to be a *problem* NUISANCE, bother, pest, irritant, thorn in one's side/flesh, vexation, *informal* drag, pain, pain in the neck ③ *arithmetical problems* PUZZLE, question, poser, enigma, riddle, conundrum, *informal* teaser, brain-teaser

► **adjective** a *problem* child TROUBLESOME, difficult, unmanageable, unruly, disobedient, uncontrollable, recalcitrant, delinquent

-OPPOSITES well behaved, manageable

problematic ► **adjective** DIFFICULT, hard, taxing, troublesome, tricky, awkward, controversial, ticklish, complicated, complex, knotty, thorny, prickly, vexed, *informal* sticky, *Brit informal* dodgy

-OPPOSITES easy, simple, straightforward

procedure ► **noun** COURSE OF ACTION, line of action, policy, series of steps, method, system, strategy, way, approach, formula, mechanism, methodology, MO (modus operandi), technique, routine, drill, practice

proceed ► **verb** ① she was uncertain how to *proceed* BEGIN, make a start, get going, move, set something in motion, TAKE ACTION, act, go on, go ahead, make progress, make headway ② he *proceeded* down the road GO, make one's way, advance, move, progress, carry on, press on, push on ③ we should *proceed* with the talks GO AHEAD, carry on, go on, continue, keep on, get on, get ahead, pursue, prosecute ④ there is not enough evidence to *proceed* against him TAKE SOMEONE TO COURT, start/take proceedings against, start an action against, sue. ⑤ all power *proceeds* from God ORIGINATE, spring, stem, come, derive, arise, issue, flow, emanate

-OPPOSITES stop.

proceedings ► **plural noun** ① the evening's *proceedings* EVENTS, activities, happenings, goings-

on, doings ② *the proceedings of the meeting* REPORT, transactions, minutes, account, record(s), annals, archives ③ *legal proceedings* LEGAL ACTION, court/judicial proceedings, litigation, lawsuit, case, prosecution

proceeds ► **plural noun** PROFITS, earnings, receipts, returns, takings, income, revenue, Sport gate (money/receipts), *N Amer* take

process ► **noun** ① *investigation is a long process* PROCEDURE, operation, action, activity, exercise, affair, business, job, task, undertaking ② *a new canning process* METHOD, system, technique, means, practice, way, approach, methodology

► **verb** *applications are processed rapidly* DEAL WITH, attend to, see to, sort out, handle, take care of, action

■ **In the process of** IN THE MIDDLE OF, in the course of, in the midst of, in the throes of, busy with, occupied in/with, taken up with/by, involved in

procession ► **noun** ① *a procession through the town* PARADE, march, march past, cavalcade, motorcade, cortège, column, file, train ② *a procession of dance routines* SERIES, succession, stream, string, sequence, run

proclaim ► **verb** ① *messengers proclaimed the good news* DECLARE, announce, pronounce, state, make known, give out, advertise, publish, broadcast, promulgate, trumpet, blazon ② *the men proclaimed their innocence* ASSERT, declare, profess, maintain, protest ③ *he proclaimed himself president* DECLARE, pronounce, announce ④ *cheap paint soon proclaims its cheapness* DEMONSTRATE, indicate, show, reveal, manifest, betray, testify to, signify

proclamation ► **noun** DECLARATION, announcement, pronouncement, statement, notification, publication, broadcast, promulgation, blazoning, assertion, profession, protestation, DECREE, order, edict, ruling

proclivity ► **noun** INCLINATION, tendency, leaning, disposition, proneness, propensity, bent, bias, penchant, predisposition, predilection, partiality, liking, preference, taste, fondness, weakness

procrastinate ► **verb** DELAY, put off doing something, postpone action, defer action, be dilatory, use delaying tactics, stall, temporize, drag one's feet/heels, take one's time, play for time, play a waiting game

procreate ► **verb** PRODUCE OFFSPRING, reproduce, multiply, propagate, breed

procure ► **verb** ① *he managed to procure a coat* OBTAIN, acquire, get, find, come by, secure, pick up, buy, purchase, *informal* get hold of, get one's hands on ② *the police found that he was procuring PIMP*, *Brit informal* ponce

prod ► **verb** ① *Cassie prodded him in the chest* POKE, jab, dig, elbow, butt, stab ② *they hoped to prod the government into action*: SPUR, stimulate, stir, rouse, prompt, drive, galvanize; persuade, urge, chivvy, incite, goad, egg on, provoke

► **noun** ① *a prod in the ribs* POKE, jab, dig, elbow, butt, thrust. ② *they need a prod to get them to do act*, STIMULUS, push, prompt, reminder, spur, incitement, goad.

prodigal ► **adjective** ① *prodigal habits die hard* WASTEFUL, extravagant, spendthrift, profligate, imprudent. ② *a composer who is prodigal with his talents*: GENEROUS, lavish, lib-

eral, unstinting, unsparing; *poetic/literary* bounteous ③ *a dessert prodigal with whipped cream* ABOUNDING IN, abundant in, rich in, covered in, awash with

—OPPOSITES thrifty, mean, deficient

prodigious ► **adjective** ENORMOUS, huge, colossal, immense, vast, great, massive, gigantic, mammoth, tremendous, inordinate, monumental, amazing, astonishing, astounding, staggering, stunning, remarkable, phenomenal, terrific, miraculous, impressive, striking, startling, sensational, spectacular, extraordinary, exceptional, breathtaking, incredible, *informal* humongous, stupendous, fantastic, fabulous, mega, awesome, *Brit informal* ginormous, *poetic/literary* wondrous

—OPPOSITES small, unexceptional

prodigy ► **noun** ① *a seven-year-old prodigy* GENIUS, mastermind, virtuoso, wunderkind, wonder child, *informal* whizz-kid, whizz, wizard ② *Germany seemed a prodigy of industrial discipline* MODEL, classic example, paragon, paradigm, epitome, exemplar, archetype

produce ► **verb** ① *the company produces furniture* MANUFACTURE, make, construct, build, fabricate, put together, assemble, turn out, create, mass-produce, *informal* churn out ② *the vineyards produce excellent wines* YIELD, grow, give, supply, provide, furnish, bear, bring forth ③ *she produced ten puppies* GIVE BIRTH TO, bear, deliver, bring forth, bring into the world ④ *he produced five novels* CREATE, originate, fashion, turn out, compose, write, pen, paint ⑤ *she produced an ID card* PULL OUT, extract, fish out, present, offer, proffer, show ⑥ *no evidence was produced* PRESENT, offer, provide, furnish, advance, put forward, bring forward, come up with ⑦ *that will produce a reaction* GIVE RISE TO, bring about, cause, occasion, generate, engender, lead to, result in, effect, induce, set off, provoke, precipitate, breed, spark off, trigger, *poetic/literary* beget ⑧ *James produced the play* STAGE, put on, mount, present

—RELATED TERMS -facient, -genic

► **noun** *fresh produce* FOOD, foodstuff(s), products, harvest, crops, fruit, vegetables, greens, *Brit* greengrocery

producer ► **noun** ① *a car producer* MANUFACTURER, maker, builder, constructor, fabricator ② *coffee producers* GROWER, farmer ③ *the producer of the show* IMPRESARIO, manager, administrator, promoter, regisseur

product ► **noun** ① *a household product* ARTEFACT, commodity, manufactured article, creation, invention, (products) goods, wares, merchandise, produce ② *his skill is a product of experience* RESULT, consequence, outcome, effect, upshot, fruit, by-product, spin-off

production ► **noun** ① *the production of cars* MANUFACTURE, making, construction, building, fabrication, assembly, creation; mass-production. ② *the production of literary works* CREATION, origination, fashioning, composition, writing. ③ *literary productions* WORK, opus, creation; publication, composition, piece; work of art, painting, picture. ④ *agricultural production*: OUTPUT, yield; productivity. ⑤ *admission only on production of a ticket*: PRESENTATION, proffering, showing ⑥ *a theatre production*: PERFORMANCE, staging, presentation, show, piece, play.

productive ▶ **adjective** ① *a productive artist* PROLIFIC, inventive, creative, energetic ② *productive talks* USEFUL, constructive, profitable, fruitful, gainful, valuable, effective, worthwhile, helpful ③ *productive land* FERTILE, fruitful, rich, fecund
—OPPOSITES sterile, barren

productivity ▶ **noun** ① *workers have boosted productivity* EFFICIENCY, work rate, output, yield, production ② *the productivity of the soil* FRUITFULNESS, fertility, richness, fecundity
—OPPOSITES sterility, barrenness

profane ▶ **adjective** ① *subjects both sacred and profane* SECULAR, lay, non-religious, temporal, formal laic ② *a profane man* IRREVERENT, irreligious, ungodly, godless, unbelieving, impious, disrespectful, sacrilegious ③ *profane language* OBSCENE, blasphemous, indecent, foul, vulgar, crude, filthy, dirty, smutty, coarse, rude, offensive, indecorous
—OPPOSITES religious, sacred, reverent, decorous

▶ **verb** *invaders profaned our temples* DESECRATE, violate, defile, treat sacrilegiously

profanity ▶ **noun** ① *he hissed a profanity* | *an outburst of profanity* OATH, swear word, expletive, curse, obscenity, four-letter word, dirty word, blasphemy, swearing, foul language, bad language, cursing, *informal* cuss, cuss word, *formal* imprecation, *archaic* execration ② *some traditional festivals were tainted with profanity* SACRILEGE, blasphemy, irreligion, ungodliness, impiety, irreverence, disrespect

profess ▶ **verb** ① *he professed his love* DECLARE, announce, proclaim, assert, state, affirm, avow, maintain, protest, *formal* aver ② *she professed to loathe publicity* CLAIM, pretend, purport, affect, make out, *informal* let on ③ *the Emperor professed Christianity* AFFIRM ONE'S FAITH IN, affirm one's allegiance to, avow, confess

professed ▶ **adjective** ① *his professed ambition* CLAIMED, supposed, ostensible, self-styled, apparent, pretended, purported ② *a professed Christian* DECLARED, self-acknowledged, self-confessed, confessed, sworn, avowed, confirmed

profession ▶ **noun** ① *his chosen profession of teaching* CAREER, occupation, calling, vocation, métier, line (of work), walk of life, job, business, trade, craft, *informal* racket ② *a profession of allegiance* DECLARATION, affirmation, statement, announcement, proclamation, assertion, avowal, vow, claim, protestation, *formal* averment

professional ▶ **adjective** ① *people in professional occupations* WHITE-COLLAR, non-manual ② *a professional cricketer* PAID, salaried ③ *a thoroughly professional performance* EXPERT, accomplished, skilful, masterly, masterful, fine, polished, skilled, proficient, competent, able, experienced, practised, trained, seasoned, business like, deft, *informal* ace, crack, top-notch ④ *not a professional way to behave* APPROPRIATE, fitting, proper, honourable, ethical, correct, comme il faut
—OPPOSITES manual, amateur, amateurish, inappropriate, unethical

▶ **noun** ① *affluent young professionals* WHITE-COLLAR WORKER, office worker ② *his first season as a professional* PROFESSIONAL PLAYER, paid player, salaried player, *informal* pro ③ *she was a real professional on stage* EXPERT, virtuoso, old hand, master, maestro, past master, *informal* pro, ace,

wizard, whizz, hotshot, *Brit informal* dab hand, *N Amer informal* maven, crackerjack

—OPPOSITES manual worker, amateur

professor ▶ **noun** holder of a chair, head of faculty, head of department, *N Amer* full professor, *informal* prof

proffer ▶ **verb** OFFER, tender, submit, extend, volunteer, suggest, propose, put forward, hold out

—OPPOSITES refuse, withdraw

proficiency ▶ **noun** SKILL, expertise, experience, accomplishment, competence, mastery, prowess, professionalism, deftness, adroitness, dexterity, finesse, ability, facility, *informal* know-how

—OPPOSITES incompetence

proficient ▶ **adjective** SKILLED, skilful, expert, experienced, accomplished, competent, masterly, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, professional, consummate, complete, master, *informal* crack, ace, mean

—OPPOSITES incompetent

profile ▶ **noun** ① *his handsome profile* SIDE VIEW, outline, silhouette, contour, shape, form, figure, lines ② *she wrote a profile of the organization* DESCRIPTION, account, study, portrait, portrayal, depiction, rundown, sketch, outline

▶ **verb** *he was profiled in the Irish Times* DESCRIBE, write about, give an account of, portray, depict, sketch, outline

■ **keep a low profile** LIE LOW, keep quiet, keep out of the public eye, avoid publicity, keep out of sight

profit ▶ **noun** ① *the firm made a profit* (FINANCIAL) GAIN, return(s), yield, proceeds, earnings, winnings, surplus, excess, *informal* pay dirt, bottom line ② *there was little profit in going on* ADVANTAGE, benefit, value, use, good, avail, *informal* mileage

—OPPOSITES loss, disadvantage

▶ **verb** ① *the company will not profit from the disposal* MAKE MONEY, make a profit, *informal* take it in, clean up, make a packet, make a killing, make a bundle, *N Amer informal* make big bucks, make a fast/quick buck ② *how will that profit us?* BENEFIT, be beneficial to, be of benefit to, be advantageous to, be of advantage to, be of use to, be of value to, do someone good, help, be of service to, serve, assist, aid

—OPPOSITES lose, disadvantage

■ **profit by/from** BENEFIT FROM, take advantage of, derive benefit from, capitalize on, make the most of, turn to one's advantage, put to good use, do well out of, exploit, gain from, *informal* cash in on

profitable ▶ **adjective** ① *a profitable company* MONEYMAKING, profit-making, commercial, successful, money-spinning, solvent, in the black, gainful, remunerative, financially rewarding, paying, lucrative, bankable ② *profitable study* BENEFICIAL, useful, advantageous, valuable, productive, worthwhile, rewarding, fruitful, illuminating, informative, well spent
—OPPOSITES loss-making, fruitless, useless

profiteer ▶ **verb** *a shopkeeper was charged with profiteering* OVERCHARGE, racketeer, cheat someone, fleece someone, *informal* rip someone off, rob someone

▶ **noun** *he was a war profiteer* RACKETEER, exploiter, black marketeer; *informal* bloodsucker

profligate ▶ **adjective** ① *profligate local authorities* WASTEFUL, extravagant, spendthrift, improvident, prodigal ② *a profligate lifestyle* DISOLUTE, degenerate, dissipated, debauched, corrupt, depraved, PROMISCUOUS, loose, wanton, licentious, libertine, decadent, abandoned, fast, SYBARITIC, voluptuary

—OPPOSITES thrifty, frugal, moral, upright

▶ **noun** *he was an out-and-out profligate* LIBERTINE, debauchee, degenerate, dissolute, roué, rake, loose-liver, sybarite, voluptuary, *dated* rip

profound ▶ **adjective** ① *profound relief* HEART FELT, intense, keen, great, extreme, acute, severe, sincere, earnest, deep, deep-seated, overpowering, overwhelming, fervent, ardent ② *profound silence* COMPLETE, utter, total, absolute ③ *a profound change* FAR-REACHING, radical, extensive, sweeping, exhaustive, thoroughgoing ④ *a profound analysis* WISE, learned, clever, intelligent, scholarly, sage, erudite, discerning, penetrating, perceptive, astute, thoughtful, insightful, perceptive, perspicacious, formal sapient ⑤ *profound truths* COMPLEX, abstract, deep, weighty, difficult, abstruse, recondite, esoteric

—OPPOSITES superficial, mild, slight, simple

profuse ▶ **adjective** ① *profuse apologies* COPIOUS, prolific, abundant, liberal, unstinting, fulsome, effusive, extravagant, lavish, gushing, *informal* over the top, gushy ② *profuse blooms* LUXURANT plentiful, copious, abundant, lush, rich, exuberant, riotous, teeming, rank, rampant, *informal* jungly

—OPPOSITES meagre, sparse

profusion ▶ **noun** ABUNDANCE, mass, host, cornucopia, riot, plethora, superabundance, *informal* sea, wealth, *formal* plenitude

progenitor ▶ **noun** ① *the progenitor of an illustrious family* ANCESTOR, forefather, forebear, parent, primogenitor, *Law strips, archaic* begetter ② *the progenitor of modern jazz* ORIGINATOR, creator, founder, architect, inventor, pioneer

progeny ▶ **noun** OFFSPRING, young, babies, children, sons and daughters, family, brood, DESCENDANTS, heirs, scions, *Law issue, archaic* seed, fruit of one's loins

prognosis ▶ **noun** FORECAST, prediction, prognostication, prophecy, divination, augury

prognosticate ▶ **verb** FORECAST, predict, prophesy, foretell, foresee, forewarn of

prognostication ▶ **noun** PREDICTION, forecast, prophecy, prognosis, divination, augury

programme ▶ **noun** ① *our programme for the day* SCHEDULE, agenda, calendar, timetable, order of events, line-up ② *the government's reform programme* SCHEME, plan of action, series of measures, strategy ③ *a television programme* BROADCAST, production, show, presentation, transmission, performance, telecast, *informal* prog ④ *a programme of study* COURSE, syllabus, curriculum ⑤ *a theatre programme* GUIDE, list of performers, *N Amer* playbill

▶ **verb** *they programmed the day well* ARRANGE, organize, schedule, plan, map out, timetable, line up, *N Amer* slate

progress ▶ **noun** ① *boulders made progress* difficult FORWARD MOVEMENT, advance, going, progression, headway, passage ② *scientific progress* DEVELOPMENT, advance, advancement, headway,

step(s) forward, improvement, betterment, growth

—OPPOSITES relapse

▶ **verb** ① *they progressed slowly down the road* GO, make one's way, move, move forward, go forward, proceed, advance, go on, continue, make headway, work one's way ② *the school has progressed rapidly* DEVELOP, make progress, advance, make headway, take steps forward, move on, get on, gain ground, improve, get better, come on, come along, make strides, thrive, prosper, blossom, flourish, *informal* be getting there

—OPPOSITES relapse

■ **In progress** UNDER WAY, going on, ongoing, happening, occurring, taking place, proceeding, continuing, unfinished, on the stocks, *N Amer* in the works

progression ▶ **noun** ① *progression to the next stage* PROGRESS, advancement, movement, pass, sage, march, development, evolution, growth ② *a progression of peaks on the graph* SUCCESSION, series, sequence, string, stream, chain, concatenation, train, row, cycle

progressive ▶ **adjective** ① *progressive deterioration* CONTINUING, continuous, increasing, growing, developing, ongoing, accelerating, escalating, gradual, step-by-step, cumulative ② *progressive views* MODERN, liberal, advanced, forward-thinking, enlightened, enterprising, innovative, pioneering, dynamic, bold, avant-garde, reforming, reformist, radical, *informal* go-ahead

—OPPOSITES conservative, reactionary

▶ **noun** *he is very much a progressive* INNOVATOR, reformer, reformist, liberal, libertarian

prohibit ▶ **verb** ① *state law prohibits gambling* FORBID, ban, bar, interdict, proscribe, make illegal, embargo, outlaw, disallow, veto, *Law* enjoin ② *a cash shortage prohibited the visit* PREVENT, stop, rule out, preclude, make impossible

—OPPOSITES allow

prohibited ▶ **adjective** FORBIDDEN, verboten, taboo, illegal, illicit, against the law, *Islam* haram, *informal* not on, out, no go, *formal* non licet See also PROHIBIT

—OPPOSITES permitted

prohibition ▶ **noun** ① *the prohibition of cannabis* BANNING, forbidding, prohibiting, harring, debairment, vetoing, proscription, interdiction, outlawing ② *a prohibition was imposed* BAN, bar, interdict, veto, embargo, injunction, moratorium

prohibitive ▶ **adjective** ① *prohibitive costs* EXCESSIVELY HIGH, sky-high, over-inflated, out of the question, beyond one's means, extortionate, unreasonable, exorbitant, *informal* steep, criminal ② *prohibitive regulations* PROSCRIPTIVE, prohibitory, restrictive, repressive

project ▶ **noun** ① *an engineering project* SCHEME, plan, programme, enterprise, undertaking, venture, proposal, idea, concept ② *a history project* ASSIGNMENT, piece of work, piece of research, task

▶ **verb** ① *profits are projected to rise* FORECAST, predict, expect, estimate, calculate, reckon. ② *his projected book* INTEND, plan, propose, devise, design, outline ③ *balconies projected over the lake* STICK OUT, jut (out), protrude, extend, stand out, bulge out, poke out, thrust out, cantilever



④ seeds are projected from the tree PROPEL, discharge, launch, throw, cast, fling, hurl, shoot
 ⑤ the sun projected his shadow on the wall CAST, throw, send, shed, shine
 ⑥ she tried to project a calm image CONVEY, put across, put over, communicate, present, promote

projectile ► noun MISSILE See list

Projectiles and Projectile Weapons

See also BOMB, BULLET, GUN.

PROJECTILES		
arrow	javelin	bazooka
asagai	jerid	blowpipe
bolas	klerie	bow
bolt	missile	catapult
boomerang	mortar	crossbow
brinny	bomb/shell	gun
bullet	pellet	harpoon gun
cruise	rocket	longbow
missile	shrapnel	mangonel
dart	shuriken	missile
flare	spear	launcher
Rechette	star shell	mortar
flying bomb	torpedo	rail gun
guided	woomera	rocket
missile	PROJECTILE	launcher
harpoon	WEAPONS	sling
heat-seeking	arbalest	trebuchet
missile	ballista	

projecting ► adjective STICKING OUT, protuberant, protruding, prominent, jutting, overhanging, proud, bulging, *informal* sticky-out
 —OPPOSITES sunken, flush

projection ► noun ① a sales projection FORECAST, prediction, prognosis, expectation, estimate ② tiny projections on the cliff face PROTUBERANCE, protrusion, sticking-out bit, prominence, eminence, outcrop, outgrowth, jut, jag, snag, overhang, ledge, shelf, *informal* sticky-out, bit

proletarian ► adjective a proletarian background WORKING-CLASS, plebeian, cloth-cap, common

—OPPOSITES aristocratic

► noun disaffected proletarians WORKING-CLASS PERSON, worker, plebeian, commoner, man/woman/person in the street; *derogatory* prole
 —OPPOSITES aristocrat

proletariat ► noun THE WORKERS, working-class people, wage-earners, the labouring classes, the common people, the lower classes, the masses, the commonalty, the rank and file, the third estate, the plebeians, *derogatory* the hoi polloi, the plebs, the proles, the great unwashed, the mob, the rabble
 —OPPOSITES aristocracy

proliferate ► verb INCREASE RAPIDLY, grow rapidly, multiply, rocket, mushroom, snowball, burgeon, run riot
 —OPPOSITES decrease, dwindle

prolific ► adjective ① a prolific crop of tomatoes PLENTIFUL, abundant, bountiful, profuse, copious, luxuriant, rich, lush; fruitful, fecund, poetic/literary plenteous, bounteous. ② a prolific composer PRODUCTIVE, creative, inventive, fertile.

prolix ► adjective LONG-WINDED, verbose, wordy, pleonastic, discursive, rambling, long-drawn-out, overlong, lengthy, protracted, interminable, *informal* windy; *Brit informal* waffly

prologue ► noun INTRODUCTION, foreword, preface, preamble, prelude, *informal* intro, *formal* exordium, proem, prolegomenon
 —OPPOSITES epilogue

prolong ► verb LENGTHEN, extend, draw out, drag out, protract, spin out, stretch out, string out, elongate, carry on, continue, keep up, perpetuate
 —OPPOSITES shorten

promenade ► noun ① the tree-lined promenade ESPLANADE, front, seafront, parade, walk, boulevard, avenue, *N Amer* boardwalk, *Brit informal* prom ② our nightly promenade WALK, stroll, turn, amble, airing, *dated* constitutional

► verb we promenaded in the park WALK, stroll, saunter, wander, amble, stretch one's legs, take a turn

prominence ► noun ① his rise to prominence FAME, celebrity, eminence, pre-eminence, importance, distinction, greatness, note, notability, prestige, stature, standing, position, rank ② the press gave prominence to the reports GOOD COVERAGE, importance, precedence, weight, a high profile, top billing ③ a rocky prominence HILLOCK, hill, hummock, mound, outcrop, crag, spur, rise, ridge, arête, peak, pinnacle, promontory, cliff, headland

prominent ► adjective ① a prominent surgeon IMPORTANT, well known, leading, eminent, distinguished, notable, noteworthy, noted, illustrious, celebrated, famous, renowned, acclaimed, famed, influential, *N Amer* major-league ② prominent cheekbones PROTUBERANT, protruding, projecting, jutting (out), standing out, sticking out, proud, bulging, bulbous ③ a prominent feature of the landscape CONSPICUOUS, noticeable, easily seen, obvious, unmistakable, eye-catching, pronounced, salient, striking, dominant, obtrusive
 —OPPOSITES unimportant, unknown, inconspicuous

promiscuity ► noun LICENTIOUSNESS, wantonness, immorality, *informal* sleeping around, sluttishness, whorishness, *dated* looseness
 —OPPOSITES chastity, virtue

promiscuous ► adjective ① a promiscuous woman LICENTIOUS, sexually indiscriminate, wanton, immoral, of easy virtue, fast, *informal* easy, swinging, sluttish, whorish, *N Amer informal* roundheeled; *Brit informal* slaggy; *dated* loose, fallen; *archaic* light ② promiscuous reading INDISCRIMINATE, indiscriminating, unselective, random, haphazard, irresponsible, unthinking, unconsidered.
 —OPPOSITES chaste, virtuous, selective.

promise ► noun ① you broke your promise: WORD (OF HONOUR), assurance, pledge, vow, guarantee, oath, bond, undertaking, agreement, commitment, contract, covenant. ② he shows promise: POTENTIAL, ability, aptitude, capability, capacity ③ a promise of fine weather INDICATION, hint, suggestion, sign

► verb ① she promised to go: GIVE ONE'S WORD, swear, pledge, vow, undertake, guarantee, contract, engage, give an assurance, commit oneself, bind oneself, swear/take an oath, coven-



ant, archaic plight ② the skies promised sunshine INDICATE, lead one to expect, point to, denote, signify, be a sign of, be evidence of, give hope of, bespeak, presage, augur, herald, bode, portend, poetic/literary betoken, foretoken, forebode

promising ▶ adjective ① a promising start GOOD, encouraging, favourable, hopeful, full of promise, auspicious, propitious, bright, rosy, heartening, reassuring ② a promising actor WITH POTENTIAL, budding, up-and-coming, rising, coming, in the making
-OPPOSITES unfavourable, hopeless

promontory ▶ noun HEADLAND, point, cape, head, foreland, horn, bill, ness, naze, peninsula, Scottish mull

promote ▶ verb ① she's been promoted at work UPGRADE, give promotion to, elevate, advance, move up; archaic prefer ② an organization promoting justice ENCOURAGE, further, advance, assist, aid, help, contribute to, foster, nurture, develop, boost, stimulate, forward, work for ③ she is promoting her new film ADVERTISE, publicize, give publicity to, beat/bang the drum for, market, merchandise, informal push, plug, hype, puff, boost, N Amer informal ballyhoo, flack
-OPPOSITES demote, obstruct, play down

promoter ▶ noun ADVOCATE, champion, supporter, backer, proponent, protagonist, campaigner, N Amer booster

promotion ▶ noun ① her promotion at work UP GRADING, preferment, elevation, advancement, step up (the ladder) ② the promotion of justice ENCOURAGEMENT, furtherance, furthering, advancement, assistance, aid, help, contribution to, fostering, boosting, stimulation, N Amer boosterism ③ the promotion of her new film ADVERTISING, publicizing, marketing, publicity, campaign, propaganda, informal hard sell, plug, hype, puff, N Amer informal ballyhoo

prompt ▶ verb ① curiosity prompted him to look INDUCE, make, move, motivate, lead, dispose, persuade, incline, encourage, stimulate, prod, impel, spur on, inspire ② the statement prompted a hostile reaction GIVE RISE TO, bring about, cause, occasion, result in, lead to, elicit, produce, bring on, engender, induce, precipitate, trigger, spark off, provoke ③ the actors needed prompting REMIND, cue, feed, help out, jog someone's memory
-OPPOSITES deter

▶ adjective a prompt reply QUICK, swift, rapid, speedy, fast, direct, immediate, instant, expeditious, early, punctual, in good time, on time, timely
-OPPOSITES slow, late

▶ adverb at 3.30 prompt EXACTLY, precisely, sharp, on the dot, dead, punctually, on the nail, informal bang on; N Amer informal on the button, on the nose.

▶ noun he stopped, and Julia supplied a prompt RE MINDER, cue, feed

promptly ▶ adverb ① William arrived promptly at 7.30: PUNCTUALLY, on time, informal on the dot, bang on, Brit informal spot on; N Amer informal on the button, on the nose. ② I expect the matter to be dealt with promptly. WITHOUT DELAY, straight away, right away, at once, immediately, now, as soon as possible, QUICKLY, swiftly, rapidly, speedily, fast, expeditiously; N Amer momentarily; informal pronto, a.s.a.p., p.d.q. (pretty damn quick).

-OPPOSITES late, slowly

promulgate ▶ verb ① they promulgated their own views MAKE KNOWN, make public, publicize, spread, communicate, propagate, disseminate, broadcast, promote, preach; poetic/literary bruit abroad ② the law was promulgated in 1942 PUT INTO EFFECT, enact, implement, enforce

prone ▶ adjective ① softwood is prone to rotting | prone to rot SUSCEPTIBLE, vulnerable, subject, open, liable, given, predisposed, likely, disposed, inclined, apt, at risk of ② his prone body (LYING) FACE DOWN, face downwards, on one's stomach/front, LYING FLAT/DOWN, horizontal, prostrate
-OPPOSITES resistant, immune, upright

prong ▶ noun TINE, spike, point, tip, projection

pronounce ▶ verb ① his name is difficult to pronounce SAY, enunciate, articulate, utter, voice, sound, vocalize, get one's tongue round ② the doctor pronounced that I had a virus ANNOUNCE, proclaim, declare, affirm, assert, judge, rule, decree, rare asseverate

pronounced ▶ adjective NOTICEABLE, marked, strong, conspicuous, striking, distinct, prominent, unmistakable, obvious, recognizable, identifiable
-OPPOSITES slight

pronouncement ▶ noun ANNOUNCEMENT, proclamation, declaration, assertion, judgement, ruling, decree, formal ordinance, rare asseveration

pronunciation ▶ noun ACCENT, manner of speaking, speech, diction, delivery, elocution, intonation, articulation, enunciation, voicing, vocalization, sounding, rare orthoepy

proof ▶ noun ① proof of ownership EVIDENCE, verification, corroboration, authentication, confirmation, certification, documentation, validation, attestation, substantiation ② the proofs of a book PAGE PROOF, galley proof, galley, pull, slip, revise

▶ adjective no system is proof against theft RESISTANT, immune, unaffected, invulnerable, impenetrable, impervious, repellent

prop ▶ noun ① the roof is held up by props POLE, post, support, upright, brace, buttress, stay, strut, stanchion, shore, pier, pillar, pile, piling, bolster, truss, column ② a prop for the economy MAINSTAY, pillar, anchor, backbone, support, foundation, cornerstone

▶ verb ① he propped his bike against the wall LEAN, rest, stand, balance, steady ② this post is propping the wall up HOLD UP, shore up, bolster up, buttress, support, brace, underpin ③ they prop up loss-making industries' SUBSIDIZE, underwrite, fund, finance

propaganda ▶ noun INFORMATION, promotion, advertising, publicity, agitprop, disinformation, counter-information, the big lie, informal info, hype, plugging

propagandist ▶ noun PROMOTER, champion, supporter, proponent, advocate, campaigner, crusader, publicist, evangelist, apostle; informal pluggie

propagate ▶ verb ① an easy plant to propagate. BREED, grow, cultivate. ② these shrubs propagate easily REPRODUCE, multiply, proliferate, increase, spread, self-seed, self-sow. ③ they propagated socialist ideas: SPREAD, disseminate, com-



municate, make known, promulgate, circulate, broadcast, publicize, proclaim, preach, promote, *poetic/literary* bruit abroad

propel ► **verb** ① *a boat propelled by oars* MOVE, power, push, drive ② *he propelled the ball into the air* THROW, thrust, toss, fling, hurl, launch, pitch, project, send, shoot ③ *confusion propelled her into action* SPUR, drive, prompt, precipitate, catapult, motivate, force, impel

propeller ► **noun** ROTOR, screw, airscrew, *informal* prop

propensity ► **noun** TENDENCY, inclination, predisposition, proneness, proclivity, readiness, liability, disposition, leaning, weakness

proper ► **adjective** ① *he's not a proper scientist* REAL, genuine, actual, true, bona fide, *informal* kosher ② *the proper channels* RIGHT, correct, accepted, orthodox, conventional, established, official, formal, regular, acceptable, appropriate, *archaic* meet ③ *they were terribly proper* RESPECTABLE, decorous, seemly, decent, refined, ladylike, gentlemanly, genteel, formal, conventional, correct, comme il faut, done, orthodox, polite, punctilious ④ (*Brit informal*) *a proper mess* COMPLETE, absolute, real, perfect, total, thorough, utter, out-and-out, positive, unmitigated, consummate, *Brit informal* right, *Austral/NZ informal* fair
-OPPOSITES fake, inappropriate, wrong, unconventional

property ► **noun** ① *lost property* POSSESSIONS, belongings, things, effects, stuff, chattels, movables, resources, assets, valuables, fortune, capital, riches, wealth, *Law* personality, goods and chattels, *informal* gear ② *private property* BUILDING(S), premises, house(s), land, estates, *Law* real property, realty, *N Amer* real estate ③ *healing properties* QUALITY, attribute, characteristic, feature, power, trait, mark, hallmark

prophecy ► **noun** ① *her prophecy is coming true* PREDICTION, forecast, prognostication, prognosis, divination, augury ② *the gift of prophecy* FORETELLING THE FUTURE, fortune telling, crystal-gazing, prediction, second sight, prognostication, divination, augury, soothsaying

prophesy ► **verb** PREDICT, foretell, forecast, foresee, forewarn of, prognosticate

prophet, prophetess ► **noun** SEER, soothsayer, fortune teller, clairvoyant, diviner, oracle, augur, sibyl

■ **prophet of doom** PESSIMIST, doom-monger, doomsayer, doomster, Cassandra, Jeremiah, *informal* doom (and gloom) merchant

prophetic ► **adjective** PRESCIENT, predictive, far-seeing, prognostic, divinatory, sibylline, apocalyptic, *rare* vatic, mantic

prophylactic ► **adjective** *prophylactic measures* PREVENTIVE, preventative, precautionary, protective, inhibitory

► **noun** *a prophylactic against malaria* PREVENTIVE MEASURE, precaution, safeguard, safety measure, preventive medicine

prophylaxis ► **noun** PREVENTIVE TREATMENT, prevention, protection, precaution.

propitiate ► **verb** APPEASE, placate, mollify, pacify, make peace with, conciliate, make amends to, soothe, calm
-OPPOSITES provoke

propitious ► **adjective** FAVOURABLE, auspicious, promising, providential, advantageous, optimistic, bright, rosy, heaven-sent, hopeful, opportune, timely

-OPPOSITES inauspicious, unfortunate

proponent ► **noun** ADVOCATE, champion, supporter, backer, promoter, protagonist, campaigner, *N Amer* booster

proportion ► **noun** ① *a small proportion of the land* PART, portion, amount, quantity, bit, piece, percentage, fraction, section, segment, share ② *the proportion of water to alcohol* RATIO, distribution, relative amount/number, relationship ③ *the drawing is out of proportion* BALANCE, symmetry, harmony, correspondence, correlation, agreement ④ *men of huge proportions* SIZE, dimensions, magnitude, measurements, mass, volume, bulk, expanse, extent, width, breadth

proportional ► **adjective** CORRESPONDING, proportionate, comparable, in proportion, *pro rata*, commensurate, equivalent, consistent, relative, analogous

-OPPOSITES disproportionate

proposal ► **noun** ① *the proposal was rejected* SCHEME, plan, idea, project, programme, manifesto, motion, proposition, suggestion, submission ② *the proposal of a new constitution* PUTTING FORWARD, proposing, suggesting, submitting
-OPPOSITES withdrawal

propose ► **verb** ① *he proposed a solution* PUT FORWARD, suggest, submit, advance, offer, present, move, come up with, lodge, table, nominate ② *do you propose to go?* INTEND, mean, plan, have in mind/view, resolve, aim, purpose, think of, aspire, want ③ *you've proposed to her!* ASK SOMEONE TO MARRY YOU, make an offer of marriage, offer marriage, *informal* pop the question, *dated* ask for someone's hand in marriage
-OPPOSITES withdraw

proposition ► **noun** ① *the analysis derives from one proposition* THEORY, hypothesis, thesis, argument, premiss, theorem, concept, idea, statement ② *a business proposition* PROPOSAL, scheme, plan, project, idea, programme, bid ③ *doing it for real is a very different proposition* TASK, job, undertaking, venture, activity, affair, problem

► **verb** *he never dared proposition her* PROPOSE SEX WITH, make sexual advances to, make an indecent proposal to, make an improper suggestion to, *informal* give someone the come-on

propound ► **verb** PUT FORWARD, advance, offer, proffer, present, set forth, submit, tender, suggest, introduce, postulate, propose, pose, posit, advocate, promote, peddle, spread

proprietor, proprietress ► **noun** OWNER, possessor, holder, master/mistress, landowner, landlord/landlady, innkeeper, hotel-keeper, hotelier, shopkeeper; *Brit* publican

propriety ► **noun** ① *he behaves with the utmost propriety* DECORUM, respectability, decency, correctness, protocol, appropriateness, suitability, good manners, courtesy, politeness, rectitude, morality, civility, modesty, demureness, sobriety, refinement, discretion. ② *he was careful to preserve the proprieties in public* ETIQUETTE, convention(s), social grace(s), niceties, one's Ps and Qs, protocol, standards, civilities, formalities,

accepted behaviour, good form, the done thing, the thing to do, punctilio
—OPPOSITES indecorum

propulsion ► **noun** THRUST, motive force, impetus, impulse, drive, driving force, actuation, push, pressure, power

prosaic ► **adjective** ORDINARY, everyday, commonplace, conventional, straightforward, routine, run-of-the-mill, workaday, UNIMAGINATIVE, uninspired, uninspiring, matter-of-fact, dull, dry, dreary, tedious, boring, humdrum, mundane, pedestrian, tame, plodding, bland, insipid, banal, trite, literal, factual, unpoetic, unemotional, unsentimental
—OPPOSITES interesting, imaginative, inspired

proscribe ► **verb** ① *gambling was proscribed* FORBID, prohibit, ban, bar, interdict, make illegal, embargo, outlaw, disallow, veto, Law enjoin ② *the book was proscribed by the Church* CONDEMN, denounce, attack, criticize, censure, damn, reject
—OPPOSITES allow, authorize, accept

proscription ► **noun** ① *the proscription of alcohol* BANNING, forbidding, prohibition, prohibiting, barring, debarment, vetoing, interdiction, outlawing ② *a proscription was imposed* BAN, prohibition, bar, interdict, veto, embargo, moratorium ③ *the proscription of his recordings* CONDEMNATION, denunciation, attacking, criticism, censuring, damning, rejection
—OPPOSITES allowing, authorization, acceptance

prosecute ► **verb** ① *they prosecute offenders* TAKE TO COURT, bring/institute legal proceedings against, bring an action against, take legal action against, sue, try, bring to trial, put on trial, put in the dock, bring a suit against, indict, arraign, *N Amer* impeach, *informal* have the law on ② *they helped him prosecute the war* PURSUE, fight, wage, carry on, conduct, direct, engage in, proceed with, continue (with), keep on with
—OPPOSITES defend, let off, give up

proselyte ► **noun** CONVERT, new believer, catechumen

proselytize ► **verb** ① *I'm not here to proselytize* EVANGELIZE, convert, save, redeem, win over, preach (to), recruit, act as a missionary ② *he wanted to proselytize his ideas* PROMOTE, advocate, champion, advance, further, spread, proclaim, peddle, preach, endorse, urge, recommend, boost

prosimian ► **noun**. See list

Prosimians and Related Animals

angwantibo	galago	sifaka
aye-aye	indri	tarsier
bushbaby	lemur	tree shrew
colugo	loris	
flying lemur	potto	

prospect ► **noun** ① *there is little prospect of success* LIKELIHOOD, hope, expectation, anticipation, (good/poor) chance, odds, probability, possibility, promise, lookout, fear, danger ② *her job prospects* POSSIBILITIES, potential, promise, expectations, outlook ③ *a daunting prospect* VISION, thought, idea; task, undertaking ④ *Jimmy is an exciting prospect* CANDIDATE,

possibility, *informal* catch ⑤ *there is a pleasant prospect from the lounge* VIEW, vista, outlook, perspective, panorama, aspect, scene, picture, spectacle, sight

► **verb** *they are prospecting for oil* SEARCH, look, explore, survey, scout, hunt, reconnoitre, examine, inspect

■ **In prospect** EXPECTED, likely, coming soon, on the way, to come, at hand, near, imminent, in the offing, in store, on the horizon, just around the corner, in the air, in the wind, brewing, looming, *informal* on the cards

prospective ► **adjective** POTENTIAL, possible, probable, likely, future, eventual, -to-be, soon-to-be, in the making, intending, aspiring, would-be, forthcoming, approaching, coming, imminent

prospectus ► **noun** BROCHURE, pamphlet, description, particulars, announcement, advertisement, syllabus, curriculum, catalogue, programme, list, scheme, schedule

prosper ► **verb** FLOURISH, thrive, do well, bloom, blossom, burgeon, progress, do all right for oneself, get ahead, get on (in the world), be successful, *informal* go places
—OPPOSITES fail, flounder

prosperity ► **noun** SUCCESS, profitability, affluence, wealth, opulence, luxury, the good life, milk and honey, (good) fortune, ease, plenty, comfort, security, well-being
—OPPOSITES hardship, failure

prosperous ► **adjective** THRIVING, flourishing, successful, strong, vigorous, profitable, lucrative, expanding, booming, burgeoning, AFFLUENT, wealthy, rich, moneyed, well off, well-to-do, opulent, substantial, in clover, *informal* on a roll, on the up and up, in the money
—OPPOSITES ailing, poor

prostitute ► **noun** WHORE, sex worker, call girl, rent boy, *informal* tart, pro, moll, working girl, member of the oldest profession, *Brit informal* tom, woman on the game, renter, *N Amer informal* hooker, hustler, chippy, *black English* ho, dated streetwalker, woman of the streets, lady/woman of the night, scarlet woman, cocotte, archaic courtesan, strumpet, harlot, trollop, woman of ill repute, lady of pleasure, wench

► **verb** *they prostituted their art* BETRAY, sacrifice, sell, sell out, debase, degrade, demean, devalue, cheapen, lower, shame, misuse, pervert, abandon one's principles, be untrue to oneself

prostitution ► **noun** WHORING, the sex industry, streetwalking, Mrs Warren's profession, sex tourism, *informal* the oldest profession, the trade, rough trade, *Brit informal* the game, *N Amer informal* hooking, hustling, dated whoredom, archaic harlotry

prostrate ► **adjective** ① *the prostrate figure on the ground* PRONE, lying flat, lying down, stretched out, spreadeagled, sprawling, horizontal, recumbent, *rare* procumbent ② *his wife was prostrate with shock* OVERWHELMED, overcome, overpowered, brought to one's knees, stunned, dazed, speechless, helpless, *informal* knocked/hit for six ③ *the fever left me prostrate* WORN OUT, exhausted, fatigued, tired out, sapped, dog-tired, spent, drained, debilitated, enervated, laid low, *informal* all in, done in, dead, dead beat, dead on one's feet, ready to drop, fagged out, bushed, frazzled, worn to a



frazzle, *Brit* informal whacked, knackered, *N Amer* informal pooped

—OPPOSITES upright, fresh

► **verb** she was prostrated by the tragedy OVERWHELM, overcome, overpower, bring to one's knees, devastate, debilitate, weaken, enfeeble, enervate, lay low, wear out, exhaust, tire out, drain, sap, wash out, take it out of, *informal* knacker, frazzle, do in, *N Amer* informal poop

■ **prostrate oneself** THROW ONESELF FLAT/DOWN, lie down, stretch oneself out, throw oneself at someone's feet, *dated* measure one's length

prostration ► **noun** COLLAPSE, weakness, debility, lassitude, exhaustion, fatigue, tiredness, enervation, emotional exhaustion

protagonist ► **noun** ① the protagonist in the plot CHIEF/CENTRAL/PRINCIPAL/MAIN/LEADING CHARACTER, chief etc participant/figure/player, principal, hero/heroine, leading man/lady, title role, lead ② a protagonist of deregulation CHAMPION, advocate, upholder, supporter, backer, promoter, proponent, exponent, campaigner, fighter, crusader, apostle, apologist, *N Amer* booster

—OPPOSITES opponent

protean ► **adjective** ① the protean nature of mental disorders EVER-CHANGING, variable, changeable, mutable, kaleidoscopic, inconstant, inconsistent, unstable, shifting, unsettled, fluctuating, fluid, wavering, vacillating, mercurial, volatile, *technical* labile ② a remarkably protean composer VERSATILE, adaptable, flexible, all-round, multifaceted, multitalented, many-sided

—OPPOSITES constant, consistent, limited

protect ► **verb** KEEP SAFE, keep from harm, save, safeguard, preserve, defend, shield, cushion, insulate, hedge, shelter, screen, secure, fortify, guard, watch over, look after, take care of, keep, inoculate

—OPPOSITES expose, neglect, attack, harm

protection ► **noun** ① protection against frost DEFENCE, security, shielding, preservation, conservation, safe keeping, safeguarding, safety, sanctuary, shelter, refuge, lee, immunity, insurance, indemnity ② under the protection of the Church SAFE KEEPING, care, charge, keeping, protectorship, guidance, aegis, auspices, umbrella, guardianship, support, patronage, championship, providence ③ good protection against noise BARRIER, buffer, shield, screen, hedge, cushion, preventative, armour, refuge, bulwark

protective ► **adjective** ① protective clothing PRESERVATIVE, protecting, safeguarding, shielding, defensive, safety, precautionary, preventive, preventative ② he felt protective towards the girl SOLICITOUS, caring, warm, paternal/maternal, fatherly/motherly, gallant, chivalrous; overprotective, possessive, jealous

protector ► **noun** ① a protector of the environment: DEFENDER, preserver, guardian, guard, champion, watchdog, ombudsman, knight in shining armour, guardian angel, patron, chaplain, escort, keeper, custodian, bodyguard, minder; *informal* hired gun. ② ear protectors GUARD, shield, buffer, cushion, pad, screen.

protégé, protégée ► **noun** PUPIL, student, trainee, apprentice, disciple, follower, discovery, find, ward

protest ► **noun** ① he resigned as a protest OBJECTION, complaint, exception, disapproval, challenge, dissent, demurral, remonstrance, fuss, outcry ② women staged a protest DEMONSTRATION, (protest) march, rally, sit-in, occupation, work-to-rule, industrial action, stoppage, strike, walkout, mutiny, picket, boycott, *informal* demo

—OPPOSITES support, approval

► **verb** ① residents protested at the plans EXPRESS OPPOSITION, object, dissent, take issue, make/take a stand, put up a fight, kick, take exception, complain, express disapproval, disagree, demur, remonstrate, make a fuss, cry out, speak out, rail, inveigh, fulminate, *informal* kick up a fuss/stink ② people protested outside the cathedral DEMONSTRATE, march, hold a rally, sit in, occupy somewhere, work to rule, take industrial action, stop work, down tools, strike, go on strike, walk out mutiny, picket somewhere, boycott something ③ he protested his innocence INSIST ON, maintain, assert, affirm, announce, proclaim, declare, profess, contend, argue, claim, vow, swear (to), stress, *formal* aver, asseverate

—OPPOSITES acquiesce, support, deny

protestation ► **noun** ① his protestations of innocence DECLARATION, announcement, profession, assertion, insistence, claim, affirmation, assurance, oath, vow, *rare* aver, asseveration ② we helped him despite his protestations OBJECTION, protest, exception, complaint, disapproval, opposition, challenge, dissent, demurral, remonstrance, fuss, outcry, *informal* stink

—OPPOSITES denial, acquiescence, support

protester ► **noun** ① the council lost protesters' letters OBJECTOR, opposer, opponent, complainant, complainer, dissenter, dissident, nonconformist ② the protesters were moved on DEMONSTRATOR, protest marcher, striker, mutineer, picket

protocol ► **noun** ① a stickler for protocol ETIQUETTE, conventions, formalities, customs, rules of conduct, procedure, ritual, accepted behaviour, propriety, proprieties, one's Ps and Qs, decorum, good form, the done thing, the thing to do, punctilio ② the two countries signed a protocol. AGREEMENT, treaty, entente, concordat, convention, deal, pact, contract, compact, *formal* concord

prototype ► **noun** ① a prototype of the weapon ORIGINAL, first example/model, master, mould, template, framework, mock-up, pattern, sample, DESIGN, guide, blueprint. ② the prototype of an ideal wife TYPICAL EXAMPLE, paradigm, archetype, exemplar

protract ► **verb** PROLONG, lengthen, extend, draw out, drag out, spin out, stretch out, string out, elongate; carry on, continue, keep up, perpetuate

—OPPOSITES curtail, shorten

protracted ► **adjective** PROLONGED, long-lasting, extended, long-drawn-out, spun out, dragged out, strung out, lengthy, long.

—OPPOSITES short.

protrude ► **verb** STICK OUT, jut (out), project, extend, stand out, bulge out, poke out, thrust out, cantilever

protruding ▶ **adjective** STICKING OUT, protuberant, projecting, prominent, jutting, overhanging, proud, bulging, *informal* sticky-out
-OPPOSITES sunken, flush

protrusion ▶ **noun** ① *the neck vertebrae have short vertical protrusions* BUMP, lump, knob, protuberance, projection, sticking-out bit, prominence, swelling, eminence, outcrop, outgrowth, jut, jag, snag, ledge, shelf, ridge, *informal* sticky-out bit ② *protrusion of the lips* STICKING OUT, jutting, projection, obtrusion, prominence, swelling, bulging

protuberance ▶ **noun** ① *a protuberance can cause drug* BUMP, lump, knob, projection, protrusion, sticking-out bit, prominence, swelling, eminence, outcrop, outgrowth, jut, jag, snag, ledge, shelf, ridge, *informal* sticky-out bit ② *the protuberance of the incisor* STICKING OUT, jutting, projection, obtrusion, prominence, swelling, bulging

protuberant ▶ **adjective** STICKING OUT, protruding, projecting, prominent, jutting, overhanging, proud, bulging, *informal* sticky-out
-OPPOSITES sunken, flush

proud ▶ **adjective** ① *the proud parents beamed* PLEASED, glad, happy, delighted, joyful, overjoyed, thrilled, satisfied, gratified, content ② *a proud day* PLEASING, gratifying, satisfying, cheering, heart-warming, happy, good, glorious, memorable, notable, red-letter ③ *they were poor but proud* SELF-RESPECTING, dignified, noble, worthy, independent ④ *I'm not too proud to admit I'm wrong* ARROGANT, conceited, vain, self-important, full of oneself, puffed up, swollen-headed, jumped-up, smug, complacent, disdainful, condescending, scornful, supercilious, snobbish, imperious, pompous, overbearing, bumptious, haughty, *informal* big-headed, too big for one's boots, high and mighty, stuck-up, uppity, snooty, highfalutin. *Brit informal* toffee-nosed, *poetic/literary* vainglorious, rare hubristic ⑤ *the proud ships* MAGNIFICENT, splendid, resplendent, grand, noble, stately, imposing, dignified, striking, impressive, majestic, glorious, awe-inspiring, awesome, monumental ⑥ *the switch is proud of the wall* PROJECTING, sticking out/up, jutting (out), protruding, prominent, raised, convex, elevated
-OPPOSITES ashamed, shameful, humble, modest, unimpressive, concave, flush

prove ▶ **verb** ① *that proves I'm right* SHOW (TO BE TRUE), demonstrate (the truth of), show beyond doubt, manifest, produce proof/evidence, witness to, give substance to, determine, substantiate, corroborate, verify, ratify, validate, authenticate, document, bear out, confirm, *formal* evince ② *the rumour proved to be correct* TURN OUT, be found, happen
-OPPOSITES disprove

■ **prove oneself** DEMONSTRATE ONE'S ABILITIES/QUALITIES, show one's (true) mettle, show what one is made of

provenance ▶ **noun** ORIGIN, source, place of origin; birthplace, fount, roots, pedigree, derivation, root, etymology, *N Amer* provenience, *formal* radix

proverb ▶ **noun** SAYING, adage, saw, maxim, axiom, motto, bon mot, aphorism, apophthegm, epigram, gnome, dictum, precept, words of wisdom

proverbial ▶ **adjective** WELL KNOWN, famous, famed, renowned, traditional, time-honoured, legendary, notorious, infamous

provide ▶ **verb** ① *the foundation will provide funds* SUPPLY, give, issue, furnish, come up with, dispense, bestow, impart, produce, yield, bring forth, bear, deliver, donate, contribute, pledge, advance, spare, part with, allocate, distribute, allot, put up, *informal* fork out, lay out, *N Amer informal* ante up, pony up ② *he was provided with enough tools* EQUIP, furnish, issue, supply, outfit, fit out, rig out, kit out, arm, provision, *informal* fix up ③ *he had to provide for his family* FEED, nurture, nourish, SUPPORT, maintain, keep, sustain, provide sustenance for, fend for, finance, endow ④ *the test may provide the answer* MAKE AVAILABLE, present, offer, afford, give, add, bring, yield, impart ⑤ *we have provided for further restructuring* PREPARE, allow, make provision, be prepared, arrange, get ready, plan, cater ⑥ *the banks have to provide against bad debts* TAKE PRECAUTIONS, take steps/measures, guard, forearm oneself, make provision for ⑦ *the Act provides that factories must be kept clean* STIPULATE, lay down, make it a condition, require, order, ordain, demand, prescribe, state, specify
-OPPOSITES refuse, withhold, deprive, neglect

provided ▶ **conjunction** IF, on condition that, providing (that), provided that, presuming (that), assuming (that), on the assumption that, as long as, given (that), with the provision/proviso that, with/on the understanding that, contingent on

providence ▶ **noun** ① *a life mapped out by providence* FATE, destiny, nemesis, kismet, God's will, divine intervention, predestination, predestination, the stars, one's lot (in life), *archaic* one's portion ② *he had a streak of providence* PRUDENCE, foresight, forethought, far-sightedness, judiciousness, shrewdness, circumspection, wisdom, sagacity, common sense, careful budgeting, thrift, economy

provident ▶ **adjective** PRUDENT, far-sighted, judicious, shrewd, circumspect, forearmed, wise, sagacious, sensible, thrifty, economical
-OPPOSITES improvident

providential ▶ **adjective** OPPORTUNE, advantageous, favourable, auspicious, propitious, heaven-sent, welcome, golden, lucky, happy, fortunate, felicitous, timely, well timed, seasonable, convenient, expedient
-OPPOSITES inopportune

provider ▶ **noun** SUPPLIER, donor, giver, contributor, source

providing ▶ **conjunction**. See PROVIDED

province ▶ **noun** ① *a province of the Ottoman Empire* TERRITORY, region, state, department, canton, area, district, sector, zone, division ② *people in the provinces* NON-METROPOLITAN AREAS/COUNTIES, the rest of the country, middle England/America, rural areas/districts, the countryside, the backwoods, the wilds, *informal* the sticks, the middle of nowhere, *N Amer informal* the boondocks ③ *that's outside my province* RESPONSIBILITY, area of activity, area of interest, knowledge, department, sphere, world, realm, field, domain, territory, orbit, preserve, line of country, business, affair, concern, speciality,



forte, jurisdiction, authority, *informal* pigeon, bailiwick, turf

provincial ▶ **adjective** ① the provincial government REGIONAL, state, territorial, district, local, sectoral, zonal, cantonal, county ② provincial areas NON-METROPOLITAN, small-town, non-urban, outlying, rural, country, rustic, backwoods, backwater, *informal* one-horse, *N Amer informal* hick, freshwater ③ they're so dull and provincial UNSOPHISTICATED, narrow-minded, parochial, small-town, suburban, insular, parish-pump, inward-looking, conservative, small-minded, blinkered, bigoted, prejudiced, *N Amer informal* jerkwater, corn-fed

—OPPOSITES national, metropolitan, cosmopolitan, sophisticated, broad-minded

▶ **noun** they were dismissed as provincials (COUNTRY) BUMPKIN, country cousin, rustic, yokel, village idiot, peasant, *lsh informal* culchie, *N Amer informal* hayseed, hick, rube, hillbilly

—OPPOSITES sophisticate

provision ▶ **noun** ① the provision of weapons to guerrillas SUPPLYING, supply, providing, giving, presentation, donation, equipping, furnishing ② there has been limited provision for gifted children FACILITIES, services, amenities, resource(s), arrangements, means, funds, benefits, assistance, allowance(s) ③ provisions for the trip SUPPLIES, food and drink, stores, groceries, food-stuff(s), provender, rations, *informal* grub, eats, nosh, *N Amer informal* chuck, *formal* comestibles, *poetic/literary* viands, dined virtuals ④ he made no provision for the future PREPARATIONS, plans, arrangements, pre-arrangement, precautions, contingency ⑤ the provisions of the Act TERM, clause, requirement, specification, stipulation, proviso, condition, qualification, restriction, limitation

provisional ▶ **adjective** INTERIM, temporary, pro tem, transitional, changeover, stopgap, short-term, fill-in, acting, caretaker, TBC (to be confirmed), subject to confirmation, pencilled in, working, tentative, contingent

—OPPOSITES permanent, definite

provisionally ▶ **adverb** TEMPORARILY, short-term, pro tem, for the interim, for the present, for the time being, for now, for the nonce, subject to confirmation, in an acting capacity, conditionally, tentatively

proviso ▶ **noun** CONDITION, stipulation, provision, clause, rider, qualification, restriction, caveat

provocation ▶ **noun** ① he remained calm despite severe provocation GOADING, prodding, egging on, incitement, pressure, ANNOYANCE, irritation, netting, harassment, plaguing, molestation, teasing, taunting, torment, affront, insults, *informal* hassle, aggravation. ② without provocation, Jones punched Mr Cartwright. JUSTIFICATION, excuse, pretext, occasion, call, motivation, motive, cause, grounds, reason, need

provocative ▶ **adjective** ① provocative remarks ANNOYING, irritating, exasperating, infuriating, maddening, vexing, galling, insulting, offensive, inflammatory, incendiary, controversial, *informal* aggravating, in-your-face ② a provocative pose. SEXY, sexually arousing, sexually exciting, alluring, seductive, suggestive, inviting, tantalizing, titillating, indecent, pornographic, indecate, immodest, shameless, erotic, sensuous,

slinky, coquettish, amorous, flirtatious, *informal* tarty, come-hither

—OPPOSITES soothing, calming, modest, decorous

provoke ▶ **verb** ① the plan has provoked outrage AROUSE, produce, evoke, cause, give rise to, occasion, call forth, elicit, induce, excite, spark off, touch off, kindle, generate, engender, instigate, result in, lead to, bring on, precipitate, prompt, trigger, *poetic/literary* beget ② he was provoked into replying GOAD, spur, prick, sting, prod, egg on, incite, rouse, stir, move, stimulate, motivate, excite, inflame, work/hire up, impel ③ he wouldn't be provoked ANNOY, anger, incense, enrage, irritate, infuriate, exasperate, madden, nettle, get/take a rise out of, ruffle, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise, harass, harry, plague, molest, tease, taunt, torment, *Bnt* rub up the wrong way, *informal* peeve, aggravate, hassle, miff, rile, needle, get, bug, hack off, make someone's blood boil, get under someone's skin, get in someone's hair, get/put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get across someone, *Bnt informal* wind up, naik, *N Amer informal* rangle, ride, gravel

—OPPOSITES allay, deter, pacify, appease

prow ▶ **noun** BOW(s), stem, front, nose, head, cutwater, *Bnt humorous* sharp end

prowess ▶ **noun** ① his prowess as a winemaker SKILL, expertise, mastery, facility, ability, capability, capacity, savoir faire, talent, genius, adeptness, aptitude, dexterity, deftness, competence, accomplishment, proficiency, finesse, *informal* know-how ② the knights' prowess in battle COURAGE, bravery, gallantry, valour, heroism, intrepidity, nerve, pluck, pluckiness, boldness, daring, audacity, fearlessness, *informal* bottle, guts, spunk, *N Amer informal* moxie, sand

—OPPOSITES inability, ineptitude, cowardice

prowl ▶ **verb** MOVE STEALTHILY, slink, skulk, steal, nose, pussyfoot, sneak, stalk, creep, *informal* snoop

proximity ▶ **noun** CLOSENESS, nearness, proximity, accessibility, handiness, *archaic* vicinity

proxy ▶ **noun** DEPUTY, representative, substitute, delegate, agent, surrogate, stand-in, attorney, go-between

prude ▶ **noun** PURITAN, prig, killjoy, moralist, pietist, *informal* goody-goody, *N Amer informal* bluenose

prudence ▶ **noun** ① you have gone beyond the bounds of prudence WISDOM, judgement, good judgement, common sense, sense, sagacity, shrewdness, advisability ② financial prudence CAUTION, care, providence, far-sightedness, foresight, forethought, shrewdness, circumspection, thrift, economy

—OPPOSITES folly, recklessness, extravagance

prudent ▶ **adjective** ① it is prudent to obtain consent WISE, well judged, sensible, politic, judicious, sagacious, sage, shrewd, advisable, well advised ② a prudent approach to borrowing CAUTIOUS, careful, provident, far-sighted, judicious, shrewd, circumspect, thrifty, economical

—OPPOSITES unwise, reckless, extravagant

prudish ▶ **adjective** PURITANICAL, priggish, prim, prmm and proper, moralistic, pietistic, sententious, censorious, strait-laced, Victorian, old-



maishish, stuffy, *informal* goody-goody, *rare* Grundyish, starchy
 –OPPOSITES permissive

prune ▶ **verb** ① *I pruned the roses* CUT BACK, trim, thin, pinch back, clip, shear, pollard, top, dock ② *prune lateral shoots of wisteria* CUT OFF, lop (off), chop off, clip, snip (off), nip off, dock ③ *stuff numbers have been pruned* REDUCE, cut (back/down), pare (down), slim down, make reductions in, make cutbacks in, trim, decrease, diminish, downsize, axe, shrink, *informal* slash
 –OPPOSITES increase

prurient ▶ **adjective** SALACIOUS, licentious, voyeuristic, lascivious, lecherous, lustful, lewd, libidinous, lubricious, *formal* concupiscent

pry ▶ **verb** ENQUIRE IMPERTINENTLY, be inquisitive, be curious, poke about/around, ferret (about/around), spy, be a busybody, eavesdrop, listen in, tap someone's phone, intrude, *informal* stick/poke one's nose in/into, be nosy, nose, snoop, *Austral* /NZ *informal* stickybeak
 –OPPOSITES mind one's own business

psalm ▶ **noun** SACRED SONG, religious song, hymn, song of praise, chant, plainsong, (psalms) psalmody, psalter

pseud ▶ **noun** PRETENTIOUS PERSON, poser, poseur, sham, fraud, *informal* show-off, phoney

pseudo ▶ **adjective** BOGUS, sham, phoney, artificial, mock, ersatz, quasi-, fake, false, spurious, deceptive, misleading, assumed, contrived, affected, insincere, *informal* pretend, put-on, *Brit* *informal* cod
 –OPPOSITES genuine

pseudonym ▶ **noun** PEN NAME, nom de plume, assumed name, false name, alias, professional name, sobriquet, stage name, nom de guerre
 See list

psych (*informal*)

■ **psych someone out** INTIMIDATE, daunt, browbeat, bully, cow, tyrannize, scare, terrorize, frighten, dishearten, unnerv, subdue, *informal* bulldoze, *N Amer* *informal* buffalo

■ **psych oneself up** NERVE ONESELF, steel oneself, brace oneself, summon one's courage, prepare oneself, gear oneself up, urge oneself on, gird (up) one's loins

psyche ▶ **noun** SOUL, spirit, (inner) self, ego, true being, inner man/woman, persona, subconscious, mind, intellect, *technical* anima, pneuma
 –OPPOSITES body

psychiatrist ▶ **noun** PSYCHOTHERAPIST, psychoanalyst, *informal* shrink, head doctor, *Brit* humorous trick cyclist See list at PSYCHOLOGIST

psychic ▶ **adjective** ① *psychic powers* SUPERNATURAL, paranormal, other-worldly, supernormal, preternatural, metaphysical, extrasensory, magic, magical, mystical, mystic, occult ② *I'm not psychic* CLAIRVOYANT, telepathic, having second sight, having a sixth sense ③ *psychic development* EMOTIONAL, spiritual, inner, cognitive, psychological, intellectual, mental, psychiatric, psychogenic
 –OPPOSITES normal, physical

▶ **noun** *she is a psychic* CLAIRVOYANT, fortune teller, crystal-gazer, medium, spiritualist, telepathist, telepath, mind-reader, palmist, palm-reader

psychoanalyst ▶ **noun** See list at PSYCHOLOGIST

psychological ▶ **adjective** ① *his psychological state* MENTAL, emotional, intellectual, inner, cerebral, brain, rational, cognitive ② *her pain was psychological* (ALL) IN THE MIND, psychosomatic, emotional, irrational, subjective, subconscious, unconscious
 –OPPOSITES physical

psychologist ▶ **noun** See list

psychology ▶ **noun** ① *a degree in psychology* STUDY OF THE MIND, science of the mind See list ② *the psychology of the road user* MINDSET, mind, mental processes, thought processes, way of thinking, cast of mind, mentality, persona, psyche, (mental) attitude(s), make-up, character, *informal* what makes someone tick

psychopath ▶ **noun** MADMAN, MADWOMAN, maniac, lunatic, psychotic, sociopath, *informal* loony, fruitcake, nutcase, nut, psycho, schizo, head case, headbanger, sicko, *Brit* *informal* nutter, *N Amer* *informal* screwball, crazy, kook, meshuggener

psychopathic ▶ **adjective** See MAD sense 1

psychosomatic ▶ **adjective** (ALL) IN THE MIND, psychological, irrational, stress-related, stress-induced, subjective, subconscious, unconscious

psychotic ▶ **adjective** See MAD sense 1

pub ▶ **noun** (*Brit*) BAR, inn, tavern, hostelry, wine bar, taproom, roadhouse, *Brit* public house, *Austral* /NZ hotel, *informal* watering hole, *Brit* *informal* local, boozer, dated alehouse, *historical* pot-house, beerhouse, *N Amer* *historical* saloon

puberty ▶ **noun** ADOLESCENCE, pubescence, sexual maturity, growing up, youth, young adulthood, teenage years, teens, the awkward age, *formal* juvenescence

public ▶ **adjective** ① *public affairs* STATE, national, federal, government, constitutional, civic, civil, official, social, municipal, community, communal, local, nationalized ② *by public demand* POPULAR, general, common, communal, collective, shared, joint, universal, widespread ③ *a public figure* PROMINENT, well known, important, leading, eminent, distinguished, notable, noteworthy, noted, celebrated, household, famous, famed, influential, *N Amer* major-league ④ *public places* OPEN (TO THE PUBLIC), communal, accessible to all, available, free, unrestricted, community ⑤ *the news became public* KNOWN, published, publicized, in circulation, exposed, overt, plain, obvious
 –OPPOSITES private, obscure, unknown, restricted, secret

▶ **noun** ① *the British public* PEOPLE, citizens, subjects, general public, electors, electorate, voters, taxpayers, residents, inhabitants, citizenry, population, populace, community, society, country, nation, world, everyone ② *his adoring public* AUDIENCE, spectators, followers, following, fans, devotees, aficionados, admirers, patrons, clientele, market, consumers, buyers, customers, readers

■ **in public** PUBLICLY, in full view of people, openly, in the open, for all to see, undisguisedly, blatantly, flagrantly, brazenly, with no attempt at concealment, overtly, *formal* coram populo

publication ▶ **noun** ① *the author of this publication* BOOK, volume, title, work, tome, opus, newspaper, paper, magazine, periodical, newsletter, bulletin, journal, report, organ, booklet,

Pseudonyms and Changed Names

PSEUDONYM/ CHANGED NAME	REAL NAME	PSEUDONYM/ CHANGED NAME	REAL NAME
All, Muhammad	Cassius Clay	Laurel, Stan	Arthur Jefferson
Arden, Elizabeth	Florence Nightingale Graham	Le Carré, John	David Cornwell
Astaire, Fred	Frederick Austerlitz	Le Corbusier	Charles Jeanneret
Ataturk	Mustafa Kemal	Lenin, Vladimir Illich	Vladimir Illich Ulyanov
Atlas, Charles	Angelo Siciliano	Loren, Sophia	Sofia Scicolone
Bacall, Lauren	Betty Joan Perske	Madonna	Madonna Louise Ciccone
Bardot, Brigitte	Camille Javal	Malcolm X	Malcolm Little
Bell, Acton	Anne Brontë	Markova, Alicia	Alice Marks
Bell, Currer	Charlotte Brontë	Martin, Dean	Dino Crocetti
Bell, Ellis	Emily Brontë	Mata Hari	Margaretha Zelle
Benny, Jack	Benjamin Kubelsy	Maxwell, Robert	Jan Ludvik Hoch
Berkeley, Busby	William Berkeley Enos	Meir, Golda	Goldie Mabovich
Berlin, Irving	Israel Baline	Melba, Nellie	Helen Mitchell
Bowie, David	David Jones	Mitchell, Joni	Roberta Anderson
Boz	Charles Dickens	Molière	Jean-Baptiste Poquelin
Brandt, Willy	Karl Frahm	Monroe, Marilyn	Norma Jean Mortenson
Brassai	Gyula Halasz	Morecambe, Eric	John Bartholomew
Brooks, Mel	Melvin Kaminsky	Novello, Ivor	David Davies
Bruce, Lenny	Leonard Schnelder	O'Brien, Flann	Brian O'Nolan
Burton, Richard	Richard Jenkins	Orwell, George	Eric Blair
Caine, Michael	Maurice Micklewhite	Pelé	Edson Arantes do Nascimento
Callas, Maria	Maria Kalageropoulos	Phiz	Hablot Knight Browne
Capote, Truman	Truman Persons	Pickford, Mary	Gladys Smith
Carroll, Lewis	Charles Lutwidge Dodgson	Queen, Ellery	Frederick Dannay
Cline, Patsy	Virginia Hensley	Ray, Man	Emanuel Rudnitsky
Crawford, Joan	Lucille Le Sueur	Rhys, Jean	Gwen Williams
Dietrich, Marlene	Maria Magdalene von Losch	Richard, Cliff	Harry Webb
Dinesen, Isak	Karen Blixen	Robinson, Edward G.	Emanuel Goldenberg
Dors, Diana	Diana Fluck	Rob Roy	Robert Macgregor
Dylan, Bob	Robert Zimmerman	Rogers, Ginger	Virginia McMath
El Greco	Domenikos Theotocopoulos	Rooney, Mickey	Joseph Yule Jr
Eliot, George	Mary Ann Evans	Ruth, Babe	George Hermann Ruth
Erté	Romain de Tiroff	Saki	Hector Hugh Monro
Firdausi	Abdul al-Qasim Mansur	Sand, George	Amandine Dupin
Fonteyn, Margot	Margaret Hookham	Stalin, Joseph	Iosif Vissarionovich
Garbo, Greta	Greta Gustafsson		Dzhughashvili
Garland, Judy	Frances Gumm	Starr, Ringo	Richard Starkey
George, Boy	George O'Dowd	Stendhal	Marie Henri Beyle
Gorky, Maxim	Aleksei Peshkov	Sting	Gordon Sumner
Grant, Cary	Archibald Leach	Teresa, Mother	Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhlu
Harlow, Jean	Harlean Carpenter	Tito	Josip Broz
Hayworth, Rita	Margarita Cansino	Trotsky, Leon	Lev Davidovich Bronstein
Henry, O.	William Sydney Porter	Twain, Mark	Samuel Langhorn Clemens
Herriot, James	James Alfred Wight	Villa, Pancho	Doroteo Arango
Holiday, Billie	Eleanora Fagan	Voltaire	François-Marie Arouet
Houdini, Harry	Erik Weisz	Waters, Muddy	McKinley Morganfield
John, Elton	Reginald Dwight	Wayne, John	Marion Morrison
Jolson, Al	Asa Yoelson	Wise, Ernie	Ernest Wiseman
Karloff, Boris	William Pratt	Wonder, Stevie	Steveland Morris
Kaye, Danny	David Kominski	Zeffirelli, Franco	Gianfranco Corsi

brochure, catalogue, daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly, annual, *informal* rag, mag, 'zine ② the publication of her new book ISSUING, announcement, publishing, printing, notification, reporting, declaration, communication, proclamation, broadcasting, publicizing, advertising, distribution, spreading, dissemination, promulgation, issuance, appearance

publicity ► noun ① the blaze of publicity PUBLIC ATTENTION, public interest, public notice, media attention/interest, exposure, glare, limelight ② publicity should boost sales PROMOTION, advertising, propaganda, boost, push, *informal* hype, ballyhoo, puff, puffery, build-up, razzmatazz, plug

publicize ► verb ① I never publicize the fact MAKE KNOWN, make public, publish, announce, report, post, communicate, broadcast, issue, put out, distribute, spread, promulgate, disseminate, circulate, air, disclose, reveal, divulge, leak. ② he just wants to publicize his book ADVERTISE, promote, build up, talk up, push, beat the drum for, boost, *informal* hype, plug, puff (up) —OPPOSITES conceal, suppress

public-spirited ► adjective COMMUNITY-MINDED, socially concerned, philanthropic, charitable, ALTRUISTIC, humanitarian, generous, unselfish.

publish ► verb ① we publish novels ISSUE, bring out, produce, print ② he ought to publish his views

Psychologists, Psychiatrists, and Psychoanalysts

Adler, Alfred (Austrian)
 Berger, Hans (German)
 Binet, Alfred (French)
 Burt, Cyril (English)
 Ellis, Havelock (English)
 Eysenck, Hans (British, b. in Germany)
 Freud, Anna (British, b. in Austria)
 Freud, Sigmund (Austrian)

Fromm, Erich (American, b. in Germany)
 Horney, Karen (German)
 Jung, Carl (Swiss)
 Klein, Melanie (Austrian)
 Köhler, Wolfgang (German, b. in Estonia)
 Lacan, Jacques (French)
 Laing, R.D. (Scottish)

Leary, Timothy (American)
 Luria, Alexander (Russian)
 Piaget, Jean (Swiss)
 Reich, Wilhelm (Austrian)
 Simon, Théodore (French)
 Skinner, Burrhus F. (American)
 Watson, John (American)
 Wundt, Wilhelm (German)

Branches of Psychology

abnormal psychology
 Adlerian psychology
 analytical psychology
 apperceptionism
 applied psychology
 associationism
 behaviourism
 biopsychology
 child psychology
 clinical psychology
 cognitive psychology
 comparative psychology
 configurationism
 developmental psychology
 educational psychology
 ethology
 experimental psychology
 Freudianism
 gestalt therapy
 group psychology
 Horneyan psychology
 humanistic psychology
 industrial and organizational psychology
 introspection psychology

Jungian psychology
 Lacanian psychology
 metapsychology
 neuropsychology
 object-relations theory
 occupational psychology
 orgone theory
 parapsychology
 Pavlovian psychology
 physiological psychology
 psychoacoustics
 psychoanalysis
 psychobiochemistry
 psychobiography
 psychobiology
 psychodynamics
 psychogenetics
 psychography
 psycholinguistics
 psychometry
 psychopathology
 psychopharmacology
 psychophysiology
 Reichian psychology
 Skinnerian psychology
 social psychology
 structuralism
 Watsonian psychology

MAKE KNOWN, make public, publicize, announce, report, post, communicate, broadcast, issue, put out, distribute, spread, promulgate, disseminate, circulate, air, disclose, reveal, divulge, leak

pucker ▶ **verb** she puckered her forehead WRINKLE, crinkle, crease, furrow, crumple, rumple, ruck up, scrunch up, corrugate, ruffle, screw up, shrivel, cockle

▶ **noun** a pucker in the sewing WRINKLE, crinkle, crumple, corrugation, furrow, line, fold.

puckish ▶ **adjective** MISCHIEVOUS, naughty, impish, roguish, playful, arch, prankish, informal waggish

pudding ▶ **noun** DESSERT, sweet, second course, last course, *Bnt informal* afters, pud See list at CAKE

puddle ▶ **noun** POOL, spill, splash, poetic/literary plash

puerile ▶ **adjective** CHILDISH, immature, infantile, juvenile, babyish, silly, inane, fatuous, jejune, asinine, foolish, petty

—OPPOSITES mature, sensible

puff ▶ **noun** ① a puff of wind GUST, blast, flurry, rush, draught, waft, breeze, breath ② he took a puff at his cigar PULL, informal drag ③ (informal) they expected a puff in our review column FAVOURABLE MENTION, review, recommendation, good word, advertisement, promotion, commercial, informal ad, *Bnt informal* advert ④ (informal) a salesman's puff PUBLICITY, advertising, promotion, marketing, propaganda, build-up, patter, line, pitch, sales talk, informal spiel

▶ **verb** ① he walked fast, puffing a little BREATHE HEAVILY, pant, blow, gasp, fight for breath ② she puffed at her cigarette SMOKE, draw on, drag on, suck at/on ③ (informal) new ways to puff our products ADVERTISE, promote, publicize, push, recommend, endorse, beat the drum for, informal hype (up), plug

■ **puff out/up** BULGE, swell (out), stick out, distend, tumefy, balloon (up/out), expand, inflate, enlarge

■ **puff something out/up** DISTEND, expand, dilate, inflate, blow up, pump up, enlarge, bloat

puffed ▶ **adjective** OUT OF BREATH, breathless, short of breath, panting, puffing, gasping, wheezing, wheezy, winded, informal out of puff

puffed-up ▶ **adjective** SELF-IMPORTANT, conceited, arrogant, bumptious, pompous, overbearing, affected, stiff, vain, pious, informal snooty, uppity, uppish

puffy ▶ **adjective** SWOLLEN, puffed up, distended, enlarged, inflated, dilated, bloated, engorged, bulging, tumid, tumescent

pugilism ▶ **noun** (dated) See BOXING

pugilist ▶ **noun** (dated) BOXER, fighter, prize-fighter, informal bruiser, pug

pugnacious ▶ **adjective** COMBATIVE, aggressive, antagonistic, belligerent, bellicose, warlike, quarrelsome, argumentative, contentious, disputatious, hostile, threatening, truculent, fiery, hot-tempered

—OPPOSITES peaceable

puke ▶ **verb** (informal) See VOMIT verb senses 1, 2

pukka ▶ **adjective** (informal) ① the pukka thing to do RESPECTABLE, decorous, proper, genteel, polite, conventional, right, correct, accepted, decent ② pukka racing cars GENUINE, authentic, proper, actual, real, true, bona fide, veritable, legitimate, informal kosher, the real McCoy ③ a pukka meal EXCELLENT, very good, outstanding, exceptional, marvellous, wonderful, first-class, informal A1, ace, great, terrific, fantastic, fabulous, fab, awesome, wicked, *Bnt informal* brilliant, brill

—OPPOSITES improper, imitation, bad

pull ▶ **verb** ① he pulled the box towards him TUG, haul, drag, draw, tow, heave, lug, jerk, wrench,



informal yank ② *he pulled the bad tooth out* EXTRACT, take out, remove ③ *she pulled a muscle* STRAIN, sprain, wrench, turn, rick, tear, damage ④ *race day pulled big crowds* ATTRACT, draw, bring in, pull in, lure, seduce, entice, tempt, beckon, interest, fascinate
—OPPOSITES push, repel

► **noun** ① *give the chain a pull* TUG, jerk, heave, *informal* yank ② *she took a pull on her beer* GULP, draught, drink, swallow, mouthful, slug, *informal* swill, swig ③ *a pull on a cigarette* PUFF, *informal* drag ④ *she felt the pull of the sea* ATTRACTION, draw, lure, allurement, enticement, magnetism, temptation, fascination, appeal ⑤ *he has a lot of pull in finance* INFLUENCE, sway, power, authority, say, prestige, standing, weight, leverage, muscle, teeth, *informal* clout

■ **pull something apart** DISMANTLE, disassemble, take/pull to pieces, take/pull to bits, take apart, strip down, demolish, destroy, break up

■ **pull back** WITHDRAW, retreat, fall back, back off, pull out, retire, disengage, flee, turn tail

■ **pull something down** DEMOLISH, knock down, tear down, dismantle, raze (to the ground), level, flatten, bulldoze, destroy

■ **pull in** STOP, halt, come to a halt, pull over, pull up, draw up, brake, park

■ **pull someone/something in** ① *they pulled in big audiences* See PULL verb sense 4 ② (*informal*) *the police pulled him in* ARREST, apprehend, detain, take into custody, seize, capture, catch, *informal* collar, nab, nick, pinch, run in, bust, feel someone's collar

■ **pull someone's leg** TEASE, fool, play a trick on, rag, pull the wool over someone's eyes, *informal* kid, rib, lead up the garden path, take for a ride, *Brit informal* wind up, have on

■ **pull something off** ACHIEVE, fulfil, succeed in, accomplish, bring off, carry off, perform, discharge, complete, clinch, fix, effect, engineer

■ **pull out** WITHDRAW, resign, leave, retire, step down, bow out, back out, give up, *informal* quit

■ **pull through** GET BETTER, get well again, improve, recover, rally, come through, recuperate

■ **pull something to pieces** ① *don't pull my radio to pieces* See PULL SOMETHING APART ② *they pulled the plan to pieces* CRITICIZE, attack, censure, condemn, find fault with, pillory, maul, savage, *informal* knock, slam, pan, bash, crucify, lay into, roast, *Brit informal* slate, rubbish, slag off

■ **pull oneself together** REGAIN ONE'S COMPOSURE, recover, get a grip on oneself, get over it, *informal* snap out of it, get one's act together, buck up

■ **pull up.** See PULL IN

■ **pull someone up** REPRIMAND, rebuke, scold, chide, chastise, upbraid, berate, reprove, reproach, censure, take to task, admonish, lecture, read someone the Riot Act, haul over the coals, *informal* tell off, bawl out, dress down, give someone hell, give someone an earful, *Brit informal* tick off, carpet, give someone a rollicking, *N Amer informal* chew out, *Austral informal* monster, *formal* castigate

pulp ► **noun** ① *he kneaded it into a pulp* MUSH, mash, paste, purée, pomace, pap, slop, slush, mulch, *informal* gloop, goo, *N Amer informal* glop ② *the sweet pulp on cocoa seeds* FLESH, marrow, meat

► **verb** *pulp the gooseberries* MASH, purée, cream, crush, press, liquidize, liquefy, sieve, squash, pound, macerate, grind, mince

► **adjective** *pulp fiction* TRASHY, cheap, sensational, lurid, tasteless, *informal* tacky, rubbishy

pulpit ► **noun** STAND, lectern, platform, podium, stage, dais, rostrum

pulsate ► **verb** PALPITATE, pulse, throb, pump, undulate, surge, heave, rise and fall, beat, thump, drum, thrum, flutter, quiver

pulse¹ ► **noun** ① *the pulse in her neck* HEARTBEAT, pulsation, pulsing, throbbing, pounding ② *the pulse of the train wheels* RHYTHM, beat, tempo, cadence, pounding, thudding, drumming ③ *pulses of ultrasound* BURST, blast, spurt, impulse, surge

► **verb** *music pulsed through the building* THROB, pulsate, vibrate, beat, pound, thud, thump, drum, thrum, reverberate, echo

pulse² ► **noun** eat plenty of pulses LEGUME, pea, bean See list at BEAN

pulverize ► **verb** ① *the seeds are pulverized into flour* GRIND, crush, pound, powder, mill, crunch, squash, press, pulp, mash, sieve, mince, macerate, *technical* comminute ② (*informal*) *he pulverized the opposition* See TROUNCE

pummel ► **verb** BATTER, pound, belabour, drub, beat, punch, strike, hit, thump, thrash, *informal* clobber, wallop, bash, whack, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, biff, lay into, lam, *Brit informal* slosh, *N Amer informal* bust, slug, *Austral/NZ informal* quilt, *poetic/literary* smite

pump ► **verb** ① *I pumped air out of the tube* FORCE, drive, push, suck, draw, tap, siphon, withdraw, expel, extract, bleed, drain ② *she pumped up the tyre* INFLATE, aerate, blow up, fill up, swell, enlarge, distend, expand, dilate, puff up ③ *blood was pumping from his leg* SPURT, spout, squirt, jet, surge, spew, gush, stream, flow, pour, spill, well, cascade, run, course ④ (*informal*) *I pumped them for information* INTERROGATE, cross-examine, ask, question, quiz, probe, sound out, catechize, give someone the third degree, *informal* grill

pun ► **noun** PLAY ON WORDS, wordplay, double entendre, innuendo, witticism, quip, bon mot

punch¹ ► **verb** *Jim punched him in the face* HIT, strike, thump, jab, smash, welt, cuff, clip, batter, buffet, pound, pummel, *informal* sock, slug, biff, bop, wallop, clobber, bash, whack, thwack, clout, lam, whomp, *Brit informal* stick one on, dot, slosh, *N Amer informal* boff, bust, *Austral/NZ informal* quilt, *poetic/literary* smite

► **noun** ① *a punch on the nose* BLOW, hit, knock, thump, box, jab, clip, welt, uppercut, hook, *informal* sock, slug, biff, bop, wallop, bash, whack, clout, belt, *N Amer informal* boff, bust, *dated* buffet ② *the album is full of punch* VIGOUR, liveliness, vitality, drive, strength, zest, verve, enthusiasm, impact, bite, kick, *informal* oomph, zing

punch² ► **verb** *he punched her ticket* MAKE A HOLE IN, perforate, puncture, pierce, prick, hole, spike, skewer; *poetic/literary* transpierce

punch-up ► **noun** (*Brit informal*) See FIGHT noun sense 1

punchy ► **adjective** *punchy dialogue* FORCEFUL, incisive, strong, powerful, vigorous, dynamic, effective, impressive, telling, compelling, dra-



matic, passionate, graphic, vivid, potent, authoritative, aggressive, *informal in-your-face*
 -OPPOSITES ineffectual

punctilio ▶ **noun** ① a stickler for punctilio CONFORMITY, conscientiousness, punctiliousness, etiquette, protocol, conventions, formalities, propriety, decorum, manners, politesse, good form, the done thing ② the punctilios of court procedure NICETY, detail, fine point, subtlety, nuance, refinement
 -OPPOSITES informality

punctilious ▶ **adjective** METICULOUS, conscientious, diligent, scrupulous, careful, painstaking, rigorous, perfectionist, methodical, particular, strict, fussy, fastidious, finicky, pedantic, *informal nit-picking*, pernickety, *N Amer informal* pernickety, *archaic* nice
 -OPPOSITES careless

punctual ▶ **adjective** ON TIME, prompt, on schedule, in (good) time, *informal on the dot*
 -OPPOSITES late

punctuate ▶ **verb** ① how to punctuate direct speech ADD PUNCTUATION TO, put punctuation marks in, dot, apostrophize ② slides punctuated the talk BREAK UP, interrupt, intersperse, pepper, sprinkle, scatter

punctuation ▶ **noun** See lists here and at AC CENT

Punctuation Marks

accent	hyphen
apostrophe	inverted comma
asterisk	obelus
asterism	omission mark
backslash	parenthesis
brace	period
bracket	point
caret	printer's mark
colon	question mark
comma	quotation mark
dagger	semicolon
dash	solidus
diacritical mark	square bracket
ellipsis	stop
em dash/rule	stroke
en dash/rule	swung dash
exclamation mark	virgule
full stop/point	

puncture ▶ **noun** ① the tyre developed a puncture HOLE, perforation, rupture, cut, slit, leak ② my car has a puncture FLAT TYRE, *informal* flat

▶ **verb** ① he punctured her balloon MAKE A HOLE IN, pierce, rupture, perforate, stab, cut, slit, prick, spike, stick, lance, deflate ② she knows how to puncture his speeches PUT AN END TO, cut short, deflate, reduce

pundit ▶ **noun** EXPERT, authority, specialist, doyen(ne), master, guru, sage, savant, *informal* buff, whizz

pungent ▶ **adjective** ① a pungent marinade STRONG, powerful, pervasive, penetrating, sharp, acid, sour, biting, bitter, tart, vinegary, tangy, highly flavoured, aromatic, spicy, piquant, peppery, hot ② pungent remarks CAUSTIC, biting, trenchant, cutting, acerbic, sardonic, sarcastic, scathing, acrimonious, barbed, sharp, tart, incisive, bitter, venomous, waspish
 -OPPOSITES bland, mild

punish ▶ **verb** ① they punished their children DISCIPLINE, bring someone to book, teach someone a lesson, tan someone's hide, *informal* murder, wallop, come down on (like a ton of bricks), have someone's guts for garters. *Bnt informal* give someone what for; dated chastise ② higher charges would punish the poor PENALIZE, unfairly disadvantage, handicap, hurt, wrong, ill-use, maltreat ③ the strikers punished the defence's mistakes EXPLOIT, take advantage of, turn to account, profit from, capitalize on, cash in on, *informal* walk all over

punishable ▶ **adjective** ILLEGAL, unlawful, illegitimate, criminal, felonious, actionable, indictable, penal, blameworthy, dishonest, fraudulent, unauthorized, outlawed, banned, forbidden, prohibited, interdicted, proscribed

punishing ▶ **adjective** a punishing schedule ARDUOUS, demanding, taxing, onerous, burdensome, strenuous, rigorous, stressful, trying, hard, difficult, tough, exhausting, tiring, grueling, crippling, relentless, *informal* killing
 -OPPOSITES easy

punishment ▶ **noun** ① the punishment of the guilty PENALIZING, punishing, disciplining, retribution, dated chastisement ② the teacher imposed punishments PENALTY, penance, sanction, sentence, one's just deserts, discipline, correction, vengeance, justice, judgement, *informal* come-uppance ③ both boxers took punishment A BATTERING, a thrashing, a beating, a drubbing, *informal* a hiding ④ ovens take continual punishment MALTREATMENT, mistreatment, abuse, ill-use, manhandling, damage, harm
 -RELATED TERMS punitive, penal

punitive ▶ **adjective** ① punitive measures PENAL, disciplinary, corrective, correctional, retributive ② punitive taxes HARSH, severe, stiff, stringent, burdensome, demanding, crushing, crippling, high, sky-high, inflated, exorbitant, extortionate, excessive, inordinate, unreasonable, *Bnt* swingeing

punter ▶ **noun** ① (informal) each punter has a 1/39 chance GAMBLER, backer, staker, speculator, bettor, *informal* plunger, high roller ② (Bnt informal) sales bring the punters in CUSTOMER, client, patron, buyer, purchaser, shopper, consumer, (punters) clientele, audience, trade, business, *Bnt informal* burns on scats

puny ▶ **adjective** ① he grew up puny UNDERSIZED, undernourished, underfed, stunted, slight, small, little, weak, feeble, sickly, delicate, frail, fragile, *informal* weedy, pint-sized ② puny efforts to save their homes PITIFUL, pitiable, inadequate, insufficient, desisory, miserable, sorry, meagre, paltry, trifling, inconsequential, *informal* pathetic, measly, piddling, *formal* exiguous
 -OPPOSITES sturdy, substantial.

pupil ▶ **noun** ① former pupils of the school STUDENT, scholar, schoolchild, schoolboy, schoolgirl ② the guru's pupils DISCIPLE, follower, student, protégé, apprentice, trainee, novice

puppet ▶ **noun** ① a show with puppets MARIONETTE, glove puppet, hand puppet, finger puppet ② a puppet of the government PAWN, tool, instrument, cat's paw, poodle, creature, dupe, mouthpiece, minion, stooge

purchase ▶ **verb** we purchased the software BUY, pay for, acquire, obtain, pick up, snap up, take, procure, invest in, *informal* get hold of, score



—OPPOSITES sell

► **noun** ① *he's happy with his purchase* ACQUISITION, investment, order, bargain, shopping, goods, *informal* buy ② *he could get no purchase on the wall* GRIP, grasp, hold, foothold, toehold, anchorage, attachment, support, resistance, friction, leverage

—OPPOSITES sale

purchaser ► **noun** BUYER, shopper, customer, consumer, patron, *Law* vendee

pure ► **adjective** ① *pure gold* UNADULTERATED, uncontaminated, unmixed, undiluted, unalloyed, unblended, sterling, solid, refined, 100%, clarified, clear, filtered, flawless, perfect, genuine, real ② *the air is so pure* CLEAN, clear, fresh, sparkling, unpolluted, uncontaminated, untainted, wholesome, natural, healthy, sanitary, uninfected, disinfected, germ-free, sterile, sterilized, aseptic ③ *pure in body and mind* VIRTUOUS, moral, ethical, good, righteous, saintly, honourable, reputable, wholesome, clean, honest, upright, upstanding, exemplary, irreproachable, chaste, virginal, maidenly, decent, worthy, noble, blameless, guiltless, spotless, unsullied, uncorrupted, undefiled, *informal* squeaky clean ④ *pure maths* THEORETICAL, abstract, conceptual, academic, hypothetical, speculative, conjectural ⑤ *three hours of pure magic* SHEER, utter, absolute, out-and-out, complete, total, perfect, unmitigated

—OPPOSITES adulterated, polluted, immoral, practical

pure-bred ► **adjective** PEDIGREE, thoroughbred, full-bred, blooded, pedigreed, pure
—OPPOSITES hybrid

purely ► **adverb** ENTIRELY, completely, absolutely, wholly, exclusively, solely, only, just, merely

purgative ► **adjective** *purgative medicine* LAXATIVE, evacuant, *Medicine* aperient, *Medicine*, *archaic* lenitive

► **noun** *orris root is a purgative* LAXATIVE, evacuant, *Medicine* aperient, *Medicine*, *archaic* lenitive, *dated* purge See list at LAXATIVE

purgatory ► **noun** TORMENT, torture, misery, suffering, affliction, anguish, agony, woe, hell, an ordeal, a nightmare
—OPPOSITES paradise

purge ► **verb** ① *he purged them of their doubt* CLEANSE, clear, purify, wash, shrive, absolve, *rare* lustrate ② *lawbreakers were purged from the army* REMOVE, get rid of, expel, eject, exclude, dismiss, sack, oust, eradicate, clear out, weed out

► **noun** *the purge of dissidents* REMOVAL, expulsion, ejection, exclusion, eviction, dismissal, sacking, ousting, eradication

purify ► **verb** ① *trees help to purify the air* CLEAN, cleanse, refine, decontaminate, filter, clarify, clear, freshen, deodorize, sanitize, disinfect, sterilize ② *they purify themselves before the ceremony* PURGE, cleanse, unburden, deliver, redeem, shrive, exorcize, sanctify, *rare* lustrate.

purist ► **noun** PEDANT, perfectionist, formalist, literalist, stickler, traditionalist, doctrinaire, quibbler, dogmatist, *informal* nit-picker, *archaic* precisian

puritan ► **noun** MORALIST, pietist, prude, prig, killjoy, ascetic, *informal* goody-goody, Holy Joe, *N Amer informal* bluenose

puritanical ► **adjective** MORALISTIC, puritan, pietistic, strait-laced, stuffy, prudish, prim, priggish, narrow-minded, sententious, censorious, austere, severe, ascetic, abstemious, *informal* goody-goody, starchy

—OPPOSITES permissive

purity ► **noun** ① *the purity of our tap water* CLEANNESS, clearness, clarity, freshness, sterility ② *they sought purity in a foul world* VIRTUE, morality, goodness, righteousness, saintliness, piety, honour, honesty, integrity, decency, ethicality, impeccability, innocence, chastity

purloin ► **verb** STEAL, thief, rob, take, snatch, pilfer, loot, appropriate, *informal* swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle, *Brit informal* pinch, half-inch, nick, whip, knock off, nobble, *N Amer informal* heist

purport ► **verb** *this work purports to be authoritative* CLAIM, profess, pretend; appear, seem, be ostensibly, pose as, impersonate, masquerade as, pass for

► **noun** ① *the purport of his remarks* GIST, substance, drift, implication, intention, meaning, significance, sense, essence, thrust, message ② *the purport of the attack* INTENTION, purpose, object, objective, aim, goal, target, end, design, idea

purpose ► **noun** ① *the purpose of his visit* MOTIVE, motivation, grounds, cause, occasion, reason, point, basis, justification ② *their purpose was to subvert the economy* INTENTION, aim, object, objective, goal, end, plan, scheme, target, ambition, aspiration ③ *I cannot see any purpose in it* ADVANTAGE, benefit, good, use, value, merit, worth, profit, *informal* mileage, percentage ④ *the original purpose of the porch* FUNCTION, role, use ⑤ *they started the game with purpose* DETERMINATION, resolution, resolve, steadfastness, backbone, drive, push, enthusiasm, ambition, motivation, commitment, conviction, dedication, *informal* get-up-and-go

► **verb** (*formal*) *they purposed to reach the summit* INTEND, mean, aim, plan, design, have the intention, decide, resolve, determine, propose, aspire, set one's sights on

■ **on purpose** DELIBERATELY, intentionally, purposely, by design, wilfully, knowingly, consciously, of one's own volition, expressly, specifically, especially, specially

purposeful ► **adjective** DETERMINED, resolute, steadfast, single-minded, enthusiastic, motivated, committed, dedicated, persistent, dogged, unfaltering, unshakeable
—OPPOSITES aimless

purposely ► **adverb**. See ON PURPOSE at PURPOSE

purse ► **noun** ① *the money fell out of her purse* WALLET, money bag, *N Amer* change purse, billfold ② (*N Amer*) *a woman's purse* See HANDBAG ③ *the public purse* FUND(S), kitty, coffers, pool, bank, treasury, exchequer, money, finances, wealth, reserves, cash, capital, assets. ④ *the fight will net him a \$75,000 purse* PRIZE, reward, award, winnings, stake(s).

► **verb** *he pursed his lips* PRESS TOGETHER, compress, tighten, pucker, pout

pursuance ► **noun** (*formal*) ① *he was arrested in pursuance of this Act* EXECUTION, discharge, implementation, performance, accomplishment, fulfilment, dispatch, prosecution, enforcement

② *their pursuance of power* SEARCH FOR, pursuit of, quest for, hunt for

pursue ▶ **verb** ① *I pursued him down the garden* FOLLOW, run after, chase, hunt, stalk, track, trail, shadow, hound, course, *informal* tail ② *pursue the goal of political union* STRIVE FOR, work towards, seek, search for, aim at/for, aspire to ③ *he had been pursuing her for weeks* woo, pay court to, chase, run after, *informal* make up to, *dated* court, make love to, romance, set one's cap at ④ *she pursued a political career* ENGAGE IN, be occupied in, practise, follow, prosecute, conduct, ply, take up, undertake, carry on ⑤ *we will not pursue the matter* INVESTIGATE, research, inquire into, look into, examine, scrutinize, analyse, delve into, probe
-OPPOSITES avoid, shun

pursuit ▶ **noun** ① *the pursuit of profit* STRIVING TOWARDS, quest after/for, search for, aim, goal, objective, dream ② *a worthwhile pursuit* ACTIVITY, hobby, pastime, diversion, recreation, relaxation, divertissement, amusement, occupation, trade, vocation, business, work, job, employment

purvey ▶ **verb** SELL, supply, provide, furnish, cater retail, deal in, trade, stock, offer, peddle, hawk, tout, traffic in, *informal* flog

purveyor ▶ **noun** SELLER, vendor, retailer, supplier, stockist, trader, pedlar, hawker, *Brit* tout

pus ▶ **noun** SUPPURATION, matter, discharge, secretion

-RELATED TERMS purulent

push ▶ **verb** ① *she tried to push him away* SHOVE, thrust, propel, send, drive, force, prod, poke, nudge, elbow, shoulder, sweep, bundle, hustle, manhandle ② *she pushed her way into the flat* FORCE, shove, thrust, squeeze, jostle, elbow, shoulder, bundle, hustle, work, inch ③ *he pushed the panic button* PRESS, depress, bear down on, hold down, squeeze, operate, activate ④ *don't push her to join in* URGE, press, pressure, pressurize, force, impel, coerce, nag, prevail on, browbeat into, *informal* lean on, twist someone's arm, bulldoze ⑤ *they push their own products* ADVERTISE, publicize, promote, bang the drum for, sell, market, merchandise, *informal* plug, hype (up), puff, flog, *N Amer informal* ballyhoo
-OPPOSITES pull

▶ **noun** ① *I felt a push in the back* SHOVE, thrust, nudge, ram, bump, jolt, butt, prod, poke ② *the enemy's eastward push* ADVANCE, drive, thrust, charge, attack, assault, onslaught, onrush, offensive, sortie, sally, incursion

■ **at a push** (*Brit informal*) IF NECESSARY, if need be, if needs must, if all else fails, in an emergency

■ **push someone around** BULLY, domineer, ride roughshod over, trample on, bulldoze, browbeat, tyrannize, intimidate, threaten, victimize, pick on, *informal* lean on, boss about/around

■ **push for** DEMAND, call for, request, press for, campaign for, lobby for, speak up for, urge, promote, advocate, champion, espouse

■ **push off** (*informal*) GO AWAY, depart, leave, get out, go, get moving, be off (with you), shoo, *informal* skedaddle, split, scam, run along, beat it, get lost, shove off, buzz off, clear off, on your bike, *Brit informal* get stuffed, sling your hook, hop it, bog off, naff off, *N Amer informal* bug off,

take a powder, take a hike, *Austral/NZ informal* rack off, nick off, *poetic/literary* begone

■ **push on** PRESS ON, continue one's journey, carry on, advance, proceed, go on, progress, make headway, forge ahead

pushover ▶ **noun** ① *the teacher was a pushover* WEAKLING, feeble opponent, man of straw, *informal* soft touch, easy touch, easy meat ② *this course is no pushover* EASY TASK, walkover, five-finger exercise, gift, child's play, *informal* doddle, piece of cake, picnic, money for old rope, cinch, breeze, *Brit informal* doss, *N Amer informal* duck soup, snap, *Austral/NZ informal* bludge, *dated* snip

pushy ▶ **adjective** ASSERTIVE, self-assertive, overbearing, domineering, aggressive, forceful, forward, bold, bumptious, officious, thrusting, ambitious, overconfident, cocky, *informal* bossy, *dated* pushful

-OPPOSITES submissive

pusillanimous ▶ **adjective** TIMID, timorous, cowardly, fearful, faint-hearted, lily-livered, spineless, craven, shrinking, *informal* chicken, gutless, wimpy, wimpish, sissy, yellow, yellow-bellied

-OPPOSITES brave

pussyfoot ▶ **verb** ① *you can't pussyfoot around with this* EQUIVOCATE, tergiversate, be evasive, be non-committal, sidestep the issue, prevaricate, quibble, hedge, beat about the bush, *Brit* hum and haw, *informal* duck the question, sit on the fence, shilly-shally ② *I had to pussyfoot over the gravel* CREEP, tiptoe, pad, soft-shoe, steal, sneak, slink

pustule ▶ **noun** PIMPLE, spot, bleb, boil, swelling, eruption, carbuncle, blister, abscess, *informal* whitehead, zit, *Scottish informal* plook, *technical* comedo, papule

put ▶ **verb** ① *she put the parcel on a chair* PLACE, set (down), lay (down), deposit, position, settle, leave, plant, *informal* stick, dump, bung, park, plonk, pop, *N Amer informal* plunk ② *he didn't want to be put in a category* ASSIGN TO, consign to, allocate to, place in ③ *don't put the blame on me* LAY, pin, place, fix, attribute to, impute to, assign to, allocate to, ascribe to ④ *the proposals put to the committee* SUBMIT, present, tender, offer, proffer, advance, suggest, propose ⑤ *she put it bluntly* EXPRESS, word, phrase, frame, formulate, render, convey, couch, state, say, utter ⑥ *he put the cost at £8,000* ESTIMATE, calculate, reckon, gauge, assess, evaluate, value, judge, measure, compute, fix, set, *informal* guesstimate

■ **put about the ship** put about TURN ROUND, come about, change course

■ **put something about the rumour** had been put about SPREAD, circulate, make public, disseminate, broadcast, publicize, pass on, propagate, bandy about

■ **put something across/over** COMMUNICATE, convey, get across/over, explain, make clear, spell out, clarify, get through to someone

■ **put something aside** ① *we've got a bit put aside in the bank* SAVE, put by, set aside, deposit, reserve, store, stockpile, hoard, stow, cache, *informal* salt away, squirrel away, stash away ② *they put aside their differences* DISREGARD, set aside, ignore, forget, discount, bury

■ **put someone away** (*informal*) ① *they put him away for life* JAIL, imprison, put in prison, put behind bars, lock up, incarcerate, *informal* cage,



Brit informal bang up, send down, *N Amer informal* jug ② *you should be put away!* CERTIFY, commit, hospitalize, institutionalize, put in a psychiatric hospital

■ **put something away** ① *I put away some money* See PUT SOMETHING ASIDE sense 1 ② *she never puts her things away* REPLACE, put back, tidy away, tidy up, clear away ③ *(informal) she can put away a lot of food* See EAT sense 1

■ **put something back** ① *he put the books back* REPLACE, return, restore, put away, tidy away ② *they put back the film's release date* See PUT SOMETHING OFF

■ **put someone down** ① *(informal) he often puts me down* CRITICIZE, belittle, disparage, deprecate, denigrate, slight, humiliate, shame, crush, squash, deflate, *informal* show up, cut down to size ② *I put him down as shy* CONSIDER TO BE, judge to be, reckon to be, take to be, regard, have down, take to

■ **put something down** ① *he put his ideas down on paper* WRITE DOWN, note down, jot down, take down, set down, list, record, register, log ② *they put down the rebellion* SUPPRESS, check, crush, quash, squash, quell, overthrow, stamp out, repress, subdue ③ *the horse had to be put down* DESTROY, put to sleep, put out of its misery, put to death, kill ④ *put it down to the heat* ATTRIBUTE, ascribe, chalk up, impute, blame on

■ **put something forward**. See PUT sense 4

■ **put in for** APPLY FOR, put in an application for, try for, request, seek, ask for

■ **put someone off** DETER, discourage, dissuade, daunt, unnerve, intimidate, scare off, repel, repulse, distract, disturb, divert, sidetrack, *informal* turn off

■ **put something off** POSTPONE, defer, delay, put back, adjourn, hold over, reschedule, shelve, table, *informal* put on ice, put on the back burner

■ **put it on** PRETEND, play-act, make believe, fake it, go through the motions

■ **put something on** ① *she put on jeans* DRESS IN, don, pull on, throw on, slip into, change into, *informal* doll oneself up in ② *I put the light on* SWITCH ON, turn on, activate ③ *they put on an extra train* PROVIDE, lay on, supply, make available ④ *the museum put on an exhibition* ORGANIZE, stage, mount, present, produce ⑤ *she put on an American accent* FEIGN, fake, simulate, affect, assume ⑥ *he put a fiver on Oxford United* BET, gamble, stake, wager, place, lay, risk, chance, hazard

■ **put one over on** *(informal)* See HOODWINK

■ **put someone out** ① *Maria was put out by the slur* ANNOY, anger, irritate, offend, affront, displease, irk, vex, pique, nettle, gall, upset, *informal* rile, miff, peeve, *Brit informal* nark ② *I don't want to put you out* INCONVENIENCE, trouble, bother, impose on, disoblige, *informal* put someone on the spot, *formal* discommode

■ **put something out** ① *firemen put out the blaze* EXTINGUISH, quench, douse, smother, blow out, snuff out ② *he put out a press release* ISSUE, publish, release, bring out, circulate, publicize, post

■ **put someone up** ① *we can put him up for a few days* ACCOMMODATE, house, take in, lodge, quarter, billet, give someone a roof over their head ② *they put up a candidate* NOMINATE, propose, put forward, recommend

■ **put something up** ① *the building was put up 100 years ago* BUILD, construct, erect, raise

② *she put up a poster* DISPLAY, pin up, stick up, hang up, post ③ *we put up alternative schemes* PROPOSE, put forward, present, submit, suggest, tender ④ *the chancellor put up taxes* INCREASE, raise, *informal* jack up, hike, bump up ⑤ *he put up most of the funding* PROVIDE, supply, furnish, give, contribute, donate, pledge, pay, *informal* fork out, cough up, shell out, *N Amer informal* ante up, pony up

■ **put upon** *(informal)* TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, impose on, exploit, use, misuse, *informal* walk all over

■ **put someone up to something** *(informal)* PERSUADE TO, encourage to, urge to, egg on to, incite to, goad into

■ **put up with** TOLERATE, take, stand (for), accept, stomach, swallow, endure, bear, support, take something lying down, *informal* abide, lump it, *Brit informal* stick, be doing with, *formal* brook, *archaic* suffer

putative ► **adjective** SUPPOSED, assumed, presumed, accepted, recognized, commonly regarded, presumptive, alleged, reputed, reported, rumoured

put-down ► **noun** *(informal)* SNUB, slight, affront, rebuff, sneer, disparagement, humiliation barb, jibe, criticism, *informal* dig

putrefy ► **verb** DECAY, rot, decompose, go bad, go off, spoil, fester, perish, deteriorate, mould, ei

putrid ► **adjective** DECOMPOSING, decaying, rotting, rotten, bad, off, putrefied, putrescent, rancid, mouldy, foul, fetid, rank

puzzle ► **verb** ① *her decision puzzled me* PERPLEX, confuse, bewilder, bemuse, baffle, mystify, confound, nonplus, *informal* flummox, faze, stump, beat, *N Amer informal* discombobulate ② *she puzzled over the problem* THINK HARD ABOUT, mull over, muse over, ponder, contemplate, meditate on, consider, deliberate on, chew over, wonder about ③ *she tried to puzzle out what he meant* WORK OUT, understand, comprehend, sort out, reason out, solve, make sense of, make head or tail of, unravel, decipher, *informal* figure out, suss out

► **noun** *the poem has always been a puzzle* ENIGMA, mystery, paradox, conundrum, poser, riddle, problem, *informal* stumper

puzzled ► **adjective** PERPLEXED, confused, bewildered, bemused, baffled, mystified, confounded, nonplussed, at a loss, *informal* flummoxed, stumped, fazed, clueless, *N Amer informal* discombobulated

puzzling ► **adjective** BAFFLING, perplexing, bewildering, confusing, complicated, unclear, mysterious, enigmatic, ambiguous, obscure, abstruse, unfathomable, incomprehensible, impenetrable, cryptic
-OPPOSITES clear

pygmy ► **noun** ① *a Congo pygmy* VERY SMALL PERSON, person of restricted growth, midget, dwarf, homunculus, manikin, Lilliputian, *informal* shrimp ② *an intellectual pygmy* LIGHTWEIGHT, mediocrity, nonentity, nobody, cipher, small fry, *informal* pipsqueak, no-hoper, *Brit informal* squit, *N Amer informal* picayune
-OPPOSITES giant

pyromaniac ► **noun** ARSONIST, incendiary; *Brit* fire-raiser, *informal* firebug, pyro; *N Amer informal* torch



Qq

quack ► **noun** ① a quack selling fake medicines SWINDLER, charlatan, mountebank, trickster, fraud, fraudster, impostor, hoaxer, shaipe, in formal con man, shark, *Brit informal* twister, *N Amer informal* grifter, *Austral informal* shicer ② (*Brit informal*) get the quack to examine you See DOCTOR noun

quadrangle ► **noun** COURTYARD, quad, court, cloister, precinct, square, plaza, piazza

quaff ► **verb** DRINK, swallow, gulp (down), guzzle, slurp, down, drain, empty, imbibe, partake of, consume, sup, sip, *informal* sink, kill, glug, swig, swill, slug, knock back, toss off, *Brit informal* get outside (of), shift, murder, neck *N Amer informal* chug, snarf (down)

quagmire ► **noun** ① the field became a quagmire SWAMP, morass, bog, marsh, mire, slough, archaic quag ② a judicial quagmire MUDDLE, mix-up, mess, predicament, mare's nest, quandary, tangle, imbroglio, trouble, confusion, difficulty, *informal* sticky situation, pickle, stew, dilemma, fix, bind

quail ► **verb** COWER, cringe, flinch, shrink, recoil, shy (away), pull back, shiver, tremble, shake, quake, blench, blanch

quaint ► **adjective** ① a quaint town PICTURESQUE, charming, sweet, attractive, old-fashioned, old-world, *Brit* twee, *N Amer* cunning, pseudo-archaic olde (worlde) ② quaint customs UNUSUAL, different, out of the ordinary, curious, eccentric, quirky, bizarre, whimsical, unconventional, *informal* offbeat
—OPPOSITES ugly, ordinary

quake ► **verb** ① the ground quaked SHAKE, tremble, quiver, shudder, sway, rock, wobble, move, heave, convulse ② we quaked when we saw the soldiers TREMBLE, shake, quiver, shiver, blench, blanch, flinch, shrink, recoil, cower, cringe

qualification ► **noun** ① a teaching qualification CERTIFICATE, diploma, degree, licence, document, warrant, eligibility, acceptability, adequacy, proficiency, skill, ability, capability, aptitude ② I can't accept it without qualification MODIFICATION, limitation, reservation, stipulation, alteration, amendment, revision, moderation, mitigation, condition, proviso, caveat

qualified ► **adjective** CERTIFIED, certificated, chartered, licensed, professional, trained, fit, competent, accomplished, proficient, skilled, experienced, expert

qualify ► **verb** ① I qualify for free travel BE ELIGIBLE, meet the requirements, be entitled to, be permitted ② they qualify as refugees COUNT, be considered, be designated, be eligible ③ she qualified as a solicitor BE CERTIFIED, be licensed, pass, graduate, make the grade, succeed, pass muster ④ the course qualified them to teach AUTHORIZE, empower, allow, permit, license, equip, prepare, train, educate, teach ⑤ they qualified their findings MODIFY, limit, restrict, make conditional, moderate, temper, modulate, mitigate

quality ► **noun** ① a poor quality of signal STAND ARD, grade, class, calibre, condition, character, nature, form, rank, value, level, sort, type, kind, variety ② work of such quality EXCELLENCE, superiority, merit, worth, value, virtue, calibre, eminence, distinction, incomparability, talent, skill, virtuosity, craftsmanship ③ her good qualities FEATURE, trait, attribute, characteristic, point, aspect, facet, side, property

qualm ► **noun** MISGIVING, doubt, reservation, second thought, worry, concern, anxiety, (qualms) hesitation, hesitance, hesitancy, demur, reluctance, disinclination, apprehension, trepidation, unease, scruples, remorse compunction

quandary ► **noun** PREDICAMENT, plight, difficult situation, awkward situation, trouble, muddle, mess, confusion, difficulty, mare's nest, *informal* dilemma, sticky situation, pickle, hole, stew, fix, bind, jam

quantity ► **noun** ① the quantity of food collected AMOUNT, total, aggregate, sum, quota, mass, weight, volume, bulk, quantum, proportion, portion, part ② a quantity of ammunition AMOUNT, lot, great deal, good deal, an abundance, a wealth, a profusion, plenty, *informal* piles, oodles, tons, lots, loads, heaps, masses, stacks, bags, *Brit informal* shedloads

quark ► **noun** See list

Flavours and Colours of Quarks and Antiquarks

beauty	green	strangeness
blue	minus-blue	top
bottom	minus-green	truth
charm	minus-red	up
down	red	

quarrel ► **noun** they had a quarrel about money ARGUMENT, disagreement, squabble, fight, dispute, wrangle, clash, altercation, feud, contretemps, disputation, falling-out, war of words, shouting match, *informal* tiff, slanging match, run-in, *Brit informal* barney, row, bust-up

► **verb** don't quarrel over it ARGUE, fight, disagree, fall out, differ, be at odds, bicker, squabble, cross swords, lock horns, be at each other's throats, *informal* argify, *Brit informal* row

■ **quarrel with you** can't quarrel with the verdict FAULT, criticize, object to, oppose, take exception to, attack, take issue with, impugn, contradict, dispute, controvert, *informal* knock, formal gainsay

quarrelsome ► **adjective** ARGUMENTATIVE, disputatious, confrontational, captious, pugnacious, combative, antagonistic, bellicose, belligerent, cantankerous, choleric, *Brit informal* stropky, *N Amer informal* scrappy
—OPPOSITES peaceable

quarry ► **noun** PREY, victim, object, goal, target, kill, game

quarter ▶ **noun** ① the Latin quarter DISTRICT, area, region, part, side, neighbourhood, precinct, locality, sector, zone, ghetto, community, enclave ② help from an unexpected quarter SOURCE, direction, place, location, person ③ the servants' quarters ACCOMMODATION, lodgings, rooms, chambers, home, informal pad, digs, formal abode, residence, domicile ④ the riot squads gave no quarter MERCY, leniency, clemency, lenity, compassion, pity, charity, sympathy, tolerance

▶ **verb** ① they were quartered in a villa ACCOMMODATE, house, board, lodge, put up, take in, install, shelter, Military billet ② I quartered the streets PATROL, range over, tour, reconnoitre, traverse, survey, scout, *Bnt informal recce*

quash ▶ **verb** ① he may quash the sentence CANCEL, reverse, rescind, repeal, revoke, retract, countermand, withdraw, overturn, overrule, veto, annul, nullify, invalidate, negate, void, Law vacate, formal abrogate ② we want to quash these rumours PUT AN END TO, put a stop to, stamp out, crush, put down, check, curb, nip in the bud, squash, quell, subdue, suppress, extinguish, stifle, *informal squelch*, put the kibosh on

—OPPOSITES validate

quasi- ▶ **combining form** ① quasi-scientific SUPPOSEDLY, seemingly, apparently, allegedly, ostensibly, on the face of it, on the surface, to all intents and purposes, outwardly, superficially, purportedly, nominally, pseudo- ② a quasi-autonomous organization PARTLY, partially, part, to a certain extent, to some extent, half, relatively, comparatively, (up) to a point, almost, nearly, just about, all but

quaver ▶ **verb** TREMBLE, waver, quiver, shake, vibrate, oscillate, fluctuate, falter, warble

quay ▶ **noun** WHARF, pier, jetty, landing stage, berth, marina, dock, harbour

queasy ▶ **adjective** NAUSEOUS, nauseated, bilious, sick, ill, unwell, poorly, green about the gills, *Bnt off colour*

queen ▶ **noun** ① the Queen was crowned MONARCH, sovereign, ruler, head of state, Her Majesty, king's consort, queen consort ② (informal) the queen of soul music DOYENNE, star, superstar, leading light, big name, queen bee, prima donna, idol, heroine, favourite, darling, goddess

queer ▶ **adjective** ① it seemed queer to see him here ODD, strange, unusual, funny, peculiar, curious, bizarre, weird, uncanny, freakish, eerie, unnatural, unconventional, unorthodox, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, anomalous, atypical, untypical, out of the ordinary, incongruous, irregular, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable, informal fishy, creepy, spooky, freaky, *Bnt informal rum* ② (Bnt informal, dated) the pills made her feel queer See ILL adjective sense 1

—OPPOSITES normal, well

▶ **verb** he queered the whole deal SPOIL, ruin, wreck, destroy, scotch, disrupt, undo, thwart, foil, blight, cripple, jeopardize, threaten, undermine, compromise, informal botch, blow, put the kibosh on, *Bnt informal scupper*

quell ▶ **verb** ① troops quelled the unrest PUT AN END TO, put a stop to, end, crush, put down, check, crack down on, curb, nip in the bud,

squash, quash, subdue, suppress, overcome, informal squelch ② he quelled his misgivings CALM, soothe, pacify, settle, quieten, quiet, silence, allay, assuage, mitigate, moderate, poetic/literary stay

quench ▶ **verb** ① they quenched their thirst SATISFY, slake, sate, satiate, gratify, relieve, assuage, take the edge off, indulge, lessen, reduce, diminish, check, suppress, extinguish, overcome ② the flames were quenched EXTINGUISH, put out, snuff out, smother, douse

querulous ▶ **adjective** PETULANT, peevish, pettish, complaining, fractious, fretful, irritable, testy, tetchy, cross, snappish, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, miserable, moody, grumpy, bad-tempered, sullen, sulky, sour, churlish, informal snappy, grouchy, whingy, *Bnt informal ratty*, cranky, *N English informal mardy*, *N Amer informal soreheaded*

query ▶ **noun** ① we are happy to answer any queries QUESTION, enquiry, *Bnt informal quiz* ② there was a query as to who owned the hotel DOUBT, uncertainty, question (mark), reservation, scepticism

▶ **verb** ① 'Why do that?' queried Isobel ASK, enquire, question, *Bnt informal quiz* ② folk may query his credentials QUESTION, call into question, challenge, dispute, cast aspersions on, doubt, have suspicions about, have reservations about

quest ▶ **noun** ① their quest for her killer SEARCH, hunt, pursuit of ② Sir Galahad's quest EXPEDITION, journey, voyage, trek, travels, odyssey, adventure, exploration, search, crusade, mission, pilgrimage

■ **in quest of** IN SEARCH OF, in pursuit of, seeking, looking for, on the lookout for, after

question ▶ **noun** ① please answer my question ENQUIRY, query, interrogation, *Bnt informal quiz* ② there is no question that he is ill DOUBT, dispute, argument, debate, uncertainty, dubiousness, reservation, formal dubiety ③ the political questions of the day ISSUE, matter, business, problem, concern, topic, theme, case, debate, argument, dispute, controversy

—RELATED TERMS interrogative

—OPPOSITES answer, certainty

▶ **verb** ① the magistrate questions the suspect INTERROGATE, cross-examine, cross-question, quiz, catechize, interview, debrief, examine, give the third degree to, informal grill, pump ② she questioned his motives QUERY, call into question, challenge, dispute, cast aspersions on, doubt, suspect, have suspicions about, have reservations about

■ **beyond question** ① her loyalty is beyond question UNDOUBTED, beyond doubt, certain, indubitable, indisputable, incontrovertible, unquestionable, undeniable, clear, patent, manifest ② the results demonstrated this beyond question INDISPUTABLY, irrefutably, incontestably, incontrovertibly, unquestionably, undeniably, undoubtedly, beyond doubt, without doubt, clearly, patently, obviously.

■ **in question** AT ISSUE, under discussion, under consideration, on the agenda, to be decided

■ **out of the question** IMPOSSIBLE, impracticable, unfeasible, unworkable, inconceivable, unimaginable, unrealizable, unsuitable, informal not on



questionable ▶ **adjective** ① *jokes of questionable taste* CONTROVERSIAL, contentious, doubtful, dubious, uncertain, debatable, arguable, unverified, unprovable, unresolved, unconvincing, implausible, improbable, borderline, marginal, moot, *informal* iffy, *Brit informal* dodgy ② *questionable financial dealings* SUSPICIOUS, suspect, dubious, irregular, odd, strange, murky, dark, unsavoury, disreputable, *informal* funny, fishy, shady, iffy, *Brit informal* dodgy
-OPPOSITES indisputable, honest

questionnaire ▶ **noun** QUESTION SHEET, survey form, opinion poll, test, exam, examination, quiz, *Medicine* questionnaire

queue ▶ **noun** ① *a queue of people* LINE, row, column, file, chain, string, procession, train, cavalcade, waiting list, *N Amer* wait list, *Brit informal* crocodile ② *a traffic queue (TRAFFIC)* JAM, tail-back, gridlock, *N Amer* back-up, *informal* snarl-up

▶ **verb** *we queued for ice creams* LINE UP, form a queue, queue up, wait in line, form a line, fall in

quibble ▶ **noun** *I have just one quibble* CRITICISM, objection, complaint, protest, argument, exception, grumble, grouse, cavil, *informal* niggle, moan, gripe, beef, grouch

▶ **verb** *no one quibbled with the title* OBJECT TO, find fault with, complain about, cavil at, split hairs, chop logic, criticize, query, fault, pick holes in, *informal* nit-pick, *archaic* pettifog

quick ▶ **adjective** ① *a quick worker* FAST, swift, rapid, speedy, high-speed, expeditious, brisk, smart, lightning, whirlwind, fast-track, break-neck, whistle-stop, *informal* nippy, zippy, *poetic/literary* fleet ② *she took a quick look* HASTY, hurried, cursory, perfunctory, desultory, superficial, summary, brief, short, fleeting, transient, transitory, short-lived, lightning, momentary ③ *a quick end to the recession* SUDDEN, instantaneous, immediate, instant, abrupt, precipitate ④ *she isn't as quick as the others* INTELLIGENT, bright, clever, gifted, able, astute, quick-witted, sharp-witted, smart, observant, alert, sharp, perceptive, *informal* brainy, on the ball, quick on the uptake
-OPPOSITES slow, long

quicken ▶ **verb** ① *she quickened her pace* SPEED UP, accelerate, step up, hasten, hurry (up), *informal* gee up ② *the film quickened his interest in nature* STIMULATE, excite, arouse, rouse, stir up, activate, galvanize, whet, inspire, kindle, invigorate, revive, revitalize

quickly ▶ **adverb** ① *he walked quickly* FAST, swiftly, briskly, rapidly, speedily, at the speed of light, at full tilt, as fast as one's legs can carry one, at a gallop, at the double, post-haste, hotfoot, *informal* double quick, p d q (pretty damn quick), like (greased) lightning, hell for leather, like mad, like blazes, like the wind, *Brit informal* like the clappers, like billy-o, *N Amer informal* lickety-split, *poetic/literary* apace ② *you'd better leave quickly* IMMEDIATELY, directly, at once, now, straight away, right away, instantly, forthwith, without delay, without further ado, soon, promptly, early, *N Amer* momentarily, *informal* like a shot, a s a p (as soon as possible), pronto, before you can say Jack Robinson, straight off ③ *he quickly inspected it* BRIEFLY, fleetingly, briskly, hastily, hurriedly, cursorily, perfunctorily, superficially, desultorily

quick-tempered ▶ **adjective** IRRITABLE, irascible, hot-tempered, short-tempered, snappish, fiery, touchy, volatile, cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, grumpy, ill-tempered, bad-tempered, testy, tetchy, prickly, choleric, *informal* snappy, chippy, grouchy, cranky, on a short fuse, *Brit informal* narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* soreheaded
-OPPOSITES placid

quick-witted ▶ **adjective** INTELLIGENT, bright, clever, gifted, able, astute, quick, smart, sharp-witted, observant, alert, sharp, perceptive, *informal* brainy, on the ball, quick on the uptake
-OPPOSITES slow

quid pro quo ▶ **noun** EXCHANGE, trade, trade-off, swap, switch, barter, substitute, reciprocity, return, amends, compensation, recompense, restitution, reparation

quiescent ▶ **adjective** INACTIVE, inert, idle, dormant, at rest, inoperative, deactivated, quiet, still, motionless, immobile, passive
-OPPOSITES active

quiet ▶ **adjective** ① *the whole pub went quiet* SILENT, still, hushed, noiseless, soundless, mute, dumb, speechless ② *a quiet voice* SOFT, low, muted, muffled, faint, indistinct, inaudible, hushed, whispered, suppressed ③ *a quiet village* PEACEFUL, sleepy, tranquil, calm, still, restful, undisturbed, untroubled, unfrequented ④ *can I have a quiet word?* PRIVATE, confidential, secret, discreet, unofficial, off the record, between ourselves ⑤ *quiet colours* UNOBTRUSIVE, restrained, muted, understated, subdued, subtle, low-key, soft, pale, pastel ⑥ *you can't keep it quiet for long* SECRET, confidential, classified, unrevealed, undisclosed, unknown, under wraps, *informal* hush-hush, mum, *formal* sub rosa ⑦ *business is quiet* SLOW, stagnant, slack, sluggish, inactive, idle
-OPPOSITES loud, busy, public

▶ **noun** *the quiet of the countryside* PEACEFULNESS, peace, restfulness, calm, tranquillity, serenity, silence, quietness, stillness, still, quietude, hush, soundlessness

quieten ▶ **verb** ① *quieten the children down* SILENCE, hush, shush, quiet, *informal* shut up ② *her companions quietened* FALL SILENT, stop talking, break off, shush, hold one's tongue, *informal* shut up, clam up, shut it, pipe down, shut one's mouth, put a sock in it, button it ③ *he tried to quieten manic patients* PACIFY, calm (down), soothe, subdue, tranquillize, relax, comfort, compose

quietly ▶ **adverb** ① *she quietly entered the room* SILENTLY, in silence, noiselessly, soundlessly, inaudibly, mutely, dumbly ② *he spoke quietly* SOFTLY, in a low voice, in a whisper, in a murmur, under one's breath, in an undertone, sotto voce, gently, faintly, weakly, feebly ③ *some bonds were sold quietly* DISCREETLY, privately, confidentially, secretly, unofficially, off the record ④ *she is quietly confident* CALMLY, patiently, placidly, serenely

quilt ▶ **noun** DUVET, cover(s), *Brit* eiderdown, *N Amer* comforter, puff, *Austral trademark* Doona

quintessence ▶ **noun** ① *it's the quintessence of the modern home* PERFECT EXAMPLE, exemplar, prototype, stereotype, picture, epitome, embodiment, ideal, best, pick, prime, acme, crème de la crème ② *the quintessence of intelli-*

gence ESSENCE, soul, spirit, nature, core, heart, crux, kernel, marrow, substance, *informal* nitty-gritty, *Philosophy* quiddity, esse

quintessential ▶ **adjective** TYPICAL, prototypical, stereotypical, archetypal, classic, model, standard, stock, representative, conventional, ideal, consummate, exemplary, best, ultimate

quip ▶ **noun** the quip provoked a smile JOKE, witty remark, witticism, jest, pun, sally, pleasantry, bon mot, *informal* one-liner, gag, crack, wise-crack, funny

▶ **verb** 'Enjoy your trip?' he quipped JOKE, jest, pun, sally; *informal* gag, wisecrack

quirk ▶ **noun** ① they all know his quirks IDIOSYNCRASY, peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity, foible, whim, vagary, caprice, fancy, crotchet, habit, characteristic, trait, fad, *informal* hang-up ② a quirk of fate CHANCE, fluke, freak, anomaly, twist

quirky ▶ **adjective** ECCENTRIC, idiosyncratic, unconventional, unorthodox, unusual, strange, bizarre, peculiar, odd, outlandish, zany, *informal* wacky, freaky, kinky, way-out, far out, kooky, offbeat

—OPPOSITES conventional

quisling ▶ **noun** COLLABORATOR, fraternizer, colluder, sympathizer, traitor, turncoat, backstabber, double-crosser, defector, Judas, snake in the grass, fifth columnist

quit ▶ **verb** ① he quit the office at 12.30 LEAVE, vacate, exit, depart from, withdraw from, abandon, desert ② (*informal*) he's decided to quit his job RESIGN FROM, leave, give up, hand in one's notice, stand down from, relinquish, vacate, walk out on, retire from, *informal* chuck, pack in ③ (*informal*) quit living in the past GIVE UP, stop, cease, discontinue, drop, break off, abandon, abstain from, desist from, refrain from, avoid, forgo, *informal* pack (it) in, leave off

quite ▶ **adverb** ① two quite different types COMPLETELY, entirely, totally, wholly, absolutely, utterly, thoroughly, altogether ② red hair was quite common FAIRLY, rather, somewhat, slightly, relatively, comparatively, moderately, reasonably, to a certain extent, *informal* pretty, kind of, sort of

quiver ▶ **verb** ① I quivered with terror TREMBLE, shake, shiver, quaver, quake, shudder ② the bird quivers its wings FLUTTER, flap, beat, agitate, vibrate

▶ **noun** a quiver in her voice TREMOR, tremble, shake, quaver, flutter, fluctuation, waver

quixotic ▶ **adjective** IDEALISTIC, romantic, visionary, Utopian, extravagant, starchy-eyed, unrealistic, unworldly, impracticable, unworkable, impossible

quiz ▶ **noun** ① a music quiz COMPETITION, test of knowledge ② (*informal*) jockey faces quiz over bribes INTERROGATION, questioning, interview, examination, the third degree, *informal* grilling

▶ **verb** a man was being quizzed by police QUESTION, interrogate, cross-examine, cross-question, interview, sound out, give someone the third degree, *informal* grill, pump

quizzical ▶ **adjective** ENQUIRING, questioning, curious, puzzled, perplexed, baffled, mystified, amused, mocking, teasing

quota ▶ **noun** ALLOCATION, share, allowance, limit, ration, portion, dispensation, slice (of the cake), percentage, commission, proportion, fraction, bit, amount, quantity, *informal* cut, rake-off, *Brit informal* whack

quotation ▶ **noun** ① a quotation from Dryden CITATION, quote, excerpt, extract, passage, line, paragraph, verse, phrase, reference, allusion, *N Amer cite* ② a quotation for the building work ESTIMATE, quote, price, tender, bid, costing, charge, figure

quote ▶ **verb** ① he quoted a sentence from the book RECITE, repeat, reproduce, retell, echo, iterate, take, extract ② she quoted one case in which a girl died CITE, mention, refer to, name, instance, specify, identify, relate, recount, allude to, point out, present, offer, advance

▶ **noun** ① a Shakespeare quote See QUOTATION sense 1 ② ask the contractor for a quote See QUOTATION sense 2

quotidian ▶ **adjective** ① the quotidian routine DAILY, everyday, day-to-day, diurnal ② her dreadfully quotidian car ORDINARY, average, run-of-the-mill, everyday, standard, typical, middle-of-the-road, common, conventional, mainstream, unremarkable, unexceptional, workaday, commonplace, mundane, uninteresting, *informal* bog-standard, nothing to write home about, a dime a dozen, *Brit informal* common oi garden

—OPPOSITES unusual

Rr

rabbit ► **noun** buck, doe, *Bnt* coney, *informal* bunny *See list*

Rabbits and Hares

angora
Arctic hare
Belgian hare
brown hare
chinchilla
cottontail

European rabbit
jackrabbit
mountain hare
pika
snowshoe hare

rabble ► **noun** ① *a rabble of noisy youths* MOB, crowd, throng, gang, swarm, horde, pack, mass, group ② *rule by the rabble* THE COMMON PEOPLE, the masses, the populace, the multitude, the rank and file, the commonality, the commonalty, the plebeians, the proletariat, the peasantry, the hoi polloi, the lower classes, the riff-raff, *informal* the proles, the plebs
—OPPOSITES nobility

rabble-rouser ► **noun** AGITATOR, trouble-maker, instigator, firebrand, revolutionary, demagogue

rabid ► **adjective** ① *a rabid dog* rabies-infected, mad ② *a rabid anti-royalist* EXTREME, fanatical, overzealous, extremist, maniacal, passionate, fervent, diehard, uncompromising, illiberal, *in formal* gung-ho
—OPPOSITES moderate

race¹ ► **noun** ① *Dave won the race* CONTEST, competition, event, fixture, heat, trial(s) ② *the race for naval domination* COMPETITION, rivalry, contention, quest ③ *the mill race* CHANNEL, waterway, conduit, sluice, spillway

► **verb** ① *he will race in the final* COMPETE, contend, run ② *Claire raced after him* HURRY, dash, rush, run sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, scurry, *informal* tear, belt, pelt, scoot, hotfoot it, leg it, *Bnt informal* bomb, *N Amer informal* hightail it ③ *her heart was racing* POUND, beat rapidly, throb, pulsate, thud, thump, hammer, palpitate, flutter, pitter-patter, quiver, pump

race² ► **noun** ① *pupils of many different races* ETHNIC GROUP, racial type, (ethnic) origin ② *a bloodthirsty race* PEOPLE, nation

racial ► **adjective** ETHNIC, ethnological, race-related, cultural, national, tribal

racism ► **noun** RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, racialism, racial prejudice, xenophobia, chauvinism, bigotry, anti-Semitism

racist ► **noun** *he was exposed as a racist* RACIAL BIGOT, racialist, xenophobe, chauvinist, anti-Semite

► **adjective** *a racist society* (RACIALLY) DISCRIMINATORY, racialist, prejudiced, bigoted, anti-Semitic

rack ► **noun** *put the cake on a wire rack* FRAME, framework, stand, holder, trestle, support, shelf

► **verb** *she was racked with guilt* TORMENT, afflict,

torture, agonize, harrow, plague, bedevil, persecute, trouble, worry

■ **on the rack** UNDER PRESSURE, under stress, under a strain, in distress, in trouble, in difficulties, having problems

■ **rack one's brains** THINK HARD, concentrate, cudgel one's brains, *informal* scratch one's head

racket ► **noun** ① *the engine makes such a racket* NOISE, din, hubbub, clamour, uproar, tumult, commotion, rumpus, pandemonium, babel, *in formal* hullabaloo, *Bnt informal* row ② (*informal*) *a gold-smuggling racket* ILLEGAL SCHEME, fraud, swindle, *informal* rip-off, *N Amer informal* shake-down

raconteur ► **noun** STORYTELLER, narrator, anecdotalist, *Austral informal* magsman

racy ► **adjective** RISQUE, suggestive, naughty, sexy, spicy, ribald, indecorous, indecent, immodest, off colour, dirty, rude, smutty, crude, salacious, *N Amer* gamy, *informal* raunchy, blue, *Bnt informal* saucy, euphemistic adult
—OPPOSITES prim

raddled ► **adjective** HAGGARD, gaun, drawn, tired, fatigued, drained, exhausted, worn out, washed out, unwell, unhealthy, *informal* the worse for wear

radiance ► **noun** ① *the radiance of the sun* LIGHT, brightness, brilliance, luminosity, beams, rays, illumination, blaze, glow, gleam, lustre, glare, luminescence, incandescence ② *her face flooded with radiance* JOY, elation, jubilation, ecstasy, rapture, euphoria, delirium, happiness, delight, pleasure

radiant ► **adjective** ① *the radiant moon* SHINING, bright, illuminated, brilliant, gleaming, glowing, ablaze, luminous, luminescent, lustrous, incandescent, dazzling, shimmering, *archaic* splendid ② *she looked radiant* JOYFUL, elated, thrilled, overjoyed, jubilant, rapturous, ecstatic, euphoric, in seventh heaven, on cloud nine, delighted, very happy, *informal* on top of the world, over the moon, *Austral informal* wrapped
—OPPOSITES dark, gloomy

radiate ► **verb** ① *the stars radiate energy* EMIT, give off, give out, discharge, diffuse, shed, cast ② *light radiated from the hull* SHINE, beam, emanate ③ *their faces radiate hope* DISPLAY, show, exhibit, emanate, breathe, be a picture of ④ *four spokes radiate from the hub* FAN OUT, spread out, branch out/off, extend, issue

radiation ► **noun** *See lists here and at ELEMENT*

radical ► **adjective** ① *radical reform* THOROUGH GOING, thorough, complete, total, comprehensive, exhaustive, sweeping, far-reaching, wide-ranging, extensive, profound, major, stringent, rigorous ② *radical differences between the two theories* FUNDAMENTAL, basic, essential, quintessential, structural, deep-seated, intrinsic, organic, constitutive ③ *a radical political movement* REVOLUTIONARY, progressive, reformist, revisionist, progressivist, extreme, extremist, fanatical, militant, diehard

Types of Radiation

alpha radiation	infrared (IR) radiation
background radiation	insolation
backscatter	ionizing radiation
beta radiation	light
bremsstrahlung	microwaves
Cerenkov radiation	radar waves
coherent radiation	radio waves
cosmic rays	submillimetre radiation
electromagnetic radiation	synchrotron radiation
gamma radiation	ultraviolet (UV) radiation
gravitational radiation	visible radiation
Hawking radiation	X-rays

—OPPOSITES superficial, minor, conservative

► **noun** *the arrested man was a radical* **REVOLUTIONARY**, progressive, reformer, revisionist, militant, zealot, extremist, fanatic, diehard, *informal* ultra

—OPPOSITES conservative

raffish ► **adjective** **RAKISH**, unconventional, bohemian, devil-may-care, casual, careless, louche, disreputable, dissolute, decadent

raffle ► **noun** **LOTTERY**, (prize) draw, sweepstake, sweep, tombola, *N Amer* lotto

rag¹ ► **noun** ① *an oily rag* **CLOTH**, scrap of cloth, *N Amer informal* schmatte ② *a man dressed in rags* **TATTERS**, torn clothing, old clothes, cast-offs, hand-me-downs

rag² ► **noun** (*Bnt*) *the student rag* **FUND-RAISING EVENT**, charity event, charitable event

► **verb** (*informal*) *he was ragged mercilessly* See **TEASE**

ragamuffin ► **noun** **URCHIN**, waif, guttersnipe, *informal* scarecrow, dated gamine(e)

ragbag ► **noun** **JUMBLE**, hotchpotch, mishmash, mess, hash, assortment, mixture, miscellany, medley, mixed bag, melange, variety, diversity, pot-pourri, *N Amer* hodgepodge

rage ► **noun** ① *his rage is due to frustration* **FURY**, anger, wrath, outrage, indignation, temper, spleen, resentment, pique, annoyance, vexation, displeasure, pet, tantrum, (bad) mood, *informal* grump, strop, *poetic/literary* ire, cholera ② *the current rage for DJs* **CRAZE**, passion, fashion, taste, trend, vogue, fad, enthusiasm, obsession, compulsion, fixation, fetish, mania, preoccupation, *informal* thing

► **verb** ① *she raged silently* **BE ANGRY**, be furious, be enraged, be incensed, seethe, be beside oneself, rave, storm, fume, spit, *informal* be livid, be wild, foam at the mouth, have a fit, be steamed up ② *he raged against the reforms* **PROTEST ABOUT**, complain about, oppose, denounce, fulminate, storm, rail, *informal* kick up a stink about ③ *a storm was raging* **BE VIOLENT**, be turbulent, be tempestuous, thunder, rampage

■ (all) **the rage** **POPULAR**, fashionable, in fashion, in vogue, the (latest) thing, in great demand, sought-after, le dernier cri, *informal* in, the in thing, cool, big, trendy, hot, hip

ragged ► **adjective** ① *ragged jeans* **TATTERED**, in tatters, torn, ripped, holey, in holes, moth-eaten, frayed, worn (out), falling to pieces, threadbare, scruffy, shabby, *informal* tatty ② *a ragged child* **SHABBY**, scruffy, down at heel, unkempt, dressed in rags ③ *a ragged coastline* **JAGGED**, craggy, rugged, uneven, rough, irregu-

lar, serrated, sawtooth, indented, *technical* crenulate, crenulated

—OPPOSITES smart

raging ► **adjective** ① *a raging mob* **ANGRY**, furious, enraged, incensed, infuriated, irate, fuming, seething, ranting, *informal* livid, wild, *poetic/literary* wrathful ② *raging seas* **STORMY**, violent, wild, turbulent, tempestuous ③ *a raging headache* **EXCRUCIATING**, agonizing, painful, throbbing, acute, bad ④ *her raging thirst* **SEVERE**, extreme, great, excessive

raid ► **noun** ① *the raid on Dieppe* **ATTACK**, assault, descent, blitz, incursion, sortie, onslaught, storming, charge, offensive, invasion, blitzkrieg ② *a raid on a shop* **ROBBERY**, burglary, hold-up, break-in, ram raid, looting, plunder, *informal* smash-and-grab, stick-up, *Bnt informal* blag, *N Amer informal* heist ③ *a police raid on the flat* **SWOOP**, search, *N Amer informal* bust, takedown

► **verb** ① *they raided shipping in the harbour* **ATTACK**, assault, set upon, descend on, swoop on, blitz, assail, storm, rush ② *armed men raided the store* **ROB**, hold up, break into, plunder, steal from, pillage, loot, ransack, sack, *informal* stick up ③ *homes were raided by police* **SEARCH**, swoop on, *N Amer informal* bust

raider ► **noun** **ROBBER**, burglar, thief, house-breaker, plunderer, pillager, looter, marauder, attacker, assailant, invader

rail ► **verb** *he rails against injustice* **PROTEST**, fulminate, inveigh, rage, speak out, make a stand, expostulate about, criticize, denounce, condemn, object to, oppose, complain about, challenge, *informal* kick up a fuss about

railing ► **noun** **FENCE**, fencing, rail(s), paling, palisade, balustrade, banister, hurdle

railery ► **noun** **TEASING**, mockery, chaff, ragging, banter, badinage, *informal* leg-pulling, ribbing, kidding, *N Amer informal* josh

rain ► **noun** ① *the rain had stopped* **RAINFALL**, precipitation, raindrops, wet weather, drizzle, mizzle, shower, rainstorm, cloudburst, torrent, downpour, deluge, storm ② *a ruin of hot ash* **SHOWER**, deluge, flood torrent, avalanche, flurry, storm, hail

—RELATED TERMS pluvial

► **verb** ① *it rained heavily* **POUR (DOWN)**, pelt down, tip down, teem down, beat down, lash down, sheet down, rain cats and dogs, fall, drizzle, spit, *informal* be chucking it down, *Bnt informal* bucket down ② *bombs rained on the city* **FALL**, hail, drop, shower

rainbow ► **noun**. See list

Colours of the Rainbow

red orange yellow green blue indigo violet

rainy ► **adjective** **WET**, showery, drizzly, damp, inclement

raise ► **verb** ① *he raised a hand in greeting* **LIFT (UP)**, hold aloft, elevate, uplift, upraise, upthrust, hoist, haul up, hitch up; *Bnt informal* hoick up ② *he raised himself in the bed* **SET UP RIGHT**, set vertical, sit up, stand up ③ *they raised prices* **INCREASE**, put up, push up, up, mark up, escalate, inflate, *informal* hike (up), jack up, bump up ④ *he raised his voice* **AMPLIFY**, louden, magnify, intensify, boost, lift, increase,

heighten, augment ⑤ the temple was raised in 900 BC BUILD, construct, erect, assemble, put up ⑥ how will you raise the money? GET, obtain, acquire, accumulate, amass, collect, fetch, net, make ⑦ the city raised troops to fight for them RECRUIT, enlist, sign up, conscript, call up, mobilize, rally, assemble, US draft ⑧ a tax raised on imports LEVY, impose, exact, demand, charge ⑨ he raised several objections BRING UP, air, ventilate, present, table, propose, submit, advance, suggest, moot, put forward ⑩ the disaster raised doubts about safety GIVE RISE TO, occasion, cause, produce, engender, elicit, create, result in, lead to, prompt, awaken, arouse, induce, kindle, incite, stir up, trigger, spark off, provoke, instigate, foment, whip up; poetic/literary beget ⑪ most parents raise their children well BRING UP, rear, nurture, look after, care for, provide for, mother, parent, tend, cherish, educate, train ⑫ he raised cattle BREED, rear, nurture, keep, tend, grow, farm, cultivate, produce ⑬ he was raised to the peerage PROMOTE, advance, upgrade, elevate, ennoble, informal kick upstairs, archaic prefer ⑭ (Brit informal) raise them on the radio CONTACT, get hold of, reach, get in touch with, communicate with, call

—OPPOSITES lower, reduce, demolish

► **noun** the workers wanted a raise PAY RISE, pay increase, increment

■ **raise hell** (informal) See HELL

raised ► **adjective** EMBOSSED, relief, relieve, die-stamped

rake¹ ► **verb** ① he raked the leaves into a pile SCRAPE UP, collect, gather ② she raked the gravel SMOOTH (OUT), level, even out, flatten, comb ③ the cat raked his arm with its claws SCRATCH, laceate, scrape, rasp, graze, grate, Medicine excoriate ④ she raked a hand through her hair DRAG, pull, scrape, tug, comb ⑤ I raked through my pockets RUMMAGE, search, hunt, sift, rifle ⑥ machine-gun fire raked the streets SWEEP, enfilade, pepper, strafe

■ **rake something in** (informal) EARN, make, get, gain, obtain, acquire, accumulate, bring in, pull in, pocket, realize, fetch, return, yield, raise, net, gross

■ **rake something up** REMIND PEOPLE OF, recollect, remember, call to mind, drag up, dredge up

rake² ► **noun** he was something of a rake PLAYBOY, libertine, profligate, degenerate, roué, debauchee, lecher, seducer, womanizer, philanderer, adulterer, Don Juan, Lothario, Casanova, informal ladykiller, ladies' man, lech

rake-off ► **noun** (informal) See CUT noun sense 3

rakish ► **adjective** DASHING, debonair, stylish, jaunty, devil-may-care, raffish, disreputable, louché, informal sharp

rally ► **verb** ① the troops rallied and held their ground REGROUP, reassemble, re-form, reunite ② he rallied an army MUSTER, marshal, mobilize, raise, call up, recruit, enlist, conscript, assemble, gather, round up, US draft, formal convoke ③ ministers rallied to denounce the rumours: GET TOGETHER, band together, assemble, join forces, unite, ally, collaborate, cooperate, pull together ④ share prices rallied RECOVER, improve, get better, pick up, revive, bounce back, perk up, look up, turn a corner

—OPPOSITES disperse, disband, slump

► **noun** ① a rally in support of the strike (MASS)

MEETING, gathering, assembly, demonstration, (protest) march, informal demo ② a rally in oil prices RECOVERY, upturn, improvement, comeback, resurgence, Stock Exchange dead cat bounce

—OPPOSITES slump

ram ► **verb** ① he rammed his sword into its sheath FORCE, thrust, plunge, stab, push, sink, dig, stick, cram, jam, stuff, pack ② a van rammed the police car HIT, strike, crash into, collide with, impact, run into, smash into, bump (into), butt

ramble ► **verb** ① we rambled around the lanes WALK, hike, tramp, trek, backpack, wander, stroll, saunter, amble, roam, range, rove, traipse, Scottish & Irish stravaig, informal mosey, tootle, Brit informal pootle, formal perambulate ② she does ramble on CHATTER, babble, prattle, prate, blather, gabble, jabber, twitter, rattle, maunder, informal jaw, gas, gab, yak, yabber, Brit informal witter, chunter, natter, waffle, rabbit

► **noun** a ramble in the hills WALK, hike, trek, wander, stroll, saunter, amble, roam, traipse, jaunt, promenade, informal mosey, tootle, Brit informal pootle, formal perambulation

rambler ► **noun** WALKER, hiker, backpacker, wanderer, rover, poetic/literary wayfarer

rambling ► **adjective** ① a rambling speech LONG-WINDED, verbose, wordy, prolix, digressive, maundering, roundabout, circuitous, circumlocutory, disconnected, disjointed, incoherent ② rambling streets WINDING, twisting, twisty, labyrinthine, sprawling ③ a rambling rose TRAILING, creeping, climbing, vining

—OPPOSITES concise

ramification ► **noun** CONSEQUENCE, result, aftermath, outcome, effect, upshot, development, implication, product, by-product

ramp ► **noun** SLOPE, bank, incline, gradient, tilt, rise, ascent, acclivity, drop, descent, declivity

rampage ► **verb** mobs rampaged through the streets RIOT, run riot, go on the rampage, run amok, go berserk, storm, charge, tear

■ **go on the rampage** RIOT, rampage, go berserk, get out of control, run amok, N Amer informal go postal

rampant ► **adjective** ① rampant inflation UNCONTROLLED, unrestrained, unchecked, unbridled, widespread, out of control, out of hand, rife ② rampant dislike VEHEMENT, strong, violent, forceful, intense, passionate, fanatical ③ rampant vegetation LUXURIANT, exuberant, lush, rich, riotous, rank, profuse, vigorous, informal jungly ④ (Heraldry) a lion rampant UPRIGHT, erect, standing (up), rearing up

—OPPOSITES controlled, mild

rampart ► **noun** DEFENSIVE WALL, embankment, earthwork, parapet, breastwork, battlement, bulwark, outwork

ramshackle ► **adjective** TUMBLEDOWN, dilapidated, derelict, decrepit, neglected, run down, gone to rack and ruin, crumbling, decaying, rickety, shaky, unsound, informal shambly, N Amer informal shabby

—OPPOSITES sound

rancid ► **adjective** SOUR, stale, turned, rank, putrid, foul, rotten, bad, off, gamy, high, fetid, stinking, malodorous, foul-smelling, poetic/literary noisome

—OPPOSITES fresh

Mountain Ranges

RANGE	LOCATION	RANGE	LOCATION
Adirondacks	USA	Jotunheim	Norway
Allegheny Mountains	USA	Jura	France/Switzerland
Alps	France/Switzerland/Italy/ Austria/Liechtenstein	Kanchenjunga	India
Altai Mountains	Kazakhstan/China/ Mongolia	Karakoram	Afghanistan/Pakistan/ China/India
Andes	South America	Kunlun Shan	China
Apennines	Italy	Ladakh Range	India/Pakistan/China
Appalachians	USA	MacDonnell Ranges	Australia
Asir Mountains	Saudi Arabia	Middleback Ranges	Australia
Atlas Mountains	Morocco/Algeria/Tunisia	Mourne Mountains	Northern Ireland, UK
Balkan Mountains	Bulgaria	Muchinga Mountains	Zambia
Bernese Alps	Switzerland	North West Highlands	Scotland, UK
Black Hills	USA	Olympic Mountains	USA
Black Mountains	Wales, UK	Pamir Mountains	Tajikistan/China/ Afghanistan
Blue Mountains	Australia	Pennines	England, UK
Blue Ridge Mountains	USA	Pindus Mountains	Greece/Albania
Cairngorms	Scotland, UK	Pyrenees	France/Spain
Cardamom Mountains	Cambodia	Rhodope Mountains	Bulgaria/Greece
Carpathians	Poland/Slovakia/Romania	Rif Mountains	Morocco
Cascade Range	Canada/USA	Rila Mountains	Bulgaria
Catskills	USA	Rocky Mountains (or Rockies)	USA/Canada
Caucasus Mountains	SE Russia/Georgia/ Azerbaijan/Armenia	Ruwenzori	Uganda/Zaire
Cévennes	France	Sayan Mountains	Russia
Coast Mountains	Canada	Sierra Madre	Mexico
Dinanc Alps	Slovenia/Croatia/Bosnia/ Montenegro/Albania	Sierra Morena Mountains	Spain
Dolomites	Italy	Sierra Nevada	Spain
Drakensberg Mountains	Southern Africa	Sierra Nevada	USA
Elburz Mountains	Iran	Great Smoky Mountains (or Smokies)	USA
Erzgebirge	Germany/Czech Republic	Southern Alps	New Zealand
Flinders Range	Australia	Tatra Mountains	Poland/Slovakia
Ghats	India	Taurus Mountains	Turkey
Golan Heights	Israel	Tibesti Mountains	Chad/Libya
Grampian Mountains	Scotland, UK	Tien Shan	Kyrgyzstan/China/ Mongolia
Great Dividing Range	Australia	Ural Mountains	Russia
Hamersley Range	Australia	Vosges	France
Harz Mountains	Germany	Vinson Massif	Antarctica
Himalayas	China/India/Pakistan/ Nepal/Bhutan	Zagros Mountains	Iran
Hindu Kush	Afghanistan/Pakistan		
Hoggar Mountains	Algeria		



rancorous ► adjective BITTER, spiteful, hateful, resentful, acrimonious, malicious, malevolent, hostile, venomous, vindictive, baleful, vitriolic, vengeful, pernicious, mean, nasty, *informal* bitchy, catty

—OPPOSITES amicable

rancour ► noun BITTERNESS, spite, hate, hatred, resentment, malice, ill will, malevolence, animosity, antipathy, enmity, hostility, acrimony, venom, vitriol

random ► adjective *random spot checks* UNSYSTEMATIC, unmethodical, arbitrary, unplanned, undirected, casual, indiscriminate, non-specific, haphazard, stray, erratic, chance, accidental

—OPPOSITES systematic

■ **at random** UNSYSTEMATICALLY, arbitrarily, randomly, unmethodically, haphazardly

range ► noun ① *his range of vision*: SPAN, scope, compass, sweep, extent, area, field, orbit, ambit, horizon, latitude, limits, bounds, confines, parameters ② *a range of mountains*: ROW, chain, sierra, ridge, massif, line, string, series

See list ③ *a range of quality foods* ASSORTMENT, variety, diversity, mixture, collection, array, selection, choice ④ *she put the dish into the range* STOVE, cooker, trademark Aga ⑤ *cows grazed on open range* PASTURE, pasturage, pastureland, grass, grassland, grazing land, bogage, veld, *Scottish shieling, poetic/literary* greensward

► **verb** ① *charges range from 1% to 5%* VARY, fluctuate, differ, extend, stretch, reach, cover, go, run ② *on the stalls are ranged fresh foods* AR RANGE, line up, order, position, dispose, set out, array ③ *they ranged over the steppes* ROAM, rove, traverse, travel, journey, wander, drift, ramble, meander, stroll, traipse, walk, hike, trek

rangy ► adjective LONG-LEGGED, long-limbed, leggy, tall, slender, slim, lean, thin, gangling, gangly, lanky, spindly, skinny, spare

—OPPOSITES squat

rank ► noun ① *he was elevated to ministerial rank* POSITION, level, grade, echelon, class, status, standing, *dated* station See list ② *a family of rank* HIGH STANDING, blue blood, high birth, nobility, aristocracy; eminence, distinction, pres-

tige, prominence, influence, consequence, power ③ a rank of riflemen ROW, line, file, column, string, train, procession

► **verb** ① the plant is ranked as endangered CLASSIFY, class, categorize, rate, grade, bracket, group, pigeonhole, designate, catalogue, file, list ② he ranked below the others HAVE A RANK, be graded, have a status, be classed, be classified, be categorized, belong ③ tulips ranked like guardsmen LINE UP, align, order, arrange, dispose, set out, array, range

■ **the rank and file** ① the officers and the rank and file OTHER RANKS, soldiers, NCOs, lower ranks, men, troops ② a speech appealing to the rank and file THE (COMMON) PEOPLE, the proletariat, the masses, the populace, the commonality, the commonalty, the third estate, the plebeians, the hoi polloi, the rabble, the riff-raff, the great unwashed, informal the proles, the plebs

rank² ► **adjective** ① rank vegetation ABUNDANT, lush, luxuriant, dense, profuse, vigorous, overgrown, informal jungly ② a rank smell OFFENSIVE, unpleasant, nasty, revolting, sickening, obnoxious, noxious, foul, fetid, smelly, stinking, reeking, high, off, rancid, putrid, malodorous, Bnt informal niffy, pongy, whiffy, humming, poetic/literary noisome ③ rank stupidity DOWN RIGHT, utter, outright, out-and-out, absolute, complete, sheer, arrant, thoroughgoing, unqualified, unmitigated, positive, perfect, patent, pure, total

—OPPOSITES sparse, pleasant

rankle ► **verb** CAUSE RESENTMENT, annoy, upset, anger, irritate, offend, affront, displease, provoke, irk, vex, pique, nettle, gall, informal rile, miff, peeve, aggravate, hack off, Bnt informal nark, N Amer informal tick off

ransack ► **verb** PLUNDER, pillage, raid, rob, loot, sack, strip, despoil, ravage, devastate, turn upside down, scour, rifle, comb, search

ransom ► **noun** they demanded a huge ransom PAY-OFF, payment, sum, price

► **verb** the girl was ransomed for £4 million RELEASE, free, deliver, liberate, rescue, exchange for a ransom, buy the freedom of

rant ► **verb** she ranted on about the unfairness HOLD FORTH, go on, fulminate, vociferate, sound off, spout, pontificate, bluster, declaim, shout, yell, bellow, informal mouth off

► **noun** he went into a rant about them TIRADE, diatribe, broadside, poetic/literary philippic

rap¹ ► **verb** ① she rapped his fingers with a ruler HIT, strike, informal whack, thwack, bash, wallop, poetic/literary smite ② I rapped on the door KNOCK, tap, bang, hammer, pound ③ (informal) banks were rapped for high charges See REPRIMAND verb

► **noun** ① a rap on the knuckles BLOW, hit, knock, bang, crack, informal whack, thwack, bash, wallop ② a rap at the door KNOCK, tap, rat-tat, bang, hammering, pounding

■ **take the rap** (informal) BE PUNISHED, take the blame, suffer (the consequences), pay (the price)

rap² ► **noun** they didn't care a rap WHIT, iota, jot, hoot, scrap, bit, fig, informal damn, monkey's

rapacious ► **adjective** GRASPING, greedy, avaricious, acquisitive, covetous, mercenary, materialistic, insatiable, predatory; informal money-grubbing, N Amer informal grabby

Military Ranks

BRITISH ARMY

Field Marshal
General
Lieutenant General
Major General
Brigadier
Colonel
Lieutenant Colonel
Major
Captain
Lieutenant
Second Lieutenant
Warrant Officer
Staff Sergeant
Sergeant
Corporal/Bombardier
Lance Corporal/Lance Bombardier
Private/Gunner

ROYAL NAVY

Admiral of the Fleet
Admiral
Vice Admiral
Rear Admiral
Commodore
Captain
Commander
Lieutenant Commander
Lieutenant
Sub Lieutenant
Midshipman
Warrant Officer
Chief Petty Officer
Petty Officer
Leading Rating
Able Rating
Ordinary Rating

ROYAL AIR FORCE

Marshal of the Royal Air Force
Air Chief Marshal
Air Marshal
Air Vice-Marshal
Air Commodore
Group Captain
Wing Commander
Squadron Leader
Flight Lieutenant
Flying Officer

Pilot Officer
Acting Pilot Officer
Warrant Officer
Flight Sergeant
Sergeant
Senior Aircraftman/
Aircraftwoman
Leading Aircraftman/
Aircraftwoman
Aircraftman/
Aircraftwoman

US ARMY AND AIR FORCE

Chief of Staff
General
Lieutenant General
Major General
Brigadier General
Colonel
Lieutenant Colonel
Major
Captain
First Lieutenant
Second Lieutenant
Warrant Officer
Sergeant
Corporal
Private First Class
Private

US NAVY

Chief of Naval Operations
Fleet Admiral
Admiral
Vice Admiral
Rear Admiral
Captain
Commander
Lieutenant Commander
Lieutenant
Lieutenant Junior grade
Ensign
Warrant Officer
Master Chief Petty Officer
Senior Chief Petty Officer
Petty Officer
Seaman

—OPPOSITES generous

rape ► **noun** ① he was charged with rape SEXUAL ASSAULT, sexual abuse, archaic ravishment, defilement ② the rape of rainforest DESTRUCTION, violation, ravaging, pillaging, plundering, desecration, defilement, sacking, sack

► **verb** ① he raped her at knifepoint SEXUALLY ASSAULT, sexually abuse, violate, force oneself on, poetic/literary ravish, archaic defile ② they raped our country RAVAGE, violate, desecrate, defile, plunder, pillage, despoil, lay waste, ransack, sack

rapid ► **adjective** QUICK, fast, swift, speedy, expeditious, express, brisk, lightning, meteoric, whirlwind, sudden, instantaneous, instant, immediate, hurried, hasty, precipitate, informal p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), poetic/literary fleet

—OPPOSITES slow

rapidly ► **adverb** QUICKLY, fast, swiftly, speedily, at the speed of light, post-haste, hotfoot, at full tilt, briskly, hurriedly, hastily, in haste, in a rush, precipitately, *informal* like a shot, double quick, p d q (pretty damn quick), in a flash, hell for leather, at the double, like a bat out of hell, like (greased) lightning, like mad, like the wind, *Brit informal* like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o, *N Amer informal* lickety-split, *poetic/literary* apace

—OPPOSITES slowly

rapport ► **noun** AFFINITY, close relationship, (mutual) understanding, bond, empathy, sympathy, accord

rapt ► **adjective** FASCINATED, enthralled, spell-bound, captivated, riveted, gripped, mesmerized, enchanted, entranced, bewitched, transported, enraptured, thrilled, ecstatic

—OPPOSITES inattentive

rapture ► **noun** she gazed at him in rapture EC STASY, bliss, exaltation, euphoria, elation, joy, enchantment, delight, happiness, pleasure

■ go into raptures ENTHUSE, rhapsodize, rave, gush, wax lyrical, praise something to the skies

rapturous ► **adjective** ECSTATIC, joyful, elated, euphoric, enraptured, on cloud nine, in seventh heaven, transported, enchanted, blissful, happy, enthusiastic, delighted, thrilled, overjoyed, rapt, *informal* over the moon, on top of the world, blissed out, *Austral informal* wrapped

rara avis ► **noun** RARITY, rare bird, wonder, marvel, nonpareil, nonsuch, one of a kind, curiosity, oddity, freak, *Brit informal* one-off

rare ► **adjective** ① rare moments of privacy INFREQUENT, scarce, sparse, few and far between, thin on the ground, like gold dust, occasional, limited, odd, isolated, unaccustomed, unwonted, *Brit* out of the common ② rare stumps UNUSUAL, recherché, uncommon, unfamiliar, atypical, singular ③ a man of rare talent EXCEPTIONAL, outstanding, unparalleled, peerless, matchless, unique, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare, without equal, second to none, unsurpassed, consummate, superior, superlative, first-class, *informal* A1, top-notch

—OPPOSITES common, commonplace

rarefied ► **adjective** ESOTERIC, exclusive, select, elevated, lofty

rarely ► **adverb** SELDOM, infrequently, hardly (ever), scarcely, not often, once in a while, now and then, occasionally, *informal* once in a blue moon

—OPPOSITES often

raring ► **adjective** EAGER, keen, enthusiastic, impatient, longing, desperate, ready, *informal* dying, itching, gagging

rarity ► **noun** ① the rarity of earthquakes in the UK INFREQUENCY, rareness, unusualness, uncommonness, scarcity, scarleness ② this book is a rarity COLLECTOR'S ITEM, rare thing, rare bird, rara avis, wonder, nonpareil, one of a kind, curiosity, oddity, *Brit informal* one-off

rascal ► **noun** SCALLYWAG, imp, monkey, mischief-maker, wretch; *informal* scamp, tyke, horror, monster, *Brit informal* perisher, *N Amer informal* varmint, *archaic* rapsallion

rash¹ ► **noun** ① he broke out in a rash SPOTS, breakout, eruption, hives, *Medicine* erythema, exanthema, urticaria ② a rash of articles in the press SERIES, succession, spate, wave, flood, deluge, torrent, outbreak, epidemic, flurry

rash² ► **adjective** a rash decision RECKLESS, impulsive, impetuous, hasty, foolhardy, incautious, precipitate, careless, heedless, thoughtless, imprudent, foolish, ill-advised, injudicious, ill-judged, misguided, hare-brained, *poetic/literary* temerarious

—OPPOSITES prudent

rasp ► **verb** ① enamel is rasped off the teeth SCRAPE, rub, abrade, grate, grind, sand, file, scratch, scour, *Medicine* excoriate ② 'Help!' he rasped CROAK, squawk, caw, say hoarsely

rasping ► **adjective** HARSH, grating, jarring, raspy, scratchy, hoarse, rough, gravelly, croaky, gruff, husky, throaty, guttural

rat ► **noun** ① See list at RODENT ② (informal) her rat of a husband SCOUNDREL, wretch, rogue, *informal* beast, pig, swine, creep, louse, lowlife, scumbag, heel, dog, weasel, *N Amer informal* rat fink, dated cad, *informal*, dated rotter ③ (informal) the most famous rat in mob history INFORMER, betrayer, stool pigeon, *informal* snitch, squealer, *Brit informal* grass, supergrass, nark, snout, *Scottish & N Irish informal* tout, *N Amer informal* fink, stoolie

■ rat on (informal) ① we don't rat on our friends INFORM ON, betray, be unfaithful to, stab in the back, *informal* tell on, sell down the river, blow the whistle on, squeal on, stitch up, peach on, do the dirty on, *Brit informal* grass on, shop, *N Amer informal* rat out, finger ② he rattled on his pledge BREAK, renege on, go back on, welsh on

rate ► **noun** ① a fixed rate of interest PERCENTAGE, ratio, proportion, scale, standard ② an hourly rate of £30 CHARGE, price, cost, tariff, fare, levy, toll, fee, remuneration, payment, wage, allowance ③ the rate of change SPEED, pace, tempo, velocity, momentum

► **verb** ① they rated their ability at driving ASSESS, evaluate, appraise, judge, weigh up, estimate, calculate, gauge, measure, adjudge, grade, rank, classify, categorize ② the scheme was rated effective CONSIDER, judge, reckon, think, hold, deem, find, regard as, look on as, count as ③ he rated only a brief mention MERIT, deserve, warrant, be worthy of, be deserving of ④ (informal) Ben doesn't rate him THINK HIGHLY OF, think much of, set much store by, admire, esteem, value

■ at any rate IN ANY CASE, anyhow, anyway, in any event, nevertheless, whatever happens, come what may, regardless, notwithstanding

rather ► **adverb** ① I'd rather you went SOONER, by preference, preferably, by choice ② it's rather complicated QUITE, a bit, a little, fairly, slightly, somewhat, relatively, to some degree, comparatively, *informal* pretty, sort of, kind of ③ her true feelings—or rather, lack of feelings MORE PRECISELY, to be precise, to be exact, strictly speaking ④ she seemed sad rather than angry MORE, as opposed to, instead of ⑤ it was not impulsive, but rather a considered decision: ON THE CONTRARY, instead.

ratify ► **verb** CONFIRM, approve, sanction, endorse, agree to, accept, uphold, authorize, formalize, validate, recognize; sign.

—OPPOSITES reject.

rating ▶ **noun** GRADE, grading, classification, ranking, rank, category, designation, assessment, evaluation, appraisal, mark, score

ratio ▶ **noun** PROPORTION, comparative number, correlation, relationship, correspondence, percentage, fraction, quotient

ration ▶ **noun** ① a daily ration of chocolate AL LOWANCE, allocation, quota, quantum, share, portion, helping, amount, quantity, measure, proportion, percentage ② the garrison ran out of rations SUPPLIES, provisions, food, foodstuffs, eatables, edibles, provender, stores, informal grub, eats, N Amer informal chuck, formal comestibles, dated victuals

▶ **verb** fuel supplies were rationed CONTROL, limit, restrict, conserve

rational ▶ **adjective** ① a rational approach LOGIC AL, reasoned, sensible, reasonable, cogent, intelligent, judicious, shrewd, common-sense, commonsensical, sound, prudent, down-to-earth, practical, pragmatic ② she was not rational at the time of signing SANE, compos mentis, in one's right mind, of sound mind, normal, balanced, lucid, coherent, informal all there ③ man is a rational being INTELLIGENT, thinking, reasoning, cerebral, logical, analytical, formal ratiocinative

—OPPOSITES illogical, insane

rationale ▶ **noun** REASON(S), reasoning, thinking, logic, grounds, sense, principle, theory, argument, case, motive, motivation, explanation, justification, excuse, the whys and wherefores

rationalize ▶ **verb** ① he tried to rationalize his behaviour JUSTIFY, explain (away), account for, defend, vindicate, excuse ② an attempt to rationalize the industry STREAMLINE, reorganize, modernize, update, trim, hone, simplify, downsize, prune

rattle ▶ **verb** ① hailstones rattled against the window CLATTER, patter, clink, clunk ② he rattled some coins JINGLE, jangle, clink, tinkle ③ the bus rattled along JOLT, bump, bounce, jounce, shake, judder ④ the government were rattled by the strike UNNERVE, disconcert, disturb, fluster, shake, perturb, discompose, discomfit, ruffle, throw, informal faze

▶ **noun** the rattle of the bottles CLATTER, clank, clink, clang, jingle, jangle

■ **rattle something off** REEL OFF, recite, list, fire off, run through, enumerate

■ **rattle on/away** PRATTLE, babble, chatter, gabble, prate, go on, jabber, gibber, blether, ramble, informal gab, yak, yap, Bnt informal witter, rabbit, chunter, waffle

ratty ▶ **adjective** (Bnt informal) See IRRITABLE

raucous ▶ **adjective** ① raucous laughter HARSH, strident, screeching, piercing, shrill, grating, discordant, dissonant, noisy, loud, cacophonous ② a raucous hen night ROWDY, noisy, boisterous, roisterous, wild

—OPPOSITES soft, quiet

raunchy ▶ **adjective** (informal) See SEXY sense 2

ravage ▶ **verb** LAY WASTE, devastate, ruin, destroy, wreak havoc on, leave desolate, pillage, plunder, despoil, ransack, sack, loot; poetic/literary rape; archaic spoil

ravages ▶ **plural noun** ① the ravages of time DAMAGING EFFECTS, ill effects ② the ravages of man. (ACTS OF) DESTRUCTION, damage, devastation, ruin, havoc, depredation(s).

rave ▶ **verb** ① he was raving about the fires of hell TALK WILDLY, babble, jabber, talk incoherently

② I raved and swore at them RANT (AND RAVE), rage, lose one's temper, storm, fulminate, fume, shout, roar, thunder, bellow, informal fly off the handle, blow one's top, go up the wall, hit the roof, Bnt informal go spare, N Amer informal flip one's wig ③ he raved about her talent PRAISE ENTHUSIASTICALLY, go into raptures about/over, wax lyrical about, sing the praises of, rhapsodize over, enthuse about/over, acclaim, eulogize, extol, N Amer informal ballyhoo, formal laud, archaic panegyrize

—OPPOSITES criticize

▶ **noun** (informal) ① the food won raves from the critics ENTHUSIASTIC/LAVISH PRAISE, a rapturous reception, tribute, plaudits, acclaim ② a fancy-dress rave See PARTY noun sense 1

—OPPOSITES criticism

▶ **adjective** (informal) rave reviews VERY ENTHUSIASTIC, rapturous glowing, ecstatic, excellent, highly favourable

raven ▶ **noun**

—RELATED TERMS CORVINE

▶ **adjective** raven hair BLACK, jet-black, ebony, poetic/literary sable

ravenous ▶ **adjective** ① I'm absolutely ravenous VERY HUNGRY, starving, famished, rare esurient ② her ravenous appetite VORACIOUS, insatiable, greedy, gluttonous, poetic/literary insatiate

rave-up ▶ **noun** (Bnt informal) See PARTY noun sense 1

ravine ▶ **noun** GORGE, canyon, gully, dehle, couloir, chasm, abyss, gulf, S English chine, N English clough, gill, thrutch, N Amer gulch, coulee

raving ▶ **adjective** ① she's raving mad See MAD sense 1 ② a raving beauty VERY GREAT, remarkable, extraordinary, singular, striking, outstanding, stunning

ravings ▶ **plural noun** GIBBERISH, rambling, babbling, wild/incoherent talk

ravish ▶ **verb** ① (poetic/literary) he tried to ravish her RAPE, sexually assault/abuse, violate, force oneself on, molest, archaic dishonour, defile ② (poetic/literary) you will be ravished by this wine ENRAPTURE, enchant, delight, charm, entrance, enthrall, captivate ③ (archaic) her child was ravished from her breast SEIZE, snatch, carry off/away, steal, abduct

ravishing ▶ **adjective** VERY BEAUTIFUL, gorgeous, stunning, wonderful, lovely, striking, magnificent, dazzling, radiant, delightful, charming, enchanting, informal amazing, sensational, fantastic, fabulous, terrific, Bnt informal smashing, N Amer informal bodacious

—OPPOSITES hideous

raw ▶ **adjective** ① raw carrot UNCOOKED, fresh

② raw materials UNPROCESSED, untreated, unrefined, crude, natural ③ raw recruits INEXPERIENCED, new, untrained, untried, untested, callow, immature, green, naive, informal wet behind the ears ④ his skin is raw SORE, red, painful, tender, abraded, chafed, Medicine excoriated ⑤ a raw morning BLEAK, cold, chilly, freezing, icy, icy-cold, wintry, bitter; informal nippy, Bnt informal parky ⑥ raw emotions STRONG, intense, passionate, fervent, powerful, violent, undisguised, unconcealed, unrestrained, uninhibited

⑦ raw images of Latin America **REALISTIC**, unembellished, unvarnished, brutal, harsh

—**OPPOSITES** cooked, processed

■ **In the raw** (informal) See **NAKED** sense 1

raw-boned ▶ **adjective** **THIN**, lean, gaunt, bony, skinny, spare
—**OPPOSITES** plump

ray ▶ **noun** ① rays of light **BEAM**, shaft, streak, stream ② a ray of hope **GLIMMER**, flicker, spark, hint, suggestion, sign

▶ **verb** her hair rayed out in the water **SPREAD OUT**, fan out

raze ▶ **verb** **DESTROY**, demolish, raze to the ground, tear down, pull down, knock down, level, flatten, bulldoze, wipe out, lay waste

re ▶ **preposition** **ABOUT**, concerning, regarding, with regard to, relating to, apropos (of), on the subject of, in respect of, with reference to, in connection with

reach ▶ **verb** ① Travis reached out a hand **STRETCH OUT**, hold out, extend, outstretch, thrust out, stick out ② reach me that book **PASS**, hand, give, let someone have ③ soon she reached Helen's house **ARRIVE AT**, get to, come to, end up at ④ the temperature reached 94 degrees **ATTAIN**, get to, rise to, climb to, fall to, sink to, drop to, informal hit ⑤ the leaders reached an agreement **ACHIEVE**, work out, draw up, put together, negotiate, thrash out, hammer out ⑥ I have been trying to reach you all day **GET IN TOUCH WITH**, contact, get through to, get, speak to, informal get hold of ⑦ our concern is to reach more people **INFLUENCE**, sway, get (through) to, make an impression on, have an impact on

▶ **noun** ① Bobby moved out of her reach **GRASP**, range ② small goals within your reach **CAPABILITIES**, capacity ③ beyond the reach of the law **JURISDICTION**, authority, influence, scope, range, compass, ambit

react ▶ **verb** ① how he would react if she told him the truth? **BEHAVE**, act, take it, conduct oneself, respond, reply, answer ② he reacted against the new regulations **REBEL AGAINST**, oppose, rise up against

reaction ▶ **noun** ① his reaction had bewildered her **RESPONSE**, answer, reply, rejoinder, retort, riposte, informal comeback ② a reaction against modernism **BACKLASH**, counteraction ③ the forces of reaction **CONSERVATISM**, the right (wing), the extreme right

reactionary ▶ **adjective** a reactionary policy **RIGHT-WING**, conservative, rightist, traditionalist, conventional, unprogressive
—**OPPOSITES** progressive

▶ **noun** an extreme reactionary **RIGHT-WINGER**, conservative, rightist, traditionalist, conventionalist
—**OPPOSITES** radical

read ▶ **verb** ① he was reading the newspaper **PERUSE**, study, scrutinize, look through, pore over, be absorbed in, run one's eye over, cast an eye over, leaf through, scan, flick through, skim through, thumb through ② he read a passage of the letter **READ OUT/ALoud**, recite, declaim. ③ I can't read my own writing **DECIPHER**, make out, make sense of, interpret, understand ④ his remark could be read as a criticism **INTERPRET**, take (to mean), construe, see, understand ⑤ the dial read 70mph **INDICATE**, register, record, display,

show ⑥ he read modern history **STUDY**, take, *N Amer & Austral /NZ* major in

—**RELATED TERMS** legible

▶ **noun** have a read of this **PERUSAL**, study, scan, look (at), browse (through), leaf (through), flick (through), skim (through)

■ **read something into something** **INFER FROM**, interpolate from, assume from, attribute to, read between the lines

■ **read up on** **STUDY**, informal bone up on, *Brit informal* mug up on, swot, *archaic* con

readable ▶ **adjective** ① the inscription is perfectly readable **LEGIBLE**, easy to read, decipherable, clear, intelligible, comprehensible ② her novels are immensely readable **ENJOYABLE**, entertaining, interesting, absorbing, gripping, enthralling, engrossing, stimulating, informal unputdownable

—**OPPOSITES** illegible

readily ▶ **adverb** ① Durkin readily offered to drive him **WILLINGLY**, without hesitation, unhesitatingly, ungrudgingly, gladly, happily, eagerly, promptly ② the island is readily accessible **EASILY**, with ease, without difficulty
—**OPPOSITES** reluctantly

readiness ▶ **noun** ① their readiness to accept change **WILLINGNESS**, enthusiasm, eagerness, keenness, promptness, quickness, alacrity ② a state of readiness **PREPAREDNESS**, preparation ③ the readiness of his reply **PROMPTNESS**, quickness, rapidity, swiftness, speed, speediness

■ **In readiness** (AT THE) **READY**, available, on hand, accessible, handy, prepared, primed, on standby, standing by, on full alert

reading ▶ **noun** ① a cursory reading of the financial pages **PERUSAL**, study, scan, scanning, browse (through), look (through), glance (through), leaf (through), flick (through), skim (through) ② a man of wide reading (BOOK) **LEARNING**, scholarship, education, erudition ③ readings from the Bible **PASSAGE**, lesson, section, piece, recital, recitation ④ my reading of the situation **INTERPRETATION**, construal, understanding, explanation, analysis ⑤ a meter reading **RECORD**, figure, indication, measurement

ready ▶ **adjective** ① are you ready? **PREPARED**, (all) set, organized, primed, informal fit, psyched up, geared up ② everything is ready **COMPLETED**, finished, prepared, organized, done, arranged, fixed, in readiness ③ he's always ready to help **WILLING**, prepared, game, pleased, inclined, disposed, predisposed, eager, keen, happy, glad ④ she looked ready to collapse **ABOUT TO**, on the point of, on the verge of, close to, liable to, likely to ⑤ a ready supply of food (**EASILY**) **AVAILABLE**, accessible, handy, close/near at hand, to/on hand, convenient, within reach, at the ready, near, at one's fingertips ⑥ a ready answer **PROMPT**, quick, swift, speedy, fast, immediate, unhesitating, clever, sharp, astute, shrewd, keen, perceptive, discerning, poetic/literary rather

▶ **verb** he needed time to ready himself: **PREPARE**, get/make ready, organize, gear oneself up, informal psych oneself up

■ **at the ready** **IN POSITION**, poised, ready for use/action, waiting, *N Amer* on deck

■ **make ready** **PREPARE**, make preparations, get everything ready, gear up for

ready-made ▶ **adjective** ① ready-made clothing **READY-TO-WEAR**, *Brit* off the peg, *N Amer* off the

rack ② *ready-made* meals PRE-COOKED, oven-ready, convenience
-OPPOSITES tailor-made

real ▶ **adjective** ① *is she a fictional character or a real person?* ACTUAL, non-fictional, factual, historical, material, physical, tangible, concrete, palpable ② *real gold* GENUINE, authentic, bona fide, *informal* pukka, kosher ③ *my real name* TRUE, actual ④ *tears of real grief* SINCERE, genuine, true, unfeigned, heartfelt, unaffected ⑤ *a real man* PROPER, true, *informal* regular, *archaic* very ⑥ *you're a real idiot* COMPLETE, utter, thorough, absolute, total, prize, perfect, *Brit informal* right, proper, *Austral/NZ informal* fair
-OPPOSITES imaginary, imitation

▶ **adverb** (*N Amer informal*) *that's real good of you* See VERY adverb

realism ▶ **noun** ① *optimism tinged with realism* PRAGMATISM, practicality, common sense, level-headedness ② *a degree of realism* AUTHENTICITY, fidelity, verisimilitude, truthfulness, faithfulness

realistic ▶ **adjective** ① *you've got to be realistic* PRACTICAL, pragmatic, matter-of-fact, down-to-earth, sensible, commonsensical, rational, reasonable, level-headed, clear-sighted, business-like, *informal* having both/one's feet on the ground, hard-nosed, no-nonsense ② *a realistic aim* ACHIEVABLE, attainable, feasible, practicable, viable, reasonable, sensible, workable, *in formal* doable ③ *a realistic portrayal of war* TRUE (TO LIFE), lifelike, truthful, faithful, real-life, naturalistic, graphic
-OPPOSITES idealistic, impracticable

reality ▶ **noun** ① *distinguishing fantasy from reality* THE REAL WORLD, real life, actuality, truth, physical existence ② *the harsh realities of life* FACT, actuality, truth ③ *the reality of the detail* VERISIMILITUDE, authenticity, realism, fidelity, faithfulness
-OPPOSITES fantasy

■ **in reality** (IN ACTUAL) FACT, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, actually, really, in truth, in practice, *archaic* in sooth

realization ▶ **noun** ① *a growing realization of the danger* AWARENESS, understanding, comprehension, consciousness, appreciation, recognition, discernment, formal cognizance ② *the realization of our dreams* FULFILLMENT, achievement, accomplishment, attainment, formal effectuation

realize ▶ **verb** ① *he suddenly realized what she meant* REGISTER, perceive, discern, be/become aware of (the fact that), be/become conscious of (the fact that), notice, understand, grasp, comprehend, see, recognize, work out, fathom (out), apprehend, *informal* latch on to, cotton on to, tumble to, savvy, figure out, get (the message), *Brit informal* twig, suss, *formal* be/become cognizant of ② *they realized their dream* FULFILL, achieve, accomplish, make a reality, make happen, bring to fruition, bring about/off, carry out/through, *formal* effectuate ③ *the company realized significant profits* MAKE, clear, gain, earn, return, produce ④ *the goods realized £3000* BE SOLD FOR, fetch, go for, make, net ⑤ *he realized his assets* CASH IN, liquidate, capitalize

really ▶ **adverb** ① *he is really very wealthy* (IN ACTUAL) FACT, actually, in reality, in point of fact, as a matter of fact, in truth, to tell the truth, *archaic* in sooth ② *he really likes her* GENUINELY,

truly, honestly, undoubtedly, without a doubt, indubitably, certainly, assuredly, unquestionably, *archaic* verily ③ *they were really kind to me* VERY, extremely, thoroughly, decidedly, dreadfully, exceptionally, exceedingly, immensely, tremendously, uncommonly, remarkably, eminently, extraordinarily, most, downright, *Scottish unco*, *N Amer* quite, *informal* awfully, terribly, terrifically, fearfully, right, devilishly, ultra, too — for words, seriously, majorly, *Brit informal* jolly, ever so, dead, well, fair, *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful, plumb, powerful, way, *informal*, dated devilish, frightfully, *archaic* exceeding

▶ **exclamation** *'They've split up' 'Really?'* IS THAT SO, is that a fact, well I never (did), *informal* {well, knock/blow me down with a feather}, *Brit informal* {well, I'll be blown}

realm ▶ **noun** ① *peace in the realm* KINGDOM, country, land, dominion, nation ② *the realm of academia* DOMAIN, sphere, area, field, world, province, territory

reap ▶ **verb** ① *the corn has been reaped* HARVEST, garner, gather in, bring in ② *reaping the benefits* RECEIVE, obtain, get, acquire, secure, realize

rear¹ ▶ **verb** ① *I was reared in Newcastle* BRING UP, care for, look after, nurture, parent, educate, *N Amer* raise ② *he reared cattle* BREED, raise, keep ③ *laboratory-reared plants* GROW, cultivate ④ *Harry reared his head* RAISE, lift (up), hold up, uplift ⑤ *Reagan Hill reared up before them* RISE (UP), tower, soar, loom

rear² ▶ **noun** ① *the rear of the building* BACK (PART), hind part, back end, *Nautical* stern ② *the rear of the queue* (TAIL) END, rear end, back end, tail, *N Amer* tag end ③ *he slapped her on the rear* See BOTTOM noun sense 6
-OPPOSITES front

▶ **adjective** *the rear bumper* BACK, end, rearmost, hind, hinder, hindmost, *technical* posterior

rearrange ▶ **verb** ① *the furniture has been rearranged* REPOSITION, move round, change round, arrange differently ② *Jonny had rearranged his schedule* REORGANIZE, alter, adjust, change (round), reschedule, *informal* jigger

reason ▶ **noun** ① *the main reason for his decision* CAUSE, ground(s), basis, rationale, motive, motivation, purpose, point, aim, intention, objective, goal, explanation, justification, argument, defence, vindication, excuse, pretext ② *post-modern voices railing against reason* RATIONALITY, logic, logical thought, reasoning, cognition, *formal* ratiocination ③ *he was losing his reason* SANITY, mind, mental faculties, senses, wits, *informal* marbles ④ *he continues, against reason, to love her* GOOD SENSE, good judgement, common sense, wisdom, sagacity, reasonableness

▶ **verb** ① *a young child is unable to reason* THINK RATIONALLY, think logically, use one's common sense, use one's head/brain, *formal* cogitate, ratiocinate ② *Scott reasoned that Annabel might be ill* CALCULATE, come to the conclusion, conclude, reckon, think, judge, deduce, infer, surmise, *informal* figure ③ *her husband tried to reason with her* TALK ROUND, bring round, win round, persuade, prevail on, convince, make someone see the light

■ **by reason of** (*formal*) BECAUSE OF, on account of, as a result of, owing to, due to, by virtue of, thanks to



■ **reason something out** WORK OUT, think through, make sense of, get to the bottom of, puzzle out, *informal* figure out

■ **reason with someone** TALK ROUND, bring round, persuade, prevail on, convince, make someone see the light

■ **with reason** JUSTIFIABLY, justly, legitimately, rightly, reasonably

reasonable ► **adjective** ① a reasonable man | a reasonable explanation SENSIBLE, rational, logical, fair, fair-minded, just, equitable, intelligent, wise, level-headed, practical, realistic, sound, (well) reasoned, valid, commonsensical, tenable, plausible, credible, believable ② you must take all reasonable precautions WITHIN REASON, practicable, sensible, appropriate, suitable ③ cars in reasonable condition FAIRLY GOOD, acceptable, satisfactory, average, adequate, fair, all right, tolerable, passable, *informal* OK ④ reasonable prices INEXPENSIVE, moderate, low, cheap, budget, bargain, competitive

reasoned ► **adjective** LOGICAL, rational, well thought out, clear, lucid, coherent, cogent, well expressed, well presented, considered, sensible

reasoning ► **noun** THINKING, (train of) thought, thought process, logic, reason, analysis, interpretation, explanation, rationalization, reasons, rationale, arguments, *formal* ratiocination

reassure ► **verb** PUT/SET SOMEONE'S MIND AT REST, put someone at ease, encourage, inspire, hearten, buoy up, cheer up, comfort, soothe
-OPPOSITES alarm

rebate ► **noun** (PARTIAL) REFUND, repayment, discount, deduction, reduction, decrease

rebel ► **noun** ① the rebels took control of the capital REVOLUTIONARY, insurgent, revolutionist, mutineer, insurrectionist, insurrectionary, guerrilla, terrorist, freedom fighter ② the concept of the artist as a rebel NONCONFORMIST, dissenter, dissident, iconoclast, maverick

► **verb** ① the citizens rebelled REVOLT, mutiny, riot, rise up, take up arms, stage/mount a rebellion, be insubordinate ② his stomach rebelled at the thought of food RECOIL, show/feel repugnance ③ teenagers rebelling against their parents DEFIY, disobey, refuse to obey, kick against, challenge, oppose, resist
-OPPOSITES obey

► **adjective** ① rebel troops INSURGENT, revolutionary, mutinous, rebellious, insurrectionary, insurrectionist ② rebel MPs REBELLIOUS, defiant, disobedient, insubordinate, subversive, resistant, recalcitrant, nonconformist, maverick, iconoclastic, *archaic* contumacious
-OPPOSITES compliant

rebellion ► **noun** ① troops suppressed the rebellion UPRISING, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, revolution, insurgency, insurgency, rioting, riot, disorder, unrest ② an act of rebellion DEFIANCE, disobedience, rebelliousness, insubordination, subversion, subversiveness, resistance

rebellious ► **adjective** ① rebellious troops REBEL, insurgent, mutinous, mutinying, rebelling, rioting, riotous, insurrectionary, insurrectionist, revolutionary ② a rebellious adolescent DEFIANT, disobedient, insubordinate, unruly, mutinous, wayward, obstreperous, recalcitrant, intractable; *Brit informal* bolshie, *formal* refractory, *archaic* contumacious

rebirth ► **noun** REVIVAL, renaissance, resurrection, reawakening, renewal, regeneration, revitalization, rejuvenation, *formal* renaissance

rebound ► **verb** ① the ball rebounded off the wall BOUNCE (BACK), spring back, ricochet, boomerang; *N Amer* carom ② later sterling rebounded RECOVER, rally, pick up, make a recovery ③ Thomas's tactics rebounded on him BACKFIRE, boomerang, have unwelcome repercussions, *archaic* rebound on

rebuff ► **verb** his offer was rebuffed REJECT, turn down, spurn, refuse, decline, repudiate, snub, slight, repulse, repel, dismiss, brush off, give someone the cold shoulder, *informal* give someone the brush-off, *N Amer informal* give someone the bum's rush
-OPPOSITES accept

► **noun** the rebuff did little to dampen his ardour REJECTION, snub, slight, repulse, refusal, spurning, cold-shouldering, discouragement, *informal* brush-off, kick in the teeth, slap in the face

rebuild ► **verb** RECONSTRUCT, renovate, restore, remodel, remake, reassemble
-OPPOSITES demolish

rebuke ► **verb** she never rebuked him in front of others REPRIMAND, reproach, scold, admonish, reprove, chastise, upbraid, berate, take to task, criticize, censure, *informal* tell off, give someone a telling-off, give someone a talking-to, give someone a dressing-down, give someone an earful, *Brit informal* tick off, *N Amer informal* chew out, ream out, *Austral informal* monster, *formal* castigate
-OPPOSITES praise

► **noun** Damian was silenced by the rebuke REPRI-MAND, reproach, reproof, scolding, admonishment, admonition, reproof, upbraiding, *informal* telling-off, dressing-down, *Brit informal* ticking-off, *formal* castigation
-OPPOSITES compliment

rebut ► **verb** REFUTE, deny, disprove, invalidate, negate, contradict, controvert, counter, discredit, give the lie to, explode, *informal* shoot full of holes, *formal* confute
-OPPOSITES confirm

rebuttal ► **noun** REFUTATION, denial, countering, invalidation, negation, contradiction

recalcitrant ► **adjective** UNCOOPERATIVE, intractable, insubordinate, defiant, rebellious, wilful, wayward, headstrong, self-willed, contrary, perverse, difficult, awkward, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, bolshie, stropky, *formal* refractory, *archaic* contumacious, froward
-OPPOSITES amenable

recall ► **verb** ① he recalled his student days RE-MEMBER, recollect, call to mind, think back on/to, look back on, reminisce about ② their exploits recall the days of chivalry BRING TO MIND, call to mind, put one in mind of, call up, conjure up, evoke ③ the ambassador was recalled SUM-MON BACK, order back, call back ④ (archaic) he recalled his earlier communication. REVOKE, rescind, cancel, retract, countermand, withdraw, *formal* abrogate
-OPPOSITES forget.

► **noun** ① the recall of the ambassador SUMMONING BACK, ordering back, calling back. ② their recall of dreams. RECOLLECTION, remembrance, memory

recant ▶ **verb** ① he was forced to recant his political beliefs **RENUANCE**, disavow, deny, repudiate, renege on, formal forswear, abjure ② he refused to recant **CHANGE ONE'S MIND**, be apostate, rare tergiversate ③ he recanted his testimony **RETRACT**, take back, withdraw

recantation ▶ **noun** **RENUANCE**, renouncement, disavowal, denial, repudiation, retraction, withdrawal

recapitulate ▶ **verb** **SUMMARIZE**, sum up, restate, repeat, reiterate, go over, review, informal recap

recede ▶ **verb** ① the flood waters receded **RETREAT**, go back/down, move back/away, withdraw, ebb, subside, abate ② the lights receded into the distance **DISAPPEAR FROM VIEW**, fade into the distance, be lost to view ③ fears of violence have receded **DIMINISH**, lessen, decrease, dwindle, fade, abate, subside, ebb, wane
—OPPOSITES advance, grow

receipt ▶ **noun** ① the receipt of a letter **RECEIVING**, getting, obtaining, gaining, arrival, delivery ② make sure you get a receipt **PROOF OF PURCHASE**, sales ticket, till receipt ③ receipts from house sales **PROCEEDS**, takings, money/payment received, income, revenue, earnings, profits, (financial) return(s), *N Amer* take

receive ▶ **verb** ① Tony received an award | they received £650 in damages **BE GIVEN**, be presented with, be awarded, collect, get, obtain, gain, acquire, win, be paid, earn, gross, net ② she received a letter **BE SENT**, be in receipt of, accept (delivery of) ③ Alec received the news on Monday **BE TOLD**, be informed of, be notified of, hear, discover, find out (about), learn, informal get wind of ④ he received her suggestion with a complete lack of interest **HEAR**, listen to, respond to, react to ⑤ she received a serious injury **EXPERIENCE**, sustain, undergo, meet with, suffer, bear ⑥ they received their guests **GREET**, welcome, say hello to ⑦ she's not receiving visitors **ENTERTAIN**, be at home to
—OPPOSITES give, send

receiver ▶ **noun** ① the receiver of a gift **RECIPIENT**, beneficiary, donee ② a telephone receiver **HANDSET**
—OPPOSITES donor

recent ▶ **adjective** ① recent research **NEW**, the latest, current, fresh, modern, contemporary, up to date, up to the minute ② his recent visit **NOT LONG PAST**, occurring recently, just gone
—OPPOSITES old

recently ▶ **adverb** **NOT LONG AGO**, a short time ago, in the past few days/weeks/months, a little while back, lately, latterly, just now

receptacle ▶ **noun** **CONTAINER**, holder, repository, box, tin, bin, can, canister, case, pot, bag

reception ▶ **noun** ① the reception of the goods **RECEIPT**, receiving, getting ② the reception of foreign diplomats **GREETING**, welcoming, entertaining ③ a chilly reception **RESPONSE**, reaction, treatment ④ a wedding reception (**FORMAL**) **PARTY**, function, social occasion, soirée, *N Amer* levee, informal do, bash, *Brit* informal rave-up, knees-up, beanteast, bunfight, beano

receptive ▶ **adjective** **OPEN-MINDED**, responsive, amenable, well disposed, flexible, approachable, accessible, *archaic* susceptible
—OPPOSITES unresponsive.

recess ▶ **noun** ① two recesses fitted with bookshelves **ALCOVE**, bay, niche, nook, corner, hollow, oriel ② the deepest recesses of Broadcasting House **INNERMOST PARTS/REACHES**, remote/secret places, heart, depths, bowels ③ the Christmas recess **ADJOURNMENT**, break, interlude, interval, rest, holiday, vacation, informal breather

▶ **verb** let's recess for lunch **ADJOURN**, take a recess, stop, (take a) break, informal take five

recession ▶ **noun** **ECONOMIC DECLINE**, downturn, depression, slump, slowdown
—OPPOSITES boom

recherché ▶ **adjective** **OBSCUR**, rare, esoteric, abstruse, arcane, recondite, exotic, strange, unusual, unfamiliar, out of the ordinary

recipe ▶ **noun** ① a tasty recipe cooking instructions/directions, *archaic* receipt ② a recipe for success **MEANS WAY OF ACHIEVING**, prescription, formula, blueprint

recipient ▶ **noun** **RECEIVER**, beneficiary, legatee, donee
—OPPOSITES donor

reciprocal ▶ **adjective** ① reciprocal love **GIVEN, FELT IN RETURN**, requited, reciprocated ② reciprocal obligations and duties **MUTUAL**, common, shared, joint, corresponding, complementary

reciprocate ▶ **verb** ① I was happy to reciprocate **DO THE SAME (IN RETURN)**, return the favour ② love that was not reciprocated **REQUIRE**, return, give back

recital ▶ **noun** ① a piano recital **CONCERT**, (musical) performance, solo (performance), informal gig ② her recital of Adam's failures **ENUMERATION**, list, litany, catalogue, listing, detailing, account, report, description, recapitulation, recounting ③ a recital of the Lord's Prayer *See RECITATION* sense 1

recitation ▶ **noun** ① the recitation of his poem **RECITAL**, saying aloud, declamation, rendering, rendition, delivery, performance ② a recitation of her life story **ACCOUNT**, description, narration, narrative, story ③ songs and recitations **READING**, passage, poem, verse, monologue

recite ▶ **verb** ① he began to recite verses of the Koran **REPEAT FROM MEMORY**, say aloud, declaim, quote, deliver, render ② he stood up and started reciting **GIVE A RECITATION**, say a poem ③ Sir John recited the facts they knew **ENUMERATE**, list, detail, reel off, recount, relate, describe, narrate, give an account of, recapitulate, repeat

reckless ▶ **adjective** **RASH**, careless, thoughtless, heedless, unheeding, hasty, overhasty, precipitate, precipitous, impetuous, impulsive, daredevil, devil-may-care, irresponsible, foolhardy, over-adventurous, audacious, ill-advised, injudicious, madcap, imprudent, unwise, ill-considered, *poetic/literary* temerarious
—OPPOSITES careful

reckon ▶ **verb** ① the cost was reckoned at £6,000 **CALCULATE**, compute, work out, put a figure on, figure, count (up), add up, total, *Brit* tot up ② Anselm reckoned Hugh among his friends *IN CLUDE*, count, consider to be, regard as, look on as ③ (informal) I reckon I can manage that **BELIEVE**, think, be of the opinion/view, be convinced, dare say, imagine, guess, suppose, consider; informal figure ④ it was reckoned a failure **REGARD AS**, consider, judge, hold to be, think of as, deem, rate, gauge, count ⑤ I reckon to get good



value for money EXPECT, anticipate, hope to, be looking to, count on, rely on, depend on, bank on, *N Amer informal* figure on

■ **to be reckoned with** IMPORTANT, of considerable importance, significant, influential, powerful, strong, potent, formidable, redoubtable

■ **reckon with** ① it's her mother you'll have to reckon with DEAL WITH, contend with, face (up to) ② they hadn't reckoned with her burning ambition TAKE INTO ACCOUNT, take into consideration, bargain for/on, anticipate, foresee, be prepared for, consider, *formal* take cognizance of

■ **reckon without** OVERLOOK, fail to take account of, disregard

reckoning ► **noun** ① by my reckoning, this comes to £2 million CALCULATION, estimation, computation, working out, summation, addition ② by her reckoning, the train was late OPINION, view, judgement, evaluation, estimate, estimation ③ the terrible reckoning that he deserved RETRIBUTION, fate, doom, nemesis, punishment
■ **day of reckoning** JUDGEMENT DAY, day of retribution, doomsday

reclaim ► **verb** ① travelling expenses can be reclaimed GET BACK, claim back, recover, regain, retrieve, recoup ② Henrietta had reclaimed him from a life of vice SAVE, rescue, redeem, reform

recline ► **verb** LIE (DOWN/BACK), lean back, be recumbent, relax, repose, loll, lounge, sprawl, stretch out, *poetic/literary* couch

recluse ► **noun** ① a religious recluse HERMIT, ascetic, *historical* anchoress, anchoress, *archaic* eremite ② a natural recluse LONER, solitary, lone wolf

recluse ► **adjective** SOLITARY, secluded, isolated, hermit-like, hermitic, eremitic, eremitical, cloistered
-OPPOSITES gregarious

recognition ► **noun** ① there was no sign of recognition on his face IDENTIFICATION, recollection, remembrance ② his recognition of his lack of experience ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, acceptance, admission, realization, awareness, consciousness, knowledge, appreciation, *formal* cognizance ③ official recognition OFFICIAL APPROVAL, certification, accreditation, endorsement, validation ④ you deserve recognition for the tremendous job you are doing APPRECIATION, gratitude, thanks, congratulations, credit, commendation, acclaim, bouquets, acknowledgement

recognizable ► **adjective** IDENTIFIABLE, noticeable, perceptible, discernible, detectable, distinguishable, observable, perceivable, distinct, unmistakable, clear, *archaic* sensible
-OPPOSITES imperceptible

recognize ► **verb** ① Hannah recognized him at once IDENTIFY, place, know, put a name to, remember, recall, recollect, know by sight, *Scottish & N English* ken. ② they recognized Alan's ability ACKNOWLEDGE, accept, admit, realize, be aware of, be conscious of, perceive, discern, appreciate, *formal* be cognizant of ③ psychotherapists who are recognized OFFICIALLY APPROVE, certify, accredit, endorse, sanction, validate ④ the Trust recognized their hard work PAY TRIBUTE TO, show appreciation of, appreciate, be grateful for, acclaim, commend

recoil ► **verb** ① she instinctively recoiled DRAW BACK, jump back, pull back, flinch, shy away, shrink (back), blench ② he recoiled from the thought FEEL REVULSION AT, feel disgust at, be unable to stomach, shrink from, balk at ③ his rifle recoiled KICK (BACK), jerk back, spring back ④ this will eventually recoil on him HAVE AN ADVERSE EFFECT ON, rebound on, affect badly, backfire, boomerang, *archaic* redound on
► **noun** the recoil of the gun KICKBACK, kick

recollect ► **verb** REMEMBER, recall, call to mind, think of, think back to, look back on, reminisce about
-OPPOSITES forget

recollection ► **noun** MEMORY, remembrance, impression, reminiscence

recommend ► **verb** ① his former employer recommended him for the post ADVOCATE, endorse, commend, suggest, put forward, propose, nominate, put up, speak favourably of, speak well of, put in a good word for, vouch for, *informal* plug ② the committee recommended a cautious approach ADVISE, counsel, urge, exhort, enjoin, prescribe, argue for, back, support, suggest, advocate, propose ③ there was little to recommend her HAVE IN ONE'S FAVOUR, give an advantage to, *informal* have going for one

recommendation ► **noun** ① the advisory group's recommendations ADVICE, counsel, guidance, direction, enjoiner, suggestion, proposal ② a personal recommendation COMMENDATION, endorsement, good word, favourable mention, testimonial, suggestion, tip, *informal* plug ③ a place whose only recommendation is that it has very few women ADVANTAGE, good point/feature, benefit, asset, boon, attraction, appeal

recompense ► **verb** ① offenders should recompense their victims COMPENSATE, indemnify, repay, reimburse, make reparation to, make restitution to, make amends to ② she wanted to recompense him REWARD, pay back, *archaic* guerdon ③ nothing could recompense her loss MAKE UP FOR, compensate for, make amends for, make restitution for, make reparation for, redress, make good

► **noun** damages were paid in recompense COMPENSATION, reparation, restitution, indemnification, indemnity, reimbursement, repayment, redress, *archaic* guerdon

reconcilable ► **adjective** COMPATIBLE, consistent, congruous, congruent

reconcile ► **verb** ① the news reconciled us REUNITE, bring (back) together (again), restore friendly relations between, make peace between, pacify, appease, placate, mollify, *formal* conciliate ② her divorced parents have reconciled SETTLE ONE'S DIFFERENCES, make (one's) peace, (kiss and) make up, bury the hatchet, declare a truce ③ trying to reconcile his religious beliefs with his career MAKE COMPATIBLE, harmonize, square, make congruent, balance ④ the quarrel was reconciled SETTLE, resolve, sort out, mend, remedy, heal, rectify, *informal* patch up. ⑤ they had to reconcile themselves to drastic losses (COME TO) ACCEPT, resign oneself to, come to terms with, learn to live with, get used to
-OPPOSITES estrange, quarrel.

reconciliation ► **noun** ① the reconciliation of the disputants REUNITING, reunion, bringing together (again), conciliation, reconcilment,



pacification, appeasement, placating, mollification
 ② a reconciliation of their differences RESOLUTION, settlement, settling, resolving, mending, remedying
 ③ there was little hope of reconciliation RESTORATION OF HARMONY, agreement, compromise, understanding, peace, formal concord
 ④ the reconciliation of theory with practice HARMONIZING, harmonization, squaring, balancing

recondite ▶ adjective OBSCURE, abstruse, arcane, esoteric, recherché, profound, difficult, complex, complicated, involved, incomprehensible, unfathomable, impenetrable, cryptic, opaque

recondition ▶ verb OVERHAUL, rebuild, renovate, restore, repair, reconstruct, remodel, refurbish, *informal* do up, revamp

reconnaissance ▶ noun (PRELIMINARY) SURVEY, exploration, observation, investigation, examination, inspection, patrol, search, reconnoitring, *informal* recce, *N Amer informal* recon

reconnoître ▶ verb SURVEY, make a reconnaissance of, explore, investigate, examine, scrutinize, inspect, observe, take a look at, patrol, *informal* recce, make a recce of, check out, *N Amer informal* recon

reconsider ▶ verb RETHINK, review, revise, re-examine, re-evaluate, reassess, reappraise, change, alter, modify, have second thoughts, change one's mind

reconsideration ▶ noun REVIEW, rethink, re-examination, reassessment, re-evaluation, reappraisal

reconstruct ▶ verb ① the building had to be reconstructed REBUILD, restore, renovate, recreate, remake, reassemble, remodel, refashion, revamp, recondition, refurbish ② reconstructing the events of that day RECREATE, build up a picture/impression of, piece together, re-enact

record ▶ noun ① written records of the past ACCOUNT(S), document(s), documentation, data, file(s), dossier(s), evidence, report(s), annal(s), archive(s), chronicle(s), minutes, transactions, proceedings, transcript(s), certificate(s), instrument(s), deed(s), register, log, logbook, *Law* muniment(s) ② listening to records album, vinyl, dated gramophone record, disc, LP, EP, single, forty-five, seventy-eight ③ his previous good record PREVIOUS CONDUCT/PERFORMANCE, track record, (life) history, reputation ④ he's got a record CRIMINAL RECORD, police record, previous, *Brit informal* form, *N Amer informal* rap sheet ⑤ a new British record BEST PERFORMANCE, highest achievement, best time, fastest time, world record ⑥ a lasting record of what they have achieved REMINDER, memorial, souvenir, memento, remembrance, testament

▶ adjective record profits RECORD-BREAKING, best ever, unsurpassed, unparalleled, unequalled, second to none

▶ verb ① the doctor recorded her blood pressure WRITE DOWN, put in writing, take down, note, make a note of, jot down, put down on paper, document, put on record, enter, minute, register, log, list, catalogue ② the thermometer recorded a high temperature INDICATE, register, show, display ③ the team recorded their fourth away win ACHIEVE, accomplish, chalk up, notch up, *informal* clock up ④ the recital was recorded live MAKE A RECORD/RECORDING OF, tape, tape-record; video-record, videotape, video

■ off the record ① his comments were off the record UNOFFICIAL, confidential, in (strict) confidence, not to be made public ② they admitted, off the record, that they had made a mistake UNOFFICIALLY, privately, in (strict) confidence, confidentially, between ourselves

recorder ▶ noun ① he put a tape in the recorder tape recorder, cassette recorder, video (recorder), VCR, videotape recorder ② a recorder of rural life RECORD KEEPER, archivist, annalist, diarist, chronicler, historian

recount ▶ verb TELL, relate, narrate, give an account of, describe, report, outline, delineate, relay, convey, communicate, impart

recoup ▶ verb GET BACK, regain, recover, win back, retrieve, redeem, recuperate

recourse ▶ noun surgery may be the only recourse OPTION, possibility, alternative, resort, way out, hope, remedy, choice, expedient

■ have recourse to RESORT TO, make use of, avail oneself of, turn to, call on, look to, fall back on

recover ▶ verb ① he's recovering from a heart attack RECUPERATE, get better, convalesce, regain one's strength, get stronger, get back on one's feet, be on the mend, be on the road to recovery, pick up, rally, respond to treatment, improve, heal, pull through, bounce back ② later, shares recovered RALLY, improve, pick up, make a recovery, rebound, bounce back ③ the stolen material has been recovered RETRIEVE, regain (possession of), get back, recoup, reclaim, repossess, redeem, recuperate, find (again), track down ④ gold coins recovered from a wreck SALVAGE, save, rescue, retrieve
 —OPPOSITES deteriorate

■ recover oneself PULL ONESELF TOGETHER, regain one's composure, regain one's self-control, *informal* get a grip (on oneself)

recovery ▶ noun ① her recovery may be slow RECUPERATION, convalescence ② the economy was showing signs of recovery IMPROVEMENT, rallying, picking up, upturn, upswing ③ the recovery of the stolen goods RETRIEVAL, regaining, repossession, getting back, reclamation, recouping, redemption, recuperation
 —OPPOSITES relapse, deterioration

recreation ▶ noun ① she cycles for recreation PLEASURE, leisure, relaxation, fun, enjoyment, entertainment, amusement, play, sport, *informal* R and R, *N Amer informal* rec, *archaic* disport ② his favourite recreations PASTIME, hobby, leisure activity
 —OPPOSITES work

recrimination ▶ noun ACCUSATION(S), counter-accusation(s), countercharge(s), counter-attack(s), retaliation(s)

recruit ▶ verb ① more soldiers were recruited ENLIST, call up, conscript, *US* draft, muster in, *archaic* levy ② the king recruited an army MUSTER, form, raise, mobilize ③ the company is recruiting staff HIRE, employ, take on, enrol, sign up, engage.
 —OPPOSITES disband, dismiss

▶ noun ① new recruits were enlisted; CONSCRIPT, new soldier, *US* draftee; *Brit informal* sprog, *N Amer informal* yardbird ② top-quality recruits NEW MEMBER, new entrant, newcomer, initiate, beginner, novice, *N Amer* tenderfoot, hire; *informal* rookie, newbie, *N Amer informal* greenhorn.

rectify ▶ **verb** CORRECT, (put) right, put to rights, sort out, deal with, amend, remedy, repair, fix, make good, resolve, settle, *informal* patch up

rectitude ▶ **noun** RIGHTEOUSNESS, goodness, virtue, morality, honour, honourableness, integrity, principle, probity, honesty, trustworthiness, uprightness, decency, good character

recumbent ▶ **adjective** LYING, flat, horizontal, stretched out, sprawled (out), reclining, prone, prostrate, supine, lying down
—OPPOSITES upright

recuperate ▶ **verb** ① *he went to France to recuperate* GET BETTER, recover, convalesce, get well, regain one's strength/health, get over something ② *he recuperated the money* GET BACK, regain, recover, recoup, retrieve, reclaim, repossess, redeem

recur ▶ **verb** HAPPEN AGAIN, REOCCUR, OCCUR again, repeat (itself), come back (again), return, reappear, appear again, *formal* recrudescence

recurrent ▶ **adjective** REPEATED, recurring, repetitive, periodic, cyclical, seasonal, perennial, regular, frequent, intermittent, sporadic, spasmodic

recycle ▶ **verb** REUSE, reprocess, reclaim, recover, salvage, save

red ▶ **adjective** ① *a red dress* scarlet, vermilion, ruby, cherry, cerise, cardinal, carmine, wine, blood-red, coral, cochineal, rose, brick-red, maroon, rusty, rufous, reddish, *poetic/literary* damask, vermeil, sanguine ② *he was red in the face* FLUSHED, reddish, pink, pinkish, florid, rufous, ruddy, rosy, glowing, burning, feverish, *poetic/literary* rubescent, *archaic* sanguine ③ *his eyes were red* BLOODSHOT, swollen, sore ④ *red hair* reddish, auburn, Titian, chestnut, carrotty, ginger

▶ **noun** (*informal, derogatory*) the war against the Reds COMMUNIST, socialist, left-winger, leftist, *informal* Commie, lefty

■ **in the red** OVERDRAWN, in debt, in debit, in deficit, in arrears

■ **see red** (*informal*) BECOME VERY ANGRY, become enraged, lose one's temper, *informal* go mad, go crazy, go wild, go bananas, hit the roof, go up the wall, fly off the handle, blow one's top, flip (one's lid), go ballistic, *Brit informal* go spare, do one's nut, *N Amer informal* flip one's wig, blow one's lid/stack

red-blooded ▶ **adjective** MANLY, masculine, virile, macho

reddden ▶ **verb** GO-TURN RED, blush, flush, colour (up), burn

redeem ▶ **verb** ① *one feature redeems the book* SAVE, compensate for the defects of, vindicate ② *he fully redeemed himself next time* VINDICATE, free from blame, absolve ③ *you cannot redeem their sins* ATONE FOR, make amends for, make restitution for ④ *redeeming sinners* SAVE, deliver from sin, convert ⑤ *Billy redeemed his drums from the pawnbrokers* RETRIEVE, regain, recover, get back, reclaim, repossess, buy back ⑥ *this voucher can be redeemed at any branch* (GIVE IN) EXCHANGE, cash in, convert, trade in ⑦ *they could not redeem their debts*: PAY OFF/BACK, clear, discharge, honour ⑧ *he made no effort to redeem his promise* FULFIL, carry out, discharge, make good, keep (to), stick to, hold to, adhere to, abide by, honour

redeeming ▶ **adjective** COMPENSATING, compensatory, extenuating, redemptive

redemption ▶ **noun** ① *God's redemption of his people* SAVING, freeing from sin, absolution ② *the redemption of their possessions* RETRIEVAL, recovery, reclamation, repossession, return ③ *the redemption of credit vouchers* EXCHANGE, cashing in, conversion ④ *the redemption of the mortgage* PAYING OFF/BACK, discharge, clearing, honouring ⑤ *the redemption of his obligations* FULFILMENT, carrying out, discharge, performing, honouring, meeting

red-handed ▶ **adjective** IN THE ACT, with one's fingers/hand in the till, in flagrante delicto, *Brit informal* with one's trousers down, *N Amer informal* with one's pants down

redolent ▶ **adjective** ① *names redolent of history* EVOCATIVE, suggestive, reminiscent ② (*poetic/literary*) *the air was redolent of incense* SMELLING OF, scented with, fragrant with, perfumed with

redoubtable ▶ **adjective** FORMIDABLE, awe-inspiring, fearsome, daunting, impressive, commanding, indomitable, invincible, doughty, mighty

redound ▶ **verb** ① (*formal*) *his effort will redound to his credit* CONTRIBUTE TO, be conducive to, result in, lead to, have an effect, *formal* conduce to ② (*archaic*) *the consequences redounded upon them* REBOUND ON, have an adverse effect on, backfire

redress ▶ **verb** ① *we redressed the problem* RECTIFY, correct, right, put to rights, compensate for, amend, remedy, make good, resolve, settle ② *we aim to redress the balance* EVEN UP, regulate, equalize

▶ **noun** *your best hope of redress* COMPENSATION, reparation, restitution, recompense, repayment, indemnity, indemnification, retribution, satisfaction, justice

reduce ▶ **verb** ① *the aim to reduce pollution* LESSEN, make smaller, lower, bring down, decrease, diminish, minimize, shrink, narrow, contract, shorten, axe, cut (back/down), make cutbacks in, trim, slim (down), prune, *informal* chop ② *he reduced her to tears* BRING TO, bring to the point of, drive to ③ *he was reduced to the ranks* DEMOTE, downgrade, lower (in rank) ④ *bread has been reduced* MAKE CHEAPER, lower the price of, cut (in price), mark down, discount, put on sale, *informal* slash, knock down
—OPPOSITES increase, put up

■ **in reduced circumstances** IMPOVERISHED, in straitened circumstances, ruined, bankrupted, poor, indigent, impecunious, in penury, poverty-stricken, destitute, needy, badly off, hard up, *informal* flat (broke), without two pennies to rub together, strapped for cash; *Brit informal* stony broke, skint, in Queer Street, *N Amer informal* stone broke, *formal* penurious

reduction ▶ **noun** ① *a reduction in pollution* LESSENING, lowering, decrease, diminution ② *a reduction in staff* CUT, cutback, scaling down, trimming, pruning, axing, chopping ③ *a reduction in inflationary pressure* EASING, lightening, moderation, alleviation ④ *a reduction in status* DEMOTION, downgrading, lowering ⑤ *substantial reductions* DISCOUNT, markdown, deduction, (price) cut, concession.

redundancy ▶ **noun** ① *redundancy in language* SUPERFLUITY, unnecessary, excess ② *redundancy*

dancies are in the offing **SACKING**, dismissal, lay-off, discharge, unemployment

redundant ▶ **adjective** ① many churches are now **redundant** **UNNECESSARY**, not required, unneeded, uncalled for, surplus (to requirements), superfluous ② 2,000 workers were made **redundant** **SACKED**, dismissed, laid off, discharged, unemployed, jobless, out of work
-**OPPOSITES** employed

reef ▶ **noun** **SHOAL**, bar, sandbar, sandbank, spit, *Scottish* skerry

reek ▶ **verb** the whole place **reeked** **STINK**, smell (bad), stink to high heaven

▶ **noun** the reek of cattle dung **STINK**, bad smell, stench, malodour, *Brit informal* ruff, pong, whiff, poetic/literary miasma

reel ▶ **verb** ① he **reeled** as the ship began to roll **STAGGER**, lurch, sway, rock, stumble, totter, wobble, falter ② we were **reeling** from the crisis **BE SHAKEN**, be stunned, be in shock, be shocked, be taken aback, be staggered, be aghast, be upset ③ the room **reeled** **GO ROUND** (AND ROUND), whirl, spin, revolve, swirl, twirl, turn, swim

■ **reel something off** **RECITE**, rattle off, list rapidly, run through, enumerate, detail, itemize

refer ▶ **verb** ① he **referred** to errors in the article **MENTION**, make reference to, allude to, touch on, speak of/about, talk of/about, write about, comment on, deal with, point out, call attention to ② the matter has been **referred** to my insurers **PASS**, hand on/over, send on, transfer, remit, entrust, assign ③ these figures **refer** only to 2001 **APPLY TO**, be relevant to, concern, relate to, be connected with, pertain to, appertain to, be pertinent to, have a bearing on, cover ④ the name **refers** to a Saxon village **DENOTE**, describe, indicate, mean, signify, designate ⑤ the constable **referred** to his notes **CONSULT**, turn to, look at, have recourse to

referee ▶ **noun** ① the referee blew his whistle **UMPIRE**, judge, *informal* ref ② include the names of two referees **SUPPORTER**, character witness, advocate

▶ **verb** ① he **refereed** the game **UMPIRE**, judge ② they asked him to **referee** in the dispute **ARBITRATE**, mediate

reference ▶ **noun** ① his journal contains many **references** to railways **MENTION OF**, allusion to, comment on, remark about ② **references** are given in the bibliography (**INFORMATION**) **SOURCE**, citation, authority, credit, bibliographical data ③ **reference** to a higher court **REFERRAL**, transfer, remission ④ a glowing **reference** **TESTIMONIAL**, character reference, recommendation, credentials, dated character

■ **with reference to** **APROPOS**, with regard to, regarding, with respect to, on the subject of, re, in relation to, relating to, in connection with

referendum ▶ **noun** (**POPULAR**) **VOTE**, plebiscite, ballot, poll

refine ▶ **verb** ① **refining** our cereal foods **PURIFY**, process, treat ② **helping** students to **refine** their language skills **IMPROVE**, perfect, polish (up), hone, fine-tune

refined ▶ **adjective** ① **refined** sugar **PURIFIED**, processed, treated ② a **refined** lady **CULTIVATED**, cultured, polished, stylish, elegant, sophisticated, urbane, polite, gracious, well mannered,

well bred, gentlemanly, ladylike, genteel ③ a person of **refined** taste **DISCRIMINATING**, discerning, fastidious, exquisite, impeccable, fine
-**OPPOSITES** crude, coarse

refinement ▶ **noun** ① the **refinement** of sugar **PURIFICATION**, refining, processing, treatment, treating ② all writing needs endless **refinement** **IMPROVEMENT** polishing, honing, fine-tuning, touching up, finishing off, revision, editing ③ a woman of **refinement** **STYLE**, elegance, finesse, polish, sophistication, urbanity, politeness, grace, graciousness, good manners, good breeding, gentility, cultivation, taste, discrimination

reflect ▶ **verb** ① the snow **reflects** light **SEND BACK**, throw back, cast back ② their expressions **reflected** their feelings **INDICATE**, show, display, demonstrate, be evidence of, register, reveal, betray, disclose, express, communicate, formal evince ③ he **reflected** on his responsibilities **THINK ABOUT**, give thought to, consider, give consideration to, review, mull over, contemplate, cogitate about/on, meditate on, muse on, brood on/over, turn over in one's mind, *archaic* pore on, *rare* celebrate

■ **reflect badly on** **DISCREDIT**, disgrace, shame, put in a bad light, damage, tarnish the reputation of, give a bad name to, bring into disrepute

reflection ▶ **noun** ① the **reflection** of light **SENDING BACK**, throwing back, casting back ② her **reflection** in the mirror (**MIRROR**) **IMAGE**, likeness ③ your hands are a **reflection** of your well-being **INDICATION**, display, demonstration, manifestation, expression, evidence ④ a **sad reflection** on society **SLUR**, aspersion, imputation, reproach, shame, criticism ⑤ after some **reflection**, he turned it down **THOUGHT**, thinking, consideration, contemplation, deliberation, pondering, meditation, musing, rumination, formal cogitation, *rare* cerebration ⑥ write down your **reflections** **OPINION**, thought, view, belief, feeling, idea, impression, conclusion, assessment, comment, observation, remark

reflex ▶ **adjective** **INSTINCTIVE**, automatic, involuntary, reflexive, impulsive, intuitive, spontaneous, unconscious, unconditioned, untaught, unlearned
-**OPPOSITES** conscious

reform ▶ **verb** ① a plan to **reform** the system **IMPROVE**, (make) better, ameliorate, refine, alter, make alterations to, change, adjust, make adjustments to, adapt, amend, revise, reshape, refashion, redesign, restyle, revamp, rebuild, reconstruct, remodel, reorganize ② after his marriage he **reformed** **MEND ONE'S WAYS**, change for the better, turn over a new leaf, improve

▶ **noun** the **reform** of the prison system **IMPROVEMENT**, amelioration, refinement, alteration, change, adaptation, amendment, revision, reshaping, refashioning, redesigning, restyling, revamp, revamping, renovation, rebuilding, reconstruction, remodelling, reorganizing, reorganization

refractory ▶ **adjective** (*formal*) **OBSTINATE**, stubborn, mulish, pig-headed, obdurate, headstrong, self-willed, wayward, wilful, perverse, contrary, recalcitrant, obstreperous, disobedient, *Brit informal* bloody-minded, bolshie, stropky, *N Amer informal* balky, *archaic* contumacious, froward

-**OPPOSITES** obedient



refrain ▶ **verb** ABSTAIN, desist, hold back, stop oneself, forbear, avoid, eschew, shun, renounce, *informal* swear off, *formal* forswear, abjure

refresh ▶ **verb** ① the cool air will refresh me RE INVIGORATE, revitalize, revive, restore, fortify, enliven, perk up, stimulate, freshen, energize, exhilarate, reanimate, wake up, revivify, in-spirit, blow away the cobwebs, *informal* buck up, pep up ② let me refresh your memory JOG, stimulate, prompt, prod ③ (N Amer) I refreshed his glass REFILL, top up, replenish, recharge
—OPPOSITES weary

refreshing ▶ **adjective** ① a refreshing drink IN VIGORATING, revitalizing, reviving, restoring, bracing, fortifying, enlivening, inspiring, stimulating, energizing, exhilarating ② a refreshing change of direction WELCOME, stimulating, fresh, imaginative, innovative, innovative

refreshment ▶ **noun** ① refreshments were available in the interval FOOD AND DRINK, sustenance, provender, snacks, tidbits, eatables, *informal* nibbles, eats, grub, nosh, *formal* comestibles, *poetic/literary* viands, dated victuals, archaic aliment ② spiritual refreshment INVIGORATION, revival, stimulation, reanimation, revivification, rejuvenation, regeneration, renewal

refrigerate ▶ **verb** KEEP COLD, (cool (down), chill
—OPPOSITES heat

refuge ▶ **noun** ① homeless people seeking refuge in subway stations SHELTER, protection, safety, security, asylum, sanctuary ② a refuge for mountain gorillas SANCTUARY, shelter, place of safety, (safe) haven, sanctum, retreat, bolt-hole, hiding place, hideaway, hideout

refugee ▶ **noun** DISPLACED PERSON, DP, fugitive, asylum seeker, exile, émigré, stateless person, *Austral informal* reffo

refund ▶ **verb** ① we will refund your money if you're not satisfied REPAY, give back, return, pay back ② they refunded the subscribers REIMBURSE, compensate, recompense, remunerate, indemnify

▶ **noun** a full refund REPAYMENT, reimbursement, rebate

refurbish ▶ **verb** RENOVATE, recondition, rehabilitate, revamp, overhaul, restore, renew, redevelop, rebuild, reconstruct, redecorate, spruce up, upgrade, refit, *N Amer* bring up to code, *informal* do up, *N Amer informal* rehab

refusal ▶ **noun** ① we had one refusal to our invitation NON-ACCEPTANCE, no, dissent, demurral, negation, turndown, regrets ② you can have first refusal. OPTION, choice, opportunity to purchase ③ the refusal of planning permission WITHHOLDING, denial, turndown

refuse¹ ▶ **verb** ① he refused their invitation DE CLINE, turn down, say no to, reject, spurn, rebuff, dismiss, send one's regrets; *informal* pass up ② the Council refused planning permission WITHHOLD, not grant, deny
—OPPOSITES accept, grant

refuse² ▶ **noun** piles of refuse RUBBISH, waste, debris, litter, detritus, dross; dregs, leftovers, *N Amer* garbage, trash, *Austral/NZ* mullock, *informal* dreck, junk.

refute ▶ **verb** ① attempts to refute Einstein's theory DISPROVE, prove wrong/false, controvert,

rebut, give the lie to, explode, debunk, discredit, invalidate, *informal* shoot full of holes, *formal* confute ② she refuted the allegation DENY, reject, repudiate, rebut, contradict, *formal* gainsay

regain ▶ **verb** ① government troops regained the capital RECOVER, get back, win back, recoup, retrieve, reclaim, repossess, take back, retake, recapture, reconquer ② they regained dry land RETURN TO, get back to, reach again, rejoice

regal ▶ **adjective** ① a regal feast See SPLENDID sense 1 ② his regal forebears ROYAL, kingly, queenly, princely

regale ▶ **verb** ① they were lavishly regaled ENTER TAIN, wine and dine, fête, feast, serve, feed ② he regaled her with colourful stories ENTERTAIN, amuse, divert, delight, fascinate, captivate

regard ▶ **verb** ① we regard these results as encouraging CONSIDER, look on, view, see, think of, judge, deem, estimate, assess, reckon, adjudge, rate, gauge ② he regarded her coldly LOOK AT, contemplate, eye, gaze at, stare at, watch, observe, view, study, scrutinize, *poetic/literary* behold ③ (archaic) he seldom regards her advice HEED, pay heed to, pay attention to, listen to, take notice of

▶ **noun** ① he has no regard for human life CONSIDER ATION, care, concern, thought, notice, heed, attention ② doctors are held in high regard ES TEEM, respect, acclaim, admiration, approval, approbation, estimation ③ Jamie sends his regards BEST WISHES, good wishes, greetings, kind/kindest regards, felicitations, salutations, respects, compliments, best, love ④ his steady regard (FIXED) LOOK, gaze, stare, observation, contemplation, study, scrutiny ⑤ in this regard I disagree with you RESPECT, aspect, point, item, particular, detail, specific, matter, issue, topic, question

■ with regard to. See REGARDING

regarding ▶ **preposition** CONCERNING, as regards, with/in regard to, with respect to, with reference to, relating to, respecting, re, about, apropos, on the subject of, in connection with, vis-à-vis

regardless ▶ **adverb** he decided to go, regardless ANYWAY, anyhow, in any case, nevertheless, nonetheless, despite everything, in spite of everything, even so, all the same, in any event, come what may, *informal* irregardless

■ regardless of IRRESPECTIVE OF, without regard to, without reference to, disregarding, without consideration of, discounting, ignoring, notwithstanding, no matter, *informal* irregardless of

regenerate ▶ **verb** REVIVE, revitalize, renew, restore, breathe new life into, revivify, rejuvenate, reanimate, resuscitate, *informal* give a shot in the arm to

regime ▶ **noun** ① the former Communist regime (SYSTEM OF) GOVERNMENT, authorities, rule, authority, control, command, administration, leadership ② a health regime SYSTEM, arrangement, scheme, order, pattern, method, procedure, routine, course, plan, programme

regiment ▶ **noun** the regiment was fighting in France UNIT, outfit, force, corps, division, brigade, battalion, squadron, company, platoon.

▶ **verb** their life is strictly regimented. ORGANIZE, order, systematize, control, regulate, manage, discipline

regimented ▶ **adjective** STRICTLY REGULATED, organized, disciplined, controlled, ordered, systematic, orderly

region ▶ **noun** the western region of the country DISTRICT, province, territory, division, area, section, sector, zone, belt, part, quarter, *informal* parts See list

■ In the region of. See APPROXIMATELY

Regions of the World

Africa	Meso-America
Antarctic	Middle East
Arctic	Micronesia
Asia	New World
Australasia	North Africa
Balkans	North America
Baltic States	Northern Europe
Caribbean	Occident
Central Africa	Oceania
Central America	Orient
Central Asia	Polynesia
Central Europe	Scandinavia
East Africa	South America
East Asia	Southeast Asia
Eastern Europe	Southern Africa
East Indies	Southern Asia
Eurasia	Southern Europe
Europe	South Pacific
Far East	Sub-Saharan Africa
Indian Subcontinent	Transcaucasia
Indochina	West Africa
Latin America	Western Europe
Melanesia	West Indies

regional ▶ **adjective** ① regional variation GEOGRAPHICAL, territorial, by region ② a regional parliament LOCAL, localized, provincial, district, parochial
—OPPOSITES national

register ▶ **noun** ① the register of electors OFFICIAL LIST, listing, roll, roster, index, directory, catalogue, inventory ② the parish register RECORD, chronicle, log, logbook, ledger, archive, annals, files ③ the lower register of the piano RANGE, reaches, notes, octaves

▶ **verb** ① I wish to register a complaint RECORD, put on record, enter, file, lodge, write down, put in writing, submit, report, note, minute, log ② it is not too late to register ENROL, put one's name down, enlist, sign on/up, apply ③ the dial registered a speed of 100mph INDICATE, read, record, show, display ④ her face registered anger DISPLAY, show, express, exhibit, betray, evidence, reveal, manifest, demonstrate, bespeak, formal evince ⑤ the content of her statement did not register MAKE AN IMPRESSION, get through, sink in, penetrate, have an effect, strike home

registration ▶ **noun**. See list

regress ▶ **verb** REVERT, retrogress, relapse, lapse, backslide, slip back, deteriorate, decline, go downhill, worsen, degenerate, get worse
—OPPOSITES progress

regret ▶ **verb** ① they came to regret their decision BE SORRY ABOUT, feel contrite about, feel remorse about/for, be remorseful about, rue, repent (of), feel repentant about, be regretful at/about ② regretting the passing of youth MOURN, grieve for/over, feel grief at, weep over, sigh

over, feel sad about, lament, sorrow for, deplore

—OPPOSITES welcome

▶ **noun** ① both players later expressed regret REMORSE, sorrow, contrition, contriteness, repentance, penitence, guilt, compunction, remorsefulness, ruefulness ② please give your grandmother my regrets APOLOGY, apologies, refusal ③ they left with genuine regret SADNESS, sorrow, disappointment, unhappiness, grief
—OPPOSITES satisfaction

regretful ▶ **adjective** SORRY, remorseful, contrite, repentant, rueful, penitent, conscience-stricken, apologetic, guilt-ridden, ashamed, shamefaced
—OPPOSITES unrepentant

regrettable ▶ **adjective** UNDESIRABLE, unfortunate, unwelcome, sorry, woeful, disappointing, deplorable, lamentable, shameful, disgraceful

regular ▶ **adjective** ① plant them at regular intervals UNIFORM, even, consistent, constant, unchanging, unvarying, fixed ② a regular beat RHYTHMIC, steady, even, uniform, constant, unchanging, unvarying ③ the subject of regular protests FREQUENT, repeated, continual, recurrent, periodic, constant, perpetual, numerous ④ regular methods of business ESTABLISHED, conventional, orthodox, proper, official, approved, bona fide, standard, usual, traditional, tried and tested ⑤ a regular procedure METHODICAL, systematic, structured, well ordered, well organized, orderly, efficient ⑥ his regular route to work USUAL, normal, customary, habitual, routine, typical, accustomed, established ⑦ (*informal, dated*) he's a regular charmer UTTER, real, absolute, complete, thorough, total, out-and-out, perfect, *N Amer* full-boie, *Brit informal* right, proper, *Austral/NZ informal* fair
—OPPOSITES erratic, occasional

regulate ▶ **verb** ① the flow of the river has been regulated CONTROL, adjust, manage ② a new act regulating businesses SUPERVISE, police, monitor, check (up on), be responsible for, control, manage, direct, guide, govern

regulation ▶ **noun** ① FC regulations RULE, ruling, order, directive, act, law, by-law, statute, edict, canon, pronouncement, dictate, dictum, decree, fiat, command, precept ② the regulation of blood sugar ADJUSTMENT, control, management, balancing ③ the regulation of financial services SUPERVISION, policing, superintendence, monitoring, inspection, control, management, responsibility for

▶ **adjective** regulation dress OFFICIAL, prescribed, set, fixed, mandatory, compulsory, obligatory
—OPPOSITES unofficial

regurgitate ▶ **verb** ① a ruminant continually regurgitates food DISGORGE, bring up, *archaic* regorge ② regurgitating facts REPEAT, say again, restate, reiterate, recite, parrot, *informal* trot out

rehabilitate ▶ **verb** ① efforts to rehabilitate patients RESTORE TO NORMALITY, reintegrate, readapt, *N Amer informal* rehab ② former dissidents were rehabilitated REINSTATE, restore, bring back, pardon, absolve, exonerate, forgive, *formal* exculpate ③ rehabilitating vacant housing RECONDITION, restore, renovate, refurbish, revamp, overhaul, redevelop, rebuild, reconstruct; redecorate, spruce up, upgrade, refit, modernize; *informal* do up; *N Amer informal* rehab

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International Car Registrations

A	Austria	E	Spain	LAO	Laos	RU	Burundi
ADN	Yemen	EAK	Kenya	LAR	Libya	RWA	Rwanda
AFG	Afghanistan	EAT	Tanzania	LB	Liberia	S	Sweden
AL	Albania	EAU	Uganda	LS	Lesotho	SD	Swaziland
AND	Andorra	ES	El Salvador	LT	Latvia	SF	Finland
AUS	Australia	EC	Ecuador	M	Malta	SGP	Singapore
B	Belgium	ET	Egypt	MA	Morocco	SK	Slovakia
BD	Bangladesh	EST	Estonia	MAL	Malaysia	SLO	Slovenia
BDS	Barbados	ETH	Ethiopia	MC	Monaco	SME	Suriname
BG	Bulgaria	F	France	MEX	Mexico	SN	Senegal
BH	Belize	FL	Liechtenstein	MS	Mauritius	SUD	Sudan
BIH	Bosnia-Herzegovina	FR	Faroe Islands	MW	Malawi	SYR	Syria
BOL	Bolivia	GB	United Kingdom	N	Norway	T	Thailand
BR	Brazil	GBA	Alderney	NIC	Nicaragua	TG	Togo
BRG	Guyana	GBG	Guernsey	NL	Netherlands	TN	Tunisia
BRN	Bahrain	GBJ	Jersey	NZ	New Zealand	TR	Turkey
BRU	Brunei	GBM	Isle of Man	P	Portugal	TT	Trinidad and Tobago
BUR	Burma	GBZ	Gibraltar	PA	Panama	U	Uruguay
BS	Bahamas	GCA	Guatemala	PAK	Pakistan	UA	Ukraine
BY	Belarus	GH	Ghana	PE	Peru	USA	United States of America
C	Cuba	GR	Greece	PI	Philippines	V	Vatican City
CDN	Canada	GUY	Guyana	PL	Poland	VN	Vietnam
CG	Democratic Republic of Congo	H	Hungary	PY	Paraguay	WAG	Gambia
CH	Switzerland	HK	Hong Kong	R	Romania	WAL	Sierra Leone
CI	Channel Islands and Ivory Coast	HKJ	Jordan	RA	Argentina	WAN	Nigeria
CL	Sri Lanka	HR	Croatia	RB	Botswana	WD	Dominica
CO	Colombia	I	Italy	RCA	Central African Republic	WG	Grenada
CR	Costa Rica	IL	Israel	RCH	Chile	WL	St Lucia
CY	Cyprus	IND	India	RF	Russia	WV	St Vincent and the Grenadines
CZ	Czech Republic	IR	Iran	RH	Haiti	YU	Yugoslavia
D	Germany	IRL	Ireland	RI	Indonesia	YV	Venezuela
DK	Denmark	IRQ	Iraq	RIM	Mauritania	Z	Zambia
DY	Benin	IS	Iceland	RL	Lebanon	ZA	South Africa
DZ	Algeria	J	Japan	RM	Madagascar	ZRE	Zaire
		JA	Jamaica	RN	Niger	ZW	Zimbabwe
		K	Cambodia	RMM	Mali		
		KWT	Kuwait	ROK	South Korea		
		L	Luxembourg	RSM	San Marino		

rehearsal ► noun PRACTICE (SESSION), trial performance, read-through, run-through, *informal* dry run

rehearse ► verb ① *I rehearsed the role* PREPARE, practise, read through, run through/over, go over ② *he rehearsed the Vienna Philharmonic* TRAIN, drill, prepare, coach, put someone through their paces ③ *the document rehearsed all the arguments* ENUMERATE, list, itemize, detail, spell out, catalogue, recite, rattle off, restate, repeat, reiterate, recapitulate, go over, run through, *informal* recap

reign ► verb ① *Robert II reigned for nineteen years* BE KING/QUEEN, be monarch, be sovereign, sit on the throne, wear the crown, rule. ② *chaos reigned*. PREVAIL, exist, be present, be the case, occur, be prevalent, be current, be rife, be rampant, be the order of the day, be in force, be in effect, *formal* obtain.

► noun ① *during Henry's reign*: RULE, sovereignty, monarchy ② *his reign as manager* PERIOD IN OFFICE, incumbency, managership, leadership

reigning ► adjective ① *the reigning monarch* RULING, regnant, on the throne. ② *the reigning world champion* INCUMBENT, current. ③ *the reigning legal conventions*. PREVAILING, existing, current, usual, common, recognized, established, accepted, popular, widespread

reimburse ► verb ① *they will reimburse your travel costs* REPAY, refund, return, pay back ② *we'll reimburse you* COMPENSATE, recompense, repay

rein ► noun *there is no rein on his behaviour* RE STRAINT, check, curb, constraint, restriction, limitation, control, brake

► verb *they reined back costs* RESTRAIN, check, curb, constrain, hold back/in, keep under control, regulate, restrict, control, curtail, limit

■ **free rein** FREEDOM, a free hand, leeway, latitude, flexibility, liberty, independence, free play, licence, room to manoeuvre, carte blanche

■ **keep a tight rein on** EXERCISE STRICT CONTROL OVER, regulate, discipline, regiment, keep in line

reincarnation ► noun REBIRTH, transmigration of the soul, metempsychosis

reinforce ► verb ① *troops reinforced the dam* STRENGTHEN, fortify, bolster, shore up, buttress, prop up, underpin, brace, support ② *reinforcing links between colleges and companies* STRENGTHEN, fortify, support; cement, boost, promote, encourage, deepen, enrich, enhance, intensify, improve ③ *the need to reinforce NATO troops* AUGMENT, increase, add to, supplement, boost, top up.

reinforcement ▶ **noun** ① the reinforcement of our defences. STRENGTHENING, fortification, bolstering, shoring up, buttressing, bracing ② reinforcement of the bomber force AUGMENTATION, increase, supplementing, boosting, topping up ③ they returned later with reinforcements ADDITIONAL TROOPS, fresh troops, auxiliaries, reserves, support, back-up, help

reinstate ▶ **verb** RESTORE, return to power, put back, bring back, reinstitute, reinstall

reiterate ▶ **verb** REPEAT, say again, restate, recapitulate, go over (and over), rehearse

reject ▶ **verb** ① the miners rejected the offer TURN DOWN, refuse, decline, say no to, spurn, informal give the thumbs down to ② Jamie rejected her REBUFF, spurn, shun, snub, repudiate, cast off/aside, discard, abandon, desert, turn one's back on, have nothing (more) to do with, wash one's hands of, informal give someone the brush-off, poetic/literary forsake
-OPPOSITES accept

▶ **noun** ① it is only a reject SUBSTANDARD ARTICLE, discard, second ② what a reject! FAILURE, loser, incompetent

rejection ▶ **noun** ① a rejection of the offer REFUSAL, declining, turning down, dismissal, spurning ② Madeleine's rejection of him REPUDIATION, rebuff, spurning, abandonment, desertion, informal brush-off, poetic/literary forsaking

rejoice ▶ **verb** ① they rejoiced when she returned BE JOYFUL, be happy, be pleased, be glad, be delighted, be elated, be ecstatic, be euphoric, be overjoyed, be as pleased as Punch, be cock-a-hoop, be jubilant, be in raptures, be beside oneself with joy, be delirious, be thrilled, be on cloud nine, be in seventh heaven, celebrate, make merry, informal be over the moon, be on top of the world, Austral informal be wrapped, poetic/literary joy, archaic jubilate ② he rejoiced in their success TAKE DELIGHT, find/take pleasure, feel satisfaction, find joy, enjoy, revel in, glory in, delight in, relish, savour
-OPPOSITES mourn

rejoicing ▶ **noun** HAPPINESS, pleasure, joy, gladness, delight, elation, jubilation, exuberance, exultation, celebration, revelry, merry-making

rejoin¹ ▶ **verb** the path rejoins the main road further on RETURN TO, be reunited with, join again, reach again, regain

rejoin² ▶ **verb** Eugene rejoined that you couldn't expect much ANSWER, reply, respond, return, retort, riposte, counter

rejoinder ▶ **noun** ANSWER, reply, response, retort, riposte, counter, informal comeback

rejuvenate ▶ **verb** REVIVE, revitalize, regenerate, breathe new life into, revivify, reanimate, resuscitate, refresh, reawaken, put new life into; informal give a shot in the arm to, pep up, buck up

relapse ▶ **verb** ① a few patients relapse GET ILL/WORSE AGAIN, have/suffer a relapse, deteriorate, degenerate, take a turn for the worse. ② she relapsed into silence REVERT, lapse, regress, retrogress, slip back, slide back, degenerate.
-OPPOSITES improve

▶ **noun** ① one patient suffered a relapse DETERIORATION, turn for the worse. ② a relapse into alcoholism. DECLINE, lapse, deterioration, degener-

ation, reversion, regression, retrogression, fall, descent, slide

relate ▶ **verb** ① he related many stories TELL, recount, narrate, report, chronicle, outline, delineate, retail, recite, repeat, communicate, impart ② mortality is related to unemployment levels CONNECT (WITH), associate (with), link (with), correlate (with), ally (with), couple (with) ③ the charges relate to offences committed in August APPLY, be relevant, concern, pertain to, be pertinent to, have a bearing on, appertain to, involve, archaic regard ④ she cannot relate to her step-father HAVE A RAPPORT, get on (well), feel sympathy, feel for, identify with, empathize with, understand, informal hit it off with

related ▶ **adjective** ① related ideas CONNECTED, interconnected, associated, linked, coupled, allied, affiliated, concomitant, corresponding, analogous, kindred, parallel, comparable, homologous, equivalent ② are you two related? OF THE SAME FAMILY, kin, akin, kindred, consanguineous, formal cognate
-OPPOSITES unconnected

relation ▶ **noun** ① the relation between church and state CONNECTION, relationship, association, link, correlation, correspondence, parallel, alliance, bond, interrelation, interconnection ② this had no relation to national security RELEVANCE, applicability, reference, pertinence, bearing ③ are you a relation of his? RELATIVE, member of the family, kinsman, kinswoman, (relations) family, (kith and) kin, kindred ④ improving relations with India DEALINGS, communication, relationship, connections, contact, interaction ⑤ sexual relations See SEX sense 1

relationship ▶ **noun** ① the relationship between diet and diabetes CONNECTION, relation, association, link, correlation, correspondence, parallel, alliance, bond, interrelation, interconnection. ② evidence of their relationship to a common ancestor FAMILY TIES/CONNECTIONS, blood relationship, kinship, affinity, consanguinity, common ancestry/lineage ③ the end of their relationship ROMANCE, (love) affair, love, liaison, amour

relative ▶ **adjective** ① the relative importance of each factor COMPARATIVE, respective, comparable, correlative, parallel, corresponding ② the food required is relative to body weight PROPORTIONATE, proportional, in proportion, commensurate, corresponding ③ relative ease MODERATE, reasonable, a fair degree of, considerable, comparative

▶ **noun** he's a relative of mine RELATION, member of someone's/the family, kinsman, kinswoman, (relatives) family, (kith and) kin, kindred, kinsfolk

relatively ▶ **adverb** COMPARATIVELY, by comparison, quite, fairly, reasonably, rather, somewhat, to a certain degree/degree, tolerably, passably, informal pretty, kind of, sort of

relax ▶ **verb** ① yoga is helpful in learning to relax UNWIND, loosen up, ease up/off, slow down, destress, unbend, rest, put one's feet up, take it easy; informal unbutton, N Amer informal hang loose, chill out. ② a walk will relax you CALM (DOWN), unwind, loosen up, make less tense/upright, soothe, pacify, compose. ③ he relaxed his grip LOOSEN, loose, slacken, unclench, weaken, lessen. ④ her muscles relaxed BECOME LESS TENSE, loosen, slacken, unknot. ⑤ they re-



laxed the restrictions MODERATE, modify, temper, ease (up on), loosen, lighten, dilute, weaken, reduce, decrease, *informal* let up on
-OPPOSITES tense, tighten

relaxation ▶ noun ① a state of relaxation (MENTAL) REPOSE, calm, tranquillity, peacefulness, loosening up, unwinding ② I just play for relaxation RECREATION, enjoyment, amusement, entertainment, fun, pleasure, leisure, *informal* R and R ③ muscle relaxation LOOSENING, slackening, loosening ④ relaxation of censorship rules MODERATION, easing, loosening, lightening, alleviation, mitigation, dilution, weakening, reduction, *informal* letting up

relay ▶ noun a live relay of the performance BROADCAST, transmission, showing

▶ verb relaying messages through a third party PASS ON, hand on, transfer, repeat, communicate, send, transmit, disseminate, spread, circulate

release ▶ verb ① all prisoners were released (SET) FREE, let go/out, allow to leave, liberate, set at liberty ② Burke released the animal UNTIE, undo, loose, let go, unleash, unfetter ③ this released staff for other duties MAKE AVAILABLE, free (up), put at someone's disposal, supply, furnish, provide ④ she released Stephen from his promise EXCUSE, exempt, discharge, deliver, absolve, *informal* let off ⑤ police released the news yesterday MAKE PUBLIC, make known, issue, break, announce, declare, report, reveal, divulge, disclose, publish, broadcast, circulate, communicate, disseminate ⑥ the film has been released on video LAUNCH, put on the market, put on sale, bring out, make available
-OPPOSITES imprison, tie up

▶ noun ① the release of political prisoners FREEING, liberation, deliverance, freedom, liberty ② the release of the news ISSUING, announcement, declaration, reporting, revealing, divulging, disclosure, publication, communication, dissemination ③ a press release ANNOUNCEMENT, bulletin, newflash, dispatch, proclamation ④ the group's last release CD, album, single, record, video, film, book

relegate ▶ verb DOWNGRADE, lower (in rank/status), put down, move down, demote, downgrade

-OPPOSITES upgrade

relent ▶ verb ① the government finally relented CHANGE ONE'S MIND, do a U-turn, back-pedal, back down, give way/in, capitulate, become merciful, become lenient, agree to something, allow something, concede something, *Brit* do an about-turn, *formal* accede ② the rain has relented EASE (OFF/UP), slacken, let up, abate, drop, die down, lessen, decrease, subside, weaken, tail off

relentless ▶ adjective ① their relentless pursuit of quality PERSISTENT, continuing, constant, continual, continuous, non-stop, never-ending, unabating, interminable, incessant, unceasing, endless, unending, unremitting, unrelenting, unrelieved, unfaltering, unflagging, untiring, unwavering, dogged, single-minded, tireless, indefatigable, *formal* pertinacious ② a relentless taskmaster HARSH, grim, cruel, severe, strict, remorseless, merciless, pitiless, ruthless, unmerciful, heartless, hard-hearted, unforgiving, inflexible, unbending, uncompromising, obdurate, unyielding

relevant ▶ adjective PERTINENT, applicable, apposite, material, apropos, to the point, germane, connected, related, linked

reliable ▶ adjective ① reliable evidence DEPENDABLE, good, well founded, authentic, valid, genuine, sound, true ② a reliable friend TRUSTWORTHY, dependable, good, true, faithful, devoted, steadfast, staunch, constant, loyal, trusty, dedicated, unfailing, truthful, honest ③ reliable brakes DEPENDABLE, safe, fail-safe ④ a reliable firm REPUTABLE, dependable, trustworthy, honest, responsible, established, proven
-OPPOSITES untrustworthy

reliance ▶ noun ① reliance on the state DEPENDENCE, dependency ② reliance on his own judgement TRUST, confidence, faith, belief, conviction

relic ▶ noun ① a Viking relic ARTEFACT, historical object, ancient object, antiquity, antique ② a saint's relics REMAINS, corpse, bones, reliquiae, *Medicine* cadaver

relief ▶ noun ① it was such a relief to share my worries REASSURANCE, consolation, comfort, solace ② the relief of pain ALLEVIATION, alleviating, relieving, assuagement, assuaging, palliation, allaying, soothing, easing, lessening, reduction ③ relief from her burden FREEDOM, release, liberation, deliverance ④ a little light relief RESPIRE, amusement, diversion, entertainment, jollity, jollification, recreation ⑤ bringing relief to the starving HELP, aid, assistance, succour, sustenance, charity, gifts, donations ⑥ his relief arrived to take over REPLACEMENT, substitute, deputy, reserve, cover, stand-in, supply, locum (tenens), understudy
-OPPOSITES intensification

■ throw something into relief HIGHLIGHT, spotlight, give prominence to, point up, show up, emphasize, bring out, stress, accent, underline, underscore, accentuate

relieve ▶ verb ① this helps relieve pain ALLEVIATE, mitigate, assuage, ease, dull, reduce, lessen, diminish ② relieving the boredom COUNTERACT, reduce, alleviate, mitigate, interrupt, vary, stop, dispel, prevent ③ the helpers relieved us REPLACE, take over from, stand in for, fill in for, substitute for, deputize for, cover for ④ this relieves the teacher of a heavy load (SET) FREE, release, exempt, excuse, absolve, let off, discharge
-OPPOSITES aggravate

relieved ▶ adjective GLAD, thankful, grateful, pleased, happy, easy/easier in one's mind, reassured

-OPPOSITES worried

religion ▶ noun FAITH, belief, worship, creed, sect, cult, church, denomination *See list*

religious ▶ adjective ① a religious person DEVOUT, pious, reverent, godly, God-fearing, churchgoing, practising, faithful, devoted, committed ② religious beliefs SPIRITUAL, theological, scriptural, doctrinal, ecclesiastical, church, churchly, holy, divine, sacred ③ religious attention to detail SCRUPULOUS, conscientious, meticulous, sedulous, punctilious, strict, rigorous, close

-OPPOSITES atheistic, secular.

relinquish ▶ verb ① he relinquished control of the company. RENOUNCE, give up/away, hand over,

Religions and Sects

BAHA'I

Babism

BUDDHISM

Falun Gong
Hinayana
Lamaism
Mahayana
Nichiren
Rinzai Zen
Soka Gakkai
Soto Zen
Tantrism
Theravada
Tibetan Buddhism
Zen

CHRISTIANITY

See CHRISTIANITY.

CONFUCIANISM

neo-Confucianism

HINDUISM

Brahmanism
Krishna Consciousness
Saivism
Shaktism/Saktism
Shivaism/Shivaism
Tantrism
Vaishnavism
Vedantism
Vishnism

ISLAM

Druzes
Ismailis
Mahdism
Senussi
Shia
Sufism
Sunni
Wahhabism

JAINISM

Digambara
Svetambara

JUDAISM

Conservative Judaism
Essenes
Falashas
Hasidism

Kabbalah

Karalism

Messianic Judaism

Orthodox Judaism

Pharisaism

Rabbinism

Reconstructionism

Reform Judaism

Samaritanism

Zionism

SHINTO

SIKHISM

TAOISM

ZOROASTRIANISM

Mazdasm

Parseelism

OTHER

ancestor worship
animism
candomblé
cargo cult
Druidism
Eleusinian mysteries
Ghost Dance cult
Hau-hauism
Macumba
Mithraism
Myalism
Neopaganism
Orphism
Paganism
Pocomania
Rastafarianism
Ratana Church
Sabaism
Scientology (trademark)
Shamanism
Shango
Spiritualism
Subud
Theosophy
Totemism
Umbanda
Unification Church
(‘Moonies’)
Voodoo
Wicca
Yezidism

let go of ② he relinquished his post LEAVE, resign from, stand down from, bow out of, give up, *informal* quit, chuck ③ he relinquished his pipe-smoking DISCONTINUE, stop, cease, give up, desist from, *informal* quit, leave off, kick, *formal* forswear. ④ she relinquished her grip. LET GO, release, loose, loosen, relax

—OPPOSITES retain, continue

relish ▶ **noun** ① he dug into his food with relish ENJOYMENT, gusto, delight, pleasure, glee, rapture, satisfaction, contentment, appreciation, enthusiasm, appetite, *humorous* delectation ② a hot relish: CONDIMENT, sauce, dressing, flavouring, seasoning, dip

—OPPOSITES dislike

▶ **verb** ① he was relishing his moment of glory ENJOY, delight in, love, adore, take pleasure in, rejoice in, appreciate, savour, revel in, luxuriate in, glory in ② I don't relish the drive LOOK FORWARD TO, fancy, anticipate with pleasure

reluctance ▶ **noun** UNWILLINGNESS, disinclination, hesitation, wavering, vacillation; doubts, second thoughts, misgivings, *archaic* disrelish

reluctant ▶ **adjective** ① her parents were reluctant UNWILLING, disinclined, unenthusiastic, resistant, resisting, opposed, hesitant ② a reluctant smile SHY, bashful, coy, diffident, reserved, timid, timorous ③ he was reluctant to leave LOATH, unwilling, disinclined, indisposed, not in favour of, against, opposed to

—OPPOSITES willing, eager

rely ▶ **verb** ① we can rely on his discretion DEPEND, count, bank, place reliance, reckon, be confident of, be sure of, believe in, have faith in, trust in, *informal* swear by, *N Amer informal* figure on ② we rely on government funding BE DEPEND ENT, depend, be unable to manage without

remain ▶ **verb** ① the problem will remain CONTINUE TO EXIST, endure, last, abide, carry on, persist, stay (around), prevail, survive, live on ② he remained in hospital STAY (BEHIND/PUT), wait (around), be left, hang on, *informal* hang around/round, *Brit informal* hang about, *archaic* bide ③ union leaders remain sceptical CONTINUE TO BE, stay, keep, persist in being, carry on being ④ the few minutes that remain BE LEFT (OVER), be still available, be unused, have not yet passed

remainder ▶ **noun** RESIDUE, balance, remaining part/number, rest, others, those left, remnant(s), surplus, extra, excess, overflow, *technical* residuum

remaining ▶ **adjective** ① the remaining workers RESIDUAL, surviving, left (over), extra, surplus, spare, superfluous, excess ② his remaining jobs UNSETTLED, outstanding, unfinished, incomplete, to be done, unattended to ③ my only remaining memories SURVIVING, lasting, enduring, continuing, persisting, abiding, (still) existing

remains ▶ **plural noun** ① the remains of her drink REMAINDER, residue, remaining part/number, rest, remnant(s), *technical* residuum ② Roman remains ANTIQUITIES, relics, reliquiae ③ the saint's remains CORPSE, (dead) body, carcass, bones, skeleton, *Medicine* cadaver

remark ▶ **verb** ① 'You're quiet,' he remarked. COMMENT, say, observe, mention, reflect, state, declare, announce, pronounce, assert, *formal* opine ② many critics remarked on their rapport COMMENT, mention, refer to, speak of, pass comment on ③ he remarked the absence of policemen NOTE, notice, observe, take note of, perceive, discern

▶ **noun** ① his remarks have been misinterpreted COMMENT, statement, utterance, observation, declaration, pronouncement. ② worthy of remark. ATTENTION, notice, comment, mention, observation, acknowledgement

remarkable ▶ **adjective** EXTRAORDINARY, exceptional, amazing, astonishing, astounding, marvellous, wonderful, sensational, stunning, incredible, unbelievable, phenomenal, outstanding, momentous, out of the ordinary, unusual, uncommon, surprising, *informal* fantastic, ter-



rific, tremendous, stupendous, awesome, *poetic/literary* wondrous

—OPPOSITES ordinary

remediable ► **adjective** CURABLE, treatable, operable, solvable, repairable, rectifiable, resolvable

—OPPOSITES incurable

remedy ► **noun** ① *herbal remedies* TREATMENT, cure, medicine, medication, medicament, drug, *archaic* physic ② *a remedy for all kinds of problems* SOLUTION, answer, cure, antidote, curative, nostrum, panacea, cure-all, *informal* magic bullet

► **verb** ① *remedying the situation* PUT/SET RIGHT, put/set to rights, right, rectify, solve, sort out, straighten out, resolve, correct, repair, mend, make good ② *anaemia can be remedied by iron tablets* CURE, treat, heal, make better, relieve, ease, alleviate, palliate

remember ► **verb** ① *remembering happy times* RECALL, call to mind, recollect, think of, reminisce about, look back on, *archaic* bethink oneself of ② *can you remember all that?* MEMORIZE, commit to memory, retain, learn off by heart ③ *you must remember she's only five* BEAR/KEEP IN MIND, be mindful of the fact, take into account, take into consideration ④ *remember to feed the cat* BE SURE, be certain, mind that you, make sure that you ⑤ *remember me to Alice* SEND ONE'S BEST WISHES TO, send one's regards to, give one's love to, send one's compliments to, say hello to ⑥ *the nation remembered those who gave their lives* COMMEMORATE, pay tribute to, honour, salute, pay homage to ⑦ *she remembered them in her will* BEQUEATH SOMETHING TO, leave something to, bestow something on

—OPPOSITES forget

remembrance ► **noun** ① *an expression of remembrance* RECOLLECTION, reminiscence, remembering, recalling, recollecting, reminiscing ② *she smiled at the remembrance* MEMORY, recollection, reminiscence, thought ③ *we sold poppies in remembrance* COMMEMORATION, memory, recognition ④ *a remembrance of my father* MEMENTO, reminder, keepsake, souvenir, memorial, token

remind ► **verb** ① *I left a note to remind him* JOG SOMEONE'S MEMORY, help someone remember, prompt ② *the song reminded me of my sister* MAKE ONE THINK OF, cause one to remember, put one in mind of, bring/call to mind, evoke

reminder ► **noun** PROMPT, prompting, aide-memoire

reminisce ► **verb** REMEMBER (WITH PLEASURE), cast one's mind back to, look back on, be nostalgic about, recall, recollect, reflect on, call to mind

reminiscences ► **plural noun** MEMORIES, recollections, reflections, remembrances

reminiscent ► **adjective** SIMILAR TO, comparable with, evocative of, suggestive of, redolent of.

remiss ► **adjective** NEGLIGENT, neglectful, irresponsible, careless, thoughtless, heedless, lax, slack, sloppy, slipshod, lackadaisical, *N Amer* derelict, *formal* delinquent.

—OPPOSITES careful

remission ► **noun** ① *the remission of all fees* CANCELLATION, setting aside, suspension, revocation, *formal* abrogation ② *the cancer is in remission* RESPITE, abeyance. ③ *the wind howled with-*

out remission RESPITE, lessening, abatement, easing, decrease, reduction, diminution, dying down, slackening, lull, *informal* let-up ④ *the remission of sins* FORGIVENESS, pardoning, absolution, exoneration, *formal* exculpation

remit ► **verb** ① *the fines were remitted* CANCEL, set aside, suspend, revoke, *formal* abrogate ② *remitting duties to the authorities* SEND, dispatch, forward, hand over, pay ③ *the case was remitted to the Court of Appeal* PASS (ON), refer, send on, transfer ④ (*rare*) *we remitted all further discussion* POSTPONE, defer, put off/back, shelve, delay, suspend, *N Amer* table, *informal* put on the back burner, put on ice ⑤ *remitting their sins* PAR DON, forgive, excuse ⑥ (*archaic*) *the fever remitted* DIMINISH, lessen, decrease, ease (up), abate, moderate, subside

► **noun** that is outside his remit AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY, sphere, orbit, scope, ambit, province, brief, instructions, orders, *informal* bailiwick

remittance ► **noun** ① *send the form with your remittance* PAYMENT, money, fee, cheque, *formal* monies ② *a monthly remittance* ALLOWANCE, sum of money

remnant ► **noun** ① *the remnants of the picnic* REMAINS, remainder, leftovers, residue, rest, *technical* residuum ② *remnants of cloth* SCRAP, piece, bit, fragment, shred, offcut, oddment

remonstrate ► **verb** ① *'I'm not a child!' he remonstrated* PROTEST, complain, expostulate, argue with, take issue with ② *we remonstrated against this proposal* OBJECT STRONGLY TO, complain vociferously about, protest against, argue against, oppose strongly, make a fuss about, challenge, deplore, condemn, denounce, criticize, *informal* kick up a fuss/stink about

remorse ► **noun** CONTRITION, deep regret, repentance, penitence, guilt, compunction, remorsefulness, ruefulness, contriteness, pangs of conscience

remorseful ► **adjective** SORRY, full of regret, regretful, contrite, repentant, penitent, guilt-ridden, conscience-stricken, guilty, chastened, self-reproachful

—OPPOSITES unrepentant

remorseless ► **adjective** ① HEARTLESS, pitiless, merciless, ruthless, callous, cruel, hard-hearted, inhumane, unmerciful, unforgiving, unfeeling ② *remorseless cost-cutting* RELENTLESS, unrelenting, unremitting, unabating, inexorable, unstoppable

—OPPOSITES compassionate

remote ► **adjective** ① *areas remote from hospitals* FARAWAY, distant, far (off), far removed ② *a remote mountain village* ISOLATED, out of the way, off the beaten track, secluded, lonely, in the back of beyond, godforsaken, inaccessible, *N Amer* in the backwoods, lonesome, *Austral/NZ* in the backblocks, in the booby, *informal* in the sticks, in the middle of nowhere, *N Amer informal* in the tall timbers; *Austral/NZ informal* beyond the black stump; *archaic* unapproachable ③ *events remote from modern times* IRRELEVANT TO, unrelated to, unconnected to, unconcerned with, not pertinent to, immaterial to, unassociated with; foreign to, alien to ④ *a remote possibility* UNLIKELY, improbable, implausible, doubtful, dubious; faint, slight, slim, small, slender. ⑤ *she seems very remote*: ALOOF, distant, detached, withdrawn, reserved, uncommunica-



tive, unforthcoming, unapproachable, unresponsive, unfriendly, unsociable, introspective, inverted, informal stand-offish
-OPPOSITES close, central

removal ▶ noun ① the removal of heavy artillery TAKING AWAY, moving, carrying away ② his removal from office DISMISSAL, ejection, expulsion, ousting, displacement, deposition, *N Amer* ouster, informal sacking, firing ③ the removal of customs barriers WITHDRAWAL, elimination, taking away ④ the removal of errors DELETION, elimination, erasing, effacing, obliteration ⑤ the removal of weeds UPROOTING, eradication ⑥ the removal of old branches CUTTING OFF, chopping off, hacking off ⑦ her removal to France MOVE, transfer, relocation ⑧ the removal of a rival KILLING, murder, elimination, informal liquidation
-OPPOSITES installation

remove ▶ verb ① remove the plug DETACH, unfasten, pull out, take out, disconnect ② she removed the lid TAKE OFF, undo, unfasten ③ he removed a note from his wallet TAKE OUT, produce, bring out, get out, pull out, withdraw ④ police removed boxes of documents TAKE AWAY, carry away, move, transport, confiscate, informal cart off ⑤ Sheila removed the mud CLEAN OFF, wash off, wipe off, rinse off, scrub off, sponge out ⑥ Henry removed his coat TAKE OFF, pull off, slip out of, *Bnt* informal peel off ⑦ he was removed from his post DISMISS, discharge, get rid of, dislodge, displace, expel, oust, depose, informal sack, fire, kick out, boot out, *Bnt* informal turf out ⑧ tax relief was removed WITHDRAW, abolish, eliminate, get rid of, do away with, stop, cut, axe ⑨ Gabriel removed two words DELETE, erase, rub out, cross out, strike out, score out ⑩ weeds have to be removed UPROOT, pull out, eradicate ⑪ removing branches CUT OFF, chop off, lop off, hack off ⑫ (dated) he removed to Fdinburgh MOVE (HOUSE), relocate, transfer, emigrate, *Bnt* informal up sticks, *N Amer* informal pull up stakes ⑬ the mobsters removed their enemies See KILL verb sense 1

-OPPOSITES attach, insert, replace

▶ noun it is impossible, at this remove, to reconstruct the accident DISTANCE, space of time, interval

removed ▶ adjective DISTANT, remote, disconnected, unrelated, unconnected, alien, foreign

remunerate ▶ verb PAY, reward, reimburse, recompense

remuneration ▶ noun PAYMENT, pay, salary, wages, earnings, fee(s), reward, recompense, reimbursement, formal emolument(s)

remunerative ▶ adjective LUCRATIVE, well paid, financially rewarding, profitable

renaissance ▶ noun REVIVAL, renewal, resurrection, reawakening, re-emergence, rebirth, reappearance, resurgence, regeneration, formal renascence

rend ▶ verb TEAR/RIP APART, tear/rip in two, split, rupture, sever; poetic/literary tear/rip asunder, sunder, rare dissever, archaic rive

render ▶ verb ① her fury rendered her speechless MAKE, cause to be/become, leave ② rendering assistance. GIVE, provide, supply, furnish, contribute; offer, proffer ③ the invoices rendered by the accountants SEND IN, present, submit ④ the jury rendered their verdict DELIVER, return, hand down, give, announce. ⑤ paintings rendered in vivid colours PAINT, draw, depict, portray, repre-

sent, execute, poetic/literary limn ⑥ she rendered all three verses PERFORM, sing ⑦ the characters are vividly rendered ACT, perform, play, depict, interpret ⑧ the phrase was rendered into English TRANSLATE, put, express, rephrase, reword ⑨ he rendered up the stolen money GIVE BACK, return, restore, pay back, repay, hand over, give up, surrender ⑩ the fat can be rendered MELT DOWN, clarify

rendezvous ▶ noun Edward was late for their rendezvous MEETING, appointment, assignation, informal date, poetic/literary tryst

▶ verb the bar where they had agreed to rendezvous MEET, come together, gather, assemble

rendition ▶ noun ① our rendition of Beethoven's Fifth PERFORMANCE, rendering, interpretation, presentation, execution, delivery ② the artist's rendition of Adam and Eve DEPICTION, portrayal, representation ③ an interpreter's rendition of the message TRANSLATION, interpretation, version

renegade ▶ noun ① he was denounced as a renegade TRAITOR, defector, deserter, turncoat, rebel, mutineer, rare tergiversator ② (archaic) a religious renegade APOSTATE, heretic, dissenter, archaic recreant

▶ adjective ① renegade troops TREACHEROUS, traitorous, disloyal, treasonous, rebel, mutinous ② a renegade monk APOSTATE, heretic, heretical, dissident, archaic recreant

-OPPOSITES loyal

renege ▶ verb DEFAULT ON, fail to honour, go back on, break, back out of, withdraw from, retreat from, welsh on, backtrack on, break one's word/promise

-OPPOSITES honour

renew ▶ verb ① I renewed my search RESUME, I return to, take up again, come back to, begin again, start again, restart, recommence, continue (with), carry on (with) ② they renewed their vows REAFFIRM, reassert, repeat, reiterate, restate ③ something to renew her interest in life REVIVE, regenerate, revitalize, reinvigorate, restore, resuscitate, breathe new life into, archaic renovate ④ the hotel was completely renewed RENOVATE, restore, refurbish, modernize, overhaul, redevelop, rebuild, reconstruct, remodel, *N Amer* bring something up to code, informal do up, *N Amer* informal rehab ⑤ they renewed Jackie's contract EXTEND, prolong ⑥ I renewed my supply of toilet paper REPLENISH, restock, resupply, top up, replace

renewal ▶ noun ① the renewal of our friendship RESUMPTION, recommencement, re-establishment, continuation ② spiritual renewal REGENERATION, revival, reinvigoration, revitalization, archaic renovation ③ the renewal of older urban areas RENOVATION, restoration, modernization, reconditioning, overhauling, redevelopment, rebuilding, reconstruction

renounce ▶ verb ① Edward renounced his claim to the throne GIVE UP, relinquish, abandon, abdicate, surrender, waive, forego, *Law* disclaim, *formal* abnegate ② Hungary renounced the agreement REJECT, refuse to abide by, repudiate ③ she renounced her family REPUDIATE, deny, reject, abandon, wash one's hands of, turn one's back on, disown, spurn, shun, poetic/literary forsake ④ he renounced alcohol ABSTAIN FROM, give up, desist from, refrain from, keep off, eschew; informal quit, pack in, lay off, *formal* forswear.

-OPPOSITES assert, accept



■ **renounce the world** BECOME A RECLUSE, turn one's back on society, cloister oneself, hide oneself away

renovate ▶ **verb** MODERNIZE, restore, refurbish, revamp, recondition, rehabilitate, overhaul, redevelop, update, upgrade, refit, *N Amer* bring something up to code, *informal* do up, *N Amer informal* rehab

renown ▶ **noun** FAME, distinction, eminence, pre-eminence, prominence, repute, reputation, prestige, acclaim, celebrity, notability

renowned ▶ **adjective** FAMOUS, celebrated, famed, eminent, distinguished, acclaimed, illustrious, pre-eminent, prominent, great, esteemed, of note, of repute, well known, well thought of

—OPPOSITES unknown

rent¹ ▶ **noun** I can't afford to pay the rent HIRE CHARGE, rental

▶ **verb** ① she rented a car HIRE, lease, charter ② why don't you rent it out? LET (OUT), lease (out), hire (out), sublet, sublease

rent² ▶ **noun** ① the rent in his trousers RIP, tear, split, hole, slash, slit ② a vast rent in the mountains GORGE, chasm, fault, rift, fissure, crevasse

renunciation ▶ **noun** ① Henry's renunciation of his throne RELINQUISHMENT, giving up, abandonment, abdication, surrender, waiving, foregoing, *Law* disclaimer, *rare* abnegation ② his renunciation of luxury ABSTENTION, refraining, going without, giving up, eschewal, *formal* forswearing ③ their renunciation of terrorism REPUDIATION, rejection, abandonment

reorganize ▶ **verb** RESTRUCTURE, change, alter, adjust, transform, shake up, rationalize, rearrange, reshape, overhaul

repair¹ ▶ **verb** ① the car was repaired MEND, fix (up), put/set right, restore (to working order), overhaul, service, *informal* patch up ② they repaired the costumes MEND, darn, *informal* patch up ③ repairing relations with other countries PUT/SET RIGHT, mend, fix, straighten out, improve, *informal* patch up ④ she sought to repair the wrong she had done RECTIFY, make good, (put) right, correct, make up for, make amends for, make reparation for

▶ **noun** ① in need of repair RESTORATION, fixing (up), mending, renovation, *archaic* reparation ② an invisible repair MEND, darn ③ in good repair CONDITION, working order, state, shape, fettle, *Bnt informal* nick

■ **beyond repair** IRREPARABLE, irreversible, irretrievable, irremediable, irrecoverable, past hope

repair² ▶ **verb** (*formal*) we repaired to the sitting room GO TO, head for, adjourn, wend one's way; *formal* remove, *poetic/literary* betake oneself

reparable ▶ **adjective** RECTIFIABLE, remediable, curable, restorable, recoverable, retrievable, salvageable

reparation ▶ **noun** AMENDS, restitution, redress, compensation, recompense, repayment, atonement

repartee ▶ **noun** BANTER, badinage, bantering, raillery, witticism(s), ripostes, sallies, quips, joking, jesting, chaff, chaffing, *formal* persiflage

repast ▶ **noun** (*formal*) MEAL, feast, banquet; *informal* spread, feed, bite (to eat); *Bnt informal* nosh-up; *formal* collation, *poetic/literary* refecton

repay ▶ **verb** ① repaying customers who have been cheated REIMBURSE, refund, pay back/off, recompense, compensate, indemnify ② the grants have to be repaid PAY BACK, return, refund, reimburse ③ I'd like to repay her generosity RECIPROATE, return, requite, recompense, reward ④ interesting books that would repay further study BE WELL WORTH, be worth one's while

repayment ▶ **noun** ① the repayment of tax RE FUND, reimbursement, paying back ② repayment for all they have done RECOMPENSE, reward, compensation

repeal ▶ **verb** the Act was repealed REVOKE, rescind, cancel, reverse, annul, nullify, declare null and void, quash, abolish, *Law* vacate, *formal* abrogate, *archaic* recall

—OPPOSITES enact

▶ **noun** the repeal of the law REVOCATION, rescinding, cancellation, reversal, annulment, nullification, quashing, abolition, *formal* abrogation, *archaic* recall

repeat ▶ **verb** ① she repeated her story SAY AGAIN, restate, reiterate, go/run through again, recapitulate, *informal* recap ② children can repeat large chunks of text RECITE, quote, parrot, regurgitate, *informal* trot out ③ Steele was invited to repeat his work DO AGAIN, redo, replicate, duplicate ④ the episodes were repeated REBROADCAST, rerun, reshow

▶ **noun** ① a repeat of the previous year's final REPETITION, duplication, replication, duplicate ② repeats of his TV show RERUN, rebroadcast, reshowing

■ **repeat itself** REOCCUR, recur, occur again, happen again

repeated ▶ **adjective** RECURRENT, frequent, persistent, continual, incessant, constant, regular, periodic, numerous, (very) many, a great many

—OPPOSITES occasional

repeatedly ▶ **adverb** FREQUENTLY, often, again and again, over and over (again), time and (time) again, many times, many a time, persistently, recurrently, constantly, continually, regularly, *N Amer* oftentimes, *informal* 24-7, *poetic/literary* oft, oft-times

repel ▶ **verb** ① the rebels were repelled FIGHT OFF, repulse, drive back/away, force back, beat back, push back, hold off ward off, keep at bay, *Bnt* see off, *archaic* rebut ② the coating will repel water BE IMPERVIOUS TO, be impermeable to, keep out, resist ③ the thought of kissing him repelled me REVOLT, disgust, repulse, sicken, nauseate, turn someone's stomach, be repulsive, be distasteful, be repugnant; *informal* turn off, *N Amer informal* gross out

repellent ▶ **adjective** ① a repellent stench REVOLTING, repulsive, disgusting, repugnant, sickening, nauseating, stomach-turning, nauseous, vile, nasty, foul, horrible, awful, dreadful, terrible, obnoxious, loathsome, offensive, objectionable, abhorrent, despicable, reprehensible, contemptible, odious, hateful, execrable, *N Amer* vomitous, *informal* ghastly, horrid, gross, yucky, icky, *poetic/literary* noisome, *archaic* disgusting. ② a repellent coating IMPERMEABLE, impervious, resistant; proof

—OPPOSITES delightful

repent ▶ **verb** FEEL REMORSE, regret, be sorry, rue, reproach oneself, be ashamed, feel contrite, be penitent, be remorseful, be repentant

repentance ► **noun** REMORSE, contrition, contriteness, penitence, regret, ruefulness, remorsefulness, shame, guilt, *archaic* rue

repentant ► **adjective** PENITENT, contrite, regretful, rueful, remorseful, apologetic, chastened, ashamed, shamefaced

—OPPOSITES impenitent

repercussion ► **noun** ① political repercussions CONSEQUENCE, result, effect, outcome, reverberation, backlash, aftermath, fallout ② (*archaic*) a vicious repercussion REVERBERATION, recoil, kick-back

repertoire ► **noun** COLLECTION, stock, range, repertory, reserve, store, repository, supply

repetition ► **noun** ① the statistics bear repetition REITERATION, repeating, restatement, retelling ② the repetition of words REPEATING, echoing, parroting ③ a repetition of the scene in the kitchen RECURRENCE, reoccurrence, rerun, repeat ④ there is some repetition REPETITIVENESS, repetitiveness, redundancy, tautology

repetitious ► **adjective** repetitious work See REPETITIVE

repetitive ► **adjective** MONOTONOUS, tedious, boring, humdrum, mundane, dreary, tiresome, unvaried, unchanging, unvarying, recurrent, recurring, repeated, repetitious, routine, mechanical, automatic

rephrase ► **verb** REWORD, put in other words, express differently, paraphrase

repine ► **verb** (*poetic/literary*) FRET, be 'feel unhappy, mope, eat one's heart out, brood, lament, grieve, mourn, sorrow, pine

replace ► **verb** ① Adam replaced the receiver PUT BACK, return, restore ② a new chairman came in to replace him TAKE THE PLACE OF, succeed, take over from, supersede, stand in for, substitute for, deputize for, cover for, relieve, *informal* step into someone's shoes/boots ③ she replaced the spoon with a fork SUBSTITUTE, exchange, change, swap

—OPPOSITES remove

replacement ► **noun** ① we have to find a replacement SUCCESSOR, SUBSTITUTE, stand-in, locum, relief, cover ② the wiring was in need of replacement RENEWAL, replacing

replenish ► **verb** ① she replenished their glasses REFILL, top up, fill up, recharge, *N Amer* freshen ② their supplies were replenished STOCK UP, restock, restore, replace

—OPPOSITES empty, exhaust

replete ► **adjective** ① the guests were replete WELL FED, sated, satiated, full (up), glutted, gorged, *informal* stuffed ② a sumptuous environment replete with antiques FILLED, full, well stocked, well supplied, crammed, packed, jammed, teeming, overflowing, bursting, *informal* jam-packed, chock-a-block

replica ► **noun** ① is it real or a replica? (CARBON) COPY, model, duplicate, reproduction, replication, dummy, imitation, facsimile ② a replica of her mother. PERFECT LIKENESS, double, lookalike, (living) image, twin, clone, *informal* spitting image, (dead) ringer

replicate ► **verb** COPY, reproduce, duplicate, recreate, repeat, perform again, clone

reply ► **verb** ① Rachel didn't reply ANSWER, respond, come back, write back ② he replied defensively RESPOND, answer, rejoin, retort, ri-

poste, counter, come back

► **noun** he waited for a reply ANSWER, response, rejoinder, retort, riposte; *informal* comeback

report ► **verb** ① the government reported a fall in inflation ANNOUNCE, describe, give an account of, detail, outline, communicate, divulge, disclose, reveal, make public, publish, broadcast, proclaim, publicize ② the newspapers reported on the scandal INVESTIGATE, look into, inquire into, write about, cover, describe, give details of, commentate on ③ I reported him to the police IN FORM ON, tattle on, *informal* shop, tell on, squeal on, rat on, peach on, *Brit informal* grass on ④ Juliet reported for duty PRESENT ONESELF, arrive, turn up, clock in, sign in, *Brit* clock on, *N Amer* punch in, *informal* show up

► **noun** ① a full report on the meeting ACCOUNT, review, record, description, statement, transactions, proceedings, transcripts, minutes ② reports of drug dealing NEWS, information, word, intelligence, *poetic/literary* tidings ③ newspaper reports STORY, account, article, piece, item, column, feature, bulletin, dispatch ④ (*Brit*) a school report ASSESSMENT, evaluation, appraisal, *N Amer* report card ⑤ reports of his imminent resignation RUMOUR, whisper, *informal* buzz, *archaic* bruit ⑥ the report of a gun BANG, blast, crack, shot, gunshot, explosion, boom ⑦ (*archaic*) of good report See REPUTATION

reporter ► **noun** JOURNALIST, correspondent, newspaperman, newspaperwoman, newswoman, columnist, *Brit* pressman, *N Amer* legman, wireman, *Austral* roundsman, *informal* news hound, hack, stringer, journo, *N Amer informal* newsy

repose ► **noun** ① a face in repose REST, relaxation, inactivity, sleep, slumber ② they found true repose PEACE (AND QUIET), peacefulness, quiet, quietness, calm, tranquillity ③ he lost his repose COMPOSURE, serenity, equanimity, poise, self-possession, aplomb

► **verb** ① the diamond reposed on a bed of velvet LIE, rest, be placed, be situated ② (*poetic/literary*) the trust he had reposed in her PUT, place, invest, entrust ③ the beds where we reposed LIE (DOWN), recline, rest, sleep, *poetic/literary* slumber

repository ► **noun** STORE, storehouse, depositary, reservoir, bank, cache, treasury, fund, mine

reprehensible ► **adjective** DEPLORABLE, disgraceful, discreditable, despicable, blameworthy, culpable, wrong, bad, shameful, dishonourable, objectionable, opprobrious, repugnant, inexcusable, unforgivable, indefensible, unjustifiable, criminal, sinful, scandalous, iniquitous, *formal* exceptionable

—OPPOSITES praiseworthy

represent ► **verb** ① a character representing a single quality SYMBOLIZE, stand for, personify, epitomize, typify, embody, illustrate ② the initials which represent her qualification. STAND FOR, designate, denote, *poetic/literary* betoken ③ Hathor is represented as a woman with cow's horns DEPICT, portray, render, picture, delineate, show, illustrate, *poetic/literary* limn ④ he represented himself as the owner of the factory DE SCRIBE AS, present as, profess to be, claim to be, pass oneself off as, pose as, pretend to be ⑤ ageing represents a threat to one's independence CONSTITUTE, be, amount to, be regarded as. ⑥ a panel representing a cross section of the public BE A



TYPICAL SAMPLE OF, be representative of, typify
 ⑦ his solicitor represented him in court APPEAR
 FOR, act for, speak on behalf of ⑧ the Queen
 was represented by Lord Lewin DEPUTIZE FOR, sub-
 stitute for, stand in for ⑨ (formal) I represented
 the case as I saw it POINT OUT, state, present, put
 forward ⑩ (formal) the vendors represented that
 the information was accurate CLAIM, maintain,
 state, affirm, contend, *rare* asseverate.

representation ▶ noun ① Rossetti's representa-
 tion of women. PORTRAYAL, depiction, delineation,
 presentation, rendition ② representations
 of the human form LIKENESS, painting, drawing,
 picture, illustration, sketch, image, model, figure,
 figurine, statue, statuette ③ (formal) making
 representations to the council STATEMENT, deposition,
 allegation, declaration, exposition, report,
 protestation

representative ▶ adjective ① a representative
 sample TYPICAL, prototypical, characteristic, il-
 lustrative, archetypal ② a female figure representa-
 tive of Britain SYMBOLIC, emblematic ③ repre-
 sentative government ELECTED, elective, democ-
 cratic, popular

—OPPOSITES atypical, totalitarian

▶ noun ① a representative of the Royal Society
 SPOKESPERSON, spokesman, spokeswoman,
 agent, official, mouthpiece ② a sales representa-
 tive (COMMERCIAL) TRAVELLER, (travelling) sales-
 man, saleswoman, agent, informal rep, *N Amer* in-
 formal drummer ③ the Cambodian representative
 at the UN DELEGATE, commissioner, ambas-
 sador, attaché, envoy, emissary, chargé d'affaires,
 deputy ④ our representatives in parliament
 MEMBER (OF PARLIAMENT), MP, councillor, *N Amer*
 Member of Congress, senator ⑤ he acted
 as his father's representative DEPUTY, substitute,
 stand-in, proxy ⑥ fossil representatives of lam-
 preys EXAMPLE, specimen, exemplar, exemplifi-
 cation

repress ▶ verb ① the rebellion was repressed: SUP-
 PRESS, quell, quash, subdue, put down, crush,
 extinguish, stamp out, defeat, conquer, rout,
 overwhelm, contain ② the peasants were re-
 pressed OPPRESS, subjugate, keep down, rule
 with a rod of iron, intimidate, tyrannize, crush
 ③ these emotions may well be repressed RESTRAIN,
 hold back/in, keep back, suppress, keep in
 check, control, keep under control, curb, stifle,
 bottle up, informal button up, keep the lid on

repressed ▶ adjective ① a repressed country OP-
 PRESSED, subjugated, subdued, tyrannized
 ② repressed feelings RESTRAINED, suppressed,
 held back/in, kept in check, stifled, pent up,
 bottled up ③ emotionally repressed INHIBITED,
 frustrated, restrained, informal uptight, hung up
 —OPPOSITES democratic, uninhibited

repression ▶ noun ① the repression of the pro-
 tests SUPPRESSION, quashing, subduing, crush-
 ing, stamping out ② political repression OPPRES-
 SION, subjugation, suppression, tyranny, despot-
 ism, authoritarianism ③ the repression of sexual
 urges RESTRAINT, restraining, holding back,
 keeping back, suppression, keeping in check,
 control, keeping under control, stifling, bot-
 tling up.

repressive ▶ adjective OPPRESSIVE, authoritar-
 ian, despotic, tyrannical, dictatorial, fascist,
 autocratic, totalitarian, undemocratic

reprieve ▶ verb ① she was reprieved: GRANT A
 STAY OF EXECUTION TO, pardon, spare, grant an

amnesty to, amnesty, informal let off (the hook),
 archaic respite ② the project has been reprieved
 SAVE, rescue, informal take off the hit list

▶ noun a last-minute reprieve STAY OF EXECUTION,
 remission, pardon, amnesty, *US Law* continuance,
 informal let-off

reprimand ▶ verb he was publicly reprimanded:
 REBUKE, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, re-
 prove, reproach, scold, berate, take to task,
 lambaste, give someone a piece of one's mind,
 haul over the coals, lecture, criticize, censure,
 informal tell off, give someone a telling-off, give
 someone a talking-to, dress down, give some-
 one a dressing-down, give someone an earful,
 give someone a roasting, rap over the
 knuckles, slap someone's wrist, bawl out, pitch
 into, lay into, lace into, blast, *Brit informal* tick
 off, carpet, tear off a strip, give someone what
 for, give someone a wiggling, give someone a
 rocket, give someone a rollicking, *N Amer infor-*
mal chew out, ream out, *Austral informal* monster,
 formal castigate, dated give someone a rating, *rare*
 reprehend, objure

—OPPOSITES praise

▶ noun they received a severe reprimand REBUKE, re-
 proof, admonishment, admonition, reproach,
 reproof, scolding, upbraiding, censure, informal
 telling-off, rap over the knuckles, slap on the
 wrist, flea in one's ear, dressing-down, earful,
 roasting, tongue-lashing, *Brit informal* ticking-off,
 carpeting, wiggling, rocket, rollicking, formal cas-
 tigation, dated rating

—OPPOSITES commendation

reprisal ▶ noun RETALIATION, counter-attack,
 comeback, revenge, vengeance, retribution, re-
 quit, informal a taste of one's own medicine

reproach ▶ verb Albert reproached him for being
 late See REPRIMAND verb

▶ noun ① an expression of reproach See REPRIMAND
 noun ② this party is a reproach to British politics
 DISGRACE, discredit, source of shame, blemish,
 stain, blot, poetic/literary smutch

■ beyond/above reproach PERFECT, blame-
 less, above suspicion, without fault, faultless,
 flawless, irreproachable, exemplary, impec-
 cable, immaculate, unblemished, spotless, un-
 tarnished, stainless, unsullied, whiter than
 white, informal squeaky clean

reproachful ▶ adjective DISAPPROVING, reprov-
 ing, critical, censorious, disparaging, withering,
 accusatory, admonitory, formal castigatory
 —OPPOSITES approving

reprobate ▶ noun a hardened reprobate ROGUE,
 rascal, scoundrel, miscreant, good-for-nothing,
 villain, wretch, rake, degenerate, libertine, de-
 bauchee, informal, dated rotter, bounder, dated
 cad, archaic blackguard, knave, rapsallion,
 scapgrace

▶ adjective reprobate behaviour UNPRINCIPLED, bad,
 roguish, wicked, rakish, shameless, immoral,
 degenerate, dissipated, debauched, depraved,
 archaic knavish

▶ verb (archaic) they reprobated his conduct: CRITICIZE,
 condemn, censure, denounce

reproduce ▶ verb ① each artwork is reproduced
 in colour: COPY, duplicate, replicate; photocopy,
 xerox, photostat, print. ② this work has not been
 reproduced in other laboratories REPEAT, replicate,
 recreate, redo; simulate, imitate, emulate, mir-
 ror, mimic ③ some animals reproduce prolifically:

BREED, produce offspring, procreate, propagate, multiply

reproduction ► **noun** ① *colour reproduction* COPYING, duplication, duplicating, photocopying, xeroxing, photostating, printing ② *a reproduction of the original* PRINT, copy, reprint, duplicate, facsimile, carbon copy, photocopy, trademark Xerox ③ *the process of reproduction* BREEDING, procreation, multiplying, propagation

reproductive ► **adjective** GENERATIVE, procreative, propagative, sexual, genital

reproof ► **noun** REBUKE, reprimand, reproach, admonishment, admonition, disapproval, censure, criticism, condemnation, *informal* telling-off, dressing down, *Brit informal* ticking-off, *dated* rating

reprove ► **verb** REPRIMAND, rebuke, reproach, scold, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, berate, take to task, haul over the coals, criticize, censure, *informal* tell off, give someone a telling-off, give someone a talking-to, dress down, give someone a dressing-down, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, slap someone's wrist, *Brit informal* tick off, carpet, tear off a strip, give someone a rocket, give someone a rollicking, *formal* castigate, *dated* give someone a rating, *rare* reprehend, objurgate

reptile ► **noun** See list

—RELATED TERMS saurian, -saur, -saurus, herpeto-

reptilian ► **adjective** ① *reptilian species* REPTILE, reptile-like, saurian, cold-blooded ② *a reptilian smirk* UNPLEASANT, distasteful, nasty, disagreeable, unattractive, off putting, horrible, horrid, unctuous, ingratiating, oily, oleaginous, *informal* smarmy, slimy, creepy

repudiate ► **verb** ① *she repudiated communism* REJECT, renounce, abandon, give up, turn one's back on, disown, cast off, lay aside, *formal* forswear, abjure, *poetic/literary* forsake ② *Cranham repudiated the allegations* DENY, refute, contradict, controvert, rebut, dispute, dismiss, brush aside, *formal* gainsay ③ *Egypt repudiated the treaty* CANCEL, revoke, rescind, reverse, overrule, overturn, invalidate, nullify, disregard, flout, renege on, *Law* disaffirm, *formal* abrogate —OPPOSITES embrace, confirm

repudiation ► **noun** ① *the repudiation of one's religion* REJECTION, renunciation, abandonment, forswearing, giving up, *rare* abjuration ② *his repudiation of the allegations* DENIAL, refutation, rebuttal, rejection ③ *a repudiation of the contract* CANCELLATION, revocation, rescindment, reversal, invalidation, nullification, *Law* disaffirmation, *formal* abrogation

repugnance ► **noun** REVULSION, disgust, abhorrence, repulsion, loathing, hatred, detestation, aversion, distaste, antipathy, contempt, *archaic* disrelish

repugnant ► **adjective** ① *the idea of cannibalism is repugnant* ABHORRENT, revolting, repulsive, repellent, disgusting, offensive, objectionable, vile, foul, nasty, loathsome, sickening, nauseating, hateful, detestable, execrable, abominable, monstrous, appalling, insufferable, intolerable, unacceptable, contemptible, unsavoury, unpalatable; *informal* ghastly, gross, horrible, horrid, *poetic/literary* noisome ② *(formal) the restriction is*

Reptiles

See also SNAKE.

agama	lizard
alligator	loggerhead turtle
alligator lizard	map turtle
anole	marine iguana
barking gecko	matamata
basilisk	moloch
bearded dragon	monitor lizard
bearded lizard	morocoy
blindworm	mud turtle
bloodsucker	mugger
box turtle	musk turtle
calman	night lizard
chameleon	Nile crocodile
chuckwalla	Nile monitor
collared lizard	padloper
cooter	painted turtle
crocodile	perentie
diamondback terrapin	pond turtle
earless lizard	racerunner
false gharial	ridley turtle
fence lizard	rock lizard
flapshell	saltwater lizard
flying lizard	sand lizard
freshie	scalyfoot
frilled lizard	seps
Galapagos giant tortoise	shingleback
galiwasp	skink
gecko	side-necked turtle
gharial	slider
giant tortoise	slow-worm
Gila monster	snake lizard
girdled lizard	snapping turtle
glass lizard	softshell turtle
goanna	stinkpot turtle
green turtle	sungazer
green lizard	tegu
hawksbill	terrapin
horned toad	tokay
iguana	tortoise
jacky lizard	tuatara
Komodo dragon	turtle
land mullet	twenty-four hours
leatherback	viviparous lizard
legless lizard	wall lizard
legless skink	whiptail
leguan	worm lizard

repugnant to the tenancy INCOMPATIBLE WITH, in conflict with, contrary to, at variance with, inconsistent with

—OPPOSITES pleasant

repulse ► **verb** ① *the rebels were repulsed* REPEL, drive back/away, fight back/off, put to flight, force back, beat off/back; ward off, hold off, *Brit* see off, *archaic* rebut ② *her advances repulsed* REBUFF, reject, spurn, snub, cold-shoulder, *informal* give someone the brush-off, freeze out, *Brit informal* knock back, *N Amer informal* give someone the bum's rush. ③ *his bid for the company was repulsed*. REJECT, turn down, refuse, decline ④ *the brutality repulsed her* REVOLT, disgust, repel, sicken, nauseate, turn someone's stomach, be repugnant to, *informal* turn off, *N Amer informal* gross out.

► **noun** ① *the repulse of the attack*: REPELLING, driving back; warding off, holding off ② *he was*



mortified by this repulse **REBUFF**, rejection, snub, slight, *informal* brush-off, knock-back

repulsion ▶ **noun** **DISGUST**, revulsion, abhorrence, repugnance, nausea, horror, aversion, abomination, distaste, *archaic* disrelish

repulsive ▶ **adjective** **REVOLTING**, disgusting, abhorrent, repellent, repugnant, offensive, objectionable, vile, foul, nasty, loathsome, sickening, nauseating, hateful, detestable, execrable, abominable, monstrous, noxious, horrendous, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, obnoxious, unsavoury, unpleasant, disagreeable, distasteful, ugly, hideous, grotesque, *informal* ghastly, horrible, horrid, gross, *poetic/literary* noisome, *archaic* disgusting, loathly
—**OPPOSITES** attractive

reputable ▶ **adjective** **WELL THOUGHT OF**, highly regarded, (well) respected, respectable, of (good) repute, prestigious, established, reliable, dependable, trustworthy, *archaic* of good report
—**OPPOSITES** untrustworthy

reputation ▶ **noun** (**GOOD**) **NAME**, character, repute, standing, stature, status, position, renown, esteem, prestige, *N Amer informal* rep, rap, *archaic* honour, report

repute ▶ **noun** ① a woman of ill repute **REPUTATION**, name, character, *archaic* report ② a firm of international repute **FAME**, renown, celebrity, distinction, high standing, stature, prestige

reputed ▶ **adjective** ① they are reputed to be very rich **THOUGHT**, said, reported, rumoured, believed, held, considered, regarded, deemed, alleged ② his reputed father **SUPPOSED**, putative ③ a reputed naturalist **WELL THOUGHT OF**, (well) respected, highly regarded, of good repute

reputedly ▶ **adverb** **SUPPOSEDLY**, by all accounts, so I'm told, so people say, allegedly

request ▶ **noun** ① requests for assistance **APEAL**, entreaty, plea, petition, application, demand, call, *formal* adjuration, *poetic/literary* behest ② Charlotte spoke, at Ursula's request **BIDDING**, entreaty, demand, insistence ③ indicate your requests on the form **REQUIREMENT**, wish, desire, choice

▶ **verb** ① the government requested military aid **ASK FOR**, appeal for, call for, seek, solicit, plead for, apply for, demand, *formal* adjure ② I requested him to help **CALL ON**, beg, entreat, implore, *poetic/literary* beseech

require ▶ **verb** ① the child required hospital treatment **NEED**, be in need of ② a situation requiring patience **NECESSITATE**, demand, call for, involve, entail ③ unquestioning obedience is required **DEMAND**, insist on, call for, ask for, expect ④ she was required to pay costs **ORDER**, instruct, command, enjoin, oblige, compel, force ⑤ do you require anything else? **WANT**, wish to have, desire, lack, be short of

required ▶ **adjective** ① required reading **ESSENTIAL**, vital, indispensable, necessary, compulsory, obligatory, mandatory, prescribed ② cut it to the required length **DESIRED**, preferred, chosen; correct, proper, right
—**OPPOSITES** optional

requirement ▶ **noun** **NEED**, wish, demand, want, necessity, essential, prerequisite, stipulation

requisite ▶ **adjective** he lacks the requisite skills **NECESSARY**, required, prerequisite, essential, indispensable, vital
—**OPPOSITES** optional

▶ **noun** ① toilet requisites **REQUIREMENT**, need, necessity, essential ② a requisite for a successful career **NECESSITY**, essential (requirement), prerequisite, precondition, sine qua non, *informal* must

requisition ▶ **noun** ① requisitions for staff **ORDER**, request, call, application, claim, demand, *Brit* indent ② the requisition of cultural treasures **APPROPRIATION**, commandeering, seizure, confiscation, expropriation

▶ **verb** ① the house was requisitioned by the army **COMMANDEER**, appropriate, take over, take possession of, occupy, seize, confiscate, expropriate ② she requisitioned statements **REQUEST**, order, call for, demand

requital ▶ **noun** ① in requital of your kindness **REPAYMENT**, return, payment, recompense ② personal requital **REVENGE**, vengeance, retribution, redress

requite ▶ **verb** ① requiting their hospitality **RETURN**, reciprocate, repay ② Drake had requited the wrongs inflicted on them **AVENGE**, exact revenge for, revenge, pay someone back for, take reprisals, settle the score, get even ③ she did not requite his love **RECIPROCATE**, return

rescind ▶ **verb** **REVOKE**, repeal, cancel, reverse, overturn, overrule, annul, nullify, void, invalidate, quash, abolish, *Law* vacate, *formal* abrogate, *archaic* recall
—**OPPOSITES** enforce

rescission ▶ **noun** (*formal*) **REVOCATION**, repeal, rescindment, annulment, nullification, invalidation, voiding, *formal* abrogation, *archaic* recall

rescue ▶ **verb** ① an attempt to rescue the hostages **SAVE (FROM DANGER)**, save the life of, come to the aid of, (set) free, release, liberate ② Boyd rescued his papers **RETRIEVE**, recover, salvage, get back

▶ **noun** the rescue of 10 crewmen **SAVING**, rescuing, release, freeing, liberation, deliverance, redemption

■ come to someone's rescue **HELP**, assist, lend a (helping) hand to, bail out, *informal* save someone's bacon, save someone's neck, save someone's skin

research ▶ **noun** ① medical research **INVESTIGATION**, experimentation, testing, analysis, fact-finding, examination, scrutiny, scrutinization ② he continued his researches: **EXPERIMENTS**, experimentation, tests, inquiries, studies

▶ **verb** ① the phenomenon has been widely researched **INVESTIGATE**, study, inquire into, look into, probe, explore, analyse, examine, scrutinize, review ② I researched all the available material **STUDY**, read (up on), sift through, *informal* check out

resemblance ▶ **noun** **SIMILARITY**, likeness, similitude, correspondence, congruity, congruence, coincidence, conformity, agreement, equivalence, comparability, parallelism, uniformity, sameness.

resemble ▶ **verb** **LOOK LIKE**, be similar to, be like, bear a resemblance to, remind one of, take after, favour, have the look of; approximate to, smack of, have (all) the hallmarks of, correspond to, echo, mirror, parallel

resent ▶ **verb** BEGRUDGE, feel aggrieved at/about, feel bitter about, grudge, be annoyed at/about, be resentful of, dislike, take exception to, object to, take amiss, take offence at, take umbrage at, bear/haibour a grudge about
-OPPOSITES welcome

resentful ▶ **adjective** AGGRIEVED, indignant, irritated, piqued, put out, in high dudgeon, dissatisfied, disgruntled, discontented, offended, bitter, jaundiced, envious, jealous, *informal* miffed, peeved, *Bnt informal* narked, *N Amer informal* sore

resentment ▶ **noun** BITTERNESS, indignation, irritation, pique, dissatisfaction, disgruntlement, discontentment, discontent, resentfulness, bad feelings, hard feelings, ill will, acrimony, rancour, animosity, jaundice, envy, jealousy

reservation ▶ **noun** ① *grave* reservations DOUBT, qualm, scruple, misgivings, scepticism, unease, hesitation, objection ② *group* reservations (ADVANCE) BOOKING, *dated* engagement ③ *the reservation of the room* BOOKING, ordering, securing, *dated* engagement ④ *Indian reservation* RESERVE, enclave, sanctuary, territory, homeland

■ **without reservation** WHOLEHEARTEDLY, unreservedly, without qualification, fully, completely, totally, entirely, wholly, unconditionally

reserve ▶ **verb** ① *ask your newsagent to reserve you a copy* PUT TO ONE SIDE, put aside, set aside, keep (back), save, hold back, keep in reserve, earmark ② *he reserved a table* BOOK, make a reservation for, order, arrange for, secure, *formal* bespeak, *dated* engage ③ *the management reserves the right to alter the programme* RETAIN, keep, hold ④ *reserve your judgement until you know him better* DEFER, postpone, put off, delay, withhold

▶ **noun** ① *reserves of petrol* STOCK, store, supply, stockpile, pool, hoard, cache ② *the army are calling up reserves* REINFORCEMENTS, extras, auxiliaries ③ *a nature reserve* NATIONAL PARK, sanctuary, preserve, conservation area ④ *his natural reserve* RETICENCE, detachment, distance, remoteness, coolness, aloofness, constraint, formality, shyness, diffidence, timidity, taciturnity, inhibition, *informal* stand-offishness ⑤ *she trusted him without reserve* RESERVATION, qualification, condition, limitation, hesitation, doubt

▶ **adjective** *a reserve goalkeeper* SUBSTITUTE, stand in, relief, replacement, fallback, spare, extra
■ **In reserve** AVAILABLE, to/on hand, ready, in readiness, set aside, at one's disposal

reserved ▶ **adjective** ① *Sewell is rather reserved* RETICENT, quiet, private, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, undemonstrative, unsociable, formal, constrained, cool, aloof, detached, distant, remote, unapproachable, unfriendly, withdrawn, secretive, silent, taciturn, shy, retiring, diffident, timid, self-effacing, inhibited, introverted, *informal* stand-offish ② *that table is reserved* BOOKED, taken, spoken for, pre-arranged, *dated* engaged, *formal* bespoken
-OPPOSITES outgoing.

reservoir ▶ **noun** ① *sailing on the reservoir lake*, pool, pond; water supply; *Scottish* loch. ② *an ink reservoir*: RECEPTACLE, container, holder, repository, tank. ③ *the reservoir of managerial talent* STOCK, store, stockpile, reserve(s), supply, bank, pool, fund

reshuffle ▶ **verb** the prime minister reshuffled his cabinet REORGANIZE, restructure, rearrange, change (around), shake up, shuffle

▶ **noun** a management reshuffle REORGANIZATION, restructuring, change, rearrangement, *informal* shake-up

reside ▶ **verb** ① most students reside in flats LIVE IN, occupy, inhabit, stay in, lodge in, *formal* dwell in, be domiciled in ② *the paintings reside in an air-conditioned vault* BE SITUATED, be found, be located, lie ③ *executive power resides in the president* BE VESTED IN, be bestowed on, be conferred on, be in the hands of ④ *the qualities that reside within each individual* BE INHERENT, be present, exist

residence ▶ **noun** ① (*formal*) her private residence HOME, house, place of residence, address, quarters, lodgings, *informal* pad, *formal* dwelling (place), domicile, abode ② *his place of residence* OCCUPANCY, habitation, residency, *formal* abode

resident ▶ **noun** ① the residents of New York City INHABITANT, local, citizen, native, householder, homeowner, occupier, tenant, *formal* denizen ② (*Bnt*) the bar is open to residents only GUEST, lodger

▶ **adjective** ① *resident in the UK* LIVING, residing, in residence, *formal* dwelling ② *a resident nanny* LIVE-IN, living in ③ *the resident registrar in obstetrics* PERMANENT, incumbent

residential ▶ **adjective** SUBURBAN, commuter, dormitory

residual ▶ **adjective** ① *residual heat* REMAINING, leftover, unused, unconsumed ② *residual affection* LINGERING, enduring, abiding, surviving, vestigial

residue ▶ **noun** REMAINDER, remaining part, rest, remnant(s), surplus, extra, excess, remains, leftovers, *technical* residuum

resign ▶ **verb** ① the senior manager resigned LEAVE, hand in one's notice, give notice, stand down, step down, *informal* quit ② 19 MPs resigned their seats GIVE UP, leave, vacate, stand down from, *informal* quit, pack in, *archaic* demit ③ *he resigned his right to the title* RENOUNCE, relinquish, give up, abandon, surrender, forego, cede, *Law* disclaim, *poetic/literary* forsake ④ *we resigned ourselves to a long wait* RECONCILE ONESELF TO, become resigned to, come to terms with

resignation ▶ **noun** ① his resignation from his post DEPARTURE, leaving, standing down, stepping down, *informal* quitting ② *she handed in her resignation* NOTICE (TO QUIT), letter of resignation ③ *he accepted his fate with resignation* PATIENCE, forbearance, stoicism, fortitude, fatalism, acceptance, acquiescence, compliance, passivity

resigned ▶ **adjective** PATIENT, long-suffering, uncomplaining, forbearing, stoical, philosophical, fatalistic, acquiescent, compliant, passive

resilient ▶ **adjective** ① *resilient materials* FLEXIBLE, pliable, supple, durable, hard-wearing, stout, strong, sturdy, tough. ② *young and resilient* STRONG, tough, hardy, quick to recover, buoyant, irrepressible.

resist ▶ **verb** ① *built to resist cold winters* WITHSTAND, be proof against, combat, weather, endure, be resistant to, keep out ② *they resisted his attempts to change things* OPPOSE, fight against, refuse to accept, object to, defy, set one's face against, kick against, obstruct, im-

r

pede, hinder, block, thwart, frustrate, *informal* be anti ① I resisted the urge to retort REFRAIN FROM, abstain from, forbear from, desist from, not give in to, restrain oneself from, stop oneself from ④ she tried to resist him STRUGGLE WITH/AGAINST, fight (against), stand up to, withstand, hold off, fend off, ward off

—OPPOSITES welcome, submit

■ cannot resist LOVE, adore, relish, have a weakness for, be very keen on, like, delight in, enjoy, take great pleasure in, *informal* be mad about, get a kick/thrill out of

resistance ▶ noun ① resistance to change OPPOSITION, hostility, refusal to accept ② a spirited resistance OPPOSITION, fight, stand, struggle ③ the body's resistance to disease ABILITY TO FIGHT OFF, immunity from, defences against ④ the French resistance RESISTANCE MOVEMENT, freedom fighters, underground, partisans

resistant ▶ adjective ① resistant to water IMPERVIOUS, unsusceptible, immune, invulnerable, proof against, unaffected by ② resistant to change OPPOSED, averse, hostile, inimical, against, *informal* anti

resolute ▶ adjective DETERMINED, purposeful, resolved, adamant, single-minded, firm, unswerving, unwavering, steadfast, staunch, stalwart, unfaltering, unhesitating, persistent, indefatigable, tenacious, strong-willed, unshakable, stubborn, dogged, obstinate, obdurate, inflexible, intransigent, implacable, unyielding, unrelenting, spirited, brave, bold, courageous, plucky, indomitable, *N Amer* rock-ribbed, *informal* gutsy, spunky, *formal* pertinacious —OPPOSITES half-hearted

resolution ▶ noun ① her resolution not to smoke INTENTION, resolve, decision, intent, aim, plan, commitment, pledge, promise ② the committee passed the resolution MOTION, proposal, proposition, *N Amer* resolve ③ she handled the work with resolution DETERMINATION, purpose, purposefulness, resolve, resoluteness, single-mindedness, firmness (of purpose), steadfastness, staunchness, perseverance, persistence, indefatigability, tenacity, tenaciousness, staying power, dedication, commitment, stubbornness, doggedness, obstinacy, obduracy, boldness, spiritedness, braveness, bravery, courage, pluck, grit, courageousness, *informal* guts, spunk, *formal* pertinacity ④ a satisfactory resolution of the problem SOLUTION, answer, end, ending, settlement, conclusion

resolve ▶ verb ① this matter cannot be resolved overnight SETTLE, sort out, solve, find a solution to, fix, straighten out, deal with, put right, put to rights, rectify, *informal* hammer out, thrash out, figure out ② Charity resolved not to wait any longer DETERMINE, decide, make up one's mind, take a decision ③ the committee resolved that the project should proceed VOTE, pass a resolution, rule, decide formally, agree ④ the compounds were resolved into their active constituents BREAK DOWN/UP, separate, reduce, divide ⑤ the ability to resolve facts into their legal categories. ANALYSE, dissect, break down ⑥ the grey smudge resolved into a sandy beach TURN, change, be transformed

▶ noun ① their intimidation merely strengthened his resolve See RESOLUTION sense 3 ② (N Amer) he made a resolve not to go there again DECISION, resolution, commitment

resolved ▶ adjective DETERMINED, hell bent, intent, set.

resonant ▶ adjective ① a resonant voice DEEP, low, sonorous, full, full-bodied, vibrant, rich, clear, ringing, loud, booming, thunderous ② valleys resonant with the sound of church bells REVERBERATING, reverberant, resounding, echoing, filled ③ resonant words EVOCATIVE, suggestive, expressive, redolent

resort ▶ noun ① a seaside resort HOLIDAY DESTINATION, (tourist) centre, *informal* honeypot ② settle the matter without resort to legal proceedings RE COURSE TO, turning to, the use of, utilizing ③ strike action is our last resort EXPEDIENT, measure, step, recourse, alternative, option, choice, possibility, hope

■ In the last resort ULTIMATELY, in the end, at the end of the day, in the long run, when all is said and done

■ resort to HAVE RECOURSE TO, fall back on, turn to, make use of, use, employ, avail oneself of, stoop to, descend to, sink to

resound ▶ verb ① the explosion resounded round the silent street ECHO, re-echo, reverberate, ring out, boom, thunder, rumble ② resounding with the clang of hammers REVERBERATE, echo, re-echo, resonate, ring ③ nothing will resound like their earlier achievements BE ACCLAIMED, be celebrated, be renowned, be famed, be glorified, be trumpeted

resounding ▶ adjective ① a resounding voice REVERBERANT, reverberating, resonant, resonating, echoing, ringing, sonorous, deep, rich, clear, loud, booming ② a resounding success ENORMOUS, huge, very great, tremendous, terrific, colossal, emphatic, decisive, conclusive, outstanding, remarkable, phenomenal

resource ▶ noun ① use your resources efficiently ASSETS, funds, wealth, money, capital, staff, supplies, materials, store(s), stock(s), reserve(s) ② your tutor is there as a resource FACILITY, amenity, aid, help, support ③ tears were her only resource EXPEDIENT, resort, course, scheme, stratagem, trick, ruse, device. ④ a person of resource INITIATIVE, resourcefulness, enterprise, ingenuity, inventiveness, talent, ability, capability, *informal* gumption.

resourceful ▶ adjective INGENIOUS, enterprising, inventive, creative, clever, talented, able, capable

respect ▶ noun ① the respect due to a great artist ESTEEM, regard, high opinion, admiration, reverence, deference, honour. ② he spoke to her with respect DUE REGARD, politeness, courtesy, civility, deference ③ paying one's respects (KIND) REGARDS, compliments, greetings, best/good wishes, felicitations, salutations; *archaic* remembrances ④ the report was accurate in every respect ASPECT, regard, facet, feature, way, sense, particular, point, detail —OPPOSITES contempt

▶ verb ① he is highly respected for his industry ESTEEM, admire, think highly of, have a high opinion of, hold in high regard, hold in (high) esteem, look up to, revere, reverence, honour ② they respected our privacy: SHOW CONSIDERATION FOR, have regard for, observe, be mindful of, be heedful of; *formal* take cognizance of. ③ father respected her wishes: ABIDE BY, comply with, follow, adhere to, conform to, act in accordance with, defer to, obey, observe, keep (to)

—OPPOSITES despise, disobey

■ **with respect to/in respect of** CONCERNING, regarding, in/with regard to, with reference to, respecting, re, about, apropos, on the subject of, in connection with, vis-à-vis

respectable ▶ **adjective** ① *a respectable middle-class background* REPUTABLE, of good repute, upright, honest, honourable, trustworthy, decent, good, well bred, clean-living ② *a respectable salary* FAIRLY GOOD, decent, fair, reasonable, moderately good, substantial, considerable, sizable

—OPPOSITES disreputable, paltry

respectful ▶ **adjective** DEFERENTIAL, reverent, reverential, dutiful, polite, well mannered, civil, courteous, gracious

—OPPOSITES rude

respective ▶ **adjective** SEPARATE, personal, own, particular, individual, specific, special, appropriate, different, various

respite ▶ **noun** ① *a brief respite* REST, break, breathing space, interval, intermission, interlude, recess, lull, pause, time out, relief, relaxation, repose, *informal* breather, let-up ② *respite from debts* POSTPONEMENT, deferment, delay, reprieve, *US Law* continuance

resplendent ▶ **adjective** SPLENDID, magnificent, brilliant, dazzling, glittering, gorgeous, impressive, imposing, spectacular, striking, stunning, majestic, *informal* splendiferous

respond ▶ **verb** ① *they do not respond to questions* ANSWER, reply, make a response, make a rejoinder ② *'No,' she responded* SAY IN RESPONSE, answer, reply, rejoin, retort, riposte, counter ③ *they were slow to respond* REACT, make a response, reciprocate, retaliate

response ▶ **noun** ① *his response to the question* ANSWER, reply, rejoinder, retort, riposte, *informal* comeback ② *an angry response* REACTION, reply, retaliation, *informal* comeback

—OPPOSITES question

responsibility ▶ **noun** ① *it was his responsibility to find witnesses* DUTY, task, function, job role, business, *Brit informal* pigeon ② *they denied responsibility for the bomb attack* BLAME, fault, guilt, culpability, liability ③ *a sense of responsibility* TRUSTWORTHINESS, (common) sense, maturity, reliability, dependability ④ *managerial responsibility* AUTHORITY, control, power, leadership

responsible ▶ **adjective** ① *who is responsible for prisons?* IN CHARGE OF, in control of, at the helm of, accountable for, liable for ② *I am responsible for the mistake* ACCOUNTABLE, answerable, to blame, guilty, culpable, blameworthy, at fault, in the wrong ③ *a responsible job* IMPORTANT, powerful, executive ④ *he is responsible to the president* ANSWERABLE, accountable ⑤ *a responsible tenant* TRUSTWORTHY, sensible, mature, reliable, dependable

responsive ▶ **adjective** QUICK TO REACT, reactive, receptive, open to suggestions, amenable, flexible, forthcoming.

rest¹ ▶ **verb** ① *he needed to rest* RELAX, take a rest, ease up/off, let up, slow down, have/take a break, unbend, unwind, recharge one's batteries, be at leisure, take it easy, put one's feet up, lie down, go to bed, have/take a nap, catnap, doze, sleep; *informal* take five, have/take a breather, snatch forty winks, get some shut-

eye; *Brit informal* have a kip, *N Amer informal* chill out, catch some Zs. ② *his hands rested on the rail* LIE, be laid, repose, be placed, be positioned, be supported by ③ *she rested her basket on the ground* SUPPORT, prop (up), lean, lay, set, stand, position, place, put ④ *the film script rests on an improbable premise* BE BASED, depend, be dependent, rely, hinge, turn on, be contingent, revolve around

▶ **noun** ① *get some rest* REPOSE, relaxation, leisure, respite, time off, breathing space, sleep, nap, doze, *informal* shut-eye, snooze, lie-down, forty winks, *Brit informal* kip ② *a short rest from work* HOLIDAY, vacation, break, breathing space, interval, interlude, intermission, time off/out, *informal* breather ③ *she took the poker from its rest* STAND, base, holder, support, rack, frame, shelf ④ *we came to rest 100 metres lower* A STANDSTILL, a halt, a stop

rest² ▶ **noun** the rest of the board are appointees REMAINDER, residue, balance, remaining part/number/quantity, others, those left, remains, remnant(s), surplus, excess, *technical* residuum

▶ **verb** you may rest assured that he is there REMAIN, continue to be, stay, keep, carry on being

restaurant ▶ **noun** EATING PLACE, *informal* eatery See list

Types of Restaurant

bistro	crêperie	snack bar
brasserie	diner	steakhouse
café	drive-in	supper club
cafeteria	grillroom	taverna
canteen	pizzeria	transport café
carvery	roisserie	trattoria

restful ▶ **adjective** RELAXED, relaxing, quiet, calm, calming, tranquil, soothing, peaceful, placid, reposeful, leisurely, undisturbed, untroubled

—OPPOSITES exciting

restitution ▶ **noun** ① *restitution of the land seized* RETURN, restoration, handing back, surrender ② *restitution for the damage caused* COMPENSATION, recompense, reparation, damages, indemnification, indemnity, reimbursement, repayment, remuneration, redress, *archaic* guerdon

restive ▶ **adjective** ① *Edward is getting restive* See RESTLESS sense 1 ② *the militants are increasingly restive* UNRULY, disorderly, uncontrollable, unmanageable, wilful, recalcitrant, insubordinate, *Brit informal* bolshie, *formal* refractory, *archaic* contumacious

restless ▶ **adjective** ① *Maria was restless* UN EASY, ill at ease, restive, fidgety, edgy, on edge, tense, nervy, worked up, nervous, agitated, anxious, on tenterhooks, keyed up, *informal* jumpy, jittery, twitchy, uptight, like a cat on a hot tin roof, *Brit informal* like a cat on hot bricks. ② *a restless night* SLEEPLESS, wakeful, fitful, broken, disturbed, troubled, unsettled, *rare* unsomnolent

restlessness ▶ **noun** UNEASE, restiveness, edginess, tenseness, nervousness, agitation, anxiety, fretfulness, apprehension, disquiet; *informal* jitteriness

restoration ▶ **noun** ① *the restoration of democracy* REINSTATEMENT, reinstitution, re-establish-



ment, reimposition, return ② the restoration of derelict housing REPAIR, repairing, fixing, mending, refurbishment, reconditioning, rehabilitation, rebuilding, reconstruction, overhaul, redevelopment, renovation, *N Amer informal rehab*

restore ▶ **verb** ① the aim to restore democracy REINSTATE, bring back, reinstitute, reimpose, re-install, re-establish ② he restored it to its rightful owner RETURN, give back, hand back ③ the building has been restored REPAIR, fix, mend, refurbish, recondition, rehabilitate, rebuild, reconstruct, remodel, overhaul, redevelop, renovate, *informal do up, N Amer informal rehab* ④ a good sleep can restore you REINVIGORATE, revitalize, revive, refresh, energize, fortify, revivify, regenerate, stimulate, freshen
—OPPOSITES abolish

restrain ▶ **verb** ① Charles restrained his anger CONTROL, keep under control, check, hold/keep in check, curb, suppress, repress, contain, dampen, subdue, smother, choke back, stifle, bottle up, rein back/in, *informal keep the lid on* ② she could barely restrain herself from swearing PREVENT, stop, keep, hold back ③ the insane used to be restrained TIE UP, bind, tether, chain (up), fetter, shackle, manacle, put in irons

restrained ▶ **adjective** ① Julie was quite restrained SELF-CONTROLLED, self-restrained, not given to excesses, sober, steady, unemotional, undemonstrative ② restrained elegance MUTED, soft, discreet, subtle, quiet, unobtrusive, understatedness, understated, tasteful

restraint ▶ **noun** ① a restraint on their impulsiveness CONSTRAINT, check, control, restriction, limitation, curtailment, rein, bridle, brake, damper, impediment, obstacle ② the customary restraint of the police SELF-CONTROL, self-restraint, self-discipline, control, moderation, prudence, judiciousness ③ the room has been decorated with restraint SUBTLETY, understatedness, taste, tastefulness, discretion, discrimination ④ a child restraint BELT, harness, strap

restrict ▶ **verb** ① a busy working life restricted his leisure activities LIMIT, keep within bounds, regulate, control, moderate, cut down ② the cuff supports the ankle without restricting movement HINDER, interfere with, impede, hamper, obstruct, block, check, curb ③ he restricted himself to a 15-minute speech CONFINE, limit

restricted ▶ **adjective** ① restricted space CRAMPED, confined, constricted, small, narrow, tight, *archaic strait* ② a restricted calorie intake LIMITED, controlled, regulated, reduced ③ a restricted zone OUT OF BOUNDS, off limits, private, exclusive ④ restricted information (TOP) SECRET, classified, *informal hush-hush*
—OPPOSITES unlimited

restriction ▶ **noun** ① there is no restriction on the number of places LIMITATION, limit, constraint, control, check, curb, condition, proviso, qualification ② the restriction of personal freedom REDUCTION, limitation, diminution, curtailment ③ restriction of movement HINDRANCE, impediment, slowing, reduction, limitation

result ▶ **noun** ① stress is the result of overwork CONSEQUENCE, outcome, upshot, sequel, effect, reaction, repercussion, ramification, conclusion, culmination ② what is your result? ANSWER, solution, sum, total, product. ③ exam re-

sults MARK, score, grade ④ the result of the trial VERDICT, decision, outcome, conclusion, judgment, findings, ruling

—OPPOSITES cause

▶ **verb** ① differences between species could result from their habitat FOLLOW, ensue, develop, stem, spring, arise, derive, evolve, proceed, occur, happen, take place, come about, be caused by, be brought about by, be produced by, originate in, be consequent on ② the shooting resulted in five deaths END IN, culminate in, finish in, terminate in, lead to, prompt, precipitate, trigger, cause, bring about, occasion, effect, give rise to produce, engender, generate, *poetic/literary* beget.

resume ▶ **verb** ① the government resumed negotiations RESTART, recommence, begin again, start again, reopen, renew, return to, continue with, carry on with ② the priest resumed his kneeling posture RETURN TO, come back to, take up again, reoccupy
—OPPOSITES suspend, abandon

résumé ▶ **noun** SUMMARY, precis, synopsis, abstract, outline, summarization, summation, epitome, abridgement, digest, condensation, abbreviation, overview, review

resumption ▶ **noun** RESTART, restarting, commencement, reopening, continuation, carrying on, renewal, return to

resurgence ▶ **noun** RENEWAL, revival, recovery, comeback, reawakening, resurrection, re-appearance, re-emergence, regeneration, resumption, recommencement, continuation, *formal* renaissance

resurrect ▶ **verb** ① Jesus was resurrected RAISE FROM THE DEAD, restore to life, revive ② resurrecting his career REVIVE, restore, regenerate, revitalize, breathe new life into, reinvigorate, resuscitate, rejuvenate, stimulate, re-establish, relaunch

resuscitate ▶ **verb** ① medics resuscitated him BRING ROUND, revive, bring back to consciousness, give artificial respiration to, give the kiss of life to ② measures to resuscitate the economy REVIVE, resurrect, restore, regenerate, revitalize, breathe new life into, reinvigorate, rejuvenate, stimulate

retain ▶ **verb** ① the government retained a share in the industries KEEP (POSSESSION OF), keep hold of, hold on to, hang on to ② existing footpaths are to be retained MAINTAIN, keep, preserve, conserve ③ some students retain facts easily REMEMBER, memorize, keep in one's mind/memory ④ solicitors can retain a barrister EMPLOY, contract, keep on the payroll
—OPPOSITES give up, abolish

retainer ▶ **noun** ① they're paid a retainer (RETAINING) FEE, periodic payment, advance, standing charge ② a faithful retainer See SERVANT sense 1

retaliate ▶ **verb** FIGHT BACK, hit back, respond, react, reply, reciprocate, counter-attack, return like for like, get back at someone, give tit for tat, give someone a taste of their own medicine, have/get/take one's revenge, be revenged, avenge oneself, take reprisals, get even, pay someone back, *informal* get one's own back, *archaic* give someone a Roland for an Oliver

retaliation ▶ **noun** REVENGE, vengeance, reprisal, retribution, requital, recrimination, re-



payment, response, reaction, reply, counter-attack, *archaic* a Roland for an Oliver

retard ▶ **verb** DELAY, slow down/up, hold back/up, set back, postpone, put back, detain, decelerate, hinder, hamper, obstruct, inhibit, impede, check, restrain, restrict, trammel, *poetic/literary* stay

—OPPOSITES accelerate

retch ▶ **verb** ① *the sour taste made her retch* GAG, heave, *informal* keck ② *he retched all over the table* See VOMIT verb sense 1

reticence ▶ **noun** RESERVE, restraint, inhibition, diffidence, shyness, unresponsiveness, quietness, taciturnity, secretiveness

reticent ▶ **adjective** RESERVED, withdrawn, introverted, inhibited, diffident, shy, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, unresponsive, tight-lipped, quiet, taciturn, silent, guarded, secretive

—OPPOSITES expansive

retinue ▶ **noun** ENTOURAGE, escort, company, court, staff, personnel, household, train, suite, following, bodyguard, aides, attendants, servants, retainers

retire ▶ **verb** ① *he has retired* GIVE UP WORK, stop working, stop work ② *we've retired him on full pension* PENSION OFF, force to retire ③ *Gilhan retired to her office* WITHDRAW, go away, take oneself off, decamp, shut oneself away, *formal* repair, *poetic/literary* betake oneself ④ *their forces retired* RETREAT, withdraw, pull back, fall back, disengage, back off, give ground ⑤ *everyone retired early* GO TO BED, call it a day, go to sleep, *informal* turn in, hit the hay/sack

retired ▶ **adjective** a retired schoolteacher FOR MER, ex-, past, in retirement, elderly

▶ **noun** apartments for the retired RETIRED PEOPLE, (old-age) pensioners, OAPs, senior citizens, the elderly, *N Amer* seniors

retirement ▶ **noun** ① *they are nearing retirement* GIVING UP WORK, stopping working, stopping work ② *retirement in an English village* SECLUSION, retreat, solitude, isolation, obscurity

retiring ▶ **adjective** ① *the retiring president* DEPARTING, outgoing ② *a retiring man* SHY, diffident, self-effacing, unassuming, unassertive, reserved, reticent, quiet, timid, modest, private, secret, secretive, withdrawn, reclusive, unsociable

—OPPOSITES incoming, outgoing

retort ▶ **verb** 'Oh, sure,' she retorted ANSWER, reply, respond, say in response, return, counter, rejoinder, riposte, retaliate, snap back

▶ **noun** a sarcastic retort ANSWER, reply, response, return, counter, rejoinder, riposte, retaliation, *informal* comeback

retract ▶ **verb** ① *the sea otter can retract its claws* PULL IN/BACK, draw in ② *he retracted his allegation* TAKE BACK, withdraw, recant, disavow, disclaim, repudiate, renounce, reverse, revoke, rescind, go back on, backtrack on, *formal* abjure

retreat ▶ **verb** ① *the army retreated* WITHDRAW, retire, draw back, pull back/out, fall back, give way, give ground, beat a retreat ② *the tide was retreating* GO OUT, ebb, recede, fall, go down ③ *the government had to retreat* CHANGE ONE'S MIND, change one's plans, back down, climb down, do a U-turn, backtrack, back-pedal, give in, concede defeat, *Brit* do an about-turn

—OPPOSITES advance

▶ **noun** ① *the retreat of the army* WITHDRAWAL, pulling back ② *the President's retreat* CLIMBDOWN, backdown, about-face, *Brit* about-turn ③ *her rural retreat* REFUGE, haven, sanctuary, hideaway, hideout, hiding place, *informal* hidey-hole ④ *a period of retreat from the world* SECLUSION, withdrawal, retirement, solitude, isolation, sanctuary

retrench ▶ **verb** ① *we have to retrench* ECONOMIZE, cut back, make cutbacks, make savings, make economies, reduce expenditure, be economical, be frugal, tighten one's belt ② *services have to be retrenched* REDUCE, cut (back/down), pare (down), slim down, make reductions in, make cutbacks in, trim, prune, *informal* slash

retribution ▶ **noun** PUNISHMENT, penalty, one's just deserts, revenge, reprisal, requital, retaliation, vengeance, an eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth), tit for tat, redress, reparation, restitution, recompense, repayment, indemnification, atonement, amends

retrieve ▶ **verb** ① *I retrieved our balls from their garden* GET BACK, bring back, recover, regain (possession of), recoup, reclaim, repossess, redeem, recuperate ② *they were trying to retrieve the situation* PUT SET RIGHT, rectify, remedy, restore, sort out, straighten out, resolve

retrograde ▶ **adjective** ① *a retrograde step* FOR THE WORSE, regressive, negative, downhill, unwelcome ② *retrograde motion* BACKWARD(S), reverse, rearward

—OPPOSITES positive

retrospect

■ **in retrospect** LOOKING BACK, on reflection, in/with hindsight

retrospective ▶ **adjective** BACKDATED, retroactive, ex post facto

return ▶ **verb** ① *he returned to London* GO BACK, come back, arrive back, come home ② *the symptoms returned* RECUR, reoccur, occur again, repeat (itself), reappear, appear again ③ *he returned the money* GIVE BACK, hand back, pay back, repay ④ *Peter returned the book to the shelf* RESTORE, put back, replace, reinstall ⑤ *he returned the volley* HIT BACK, throw back ⑥ *she returned his kiss* RECIPROCATATE, requite, give in return, repay, give back ⑦ *'Later,' returned Isabel* ANSWER, reply, respond, counter, rejoinder, retort ⑧ *the jury returned a unanimous verdict* DELIVER, bring in, hand down ⑨ *the club returned a profit* YIELD, earn, realize, net, gross, clear ⑩ *the Labour candidate was returned* ELECT, vote in, choose, select

—OPPOSITES depart, disappear, keep

▶ **noun** ① *his return to Paris* HOMECOMING ② *the return of hard times* RECURRENCE, reoccurrence, repeat, repetition, reappearance, revival, resurrection, re-emergence, resurgence ③ *I requested the return of my books* GIVING BACK, handing back, replacement, restoration, reinstatement, restitution ④ *two returns to London* RETURN TICKET/FARE, *N Amer* round trip ticket/fare. ⑤ *a quick return on investments* YIELD, profit, gain, revenue, interest, dividend ⑥ *a census return* STATEMENT, report, submission, record, dossier, document, form

—OPPOSITES departure, disappearance, single

■ **in return for** IN EXCHANGE FOR, as a reward for, as compensation for

revamp ▶ **verb** RENOVA TE, redecorate, refurbish, recondition, rehabilitate, overhaul, make over, upgrade, refit, re-equip; remodel, refashion, redesign, restyle, *informal* do up, give something a facelift, vamp up, *Brit informal* tart up, *N Amer informal* rehab

reveal ▶ **verb** ① the police can't reveal his whereabouts DIVULGE, disclose, tell, let slip/drop, give away/out, blurt (out), release, leak, make known, make public, broadcast, publicize, circulate, disseminate, *informal* let on, *archaic* discover ② he revealed his new car SHOW, display, exhibit, disclose, uncover, *poetic/literary* uncloak ③ the data reveal a good deal of information BRING TO LIGHT, uncover, lay bare, unearth, unveil, *formal* evince, *poetic/literary* uncloak
-OPPOSITES hide

revel ▶ **verb** ① they revelled all night CELEBRATE, make merry, have a party, carouse, roister, go on a spree, *informal* party, live it up, whoop it up, make whoopee, rave, paint the town red ② he revelled in the applause ENJOY, delight in, love, like, adore, be pleased by, take pleasure in, appreciate, relish, lap up, savour, *informal* get a kick out of
▶ **noun** late-night revels CELEBRATION, festivity, jollification, merrymaking, carousal, carouse, spree, party, jamboree, *informal* rave, shindig, bash, *Brit informal* rave-up, knees-up, *N Amer informal* wingding, blast, *Austral informal* rage, ding, jollo

revelation ▶ **noun** ① revelations about his personal life DISCLOSURE, surprising fact, announcement, report, admission, confession ② the revelation of a secret DIVULGING, divulgence, disclosure, disclosing, letting slip/drop, giving away/out, leaking, leak, betrayal, unveiling, making known, making public, broadcasting, publicizing, dissemination, reporting, report, declaring, declaration

reveller ▶ **noun** MERRYMAKER, partygoer, carouser, roisterer, *archaic* wassailer

revelry ▶ **noun** CELEBRATION(S), parties, revels, festivity, festivities, jollification, merrymaking, carousing, carousal, roistering, *informal* partying

revenge ▶ **noun** ① she is seeking revenge VENGEANCE, retribution, retaliation, reprisal, requital, recrimination, an eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth), redress, satisfaction ② they were filled with revenge VENGEFULNESS, vindictiveness, vitriol, spite, spitefulness, malice, maliciousness, malevolence, ill will, animosity, hate, hatred, rancour, bitterness, *poetic/literary* maleficence

▶ **verb** ① he revenged his brother's murder AVENGE, take/exact revenge for, exact retribution for, take reprisals for, get redress for, get satisfaction for ② I'll be revenged on the whole pack of you TAKE REVENGE ON, get one's revenge on, avenge oneself on, take vengeance on, get even with, settle a/the score with, pay back, take reprisals against, *informal* get one's own back on, *archaic* give someone a Roland for an Oliver

revenue ▶ **noun** INCOME, takings, receipts, proceeds, earnings; profit(s)
-OPPOSITES expenditure

reverberate ▶ **verb** RESOUND, echo, re-echo, resonate, ring, boom, rumble

reverberation ▶ **noun** ① natural reverberation RESONANCE, echo, echoing, re-echoing, resound-

ing, ringing, booming, rumbling ② political reverberations REPERCUSSIONS, ramifications, consequences, shock waves, aftermath, fallout, backlash

revere ▶ **verb** RESPECT, admire, think highly of, have a high opinion of, esteem, hold in high esteem/regard, look up to
-OPPOSITES despise

reverence ▶ **noun** reverence for the countryside HIGH ESTEEM, high regard, great respect, acclaim, admiration, appreciation, estimation, favour

-OPPOSITES scorn

▶ **verb** they reverence modern jazz See REVERE

reverent ▶ **adjective** RESPECTFUL, reverential, admiring, devoted, devout, dutiful, awed, deferential

reverie ▶ **noun** DAYDREAM, daydreaming, trance, musing, inattention, inattentiveness, wool-gathering, preoccupation, absorption, abstraction, lack of concentration

reversal ▶ **noun** ① there was no reversal on this issue TURNAROUND, turnabout, about-face, volte-face, change of heart, U-turn, backtracking, *Brit* about-turn, *rare* tergiversation ② a reversal of roles SWAP, exchange, change, swapping, interchange ③ the reversal of the decision ALTERATION, changing, countermanning, undoing, overturning, overthrow, disallowing, overriding, overruling, veto, vetoing, revocation, repeal, rescinding, annulment, nullification, voiding, invalidation, *formal* rescission, abrogation ④ they suffered a reversal SETBACK, reverse, upset, failure, misfortune, mishap, disaster, blow, disappointment, adversity, hardship, affliction, vicissitude, defeat, bad luck

reverse ▶ **verb** ① the car reversed into a lamp post BACK, drive back/backwards, move back/backwards ② reverse the bottle in the ice bucket TURN UPSIDE DOWN, turn over, upend, upturn, invert, *archaic* overset ③ I reversed my jacket TURN INSIDE OUT ④ reverse your roles SWAP (ROUND), change (round), exchange, interchange, switch (round) ⑤ the umpire reversed the decision ALTER, change, overturn, overthrow, disallow, override, overrule, veto, revoke, repeal, rescind, annul, nullify, void, invalidate, *Brit* do an about-turn on, *formal* abrogate

▶ **adjective** in reverse order BACKWARD(S), reversed, inverted, transposed

▶ **noun** ① the reverse is the case OPPOSITE, contrary, converse, inverse, obverse, antithesis ② successes and reverses See REVERSAL sense 4 ③ the reverse of the page OTHER SIDE, reverse side, back, underside, wrong side, verso

revert ▶ **verb** ① life will soon revert to normal RE TURN, go back, change back, default; fall back, regress, relapse. ② the property reverted to the landlord BE RETURNED, historical escheat.

review ▶ **noun** ① the Council undertook a review ANALYSIS, evaluation, assessment, appraisal, examination, investigation, inquiry, probe, inspection, study. ② the rent is due for review: RE-CONSIDERATION, reassessment, re-evaluation, re-appraisal, change, alteration, modification, revision ③ book reviews CRITICISM, critique, assessment, evaluation, commentary; *Brit informal* crit. ④ a scientific review: JOURNAL, periodical, magazine, publication ⑤ their review of the economy SURVEY, report, study, account, description,

statement, overview ⑥ *a military review* INSPECTION, parade, tattoo, procession, *Brit* march past.

► **verb** ① *I reviewed the evidence* SURVEY, study, research, consider, analyse, examine, scrutinize, explore, look into, probe, investigate, inspect, assess, appraise; *informal* size up ② *the referee reviewed his decision* RECONSIDER, re-examine, reassess, re-evaluate, reappraise, rethink, change, alter, modify, revise. ③ *he reviewed the day* RE MEMBER, recall, reflect on, think through, go over in one's mind, look back on ④ *reviewing troops* INSPECT, view ⑤ *she reviewed the play* COMMENT ON, evaluate, assess, appraise, judge, critique, criticize

reviewer ► **noun** CRITIC, COMMENTATOR, judge, observer, pundit, analyst

revile ► **verb** CRITICIZE, censure, condemn, attack, inveigh against, rail against, lambaste, denounce, slander, libel, malign, vilify, besmudge, abuse, *informal* knock, slam, pan, crucify, roast, bad-mouth, *Brit* *informal* slate, rubbish, slag off, *N Amer* *informal* pummel, *Austral/NZ* *informal* bag, monster, *formal* exonerate, calumniate
—OPPOSITES praise

revise ► **verb** ① *she revised her opinion* RECONSIDER, review, re-examine, reassess, re-evaluate, reappraise, rethink, change, alter, modify ② *the editor revised the text* AMEND, emend, correct, alter, change, edit, rewrite, redraft, rephrase, rework. ③ (*Brit*) *revise your lecture notes* GO OVER, reread, memorize, cram, *informal* bone up on, *Brit* *informal* swot up (on), mug up (on)

revision ► **noun** ① *a revision of the Prayer Book* EMENDATION, correction, alteration, adaptation, editing, rewriting, redrafting ② *a new revision* VERSION, edition, rewrite ③ *a major revision of the system* RECONSIDERATION, review, re-examination, reassessment, re-evaluation, reappraisal, rethink; change, alteration, modification ④ (*Brit*) *he was doing some revision* REREADING, memorizing, cramming, *Brit* *informal* swotting

revitalize ► **verb** REINVIGORATE, re-energize, boost, regenerate, revive, revivify, rejuvenate, reanimate, resuscitate, refresh, stimulate, breathe new life into, *informal* give a shot in the arm to, pep up, buck up

revival ► **noun** ① *a revival in the economy* IMPROVEMENT, rallying, picking up, amelioration, turn for the better, upturn, upswing, resurgence ② *the revival of traditional crafts* COME BACK, re-establishment, reintroduction, restoration, reappearance, resurrection, regeneration, rejuvenation.
—OPPOSITES downturn, disappearance.

revive ► **verb** ① *attempts to revive her failed*: RESUSCITATE, bring round, bring back to consciousness ② *the man soon revived*. REGAIN CONSCIOUSNESS, come round, wake up ③ *a cup of tea revived her*: REINVIGORATE, revitalize, refresh, energize, reanimate, resuscitate, revivify, rejuvenate, regenerate, enliven, stimulate. ④ *reviving old traditions*. REINTRODUCE, re-establish, restore, resurrect, bring back, regenerate, resuscitate.

revoke ► **verb** CANCEL, repeal, rescind, reverse, annul, nullify, void, invalidate, countermand, retract, withdraw, overrule, override; *Law* vacate; *formal* abrogate

revolt ► **verb** ① *the people revolted* REBEL, rise (up), take to the streets, riot, mutiny. ② *the smell revolted him*. DISGUST, sicken, nauseate, make someone sick, make someone's gorge rise, turn someone's stomach, be repugnant to, be repulsive to, put off, be offensive to, *informal* turn off; *N Amer* *informal* gross out

► **noun** *an armed revolt* REBELLION, revolution, insurrection, mutiny, uprising, riot, rioting, insurgence, seizure of power, coup (d'état).

revolting ► **adjective** DISGUSTING, sickening, nauseating, stomach-turning, stomach-churning, repulsive, repellent, repugnant, appalling, abominable, hideous, horrible, awful, dreadful, terrible, obnoxious, vile, nasty, foul, loathsome, offensive, objectionable, off-putting, distasteful, disagreeable, *N Amer* *informal* gross out ghastly, putrid, horrid, gross, gut-churning, yucky, skanky, icky, *formal* rebarbative; *poetic/literary* noisome, *archaic* disgustful, loathly
—OPPOSITES attractive, pleasant

revolution ► **noun** ① *the French Revolution* REBELLION, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, uprising, riot, rioting, insurgence, seizure of power, coup (d'état). ② *a revolution in printing techniques* DRAMATIC CHANGE, radical alteration, sea change, metamorphosis, transformation, innovation, reorganization, restructuring, *informal* shake-up, *N Amer* *informal* shakedown ③ *one revolution of a wheel* (SINGLE) TURN, rotation, circle, spin, circuit, lap ④ *the revolution of the earth* TURNING, rotation, circling, orbit

revolutionary ► **adjective** ① *revolutionary troops* REBELLIOUS, rebel, insurgent, rioting, mutinous, renegade, insurrectionary, insurrectionist, seditious, subversive, extremist ② *revolutionary change* THOROUGHGOING, thorough, complete, total, absolute, utter, comprehensive, sweeping, far-reaching, extensive, profound ③ *a revolutionary kind of wheelchair* NEW, novel, original, unusual, unconventional, unorthodox, newfangled, innovative, innovatory, innovational, modern, state-of-the-art, futuristic, pioneering

► **noun** *political revolutionaries* REBEL, insurgent, revolutionist, mutineer, insurrectionist, agitator, subversive

revolutionize ► **verb** TRANSFORM, alter dramatically, shake up, turn upside down, restructure, reorganize, transmute, metamorphose, *humorous* transmogrify

revolve ► **verb** ① *a fan revolved slowly* GO ROUND, turn round, rotate, spin ② *the moon revolves around the earth* CIRCLE, travel, orbit. ③ *his life revolves around cars* BE CONCERNED WITH, be preoccupied with, focus on, centre around ④ *her mind revolved the possibilities*. THINK ABOUT/OVER, give thought to, consider, reflect on, mull over, muse on, cogitate about/on, chew over, weigh up; *archaic* pore on

revulsion ► **noun** DISGUST, repulsion, abhorrence, repugnance, nausea, horror, aversion, abomination, distaste; *archaic* disrelish.

—OPPOSITES delight.

reward ► **noun** *a reward for its safe return*: RECOMPENSE, prize, award, honour, decoration, bonus, premium, bounty, present, gift, payment; *informal* pay-off, perk; *formal* perquisite.

► **verb** *they were well rewarded*: RECOMPENSE, pay, remunerate, make something worth someone's while; give an award to



—OPPOSITES punish

rewarding ▶ adjective SATISFYING, gratifying, pleasing, fulfilling, enriching, edifying, beneficial, illuminating, worthwhile, productive, fruitful

reword ▶ verb REWRITE, rephrase, recast, put in other words, express differently, redraft, revise, paraphrase

rewrite ▶ verb REVISE, recast, reword, rephrase, redraft

rhetoric ▶ noun ① a form of rhetoric ORATORY, eloquence, command of language, way with words See list ② empty rhetoric. BOMBAST, turgidity, grandiloquence, magniloquence, pomposity, extravagant language, purple prose, wordiness, verbosity, prolixity, informal hot air, rare fustian

Rhetorical Devices and Figures of Speech

allegory	epanalepsis	oxymoron
alliteration	epanorthosis	paradox
anacoluthon	epiphora	paralipsis
anadiplosis	epistrophe	paronomasia
anaphora	epizeuxis	periphrasis
anastrophe	euphemism	personification
antiphrasis	euphony	pleonasm
antistrophe	euphuism	prolepsis
antithesis	hendriads	prosopopoeia
antonomasia	homeoteleuton	pun
aporia	hypallage	rhetorical
apostrophe	hyperbaton	question
assonance	hyperbole	sarcasm
bathos	hysteron	simile
cacophemism	proteron	syllipsis
cataphesis	innuendo	symptocle
chiasmus	irony	synecdoche
circumlocution	isocolon	tautology
diacope	litotes	transferred
dysphemism	melosis	epithet
echolism	metaphor	trope
ellipsis	metonymy	zeugma
enallage	onomatopoeia	

rhetorical ▶ adjective ① rhetorical devices STYLISTIC, oratorical, linguistic, verbal See list ② rhetorical hyperbole EXTRAVAGANT, grandiloquent, magniloquent, high-flown, orotund, bombastic, grandiose, pompous, pretentious, overblown, oratorical, turgid, flowery, florid, informal highfalutin, rare fustian

rhyme ▶ noun POEM, piece of poetry, verse, (rhymes) poetry, doggerel

rhythm ▶ noun ① the rhythm of the music BEAT, cadence, tempo, time, pulse, throb, swing ② poetic features such as rhythm METRE, measure, stress, accent, cadence ③ the rhythm of daily life PATTERN, flow, tempo

rhythmic ▶ adjective RHYTHMICAL, with a steady pulse, measured, throbbing, beating, pulsating, regular, steady, even

rib

—RELATED TERMS costal

ribald ▶ adjective. See CRUDE sense 3

rich ▶ adjective ① rich people, WEALTHY, affluent, moneyed, well off, well-to-do, prosperous, opulent, N. Amer silk-stocking; informal rolling in money, in the money, loaded, stinking rich,

filthy rich, well heeled, made of money, informal, dated oofy ② rich furnishings SUMPTUOUS, opulent, luxurious, luxury, de luxe, lavish, gorgeous, splendid, magnificent, costly, expensive, fancy, informal posh, plush, ritzy, swanky, classy, Bnt informal swish, N. Amer informal swank ③ a garden rich in flowers ABOUNDING, well provided, well stocked, crammed, packed, teeming, bursting, informal jam-packed, chock-a-block, chock-full, Austral/NZ informal chocker ④ a rich supply of restaurants PLENTIFUL, abundant, copious, ample, profuse, lavish, liberal, generous, bountiful, poetic/literary plenteous, bounteous ⑤ rich soil FERTILE, productive, fecund, fruitful ⑥ a rich sauce CREAMY, fatty, heavy, full-flavoured ⑦ a rich wine FULL-BODIED, heavy, fruity ⑧ rich colours STRONG, deep, full, intense, vivid, brilliant ⑨ her rich voice SONOROUS, full, resonant, deep, clear, mellow, mellifluous, rare mellifluous ⑩ (informal) that's rich! PREPOSTEROUS, outrageous, absurd, ridiculous, ludicrous, laughable, risible, informal a bit much, Bnt informal a bit thick

—OPPOSITES poor, light

riches ▶ plural noun ① his new-found riches MONEY, wealth, funds, (hard) cash, (filthy) lucre, wherewithal, means, (liquid) assets, capital, resources, reserves, opulence, affluence, prosperity, informal dough, bread, loot, shekels, moolah, the necessary, Bnt informal dosh, brass, lolly, spondulicks, readies, N. Amer informal bucks, maza, dinero, US informal greenbacks, simoleons, jack, rocks, Austral/NZ informal Oscar, Bnt dated lsd, archaic pelf ② underwater riches RE SOURCES, treasure(s), bounty, jewels, gems

richly ▶ adverb ① the richly furnished chamber SUMPTUOUSLY, opulently, luxuriously, lavishly, gorgeously, splendidly, magnificently, informal poshly, plushly, ritzily, swankily, classily, Bnt informal swishly ② the joy she richly deserves FULLY, thoroughly, in full measure, well, completely, wholly, totally, entirely, absolutely, amply, utterly

—OPPOSITES meanly

rickety ▶ adjective SHAKY, unsteady, unsound, unsafe, tumbledown, broken-down, dilapidated, ramshackle, informal shambly, N. Amer informal shabby

rid ▶ verb ridding the building of asbestos CLEAR, free, purge, empty, strip

■ get rid of ① we must get rid of some stuff DISPOSE OF, throw away/out, clear out, discard, scrap, dump, bin, jettison, informal chuck (away), ditch, junk, get shut of, Bnt informal get shot of, N. Amer informal trash ② the cats got rid of the rats DESTROY, eliminate, annihilate, obliterate, wipe out, kill

riddle¹ ▶ noun an answer to the riddle PUZZLE, conundrum, brain-teaser, (unsolved) problem, question, poser, enigma, mystery, informal stumper

riddle² ▶ verb ① his car was riddled by gunfire PERFORATE, hole, pierce, puncture, pepper ② he was riddled with cancer. PERMEATE, suffuse, fill, pervade, spread through, imbue, saturate, overrun, beset ③ the soil must be riddled. SIEVE, sift, strain, screen, filter, archaic griddle

ride ▶ verb ① she can ride a horse. SIT ON, mount, bestride, manage, handle, control. ② riding round the town on motor bikes TRAVEL, move, proceed, make one's way, drive, cycle; trot, canter,

gallop
 ▶ **noun** he took us for a ride **TRIP**, journey, drive, run, excursion, outing, jaunt, lift, *informal* spin

ridicule ▶ **noun** he was subjected to ridicule **MOCKERY**, derision, laughter, scorn, scoffing, contempt, jeering, sneering, sneers, jibes, jibing, teasing, taunts, taunting, ragging, chaffing, sarcasm, satire, *informal* kidding, ribbing, joshing, *N Amer informal* goofing, razzing, *Austral/NZ informal* chacking, *dated* sport
 -**OPPOSITES** respect

▶ **verb** his theory was ridiculed **DERIDE**, mock, laugh at, heap scorn on, jeer at, jibe at, sneer at, treat with contempt, scorn, make fun of, poke fun at, scoff at, satirize, lampoon, burlesque, caricature, parody, tease, taunt, rag, chaff, *informal* kid, rib, josh, take the mickey out of, *N Amer informal* goof on, rag on, razz, pull someone's chain, *Austral/NZ informal* chack, poke mullock at, sling off at, *dated* make sport of, twit

ridiculous ▶ **adjective** ① that looks ridiculous **LAUGHABLE**, absurd, comical, funny, hilarious, risible, droll, amusing, farcical, silly, ludicrous, rare derisible ② a ridiculous suggestion **SENSELESS**, silly, foolish, foolhardy, stupid, inane, fatuous, childish, puerile, half-baked, hare-brained, ill-thought-out, crackpot, idiotic ③ a ridiculous exaggeration **ABSURD**, preposterous, ludicrous, laughable, risible, nonsensical, senseless, outrageous
 -**OPPOSITES** sensible

rife ▶ **adjective** ① violence is rife **WIDESPREAD**, general, common, universal, extensive, ubiquitous, omnipresent, endemic, inescapable, insidious, prevalent ② the village was rife with gossip **OVERFLOWING**, bursting, alive, teeming, abounding
 -**OPPOSITES** unknown

riff-raff ▶ **noun** **RABBLE**, scum, the lowest of the low, good-for-nothings, undesirables, *informal* peasants
 -**OPPOSITES** elite

rifle ▶ **verb** ① she rifled through her wardrobe **RUMMAGE**, search, hunt, forage ② a thief rifled her home **BURGLE**, rob, steal from, loot, raid, plunder, ransack

rift ▶ **noun** ① a deep rift in the ice **CRACK**, fault, flaw, split, break, breach, fissure, fracture, cleft, crevice, cavity, opening ② the rift between them **BREACH**, division, split, quarrel, squabble, disagreement, falling-out, row, argument, dispute, conflict, feud, estrangement, *informal* spat, scrap, *Brit informal* bust-up

rig¹ ▶ **verb** ① the boats were rigged with a single sail **EQUIP**, kit out, fit out, supply, furnish, provide, arm ② I rigged myself out in black **DRESS**, clothe, attire, robe, garb, array, deck out, drape, accoutre, outfit, get up, trick out/up, *informal* doll up, *archaic* apparel ③ he will rig up a shelter **SET UP**, erect, assemble, throw together, cobble together, put together, whip up, improvise, contrive, *Brit informal* knock up

▶ **noun** ① a CB radio rig **APPARATUS**, appliance, machine, device, instrument, contraption, system, tackle, gear, kit, outfit ② the rig of the American Army Air Corps **UNIFORM**, costume, ensemble, outfit, livery, attire, clothes, clothing, garments, dress, garb, regimentals, regalia, trappings; *Brit* strip, *informal* get-up, gear, togs, *Brit informal* kit, *formal* apparel; *archaic* raiment, vestments.

rig² ▶ **verb** they rigged the election **MANIPULATE**, engineer, distort, misrepresent, pervert, tamper with, doctor, falsify, fake, trump up, *informal* fix, *Brit informal* fiddle

rigging ▶ **noun**. See list

Rigging

See also **SAIL**.

backstay	gantline	sheer pole
baggywrinkle	garland	sheet
bibb	gasket	shroud
bitt	gooseneck	spar
boom	halyard	spider
bottlescrew	hank	spider hoop
bowline	horse	spreader
brace	hound	sprit
brail	inhaul	stay
bullseye	jackstay	step
buntline	kicking strap	stirrup
burton	lanyard	stopper knot
chainplate	lazy jack	tabernacle
cheek	lutchet	thimble
claw ring	mainstay	top
cleat	martingale	topping lift
cordage	mouse	track
cringle	outhaul	traveller
crossjack	parrel	trestletree
crosstree	passaree	truck
crowfoot	pendant/	truss
deadeye	pennant	turnbuckle
downhaul	pole	uphaul
eye	preventer	vangs
fairlead	ratline	wishbone
foot rope	reefpoint	yard
furling line	reefing line	yardarm
gaff	sail tie	yard sling

right ▶ **adjective** ① it wouldn't be right to do that **JUST**, fair, proper, good, upright, righteous, virtuous, moral, ethical, honourable, honest, law ful, legal ② the right answer **CORRECT**, accurate, exact, precise, proper, valid, conventional, established, official, formal, *Brit informal* spot on ③ the right person for the job **SUITABLE**, appropriate, fitting, correct, proper, desirable, preferable, ideal, *archaic* meet ④ you've come at the right time **OPPORTUNE**, advantageous, favourable, propitious, good, lucky, happy, fortunate, providential, felicitous, timely, seasonable, convenient, expedient, suitable, appropriate ⑤ he's not right in the head **SANE**, lucid, rational, balanced, compos mentis, *informal* all there ⑥ he does not look right **HEALTHY**, well, (fighting) fit, normal, up to par, *informal* up to scratch, in the pink ⑦ my right hand **DEXTRAL** ⑧ (informal) it's a right mess **ABSOLUTE**, complete, total, real, thorough, perfect, utter, sheer, unmitigated, ventable
 -**OPPOSITES** wrong, insane, unhealthy

▶ **adverb** ① she was right at the limit of her patience **COMPLETELY**, fully, totally, absolutely, utterly, thoroughly, quite ② right in the middle of the village **EXACTLY**, precisely, directly, immediately, just, squarely, dead, *informal* (slap) bang, smack, plumb, *N Amer informal* smack dab ③ keep going right on **STRAIGHT**, directly, as the crow flies ④ (informal) he'll be right down **STRAIGHT**, immediately, instantly, at once, straight away, now, right now, this minute, directly, forthwith, without further ado, promptly, quickly, a.s.a.p.



as soon as possible, *N Amer* in short order, *informal* straight off, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), pronto, *N Amer informal* lickety-split. ⑤ *I think I heard right* CORRECTLY, accurately, properly, precisely, aright, rightly, perfectly. ⑥ *make sure you're treated right* WELL, properly, justly, fairly, equitably, impartially, honourably, lawfully, legally. ⑦ *things will turn out right* WELL, for the best, favourably, happily, advantageously, profitably, providentially, luckily, conveniently. —OPPOSITES wrong, badly

► **noun** ① the difference between right and wrong GOODNESS, righteousness, virtue, integrity, rectitude, propriety, morality, truth, honesty, honour, justice, fairness, equity, lawfulness, legality. ② *you have the right to say no* ENTITLEMENT, prerogative, privilege, advantage, due, birthright, liberty, authority, power, licence, permission, dispensation, leave, sanction, *Law, historical* droit

—OPPOSITES wrong

► **verb** ① the way to right a capsized dinghy SET UP RIGHT, turn back over. ② *we must right the situation* REMEDY, put right, rectify, retrieve, fix, resolve, sort out, settle, square, straighten out, correct, repair, mend, redress, make good, ameliorate, better

■ **by rights** PROPERLY, correctly, technically, in fairness, legally, de jure

■ **in the right** JUSTIFIED, vindicated, right

■ **put something to rights.** See RIGHT verb sense 2

■ **right away** AT ONCE, straight away, (right) now, this (very) minute, this instant, immediately, instantly, directly, forthwith, without further ado, promptly, quickly, without delay, a.s.a.p., as soon as possible, *N Amer* in short order, *informal* straight off, p.d.q. (pretty damn quick), pronto, *N Amer informal* lickety-split

■ **within one's rights** ENTITLED, permitted, allowed, at liberty, empowered, authorized, qualified, licensed, justified

righteous ► **adjective** ① *righteous living* GOOD, virtuous, upright, upstanding, decent, ethical, principled, moral, high-minded, law-abiding, honest, honourable, blameless, irreproachable, noble, saintly, angelic, pure. ② *righteous anger* JUSTIFIABLE, justified, legitimate, defensible, supportable, rightful, admissible, allowable, understandable, excusable, acceptable, reasonable.

—OPPOSITES sinful, unjustifiable

rightful ► **adjective** ① the car's rightful owner LEGAL, lawful, real, true, proper, correct, recognized, genuine, authentic, acknowledged, approved, licensed, valid, bona fide, de jure, *informal* legit, kosher. ② *their rightful place in society* DESERVED, merited, due, just, right, fair, proper, fitting, appropriate, suitable

right-wing ► **adjective** CONSERVATIVE, rightist, ultra-conservative, blumpish, diehard, reactionary, traditionalist, conventional, unprogressive. —OPPOSITES left-wing

rigid ► **adjective** ① a rigid container STIFF, hard, firm, inflexible, unbending, unyielding, inelastic. ② a rigid routine FIXED, set, firm, inflexible, unalterable, unchangeable, immutable, unvarying, invariable, hard and fast, cast-iron. ③ a rigid approach to funding: STRICT, severe, stern, stringent, rigorous, inflexible, uncompromising, intransigent

—OPPOSITES flexible, lenient

rigmarole ► **noun** ① the rigmarole of dressing up FUSS, bother, trouble, folderol, ado, pother; *NZ* bobsy-die, *informal* palaver, song and dance, performance, to-do, pantomime, hassle, *Brit informal* carry-on. ② that rigmarole about the house being haunted TALE, saga, yarn, shaggy-dog story, *informal* spiel

rigorous ► **adjective** ① rigorous attention to detail METICULOUS, conscientious, punctilious, careful, diligent, attentive, scrupulous, painstaking, exact, precise, accurate, thorough, particular, strict, demanding, exacting, *informal* pernickety. ② the rigorous enforcement of rules STRICT, severe, stern, stringent, tough, harsh, rigid, relentless, unsparing, inflexible, draconian, intransigent, uncompromising, exacting. ③ rigorous yachting conditions HARSH, severe, bad, bleak, extreme, inclement, unpleasant, disagreeable, foul, nasty, filthy; stormy, wild, tempestuous. —OPPOSITES slapdash, lax, mild

rigour ► **noun** ① a mine operated under conditions of rigour STRICTNESS, severity, stringency, toughness, harshness, rigidity, inflexibility, intransigence. ② intellectual rigour METICULOUSNESS, thoroughness, carefulness, diligence, scrupulousness, exactness, exactitude, precision, accuracy, correctness, strictness. ③ the rigours of the journey HARDSHIP, harshness, severity, adversity, ordeal, misery, trial, discomfort, inconvenience, privation

rile ► **verb** (*informal*) See ANNOY

rim ► **noun** ① the rim of her cup BRIM, edge, lip. ② the rim of the crater EDGE, border, side, margin, brink, fringe, boundary, perimeter, limits, periphery, *archaic* skirt

rind ► **noun** SKIN, peel, zest, integument; *Botany* pericarp

ring¹ ► **noun** ① a ring round the moon CIRCLE, band, halo, disc. ② she wore a ring WEDDING RING, band. ③ a circus ring ARENA, enclosure, field, ground, amphitheatre, stadium. ④ a ring of onlookers CIRCLE, group, knot, cluster, bunch, band, throng, crowd, flock, pack. ⑤ a spy ring GANG, syndicate, cartel, mob, band, circle, organization, association, society, alliance, league, coterie, cabal

► **verb** police ringed the building SURROUND, circle, encircle, encompass, girdle, enclose, hem in, confine, seal off

ring² ► **verb** ① church bells rang all day TOLL, sound, peal, chime, clang, bong, ding, jingle, tinkle, *poetic/literary* knell. ② the room rang with laughter RESOUND, reverberate, resonate, echo. ③ I'll ring you tomorrow TELEPHONE, phone (up), call (up); reach, dial; *informal* give someone a buzz, *Brit informal* give someone a bell, give someone a tinkle, get on the blower to, *N Amer informal* get someone on the horn.

► **noun** ① the ring of a bell. CHIME, toll, peal, clang, clink, ding, jingle, tinkle, tintinnabulation, sound; *poetic/literary* knell. ② I'll give Chris a ring. CALL, telephone call, phone call; *informal* buzz; *Brit informal* bell, tinkle.

■ **ring something in** HERALD, signal, announce, proclaim, usher in, introduce; mark, signify, indicate, *poetic/literary* betoken, knell.

rinse ► **verb** WASH (OUT), clean, cleanse, bathe; dip, drench, splash, swill, sluice, hose down.

riot ▶ **noun** ① a riot in the capital UPROAR, commotion, upheaval, disturbance, furor, tumult, melee, scuffle, fracas, fray, brawl, free-for-all, violence, fighting, vandalism, mayhem, turmoil, lawlessness, anarchy, *N Amer informal* wilding, *Law, dated* affray ② the garden was a riot of colour MASS, sea, splash, show, exhibition

▶ **verb** the miners rioted (GO ON THE) RAMPAGE, run riot, fight in the streets, run wild, run amok, go berserk, *informal* raise hell

■ **run riot** ① the children run riot (GO ON THE) RAMPAGE, riot, run amok, go berserk, go out of control, *informal* raise hell ② the vegetation has run riot GROW PROFUSELY, spread uncontrolled, grow rapidly, spread like wildfire, burgeon, multiply, rocket

riotous ▶ **adjective** ① the demonstration turned riotous UNRULY, rowdy, disorderly, uncontrollable, unmanageable, undisciplined, uproarious, tumultuous, violent, wild, ugly, lawless, anarchic ② a riotous party BOISTEROUS, lively, loud, noisy, unrestrained, uninhibited, uproarious, unruly, rollicking, *informal* rumbustious, *N Amer informal* rambunctious
-OPPOSITES peaceable

rip ▶ **verb** ① he ripped the posters down TEAR, wrench, wrest, pull, snatch, tug, prise, heave, drag, peel, pluck, *informal* yank ② she ripped Leo's note into pieces TEAR, claw, hack, slit, cut, *poetic/literary* rend

▶ **noun** a rip in my sleeve TEAR, slit, split, rent, laceration, cut, gash, slash

ripe ▶ **adjective** ① a ripe tomato MATURE, ripened, full grown, ready to eat, luscious, juicy, tender, sweet ② the dock is ripe for development READY, fit, suitable, right ③ the ripe old age of ninety ADVANCED, hoary, venerable, old ④ the time is ripe for his return OPPORTUNE, advantageous, favourable, auspicious, propitious, promising, good, right, fortunate, benign, providential, felicitous, seasonable, convenient, suitable, appropriate, apt, fitting
-OPPOSITES unsuitable, young.

ripen ▶ **verb** BECOME RIPE, mature, mellow

rip-off ▶ **noun** (*informal*) FRAUD, swindle, confidence trick, *informal* con, scam, flimflam, gyp, *Brit informal* swizz, daylight robbery, *N Amer informal* rip, shakedown, bunco, *Austral informal* rort

riposte ▶ **noun** an indignant riposte RETORT, counter, rejoinder, sally, return, answer, reply, response, *informal* comeback

▶ **verb** 'Heaven help you,' riposted Sally RETORT, counter, rejoin, return, retaliate, hurl back, answer, reply, respond, come back

ripple ▶ **noun** he blew ripples in his coffee WAVE, LET, wave, undulation, ripple, ridge, ruffle

▶ **verb** a breeze rippled the lake: FORM RIPPLES ON, ruffle, wrinkle

rise ▶ **verb** ① the sun rose MOVE UP/UPWARDS, come up, make one's/its way up, arise, ascend, climb, mount, soar. ② the mountains rising above us. LOOM, tower, soar, rise up, rear (up) ③ prices rose. GO UP, increase, soar, shoot up, surge, leap, jump, rocket, escalate, spiral. ④ living standards have risen IMPROVE, get better, advance, go up, soar, shoot up. ⑤ his voice rose GET HIGHER, grow, increase, become louder, swell, intensify. ⑥ he rose from his chair: STAND UP, get to one's feet, get up, jump up, leap up; *formal* arise. ⑦ he rises at dawn. GET UP, get out of

bed, rouse oneself, stir, bestir oneself, be up and about; *informal* rise and shine, shake a leg, surface, *formal* arise ⑧ the court rose at midday ADJOURN, recess, be suspended, pause, take a break, *informal* knock off, take five ⑨ he rose through the ranks MAKE PROGRESS, climb, advance, get on, work one's way, be promoted ⑩ he wouldn't rise to the bait REACT, respond, take. ⑪ Christ rose again COME BACK TO LIFE, be resurrected, revive ⑫ the dough started to rise SWELL, expand, enlarge, puff up ⑬ the nation rose against its oppressors REBEL, revolt, mutiny, riot, take up arms ⑭ the Rhine rises in the Alps ORIGINATE, begin, start, emerge, issue from, spring from, flow from, emanate from ⑮ her spirits rose BRIGHTEN, lift, cheer up, improve, pick up, *informal* buck up ⑯ the ground rose gently SLOPE UPWARDS, go uphill, incline, climb
-OPPOSITES fall, descend, drop, sit, retire, resume, die, shelve

▶ **noun** ① a price rise INCREASE, hike, leap, upsurge, upswing, climb, escalation ② he got a rise of 11% RAISE, pay increase, wage increase, hike, increment ③ a rise in standards IMPROVE MENT, amelioration, upturn, leap ④ his rise to power PROGRESS, climb, promotion, elevation, aggrandizement ⑤ we walked up the rise SLOPE, incline, acclivity, hillock, hill; *formal* eminence

risible ▶ **adjective** LAUGHABLE, ridiculous, absurd, comical, comic, amusing, funny, hilarious, humorous, droll, farcical, silly, ludicrous, hysterical, *informal* rib-tickling, priceless, *informal, dated* killing

risk ▶ **noun** ① there is a certain amount of risk CHANCE, uncertainty, unpredictability, precariousness, instability, insecurity, perilousness, riskiness ② the risk of fire POSSIBILITY, chance, probability, likelihood, danger, peril, threat, menace, fear, prospect
-OPPOSITES safety, impossibility

▶ **verb** ① he risked his life to save them ENDANGER, imperil, jeopardize, hazard, gamble (with), chance; put on the line, put in jeopardy ② you risk getting cold and wet CHANCE, stand a chance of

■ **at risk** IN DANGER, in peril, in jeopardy, under threat

risky ▶ **adjective** DANGEROUS, hazardous, perilous, fraught with danger, unsafe, insecure, precarious, parlous, touch-and-go, treacherous, uncertain, unpredictable, *informal* chancy, dicey, hairy, *N Amer informal* gnarly

risqué ▶ **adjective** RIBALD, rude, bawdy, racy, earthy, indecent, suggestive, improper, naughty, locker-room, vulgar, dirty, smutty, crude, coarse, obscene, lewd, X-rated, *informal* blue, raunchy, *Brit informal* fruity, off colour, saucy, *N Amer informal* gamy

rite ▶ **noun** CEREMONY, ritual, ceremonial; service, sacrament, liturgy, worship, office, act, practice, custom, tradition, convention, institution, procedure.

ritual ▶ **noun** an elaborate civic ritual. CEREMONY, rite, ceremonial, observance, service, sacrament, liturgy, worship, act, practice, custom, tradition, convention, formality, procedure, protocol.

▶ **adjective** a ritual burial. CEREMONIAL, ritualistic, prescribed, set, formal, sacramental, liturgical, traditional, conventional

ritzy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*). See POSH sense 1

rival ▶ **noun** ① *his rival for the nomination* **OPPON** ENT, challenger, competitor, contender, adversary, antagonist, enemy, *poetic/literary* foe ② *the tool has no rival* **EQUAL**, match, peer, equivalent, counterpart, like
-**OPPOSITES** ally

▶ **verb** *few countries can rival it for scenery* **MATCH**, compare with, compete with, vie with, equal, measure up to, be in the same league as, be on a par with, touch, challenge, *informal* hold a candle to

▶ **adjective** *rival candidates* **COMPETING**, opposing, contending

rivalry ▶ **noun** **COMPETITIVENESS**, competition, contention, vying, opposition, conflict, feuding, antagonism, friction, enmity, *informal* keeping up with the Joneses

riven ▶ **adjective** *a country riven by civil war* **TORN** APART, split, rent, severed, *poetic/literary* cleft, torn asunder

river ▶ **noun** ① **WATERCOURSE**, waterway, tributary, stream, rivulet, brook, inlet, rill, runnel, fieshet, *Scottish & N English* burn, *N English* beck, *S English* bourn, *N Amer & Austral/NZ* creek, *Austral* billabong *See list* ② *a river of molten lava* **STREAM**, torrent, flood, deluge, cascade
-**RELATED TERMS** riparian, fluvial, fluvio-

■ **sell someone down the river** (*informal*) *See* **DOUBLE-CROSS**

Longest Rivers

RIVER	LOCATION
Nile	Africa
Amazon	South America
Yangtze or Chang Jiang	China
Mississippi	North America
Yenisei	Russia
Amur or Heilong	Asia
Ob	Russia
Yellow or Huang Ho	China
Congo or Zaire	Africa
Lena	Siberia
Mekong	Asia
Mackenzie	Canada
Niger	Africa
Volga	Europe
Paraná	South America

riveted ▶ **adjective** ① *she stood riveted to the spot* **FIXED**, rooted, frozen, unable to move, motionless, unmoving, immobile, stock-still ② *he was riveted by the newsreels* **FASCINATED**, engrossed, gripped, captivated, enthralled, spellbound, mesmerized, transfixed ③ *their eyes were riveted on the teacher* **FIXED**, fastened, focused, concentrated, locked
-**OPPOSITES** bored

riveting ▶ **adjective** **FASCINATING**, gripping, engrossing, interesting, intriguing, absorbing, captivating, enthralling, compelling, spellbinding, mesmerizing, *informal* unputdownable
-**OPPOSITES** boring

road ▶ **noun** ① *the roads were crowded with traffic* **STREET**, thoroughfare, roadway, avenue, broadway, bypass, ring road, trunk road, byroad, lane, crescent, drive, parade, row, *Brit* dual carriageway, clearway, motorway, *N Amer* highway, freeway, parkway, throughway, express-

way, *US* turnpike, interstate ② *a step on the road to recovery* **WAY**, path, route, course ③ *oil tankers waiting in the roads* **ANCHORAGE**, channel, haven, roadstead

■ **on the road** **ON TOUR**, touring, travelling

roam ▶ **verb** **WANDER**, rove, ramble, drift, walk, traipse, range, travel, tramp, traverse, trek, *Scottish & Irish* stravaig, *informal* cruise, mosey, *formal* perambulate, *archaic* peregrinate

roar ▶ **noun** ① *the roars of the crowd* **SHOUT**, bellow, yell, cry, howl, clamour, *informal* holler ② *the roar of the sea* **BOOM**, crash, rumble, roll, thundering ③ *roars of laughter* **GUFFAW**, howl, hoot, shriek, gale, peal

▶ **verb** ① *'Get out!' roared Angus* **BELLOW**, yell, shout, bawl, howl, *informal* holler ② *thunder roared* **BOOM**, rumble, crash, roll, thunder ③ *the movie left them roaring* **GUFFAW**, laugh, hoot, *informal* split one's sides, be rolling in the aisles, be doubled up, crack up, be in stitches, die laughing, *Brit* *informal* cease up, fall about ④ *a motorbike roared past* **SPEED**, zoom, whizz, flash, *informal* belt, tear, zip, *Brit* *informal* bomb

roaring ▶ **adjective** ① *a roaring fire* **BLAZING**, burning, flaming ② (*informal*) *a roaring success* **ENORMOUS**, huge, massive, (very) great, tremendous, complete, out-and-out, thorough, *informal* rip-roaring, whopping, fantastic

roast ▶ **verb** ① *potatoes roasted in olive oil* **COOK**, bake, grill, *N Amer* broil ② (*informal*) *they roasted him for wasting time* *See* **CRITICIZE**

roasting (*informal*) ▶ **adjective** *a roasting day* **HOT**, sweltering, scorching, blistering, searing, torrid, *informal* boiling (hot), baking (hot)

▶ **noun** *the boss gave him a roasting* *See* **LECTURE** noun sense 2

rob ▶ **verb** ① *the gang robbed the local bank* **BURGLE**, steal from, hold up, break into, raid, loot, plunder, pillage, *N Amer* burglarize, *informal* do, turn over, knock off, stick up ② *he robbed an old woman* **STEAL FROM**, *informal* mug, jump, *N Amer* *informal* clip ③ *he was robbed of his savings* **CHEAT**, swindle, defraud, *informal* do out of, con out of, fleece, *N Amer* *informal* stiff ④ (*informal*) *it cost £70 — I was robbed* **OVERCHARGE**, *informal* rip off, sting, do, diddle, *N Amer* *informal* gouge ⑤ *defeat robbed him of his title* **DEPRIVE**, strip, divest, deny

robber ▶ **noun** **BURGLAR**, thief, housebreaker, mugger, shoplifter, stealer, pilferer, raider, looter, plunderer, pillager, bandit, highwayman, *informal* crook, cracksman, *Brit* *informal* tea leaf; *N Amer* *informal* yegg, *poetic/literary* brigand

robbery ▶ **noun** ① *they were arrested for the robbery* **BURGLARY**, theft, thievery, stealing, breaking and entering, housebreaking, larceny, shoplifting, embezzlement, fraud, hold-up, break-in, raid, *informal* mugging, smash-and-grab, stick-up, *Brit* *informal* blag, *N Amer* *informal* heist ② (*informal*) *Six quid? That's robbery* **A SWINDLE**, *informal* a con, a rip-off, *Brit* *informal* daylight robbery

robe ▶ **noun** ① *the women wore black robes* **CLOAK**, kaftan, djellaba, wrap, mantle, cape; *N Amer* wrapper ② *coronation robes* **GARB**, regalia, costume, finery; garments, clothes, *formal* apparel, *archaic* raiment, habiliments, vestments ③ *priestly robes* **VESTMENT**, surplice, cassock, rochet, alb, dalmatic, chasuble; canonicals ④ *a towelling robe* **DRESSING GOWN**, bathrobe, house-

coat, *N Amer* wrapper

► **verb** he *robed* for Mass **DRESS**, clothe oneself, formal enrobe

robot ► **noun** AUTOMATON, android, golem, informal bot, droid

robust ► **adjective** ① a large, robust man **STRONG**, vigorous, sturdy, tough, powerful, solid, muscular, sinewy, rugged, hardy, strapping, brawny, burly, husky, healthy, (fighting) fit, hale and hearty, lusty, in fine fettle, informal beefy, hunky ② these knives are robust **DURABLE**, resilient, tough, hard-wearing, long-lasting, sturdy, strong ③ her usual robust view of things **DOWN-TO-EARTH**, practical, realistic, pragmatic, common-sense, commonsensical, matter-of-fact, businesslike, sensible, unromantic, unsentimental, informal no-nonsense ④ a robust red wine **STRONG**, full-bodied, flavourful, flavour-some, rich

—**OPPOSITES** frail, fragile, romantic, insipid

rock¹ ► **verb** ① the ship *rocked* on the water **MOVE TO AND FRO**, move back and forth, sway, see-saw, roll, pitch, plunge, toss, lurch, reel, list, wobble, oscillate ② the building began to rock **SHAKE**, vibrate, quake, tremble ③ Wall Street was *rocked* by the news **STUN**, shock, stagger, astonish, startle, surprise, shake (up), take aback, throw, unnerv, disconcert

rock² ► **noun** ① a gully strewn with rocks **BOULDER**, stone, pebble, Austral informal goolie See list ② a castle built on a rock **Crag**, cliff, outcrop ③ he was the rock on which they relied **FOUNDATION**, cornerstone, support, prop, mainstay, tower of strength, bulwark, anchor ④ (informal) she wore a massive rock **DIAMOND (RING)**, jewel, precious stone See list at **GEM**

—**RELATED TERMS** litho-, petro-

■ **on the rocks** (informal) ① her marriage is on the rocks **IN DIFFICULTY**, in trouble, breaking up, over, in tatters, in ruins, runned ② a Scotch on the rocks **WITH ICE**, on ice

rocket ► **noun** ① guerrillas fired rockets at them **MISSILE**, projectile ② they lit some colourful rockets **FIREWORK**, Roman candle, banger ③ (Brit informal) he got a rocket from the boss See **LECTURE** noun sense 2

► **verb** ① prices have rocketed **SHOOT UP**, soar, increase, rise, escalate, spiral, informal go through the roof ② they rocketed into the alley **SPEED**, zoom, shoot, whizz, tear, career, Brit informal bomb, *N Amer* informal barrel, hightail it

—**OPPOSITES** plummet

rocky¹ ► **adjective** a rocky path **STONY**, pebbly, shingly, rough, bumpy, craggy, mountainous

rocky² ► **adjective** ① that table's rocky **UNSTEADY**, shaky, unstable, wobbly, tottery, rickety, flimsy ② a rocky marriage **DIFFICULT**, problematic, precarious, unstable, unreliable, undependable, informal iffy, up and down

—**OPPOSITES** steady, stable

rococo ► **adjective** **ORNATE**, fancy, elaborate, extravagant, baroque, fussy, busy, ostentatious, showy; flowery, florid, flamboyant, high-flown, magniloquent, orotund, bombastic, overwrought, overblown, inflated, turgid, informal highfalutin

—**OPPOSITES** plain

rod ► **noun** ① an iron rod **BAR**, stick, pole, baton, staff, shaft, strut, rail, spoke ② the ceremonial rod: **STAFF**, mace, sceptre ③ instruction was

Rocks

See also **GEMS, MINERALS**.

SEDIMENTARY

arenite
argillite
breccia
chalk
chert
claystone
coal
conglomerate
diatomite
dolomite
flint
ironstone
limestone
marl
mudstone
oil shale
oolite
phosphorite
pisolite
radiolarite
rag
rudite
sandstone
shale
siltstone
tillite

METAMORPHIC

amphibolite
blueschist
eclogite
epidiorite
epidosite
gneiss
granulite
hornfels
lapis lazuli
marble
mica schist
mylonite
phyllite
psammite

pyroxenite
quartzite
schist
serpentinite
slate
verdite

IGNEOUS

andesite
anorthosite
aplite
basalt
breccia
diorite
dolomite
dunite
elvan
felsite
gabbro
granite
greenstone
kimberlite
lamprophyre
lava
monzonite
obsidian
ophiolite
pegmatite
peridotite
phonolite
picrite
porphyry
pumice
rhyolite
syenite
tephrite
tonalite
trachyte
trap
tuff
variolite
vitrophyre

accompanied by the rod **CORPORAL PUNISHMENT**, the cane, the lash, the birch, beating, flogging, caning, birching

rodent ► **noun**. See list

rogue ► **noun** ① a rogue without ethics **SCOUNDREL**, villain, miscreant, reprobate, rascal, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, wretch, informal rat, dog, louse, crook, informal, dated rotter, bounder, blighter, dated cad, archaic blackguard, knave ② your boy's a little rogue **RASCAL**, imp, devil, monkey, informal scamp, scallywag, monster, horror, terror, tyke, Brit informal perisher, *N Amer* informal hellion

roguish ► **adjective** ① a roguish character **UNPRINCIPLED**, dishonest, deceitful, unscrupulous, untrustworthy, shameless, wicked, villainous, informal shady, scoundrelly, rascally, archaic knavish ② a roguish grin **MISCHIEVOUS**, playful, teasing, cheeky, naughty, wicked, impish, devilish, arch, informal waggish

roister ► **verb** **ENJOY ONESELF**, celebrate, revel, carouse, frolic, romp, have fun, make merry,



Rodents

See also **SQUIRREL**.

acouchi	lemming
agouti	marmot
bamboo rat	meadow vole
bandicoot rat	mole rat
bank vole	mountain beaver
beaver	mouse
black rat	muskrat
brown rat	naked mole rat
cane rat	Norway rat
capybara	paca
cavy	pacarana
chinchilla	pine vole
climbing mouse	pocket mouse
common rat	porcupine
cotton rat	pouched rat
coypu	rat
deer mouse	red-backed vole
degu	rice rat
desert rat	snow vole
dormouse	spiny mouse
field mouse	springhaas
field vole	spring hare
gerbil	steppe lemming
gopher	stick-nest rat
grasshopper mouse	swamp rat
gundi	tuco-tuco
guinea pig	vesper rat
hamster	viscacha
harvest mouse	vole
hopping mouse	water rat
house mouse	water vole
hutia	white-footed mouse
jerboa	white mouse
jird	wood mouse
jumping mouse	woodrat
kangaroo mouse	
kangaroo rat	

rollick, *informal* party, live it up, whoop it up, have a ball, make whoopee

role ► **noun** ① a small role in the film **PART**, character ② his role as President of the EC **CAPACITY**, position, job, post, office, duty, responsibility, mantle, place, function, part

roll ► **verb** ① the bottle rolled down the table **BOWL**, turn over and over, spin, rotate. ② waiters rolled in the trolleys **WHEEL**, push, trundle ③ we rolled past fields **TRAVEL**, go, move, pass, cruise, sweep ④ the months rolled by, **PASS**, go by, slip by, fly by, elapse, wear on, march on ⑤ tears rolled down her cheeks **FLOW**, run, course, stream, pour, spill, trickle ⑥ the mist rolled in **BILLOW**, undulate, tumble. ⑦ he rolled his handkerchief into a ball, **WIND**, coil, fold, curl, twist. ⑧ roll out the pastry **FLATTEN**, level, even out. ⑨ they rolled about with laughter **STAGGER**, lurch, reel, totter, teeter, wobble. ⑩ the ship began to roll: **LURCH**, toss, rock, pitch, plunge, sway, reel, list, keel. ⑪ thunder rolled **RUMBLE**, reverberate, echo, resound, boom, roar, grumble.

► **noun** ① a roll of wrapping paper **CYLINDER**, tube, scroll, bolt ② a roll of film, **REEL**, spool. ③ a roll of notes **WAD**, bundle ④ a roll of the dice, **THROW**, toss, turn, spin. ⑤ crusty rolls: **BREAD ROLL**, bun, bagel; *Brit* bap, muffin; *N* English barm; *N* Amer hoagie; *Military* slang wad. See list at **BREAD** ⑥ the electoral roll: **LIST**, register, directory, record, file,

index, catalogue, inventory, census ⑦ a roll of thunder **RUMBLE**, reverberation, echo, boom, clap, crack, roar, grumble

► **roll in** (*informal*) ① money has been rolling in: **POUR IN**, flood in, flow in ② he rolled in at nine o'clock **ARRIVE**, turn up, appear, show one's face, *informal* show up, roll up, blow in

► **rolling in it** (*informal*). See **RICH** sense 1

► **roll something out** **UNROLL**, spread out, unfurl, unfold, open (out), unwind, uncoil

► **roll something up** **FOLD** (up), furl, wind up, coil (up), bundle up

► **roll up** (*informal*) See **ROLL IN** sense 2

rollicking 1 ► **noun** (*Brit informal*) I got a rollicking for being late. See **LECTURE** noun sense 2

rollicking 2 ► **adjective** a rollicking party **LIVELY**, boisterous, exuberant, spirited, riotous, noisy, wild, rowdy, roisterous, *informal* rumbustious, *N* Amer *informal* rambunctious

roly-poly ► **adjective** (*informal*) **CHUBBY**, plump, fat, stout, rotund, round, dumpy, chunky, portly, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, bulky, corpulent, *informal* tubby, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery, *Brit informal* podgy, *N* Amer *informal* zaftig, corn-fed

—**OPPOSITES** skinny

romance ► **noun** ① their romance blossomed **LOVE**, passion, ardour, adoration, devotion, affection, fondness, attachment ② he's had many romances **LOVE AFFAIR**, relationship, liaison, courtship, attachment, flirtation, dalliance ③ an author of historical romances **LOVE STORY**, novel, romantic fiction, *informal* tear-jerker ④ the romance of the Far East **MYSTERY**, glamour, excitement, exoticism, mystique, appeal, allure, charm

► **verb** ① (dated) he was romancing Meg: woo, chase, pursue, go out with, pay court to, *informal* see, go steady with, date, dated court, make love to ② I am romancing the past **ROMANTICIZE**, idealize, paint a rosy picture of

romantic ► **adjective** ① he's so romantic **LOVING**, amorous, passionate, tender, affectionate; *informal* lovey-dovey ② romantic songs: **SENTIMENTAL**, hearts-and-flowers, slushy, mushy, sloppy; mawkish, sickly, saccharine, syrupy, *informal* schmaltzy, gooey, treacly, cheesy, corny, *Brit informal* soppy; *N* Amer *informal* cornball, sappy. ③ a romantic setting: **IDYLIC**, picturesque, fairy-tale, beautiful, lovely, charming, pretty ④ romantic notions of rural communities **IDEALISTIC**, idealized, unrealistic, fanciful, impractical; head-in-the-clouds, starry-eyed, optimistic, hopeful, visionary, utopian, fairy-tale

—**OPPOSITES** unsentimental, realistic

► **noun** an incurable romantic: **IDEALIST**, sentimentalist, romanticist, dreamer, visionary, utopian, Don Quixote, fantasist; *N* Amer fantasist.

—**OPPOSITES** realist

Romeo ► **noun** **LADIES' MAN**, Don Juan, Casanova, Lothario, womanizer, playboy, lover, seducer, philanderer, flirt; *gigolo*; *informal* ladykiller, stud.

romp ► **verb** ① two fox cubs romped playfully: **PLAY**, frolic, frisk, gambol, skip, prance, caper, cavort, rollick; dated sport. ② South Africa romped to a win: **SAIL**, coast, sweep; win hands down, run away with it; *informal* win by a mile, walk it.

roof

■ **hit the roof** (informal) BE VERY ANGRY, be furious, lose one's temper; informal go mad, go crazy, go wild, go bananas, have a fit, blow one's top, do one's nut, go up the wall, go off the deep end, go ape, flip, lose one's rag, *Brit informal* go spare

room ► **noun** ① *there isn't much room* SPACE, headroom, legroom, area, expanse, extent, informal elbow room. ② *room for improvement* SCOPE, capacity, leeway, latitude, freedom, opportunity, chance ③ *he wandered around the room* CHAMBER See list ④ *he had rooms in the Pepsy building* LODGINGS, quarters, accommodation; a suite, an apartment; informal a pad, digs

► **verb** *he roomed there in September* LODGE, board, live, stay, be quartered, be housed, formal dwell, reside, sojourn

Rooms

anteroom	lavatory
assembly room	lecture room
attic	library
basement	living room
bathroom	lobby
bedroom	locker room
bedsit	loo
bed-sitting room	lounge
boardroom	loft
boiler room	lumber room
boudoir	meeting room
boxroom	morning room
breakfast room	nursery
buttery	office
cell	pantry
cellar	parlour
changing room	playroom
chill-out room	reception room
classroom	recreation room
cloakroom	rumpus room
common room	salon
conference room	scullery
conservatory	sickroom
consulting room	sitting room
day room	smoking room
den	snug
dining room	spare room
drawing room	stateroom
dressing room	still room
fitting room	stockroom
Florida room	storeroom
foyer	studio
front room	study
green room	sun lounge
guardroom	tack room
guest room	taproom
hall	toilet
kitchen	utility room
kitchenette	waiting room
landing	ward
larder	withdrawing room.

roomy ► **adjective** SPACIOUS, capacious, sizeable, generous, big, large, extensive, voluminous, ample; formal commodious.
—OPPOSITES cramped.

root ► **noun** ① *a plant's roots*: rootstock, tuber, rootlet; Botany rhizome, radicle. ② *the root of the problem*: SOURCE, origin, germ, beginnings, genesis; cause, reason, basis, foundation, bottom,

seat; core, heart, nub, essence; formal radix. ③ *he rejected his roots*: ORIGINS, beginnings, family, ancestors, predecessors, heritage; birth-place, homeland

—RELATED TERMS radical, rhizo-

► **verb** ① *has the shoot rooted?* TAKE ROOT, grow roots, establish, strike, take ② *root the cuttings* PLANT, bed out, sow ③ *he rooted around in the cupboard* RUMMAGE, hunt, search, rifle, delve, forage, dig, nose, poke, *Brit informal* rootle

■ **put down roots** SETTLE, establish oneself, set up home.

■ **root and branch** ① *the firm should be eradicated*, root and branch COMPLETELY, entirely, wholly, totally, thoroughly ② *a root-and-branch reform* COMPLETE, total, thorough, radical

■ **root for** (informal) CHEER (ON), applaud, support, encourage

■ **root something out** ① *the hedge was rooted out* UPROOT, deracinate, pull up, grub out ② *root out corruption* ERADICATE, eliminate, weed out, destroy, wipe out, stamp out, extirpate, abolish, end, put a stop to ③ *he rooted out a dark secret* UNEARTH, dig up, bring to light, uncover, discover, dredge up, ferret out, expose

■ **take root** ① *leave the plants to take root* GERMINATE, sprout, establish, strike, take ② *Christianity took root in Persia* BECOME ESTABLISHED, take hold, develop, thrive, flourish

rooted ► **adjective** ① *views rooted in Indian culture* EMBEDDED, fixed, established, entrenched, ingrained ② *Neil was rooted to the spot* FROZEN, riveted, paralysed, glued, fixed, stock-still, motionless, unmoving

rootless ► **adjective** ITINERANT, unsettled, drifting, roving, footloose, homeless, of no fixed abode

rope ► **noun** CORD, cable, line, hawser, string See list

—RELATED TERMS funicular

► **verb** *his feet were roped together* TIE, bind, lash, truss, secure, moor, fasten, attach, hitch, tether, lasso

■ **know the ropes** (informal) KNOW WHAT TO DO, know the routine, know one's way around, know one's stuff, know what's what, be experienced, informal know the drill, know the score

■ **rope someone in/into** PERSUADE TO/INTO, talk into, inveigle into, enlist, engage

Types of Rope

bobstay	guy	rawhide
bolt rope	halyard	rode
bowline	hawser	runner
brace	hobble	running rope
brails	Inhaul	seizing
breaching	jackstay	sheet
buntline	jib sheet	slip rope
cable	lanyard	span
catenary	lariat	stay
cord	lasso	sugan
cordage	lazy jack	tack
downhaul	leg-rope	tackle fall
foot rope	manrope	tether
foresheet	marline	topping lift
forestay	noose	top rope
gantline	outhaul	tow rope
guest rope	painter	vang
guide rope	ratlines	warp



ropy ▶ **adjective** ① *ropy strands of lava* STRINGY, thready, fibrous, filamentous, viscous, sticky, mucilaginous, thick ② (*Bnt informal*) *I feel a bit ropy* See ILL adjective sense 1 ③ (*Bnt informal*) *ropy defending from the home team* See SUBSTANDARD

roster ▶ **noun** SCHEDULE, list, listing, register, agenda, calendar, table, *Bnt rota*

rostrum ▶ **noun** DAIS, platform, podium, stage, soapbox

rosy ▶ **adjective** ① *a rosy complexion* PINK, pinkish, roseate, reddish, glowing, healthy, fresh, radiant, blooming, blushing, flushed, ruddy, high-coloured, florid ② *his future looks rosy* PROMISING, optimistic, auspicious, hopeful, encouraging, favourable, bright, golden, *informal* upbeat

—OPPOSITES pale, bleak

rot ▶ **verb** ① *the floorboards rotted* DECAY, decompose, become rotten, disintegrate, crumble, perish ② *the meat began to rot* GO BAD, go off, spoil, moulder, putrefy, fester ③ *poor neighbourhoods have been left to rot* DETERIORATE, degenerate, decline, decay, go to rack and ruin, go to seed, go downhill, *informal* go to pot, go to the dogs

—RELATED TERMS sapro-

—OPPOSITES improve

▶ **noun** ① *the leaves turned black with rot* DECAY, decomposition, mould, mouldiness, mildew, blight, canker, putrefaction, putrescence ② *traditionalists said the rot had set in* DETERIORATION, decline, corruption, cancer ③ (*informal*) *stop talking rot* See NONSENSE sense 1

—OPPOSITES sense

rota ▶ **noun** (*Bnt*) See ROSTER

rotary ▶ **adjective** ROTATING, rotatory, rotational, revolving, turning, spinning, gyrating, gyratory

rotate ▶ **verb** ① *the wheels rotate continually* REVOLVE, go round, turn (round), spin, gyrate, whirl, twirl, swivel, circle, pivot ② *many nurses rotate jobs* ALTERNATE, take turns, change, switch, interchange, exchange, swap, move around

rotation ▶ **noun** ① *the rotation of the wheels* REVOLVING, turning, spinning, gyration, circling ② *a rotation of the Earth* TURN, revolution, orbit, spin ③ *each member is chair for six months in rotation* SEQUENCE, succession, alternation, cycle

—RELATED TERMS gyro-

rote

■ **by rote** MECHANICALLY, automatically, parrot-fashion, unthinkingly, mindlessly, from memory, by heart

rotten ▶ **adjective** ① *rotten meat* DECAYING, rotting, bad, off, decomposing, putrid, putrescent, perished, mouldy, mouldering, mildewy, rancid, festering, fetid, addled, maggoty, wormy, flyblown ② *rotten teeth* DECAYING, decayed, carious, black, disintegrating, crumbling ③ *he's rotten to the core* CORRUPT, unprincipled, dishonest, dishonourable, unscrupulous, untrustworthy, immoral, villainous, bad, wicked, evil, iniquitous, venal, *informal* crooked, warped, *Bnt informal* bent ④ (*informal*) *a rotten thing to do* NASTY, unkind, unpleasant, obnoxious, vile, contemptible, despicable, shabby, spiteful, mean, malicious, hateful, hurtful, unfair, uncharitable, uncalled for, *informal* dirty, low-down, *Bnt informal* out of order ⑤ (*informal*) *he was a rotten singer*: BAD, poor, dreadful, awful,

terrible, frightful, atrocious, hopeless, inadequate, inferior, substandard, *informal* crummy, pathetic, useless, lousy, appalling, abysmal, dire, *Bnt informal* duff, rubbish, a load of pants ⑥ (*informal*) *I feel rotten about it* GUILTY, conscience-stricken, remorseful, ashamed, shamefaced, chastened, contrite, sorry, regretful, repentant, penitent ⑦ (*informal*) *I felt rotten with that cold* See ILL adjective sense 1

—OPPOSITES fresh, honourable, kind, good, well

rotter ▶ **noun** (*informal, dated*) See SCOUNDREL

rotund ▶ **adjective** ① *a small, rotund man* PLUMP, chubby, fat, stout, portly, dumpy, round, chunky, overweight, heavy, paunchy, ample, flabby, fleshy, bulky, corpulent, obese, *informal* tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery, *Bnt informal* podgy, *N Amer informal* zaftig, corn-fed ② *rotund cauldrons* ROUND, bulbous, spherical, spheric, *poetic/literary* orbicular

—OPPOSITES thin

roué ▶ **noun** LIBERTINE, rake, debauchee, degenerate, profligate, lecher, seducer, womanizer, philanderer, adulterer, Don Juan, Lothario, *informal* ladykiller, lech, dirty old man

rough ▶ **adjective** ① *rough ground* UNEVEN, irregular, bumpy, lumpy, knobby, stony, rocky, rugged, rutted, pitted, rutty ② *the terrier's rough coat* COARSE, bristly, scratchy, prickly, shaggy, hairy, bushy ③ *rough skin* DRY, leathery, weather-beaten, chapped, calloused, scaly, scabrous ④ *his voice was rough* GRUFF, hoarse, harsh, rasping, raspy, husky, throaty, gravelly, guttural ⑤ *rough red wine* SHARP, sour, acidic, acid, vinegary, acidulous ⑥ *he gets rough when he's drunk* VIOLENT, brutal, vicious, AGGRESSIVE, belligerent, pugnacious, thuggish, boisterous, rowdy, disorderly, unruly, riotous ⑦ *a machine that can take rough handling* CARELESS, clumsy, inept, unskilful ⑧ *rough manners* BOORISH, loudish, oafish, brutish, coarse, crude, uncouth, vulgar, unrefined, unladylike, ungentlemanly, uncultured, unmannerly, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, ungracious, rude ⑨ *rough seas* TURBULENT, stormy, tempestuous, violent, heavy, heaving, choppy ⑩ (*informal*) *I've had a rough time* DIFFICULT, hard, tough, bad, unpleasant, demanding, arduous ⑪ (*informal*) *you were a bit rough on her* HARSH, hard, tough, stern, severe, unfair, unjust, insensitive, nasty, cruel, unkind, unsympathetic, brutal, heartless, merciless ⑫ (*informal*) *I'm feeling rough* See ILL adjective sense 1 ⑬ *a rough draft* PRELIMINARY, hasty, quick, sketchy, cursory, basic, crude, rudimentary, raw, unpolished, incomplete, unfinished ⑭ *a rough estimate* APPROXIMATE, inexact, imprecise, vague, estimated, hazy, *N Amer informal* ballpark ⑮ *the accommodation is rather rough* PLAIN, BASIC, simple, rough and ready, rude, crude, primitive, spartan

—OPPOSITES smooth, sleek, soft, dulcet, sweet, gentle, careful, refined, calm, easy, kind, well, exact, luxurious

▶ **noun** ① *the artist's initial roughs* SKETCH, draft, outline, mock-up ② (*Bnt*) *a bunch of roughs attacked him* RUFFIAN, thug, lout, hooligan, hoodlum, rowdy, *informal* tough, roughneck, bruiser, gorilla, yahoo, *Bnt informal* yob, yobbo.

▶ **verb** *rough the surface with sandpaper*: ROUGHEN

■ **rough something out** DRAFT, sketch out, outline, block out, mock up, *formal* adumbrate

■ **rough someone up** (informal) BEAT UP, attack, assault, knock about/around, batter, manhandle, informal do over, beat the living daylights out of, *Bnt* informal duff up

rough and ready ▶ adjective BASIC, simple, crude, unrefined, unsophisticated, makeshift, provisional, stopgap, improvised, extemporary, ad hoc, hurried, sketchy

rough and tumble ▶ noun SCUFFLE, fight, brawl, melee, free-for-all, fracas, rumpus, horseplay, *Law*, dated affray, informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, shindy, *N Amer* informal rough house

roughly ▶ adverb ① he shoved her roughly away VIOLENTLY, forcefully, forcibly, abruptly, uncere- moniously ② they treated him roughly HARSHLY, unkindly, unsympathetically, brutally, savage- ly, mercilessly, cruelly, heartlessly ③ roughly £2.4 million APPROXIMATELY, (round) about, around, circa, in the region of, something like of the order of, or so, or thereabouts, more or less, give or take, nearly, close to, approaching, *Bnt* getting on for

roughneck ▶ noun (informal) See RUFFIAN

round ▶ adjective ① a round window CIRCULAR, disc-shaped, ring-shaped, hoop-shaped, spheri- cal, spheroidal, globular, globe-shaped, orb- shaped, cylindrical, bulbous, rounded, rotund, technical annular, discoid, discoidal, poetic/literary orbicular ② a short, round man PLUMP, chubby, fat, stout, rotund, portly, dumpty, chunky, over- weight, pot-bellied, paunchy, flabby, corpulent, fleshy, bulky, obese, informal tubby, roly-poly, pudgy, beefy, porky, blubbery, *Bnt* informal podgy, *N Amer* informal zaftig, corn-fed ③ his deep, round voice SONOROUS, resonant, rich, full, mellow, mellifluous, orotund ④ a round dozen COMPLETE, entire, whole, full ⑤ she berated him in round terms CANDID, frank, direct, honest, truthful, straightforward, plain, blunt, forth- right, bald, explicit, unequivocal
-OPPOSITES thin, reedy

▶ noun ① mould the dough into rounds BALL, sphere, globe, orb, circle, disc, ring, hoop, tech- nical annulus ② a policeman on his rounds CIR- CUIT, beat, route, tour ③ the first round of the contest STAGE, level, heat, game, bout, contest ④ an endless round of parties SUCCESSION, se- quence, series, cycle ⑤ the gun fires thirty rounds a second BULLET, cartridge, shell, shot

▶ preposition & adverb ① the alleys round the station AROUND, about, encircling, near, in the vicinity of, orbiting ② casinos dotted round France THROUGHOUT, all over, here and there in

▶ verb the ship rounded the point GO ROUND, travel round, skart, circumnavigate, orbit

■ **round about** APPROXIMATELY, about, around, circa, roughly, of the order of, something like, more or less, as near as dammit to, close to, near to, practically, or so, or thereabouts, give or take a few, not far off, nearly, almost, ap- proaching, *Bnt* getting on for

■ **round the bend** (informal) See MAD sense 1

■ **round the clock** ① we're working round the clock. DAY AND NIGHT, night and day, all the time, (morning, noon, and night), continuous- ly, non-stop, steadily, unrelentingly; informal 24-7 ② round-the-clock supervision. CONTINUOUS, con- stant, non-stop, continual, uninterrupted

■ **round something off** ① the square edges were rounded off SMOOTH OFF, plane off, sand off,

level off ② the party rounded off a successful year COMPLETE, finish off, crown, cap, top, conclude, close, end

■ **round on someone** SNAP AT, attack, turn on, weigh into, let fly at, lash out at, hit out at, informal bite someone's head off, jump down someone's throat, lay into, tear into, *Bnt* informal have a go at, *N Amer* informal light into

■ **round someone/something up** GATHER TO- GETHER, herd together, muster, marshal, rally, assemble, collect, group, *N Amer* corral

roundabout ▶ adjective ① a roundabout route CIRCUITOUS, indirect, meandering, serpentine, tortuous ② I asked in a roundabout sort of way INDIRECT, oblique, circuitous, circumlocutory, periphrastic, digressive, long-winded, evasive
-OPPOSITES direct

▶ noun (*Bnt*) ① go straight on at the roundabout *N Amer* rotary, traffic circle ② a roundabout with wooden horses MERRY-GO-ROUND, carousel, archaic whirligig

roundly ▶ adverb ① he was roundly condemned VEHEMENTLY, emphatically, fiercely, forcefully, severely, plainly, frankly, candidly ② she was roundly defeated UTTERLY, completely, thorough- ly, decisively, conclusively, heavily, soundly

round-up ▶ noun ① a cattle round-up ASSEMBLY, muster, rally, *N Amer* rodeo ② the sports round- up SUMMARY, synopsis, overview, review, out- line, digest, precis, *N Amer* wrap-up, informal recap

rouse ▶ verb ① he roused Ralph at dawn WAKE (UP), awaken, arouse, *Bnt* informal knock up, for- mal waken ② she roused and looked around WAKE UP, awake, awaken, come to, get up, rise, bestir oneself, formal arise ③ he roused the crowd STIR UP, excite, galvanize, electrify, stimulate, in- spire, inspirit, move, inflame, agitate, goad, provoke, incite, spur on, *N Amer* light a fire under ④ he's got a temper when he's roused PRO- VOKE, annoy, anger, infuriate, madden, incense, vex, irk, informal aggravate ⑤ her disappearance roused my suspicions AROUSE, awaken, prompt, provoke, stimulate, pique, trigger, spark off, touch off, kindle, elicit
-OPPOSITES calm, pacify, allay

rousing ▶ adjective STIRRING, inspiring, excit- ing, stimulating, moving, electrifying, invigor- ating, energizing, exhilarating, enthusiastic, vigorous, spirited, inflammatory

route ▶ noun ① the army's ignominious rout RE- TREAT, flight ② Newcastle scored 13 tries in the rout CRUSHING DEFEAT, trouncing, annihilation, debacle, fiasco, informal licking, hammering, thrashing, pasting, drubbing, massacre
-OPPOSITES victory

▶ verb ① his army was routed PUT TO FLIGHT, drive off, scatter, defeat, beat, conquer, vanquish, crush, overpower ② he routed the defending champion BEAT HOLLOW, trounce, defeat, get the better of, informal lick, hammer, clobber, thrash, paste, demolish, annihilate, drub, cane, wipe the floor with, walk all over, make mincemeat of, massacre, slaughter, *Bnt* informal stuff; *N Amer* informal cream, shellac, skunk
-OPPOSITES lose

route ▶ noun a different route to the shops. WAY, course, road, path, direction, passage, journey

▶ verb enquiries are routed to the relevant desk DIR- ECT, send, convey, dispatch, forward



routine ▶ noun ① *his morning routine* PROCEDURE, practice, pattern, drill, regime, regimen, programme, schedule, plan, formula, method, system, customs, habits, *formal* wont ② *a stand-up routine* ACT, performance, number, turn, piece, *informal* spiel, patter

▶ adjective ① *a routine health check* STANDARD, regular, customary, normal, usual, ordinary, typical, everyday, common, commonplace, conventional, habitual, *poetic/literary* wonted ② *a routine action movie* BORING, tedious, tiresome, wearisome, monotonous, humdrum, run-of-the-mill, prosaic, dreary, pedestrian, predictable, hackneyed, stock, unimaginative, unoriginal, banal, trite

—OPPOSITES unusual

rove ▶ verb WANDER, roam, ramble, drift, meander, range, travel, *Scottish* stravaig, *archaic* peregrinate

rover ▶ noun WANDERER, traveller, globetrotter, drifter, bird of passage, roamer, itinerant, transient, nomad, gypsy, Romany, tramp, vagrant, vagabond, *N Amer* hobo

row¹ ▶ noun ① *rows of children* LINE, column, file, queue, procession, chain, string, succession; *informal* crocodile ② *the middle row of seats* TIER, line, rank, bank

■ *in a row three days in a row* CONSECUTIVELY, in succession, running, straight, *informal* on the trot

row² (*Brit informal*) ▶ noun ① *have you two had a row?* ARGUMENT, quarrel, squabble, fight, contretemps, falling-out, disagreement, dispute, clash, altercation, shouting match, *informal* tiff, set-to, run-in, slanging match, spat, *Brit informal* barney, bust-up ② *the row the crowd was making* DIN, noise, racket, clamour, uproar, tumult, hubbub, commotion, brouhaha, rumpus, pandemonium, babel, *informal* hullabaloo ③ *Mum give me a row* REPRIMAND, rebuke, reproof, admonition, reproach, remonstrance, lecture, criticism, *informal* telling-off, slap on the wrist, dressing-down, roasting, tongue-lashing; *Brit informal* ticking-off, carpeting, rollicking, rocket

▶ verb *they rowed about money* ARGUE, quarrel, squabble, bicker, fight, fall out, disagree, have words, dispute, wrangle, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads, *informal* scrap, argufy.

rowdy ▶ adjective *rowdy youths* UNRULY, disorderly, obstreperous, riotous, undisciplined, uncontrollable, ungovernable, disruptive, out of control, rough, wild, lawless; boisterous, uproarious, noisy, loud, clamorous, *informal* rumbustious, *N Amer informal* rambunctious

—OPPOSITES peaceful

▶ noun *the pub filled up with rowdies*. RUFFIAN, troublemaker, lout, hooligan, thug, hoodlum, *Brit* tearaway, *informal* tough, bruiser, yahoo, *Brit informal* rough, yob, yobbo

royal ▶ adjective ① *the royal prerogative* REGAL, kingly, queenly, princely, sovereign, monarchical. ② *a royal welcome* EXCELLENT, fine, magnificent, splendid, superb, wonderful, first-rate, first-class; *informal* fantastic, great, tremendous

rub ▶ verb ① *Polly rubbed her arm*. MASSAGE, knead, stroke, pat ② *he rubbed sun lotion on her back* APPLY, smear, spread, work in ③ *my shoes rub painfully* CHAFE, pinch; hurt, be painful.

▶ noun ① *she gave his back a rub*: MASSAGE, rub-down. ② *I gave my shoes a rub*: POLISH, wipe, clean ③ *it's too complicated — that's the rub*:

PROBLEM, difficulty, trouble, drawback, hindrance, impediment, snag, hitch, catch

■ **rub along** (*Brit informal*) MANAGE, cope, get by, make do, muddle along/through; *informal* make out

■ **rub something down** CLEAN, sponge, wash, groom.

■ **rub it in** (*informal*) EMPHASIZE, stress, underline, highlight, go on, harp on, *informal* rub someone's nose in it

■ **rub off on** BE TRANSFERRED TO, be passed on to, be transmitted to, be communicated to, affect, influence

■ **rub something out** ERASE, delete, remove, efface, obliterate, expunge

■ **rub shoulders with** ASSOCIATE WITH, mingle with, fraternize with, socialize with, mix with, keep company with, consort with, *N Amer* rub elbows with, *informal* hang around/out with, hobnob with, knock about/around with

■ **rub something up** POLISH, buff up, burnish, shine, wax, clean, wipe

■ **rub someone up the wrong way** (*Brit*) See ANNOY

rubbish ▶ noun ① *throw away that rubbish* REFUSE, waste, litter, debris, detritus, scrap, dross, flotsam and jetsam, lumber, sweepings, scraps, dregs, *N Amer* garbage, trash, *informal* dreck, junk ② *she's talking rubbish* NONSENSE, balderdash, gibberish, claptrap, blarney, moonshine, garbage, *informal* hogwash, baloney, tripe, drivel, bilge, bunk, piffle, poppycock, phooey, twaddle, gobbledegook, *Brit informal* codswallop, cobblers, tosh, cack, *Scottish & N English informal* havers, *N Amer informal* bushwa, applesauce.

▶ verb (*Brit informal*) *they often rubbish trade unions* See CRITICIZE

▶ adjective (*Brit informal*) *a rubbish team* See HOPELESS sense 3

rubbishy ▶ adjective (*informal*) WORTHLESS, substandard, trashy, inferior, second-rate, third-rate, poor-quality, cheap, shoddy, bad, poor, dreadful, awful, terrible, *informal* crummy, appalling, lousy, dire, tacky; *Brit informal* duff, chronic, rubbish

rubble ▶ noun DEBRIS, remains, ruins, wreckage

ruction ▶ noun (*informal*) DISTURBANCE, noise, racket, din, commotion, fuss, uproar, furore, hue and cry, rumpus, fracas, (**ructions**) trouble, hell to pay, *informal* to-do, hullabaloo, hoo-ha, ballyhoo, stunk, kerfuffle, *Brit informal* row, carry-on.

ruddy ▶ adjective ① *a ruddy complexion*. ROSY, red, pink, roseate, rubicund, healthy, glowing, fresh, flushed, blushing, florid, high-coloured; *poetic/literary* rufescent. ② (*Brit informal*) *you ruddy idiot!* See DAMNED sense 2.

—OPPOSITES pale.

rude ▶ adjective ① *a rude man*. ILL-MANNERED, bad-mannered, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, unmannerly, mannerless; impertinent, insolent, impudent, disrespectful, cheeky; churlish, curt, brusque, brash, offhand, short, sharp; offensive, insulting, derogatory, disparaging, abusive; tactless, undiplomatic, uncomplimentary ② *rude jokes*: VULGAR, coarse, smutty, dirty, filthy, crude, lewd, obscene, off colour, offensive, indelicate, tasteless; risqué, naughty, ribald, bawdy, racy; *informal* blue; *Brit informal* near the knuckle; *N Amer informal* gamy; *euphemistic*



adult ③ *a rude awakening*: ABRUPT, sudden, sharp, startling; unpleasant, nasty, harsh ④ (*dated*) *a rude cabin*: PRIMITIVE, crude, rudimentary, rough, simple, basic. ⑤ (*archaic*) *a rude and barbarous people*: UNEDUCATED, ignorant, illiterate, uncultured, uncivilized, unrefined, rough, coarse, uncouth, boorish

—OPPOSITES polite, clean, luxurious, civilized

rudimentary ▶ adjective ① *rudimentary carpentry skills*: BASIC, elementary, primary, fundamental, essential. ② *the equipment was rudimentary*: PRIMITIVE, crude, simple, unsophisticated, rough (and ready), makeshift ③ *a rudimentary thumb*: VESTIGIAL, undeveloped, incomplete; Biology abortive, primitive

—OPPOSITES advanced, sophisticated, developed

rudiments ▶ plural noun BASICS, fundamentals, essentials, first principles, foundation, *informal* nuts and bolts, ABC.

rue ▶ verb REGRET, be sorry about, feel remorseful about, repent of, reproach oneself for, deplore, lament, bemoan, bewail

rueful ▶ adjective REGRETFUL, apologetic, sorry, remorseful, shamefaced, sheepish, hangdog, contrite, repentant, penitent, conscience-stricken, self-reproachful, sorrowful, sad

ruffian ▶ noun THUG, lout, hooligan, hoodlum, vandal, delinquent, rowdy, scoundrel, villain, rogue, bully boy, brute, *informal* tough, bruiser, heavy, yahoo, *Brit informal* rough, yob, yobbo; *N Amer informal* goon

ruffle ▶ verb ① *he ruffled her hair*: DISARRANGE, tousle, dishevel, rumple, ruffle, disorder, mess up, tangle, *N Amer informal* muss up ② *the wind ruffled the water*: RIPPLE, riffle ③ *don't let him ruffle you*: ANNOY, irritate, vex, nettle, anger, exasperate; disconcert, unnerve, fluster, agitate, harass, upset, disturb, discomfit, put off, perturb, unsettle, bother, worry, trouble, *informal* rattle, faze, throw, get to, rile, needle, aggravate, bug, peeve, *Brit informal* wind up, nark

—OPPOSITES smooth, soothe

▶ noun *a shirt with ruffles*: FRILL, flounce, ruff, ruche, jabot, furbelow

rug ▶ noun ① *they sat on the rug*: MAT, carpet; *N Amer* floorcloth See list at RUG ② *he was wrapped in a tartan rug*: BLANKET, coverlet, throw, wrap; *N Amer* lap robe ③ (*informal*) *he's wearing a ridiculous rug*: TOUPEE, wig, hairpiece

rugged ▶ adjective ① *the rugged coast path*: ROUGH, uneven, bumpy, rocky, stony, pitted, jagged, craggy ② *a rugged vehicle*: ROBUST, durable, sturdy, strong, tough, resilient. ③ *rugged manly types*: WELL BUILT, burly, strong, muscular, muscly, brawny, strapping, husky, hulking, tough, hardy, robust, sturdy, lusty, solid, *informal* hunky, beefy. ④ *his rugged features*: STRONG, craggy, rough-hewn; manly, masculine, irregular, weathered

—OPPOSITES smooth, flimsy, weedy, delicate

ruin ▶ noun ① *the buildings were saved from ruin*: DISINTEGRATION, decay, disrepair, dilapidation, ruination; destruction, demolition, wreckage. ② *the ruins of a church*: REMAINS, remnants, fragments, relics; rubble, debris, wreckage. ③ *electoral ruin for Labour*: DOWNFALL, collapse, defeat, undoing, failure, breakdown, ruination, Waterloo. ④ *shopkeepers are facing ruin*: BANKRUPTCY,

insolvency, penury, poverty, destitution, impoverishment, indigence, failure.

—OPPOSITES preservation, triumph, wealth

▶ verb ① *don't ruin my plans*: WRECK, destroy, spoil, mar, blight, shatter, dash, torpedo, scotch, mess up, sabotage, *informal* screw up, foul up, put the kibosh on, do for, mix, queer, *Brit informal* scupper ② *the bank's collapse ruined them all*: BANKRUPT, make insolvent, impoverish, pauperize, wipe out, break, cripple, bring someone to their knees ③ *a country ruined by civil war*: DESTROY, devastate, lay waste, ravage, raze, demolish, wreck, wipe out, flatten

—OPPOSITES save, rebuild

■ **in ruins** ① *the abbey is in ruins*: DERELICT, ruined, in disrepair, falling to pieces, dilapidated, tumbledown, ramshackle, decrepit, decaying, ruinous ② *his career is in ruins*: DESTROYED, ruined, in pieces, in ashes, over, finished, *informal* in tatters, on the rocks, done for

ruined ▶ adjective DERELICT, in ruins, dilapidated, ruinous, tumbledown, ramshackle, decrepit, falling to pieces, crumbling, decaying, disintegrating, *informal* shambly

ruinous ▶ adjective ① *a ruinous trade war*: DISASTROUS, devastating, catastrophic, calamitous, crippling, crushing, damaging, destructive, harmful, costly ② *ruinous interest rates*: EXTORTIONATE, exorbitant, excessive, sky-high, outrageous, inflated, *Brit* over the odds, *informal* criminal, steep ③ *a ruinous chapel*: See RUINED

rule ▶ noun ① *health and safety rules*: REGULATION, ruling, directive, order, act, law, statute, edict, canon, mandate, command, dictate, decree, fiat, injunction, commandment, stipulation, requirement, guideline, direction, *formal* ordinance ② *church attendance on Sunday was the general rule*: PROCEDURE, practice, protocol, convention, norm, routine, custom, habit, *formal* praxis, wont ③ *moderation is the golden rule*: PRECEPT, principle, standard, axiom, truth, maxim ④ *Punjab came under British rule*: CONTROL, jurisdiction, command, power, dominion; government, administration, sovereignty, leadership, supremacy, authority, raj

—RELATED TERMS hegemonic, -cracy, -archy

▶ verb ① *El Salvador was ruled by Spain*: GOVERN, preside over, control, lead, dominate, run, head, administer, manage ② *Mary ruled for six years*: BE IN POWER, be in control, be in command, be in charge, govern, reign, be monarch, be sovereign. ③ *the judge ruled that they be set free*: DECREE, order, pronounce, judge, adjudge, ordain, decide, find, determine, resolve, settle ④ *subversion ruled*: PREVAIL, predominate, be the order of the day, reign supreme, *formal* obtain

■ **as a rule** USUALLY, generally, in general, normally, ordinarily, customarily, for the most part, on the whole, by and large, in the main, mainly, mostly, commonly, typically.

■ **rule something out** EXCLUDE, eliminate, disregard, preclude, prohibit, prevent, disallow

ruler ▶ noun LEADER, sovereign, monarch, potentate, king, queen, emperor, empress, prince, princess, crowned head, head of state, president, premier, governor; overlord, chief, chieftain, lord; dictator, autocrat. See list.

—OPPOSITES subject.

ruling ▶ noun *the judge's ruling*: JUDGEMENT, decision, adjudication, finding, verdict; pronounce-



Titles of Rulers

aga	Khdiva	rani
archduke	maharaja	regent
caesar	mikado	satrap
caliph	mogul	shah
emir	nawab	sheikh
emperor	Negus	shogun
empress	Nizam	sultan
Führer	pharaoh	Tenno
grand duke	prince	tsar/czar
kaiser	princess	viceroy
king	queen	
khan	raja	

ment, resolution, decree, injunction

► **adjective** ① the ruling monarch REIGNING, sovereign, regnant ② Japan's ruling party GOVERNING, controlling, commanding, supreme, leading, dominant, ascendant ③ football was their ruling passion MAIN, chief, principal, major, prime, dominating, foremost, predominant, central, focal, informal number-one

rum ► **adjective** (Brit informal, dated). See PECULIAR sense 1

rumble ► **verb** BOOM, thunder, roll, roar, resound, reverberate, echo, grumble

rumbustious ► **adjective** (informal) See BOISTEROUS sense 1

ruminate ► **verb** ① we ruminated on life THINK ABOUT, contemplate, consider, meditate on, muse on, mull over, ponder on/over, deliberate about/on, chew over, puzzle over, formal cogitate about ② cows ruminating CHEW THE CUD

rummage ► **verb** SEARCH, hunt, root about/around, ferret about/around, fish about/around, poke around in, dig, delve, go through, explore, sift through, rifle through, Brit informal rootle around

rumour ► **noun** GOSSIP, hearsay, talk, tittle-tattle, speculation, word, on dit, (rumours) reports, stories, whispers, canards, informal the grapevine, the word on the street, the buzz, N Amer informal scuttlebutt

rump ► **noun** ① a smack on the rump REAR (END), seat, buttocks, cheeks, Brit bottom, informal backside, behind, BTM, sit-upon, derrière, Brit informal bum, botty, jacksie, N Amer informal butt, fanny, tush, tail, buns, booty, heinie, humorous fundament, posterior, stern, Anatomy nates ② the rump of the army REMAINDER, rest, remnant, remains

rumple ► **verb** ① the sheet was rumpled CRUMPLE, crease, wrinkle, crinkle, ruck (up), scrunch up, Brit ruckle ② Ian rumpled her hair RUFFLE, disarrange, tousle, dishevel, ruffle, mess up, N Amer informal muss up
—OPPOSITES smooth

rumpus ► **noun** DISTURBANCE, commotion, uproar, furore, brouhaha, hue and cry, ruckus, fracas, melee, tumult, noise, racket, din, informal to-do, hullabaloo, hoo-ha, kerfuffle, ballyhoo, Brit informal row, carry-on, Scottish informal stushie

run ► **verb** ① she ran across the road SPRINT, race, dart, rush, dash, hasten, hurry, scurry, scamper, hare, bolt, fly, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, speed, zoom, go like lightning, go hell for leather, go like the wind; jog, trot, informal tear, pelt, scoot, hotfoot it, leg it, belt,

zip, whip, Brit informal bomb, N Amer informal hightail it, barrel ② the robbers turned and ran FLEE, run away, run off, run for it, take flight, make off, take off, take to one's heels, make a break for it, bolt, make one's getaway, escape, informal beat it, clear off/out, vamoose, skedaddle, split, leg it, scam, Brit informal do a runner, scarper, do a bunk, N Amer informal light out, take a powder, skidoo, Austral informal shoot through ③ he ran in the marathon COMPETE, take part, participate ④ a shiver ran down my spine GO, pass, slide, move, travel ⑤ he ran his eye down the list CAST, pass, skim, flick ⑥ the road runs the length of the valley EXTEND, stretch, reach, continue ⑦ water ran from the eaves FLOW, pour, stream, gush, flood, cascade, roll, course, spill, trickle, drip, dribble, leak ⑧ a bus runs to Sorrento TRAVEL, shuttle, go ⑨ I'll run you home DRIVE, take, bring, ferry, chauffeur, give someone a lift ⑩ he runs a transport company BE IN CHARGE OF, manage, direct, control, head, govern, supervise, superintend, oversee, operate, conduct, own. ⑪ it's expensive to run a car MAINTAIN, keep, own, possess, have, drive ⑫ they ran some tests CARRY OUT, do, perform, execute ⑬ he left the engine running OPERATE, function, work, go, tick over, idle ⑭ the lease runs for twenty years BE VALID, last, be in effect, be operative, continue, be effective ⑮ the show ran for two years BE STAGED, be performed, be on, be mounted, be screened ⑯ he ran for president STAND FOR, be a candidate for, be a contender for ⑰ the paper ran the story PUBLISH, print, feature, carry, put out, release, issue ⑱ they run drugs SMUGGLE, traffic in, deal in ⑲ they were run out of town CHASE, drive, hound

► **noun** ① his morning run SPRINT, jog, dash, gallop, trot ② she did the school run ROUTE, journey, circuit, round, beat ③ a run in the car DRIVE, ride, turn, trip, excursion, outing, jaunt, airing, informal spin, tootle, Scottish informal hurl ④ an unbeaten run of victories SERIES, succession, sequence, string, chain, streak, spell, stretch, spate ⑤ a run on sterling DEMAND FOR, rush on ⑥ they had the run of her home FREE USE OF, unrestricted access to ⑦ the usual run of cafes TYPE, kind, sort, variety, class ⑧ against the run of play, he scored again TREND, tendency, course, direction, movement, drift, tide. ⑨ a chicken run ENCLOSURE, pen, coop ⑩ a ski run SLOPE, track, piste, N Amer trail ⑪ a run in her tights LADDER, rip, tear, snag, hole

■ **in the long run** EVENTUALLY, in the end, ultimately, when all is said and done, in the fullness of time, Brit informal at the end of the day.

■ **on the run** ON THE LOOSE, at large, loose, running away, fleeing, fugitive, informal AWOL, N Amer informal on the lam

■ **run across** MEET (BY CHANCE), come across, run into, chance on, stumble on, happen on, informal bump into

■ **run after** (informal) PURSUE, chase, make advances to, flirt with, informal make up to, come on to, be all over, vamp; dated set one's cap at

■ **run along** (informal) GO AWAY, be off with you, shoo, informal scam, buzz off, skedaddle, scat, beat it, get lost, shove off, clear off; Brit informal hop it, poetic/literary begone.

■ **run around** (informal) BE UNFAITHFUL, have affairs, philander; informal play the field, sleep



around, *Brit informal* play away, *N Amer informal* fool around

■ **run away** ① *her attacker ran away* See **RUN** verb sense 2 ② *she ran away with the championship* WIN EASILY, win hands down, *informal* win by a mile, walk it, romp home

■ **run down** DECLINE, degenerate, go downhill, go to seed, decay, go to rack and ruin, *informal* go to pot, go to the dogs

■ **run someone down** ① *he was run down by joyriders* RUN OVER, knock down/over, hit, strike ② *she ran him down in front of other people* CRITICIZE, denigrate, belittle, disparage, deprecate, find fault with, *informal* put down, knock, bad-mouth, *Brit informal* rubbish, slag off, *formal* derogate

■ **run something down** ① *she finally ran a copy of the book down* FIND, discover, locate, track down, trace, unearth ② *employers ran down their workforces gradually* REDUCE, cut back on, downsize, decrease, trim, phase out, wind down/up

■ **run for it.** See **RUN** verb sense 2

■ **run high** feelings were running high BE STRONG, be fervent, be passionate, be intense

■ **run in** heart disease runs in the family BE COMMON IN, be inherent in

■ **run someone in** (*informal*) See **ARREST** verb sense 1

■ **run into** ① *a car ran into his van* COLLIDE WITH, hit, strike, crash into, smash into, plough into, ram, impact ② *I ran into Hugo the other day* MEET (BY CHANCE) run across, chance on, stumble on, happen on, *informal* bump into ③ *we ran into a problem* EXPERIENCE, encounter, meet with, be faced with, be confronted with ④ *his debts run into six figures* REACH, extend to, be as much as

■ **run low** supplies were running low DWINDLE, diminish, become depleted, be used up, be in short supply, be tight

■ **run off** ① *the youths ran off* See **RUN** verb sense 2 ② (*informal*) *he ran off with her money* See **STEAL** verb sense 1

■ **run something off** ① *would you run off that list for me?* COPY, photocopy, xerox, duplicate, print, produce, do ② *run off some of the excess water* DRAIN, bleed, draw off, pump out

■ **run on** ① *the call ran on for hours* CONTINUE, go on, carry on, last, keep going, stretch ② *your mother does run on* TALK INCESSANTLY, talk a lot, go on, chatter on, ramble on, *informal* yak, gab, yabber, *Brit informal* rabbit on, witter on, chunter on, talk the hind leg off a donkey, *N Amer informal* run off at the mouth

■ **run out** ① *supplies ran out* BE USED UP, dry up, be exhausted, be finished, peter out ② *they ran out of cash* BE OUT OF, use up, consume, eat up, *informal* be fresh out of, be cleaned out of ③ *her contract ran out* EXPIRE, end, terminate, finish, lapse

■ **run out on someone** (*informal*) See **ABANDON** verb sense 3

■ **run over** ① *the bathwater ran over* OVERFLOW, spill over, brim over, *archaic* overbrim ② *the project ran over budget* EXCEED, go over, overshoot, overreach ③ *he quickly ran over the story* RECAPITULATE, repeat, run through, go over, reiterate, review, look over, read through, *informal* recap on

■ **run someone over.** See **RUN SOMEONE DOWN** sense 1

■ **run the show** (*informal*) BE IN CHARGE, be in control, be at the helm, be in the driving seat, be at the wheel, *informal* be the boss, call the shots

■ **run through** ① *they quickly ran through their money* SQUANDER, spend, fritter away, dissipate, waste, go through, consume, use up, *informal* blow ② *the attitude that runs through his writing* PERVADE, permeate, suffuse, imbue, *inform* ③ *he ran through his notes* See **RUN OVER** sense 3 ④ *let's run through scene three* REHEARSE, practise, go over, repeat, *N Amer* run down, *informal* recap on

■ **run someone through** STAB, pierce, transfix, impale

■ **run to** ① *the bill ran to £22,000* AMOUNT TO, add up to, total, come to, equal, reach, be as much as ② *we can't run to champagne* AFFORD, stretch to, manage ③ *he was running to fat* TEND TO, become, get, grow

runaway ► *noun* a teenage runaway FUGITIVE, escaper, escapee, refugee, truant, absconder, deserter

► *adjective* ① *a runaway horse* OUT OF CONTROL, escaped, loose, on the loose ② *a runaway victory* EASY, effortless, *informal* as easy as pie ③ *runaway inflation* RAMPANT, out of control, unchecked, unbridled

rundown ► *noun* SUMMARY, synopsis, precis, run-through, summarization, summation, review, overview, briefing, sketch, outline, *informal* low-down, recap

run down ► *adjective* ① *a run-down area of London* DILAPIDATED, tumbledown, ramshackle, derelict, ruinous, in ruins, crumbling, neglected, uncared-for, depressed, seedy, shabby, slummy, squalid, *informal* shambly, *Brit informal* grotty ② *she was feeling rather run down* UNWELL, ill, poorly, unhealthy, peaky, tired, drained, exhausted, fatigued, worn out, below par, washed out, *Brit* off colour, *informal* under the weather, *Brit informal* off, ropy, knackered, *Scottish informal* wabbit, *Austral/NZ informal* crook, dated seedy

run-in ► *noun* (*informal*) DISAGREEMENT, argument, dispute, altercation, confrontation, contretemps, quarrel, brush, encounter, tangle, fight, clash, *informal* set-to, spat, scrap, *Brit informal* row

runner ► *noun* ① *the runners were limbering up* ATHLETE, sprinter, hurdler, racer, jogger ② *a strawberry runner* SHOOT, offshoot, sprout, tendril, Botany stolon ③ *the bookmaker employed runners* MESSENGER, courier, errand boy, *informal* gofer

■ **do a runner** (*Brit informal*) See **ABSCOND**

running ► *noun* ① *his running was particularly fast* SPRINTING, sprint, racing, jogging, jog ② *the running of the school* ADMINISTRATION, management, organization, coordination, orchestration, handling, direction, control, regulation, supervision ③ *the smooth running of her department* OPERATION, working, function, performance

► *adjective* ① *running water* FLOWING, gushing, rushing, moving ② *a running argument* ON GOING, sustained, continuous, incessant, ceaseless, constant, perpetual, recurrent, recurring ③ *she was late two days running* IN SUCCESSION, in a row, in sequence, consecutively, straight, together, *informal* on the trot

■ **in the running** he's in the running for a prize
 LIKELY TO GET, a candidate for, in line for, on the shortlist for, up for

runny ▶ **adjective** LIQUEFIED, liquid, fluid, melted, molten, watery, thin
 -OPPOSITES solid

run-of-the-mill ▶ **adjective** ORDINARY, average, middle-of-the-road, commonplace, humdrum, mundane, standard, nondescript, characterless, conventional, unremarkable, unexceptional, uninteresting, dull, boring, routine, bland, lacklustre, *N Amer* garden-variety, *informal* bog-standard, nothing to write home about, nothing special, a dime a dozen; *Brit informal* common or garden.
 -OPPOSITES exceptional

rupture ▶ **noun** ① pipeline ruptures. BREAK, fracture, crack, burst, split, fissure ② a rupture due to personal differences RIFT, estrangement, falling-out, break-up, breach, split, separation, parting, division, schism, *informal* bust-up ③ an abdominal rupture: HERNIA

▶ **verb** ① the reactor core might rupture BREAK, fracture, crack, breach, burst, split, *informal* bust ② the problem ruptured their relationships SEVER, break off, breach, disrupt, *poetic/literary* sunder

rural ▶ **adjective** COUNTRY, countryside, bucolic, rustic, pastoral, agricultural, agrarian, *poetic/literary* sylvan, georgic
 -OPPOSITES urban

ruse ▶ **noun** PLOY, stratagem, tactic, scheme, trick, gambit, cunning plan, dodge, subterfuge, machination, wile, *Brit informal* wheeze

rush ▶ **verb** ① she rushed home HURRY, dash, run, race, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper, hasten, *informal* tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whup, hotfoot it, leg it, *Brit informal* bomb, *N Amer informal* hightail it ② water rushed along gutters FLOW, pour, gush, surge, stream, cascade, run, course ③ the tax was rushed through parliament PUSH, hurry, hasten, speed, hustle, press, force ④ they rushed the capture of troops ATTACK, charge, run at, assail, storm

▶ **noun** ① Tim made a rush for the exit DASH, run, sprint, dart, bolt, charge, scramble, break ② the lunchtime rush: HUSTLE AND BUSTLE, commotion, hubbub, hurly-burly, stir ③ a last minute rush for flights: DEMAND, clamour, call, request; run on ④ he was in no rush to leave HURRY, haste, urgency ⑤ a rush of adrenalin SURGE, flow, flood, spurt, stream, dart, thrill, flash ⑥ a rush of cold air GUST, draught, flurry ⑦ I made a sudden rush at him CHARGE, onslaught, attack, assault, onrush

▶ **adjective** a rush job URGENT, high-priority, emergency; hurried, hasty, fast, quick, swift, *N Amer informal* hurry-up

rush ▶ **noun** rushes grew along the river See list at GRASS

rushed ▶ **adjective** ① a rushed divorce HASTY, fast, speedy, quick, swift, rapid, hurried. ② he was too rushed to enjoy his stay PUSHED FOR TIME, pressed for time, busy, in a hurry, run off one's feet

rust ▶ **verb** CORRODE, oxidize, become rusty, tarnish

-RELATED TERMS ferruginous

rustic ▶ **adjective** ① a rustic setting RURAL, country, countryside, countrified, pastoral, bucolic, agricultural, agrarian, *poetic/literary* sylvan, georgic ② rustic wooden tables PLAIN, simple, homely, unsophisticated, rough, rude, crude ③ rustic peasants UNSOPHISTICATED, uncultured, unrefined, simple, artless, unassuming, guileless, naive, ingenuous, coarse, rough, uncouth, boorish, *N Amer informal* hillbilly, hick
 -OPPOSITES urban, ornate, sophisticated

▶ **noun** the rustics were carousing: PEASANT, countryman, countrywoman, bumpkin, yokel, country cousin, *N Amer informal* hillbilly, hayseed, hick, *Austral/NZ informal* bushy, archaic swain, cottier

rustle ▶ **verb** ① her dress rustled as she moved SWISH, whoosh, whisper, sigh ② he was rustling cattle STEAL, thief, take, abduct, kidnap

▶ **noun** the rustle of the leaves SWISH, whisper, rustling, *poetic/literary* susurrant, susurrus

■ **rustle something up** (*informal*) PREPARE HASTILY, throw together, make, *informal* fix, *Brit informal* knock up

rusty ▶ **adjective** ① rusty wire RUSTED, rust-covered, corroded, oxidized, tarnished, discoloured ② his hair was a rusty colour REDDISH-BROWN, chestnut, auburn, tawny, russet, coppery, copper, Titian, red ③ my French is a little rusty OUT OF PRACTICE, below par; unpractised, deficient, impaired, weak

rut ▶ **noun** ① the car bumped across the ruts FURROW, groove, trough, ditch, hollow, pothole, crater ② he was stuck in a rut: BORING ROUTINE, humdrum existence, groove, dead end

ruthless ▶ **adjective** MERCILESS, pitiless, cruel, heartless, hard-hearted, cold-hearted, cold-blooded, harsh, callous, unmerciful, unforgiving, uncaring, unsympathetic, uncharitable, remorseless, unbending, inflexible, implacable, brutal, inhuman, inhumane, barbarous, barbaric, savage, sadistic, vicious
 -OPPOSITES merciful



Ss

sable ► **adjective** BLACK, jet-black, pitch-black, ebony, raven, sooty, dusky, inky, coal-black.

sabotage ► **noun** VANDALISM, wrecking, destruction, impairment, incapacitation, damage, subversion, obstruction, disruption, spoiling, undermining, *Brit* a spanner in the works

► **verb** VANDALIZE, wreck, damage, destroy, cripple, impair, incapacitate, obstruct, disrupt, spoil, ruin, undermine, threaten, subvert

sac ► **noun** BAG, pouch, *Medicine* blister, cyst, *Anatomy* bladder, bursa, sacculi, vesicle

saccharine ► **adjective** SENTIMENTAL, sickly, mawkish, mushy, slushy, cloying, sugary, sickening, nauseating, *informal* schmaltzy, weepy, gooey, drippy, cheesy, corny, toe-curling, *Brit informal* soppy, twee, *N Amer informal* cornball, sappy

sack¹ ► **noun** ① a sack of flour BAG, pouch, pocket, pack ② (*informal*) work hard or you'll get the sack DISMISSAL, discharge, redundancy, *informal* the boot, the bullet, the axe, the heave-ho, one's marching orders, the elbow, the push, *Brit informal* one's cards ③ (*informal*) she stayed in the sack BED, *informal* kip, *Brit informal* pit

► **verb** (*informal*) she was sacked for stealing DISMISS, discharge, lay off, make redundant, let go, throw out, *Military* cashier, *informal* fire, kick out, boot out, give someone the bullet, give someone the sack, give someone their marching orders, show someone the door, send packing, *Brit informal* give someone their cards

■ hit the sack (*informal*) GO TO BED, retire, go to sleep, *informal* turn in, hit the hay

sack² ► **verb** raiders sacked the town RAVAGE, lay waste, devastate, raid, ransack, strip, plunder, despoil, pillage, loot, rob

sackcloth ► **noun** HESSIAN, sacking, hopsack, burlap, *N Amer* gunny

■ wearing sackcloth and ashes PENITENT, contrite, regretful, sorrowful, rueful, remorseful, apologetic, ashamed, guilt-ridden, chastened, shamefaced, self-reproachful, guilty

sacred ► **adjective** ① the priest entered the sacred place HOLY, hallowed, blessed, consecrated, sanctified, venerated, revered, *archaic* blest See list ② sacred music RELIGIOUS, spiritual, devotional, church, ecclesiastical ③ the hill is sacred to the tribe. SACROSANCT, inviolable, inviolate, invulnerable, untouchable, protected, defended, secure.

—RELATED TERMS hiero-

—OPPOSITES secular, profane

sacrifice ► **noun** ① the sacrifice of animals RITUAL SLAUGHTER, offering, oblation, immolation. ② the calf was a sacrifice (VOTIVE) OFFERING, burnt offering, gift, oblation ③ the sacrifice of sovereignty SURRENDER, giving up, abandonment, renunciation, forfeiture, relinquishment, resignation, abdication.

► **verb** ① two goats were sacrificed. OFFER UP, immolate, slaughter ② he sacrificed his principles: GIVE UP, abandon, surrender, forgo, renounce, forfeit, relinquish, resign, abdicate; betray

Sacred Texts and Holy Books

See also BIBLE.

TEXT

Analects of Confucius
Atharva Veda
Bhagavadgita
Bible
Guru Granth Sahib
I Ching
Koran
Li Chi
Mahabharata
Ramayana
Rig Veda
Sama Veda
Shih Ching
Shu Ching
Talmud
Tao Te Ching
Torah
Triptaka
Yajur Veda

RELIGION

Confucianism
Hinduism
Hinduism
Christianity
Sikhism
Confucianism
Islam
Confucianism
Hinduism
Hinduism
Hinduism
Confucianism
Confucianism
Judaism
Taoism
Judaism
Buddhism
Hinduism

sacrificial ► **adjective** VOTIVE, oblatory oblation, expiatory, propitiatory

sacrilege ► **noun** DESECRATION, profanity, profanation, blasphemy, impiety, irreligion, unholiness, irreverence, disrespect
—OPPOSITES piety

sacrilegious ► **adjective** PROFANE, blasphemous, impious, sinful, irreverent, irreligious, unholy, disrespectful

sacrosanct ► **adjective** SACRED, hallowed, respected, inviolable, inviolate, unimpeachable, invulnerable, untouchable, inalienable, protected, defended, secure, safe

sad ► **adjective** ① we felt sad when we left UNHAPPY, sorrowful, dejected, depressed, downcast, miserable, down, despondent, despairing, disconsolate, desolate, wretched, glum, gloomy, doleful, dismal, melancholy, mournful, weebegone, forlorn, crestfallen, heartbroken, inconsolable; *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps ② they knew her sad story TRAGIC, unhappy, unfortunate, awful, miserable, wretched, sorry, pitiful, pathetic, traumatic, heartbreaking, heart-rending, harrowing ③ a sad state of affairs UNFORTUNATE, regrettable, sorry, deplorable, lamentable, pitiful, shameful, disgraceful

—OPPOSITES happy, cheerful, fortunate

sadden ► **verb** DEPRESS, dispirit, deject, dishearten, grieve, desolate, discourage, upset, get down, bring down, break someone's heart

saddle ► **verb** they were saddled with the children BURDEN, encumber, lumber, hamper, land, charge; impose something on, thrust something on, fob something off on to.

sadism ► **noun** CALLOUSNESS, schadenfreude, barbarity, brutality, cruelty, cold-bloodedness,

inhumanity, ruthlessness, heartlessness, perversion

sadistic ▶ **adjective** CALLOUS, barbarous, vicious, brutal, cruel, fiendish, cold-blooded, inhuman, ruthless, heartless, perverted

sadness ▶ **noun** UNHAPPINESS, sorrow, dejection, depression, misery, despondency, despair, desolation, wretchedness, gloom, gloominess, dolefulness, melancholy, mournfulness, woe, heartache, grief

safe ▶ **adjective** ① *the jewels are safe in the bank* SECURE, protected, shielded, sheltered, guarded, out of harm's way ② *the lost children are all safe* UNHARMED, unhurt, uninjured, unscathed, all right, well, in one piece, out of danger, *informal* OK ③ *a safe place to hide* SECURE, sound, impregnable, unassailable, invulnerable ④ *a safe driver* CAUTIOUS, circumspect, prudent, attentive, unadventurous, conservative, unenterprising ⑤ *the drug is safe* HARMLESS, innocuous, benign, non-toxic, non-poisonous, wholesome —**OPPOSITES** insecure, dangerous, reckless, harmful

▶ **noun** I *keep the ring in a safe* STRONGBOX, safety-deposit box, safe-deposit box, coffer, casket, strongroom, vault

safeguard ▶ **noun** a *safeguard against crises* PROTECTION, defence, guard, screen, buffer, preventive, precaution, provision, security, surety, cover, insurance, indemnity

▶ **verb** *the contract will safeguard 1000 jobs* PROTECT, preserve, conserve, save, secure, shield, guard, keep safe —**OPPOSITES** jeopardize

safety ▶ **noun** ① *the safety of the residents* WELFARE, well-being, protection, security ② *the safety of ferries* SECURITY, soundness, dependability, reliability ③ *we reached the safety of the shore* SHELTER, sanctuary, refuge

sag ▶ **verb** ① *he sagged back in his chair* SINK, slump, loll, flop, crumple ② *the floors all sag* DIP, droop, bulge, bag ③ *production has sagged* DECLINE, fall (off), drop, decrease, diminish, slump, plummet, *informal* nosedive

saga ▶ **noun** ① *Celtic tribal sagas* EPIC, chronicle, legend, folk tale, romance, history, narrative, adventure, myth, fairy story ② *the saga of how they met* LONG STORY, rigmarole, chain of events, *informal* spiel

sagacious ▶ **adjective** WISE, clever, intelligent, knowledgeable, sensible, sage, discerning, judicious, canny, perceptive, astute, shrewd, prudent, thoughtful, insightful, perspicacious, *informal* streetwise, *formal* sapient —**OPPOSITES** foolish

sage ▶ **noun** the *Chinese sage Confucius* WISE MAN/WOMAN, learned person, philosopher, thinker, scholar, savant, authority, expert, guru

▶ **adjective** *some very sage comments* See SAGACIOUS

sail ▶ **noun** the ship's sails canvas See list

▶ **verb** ① *we sailed across the Atlantic* VOYAGE, travel by water, steam, navigate, cruise ② *you can learn to sail here* YACHT, boat, go sailing, crew, helm ③ *we sail tonight* SET SAIL, put to sea, leave port, hoist sail, weigh anchor, shove off ④ *he is sailing the ship* STEER, pilot, navigate, con, helm, captain, *informal* skipper ⑤ *clouds were sailing past* GLIDE, drift, float, flow, sweep, skim, coast, flit. ⑥ *a pencil sailed past his*

ear WHIZZ, speed, streak, shoot, whip, buzz, zoom, flash, fly, wing, soar, *informal* zip

■ **sail into** ATTACK, set upon, set about, fall on, assault, assail, lay into, pitch into, hit out at, thump, batter, pummel, beat, thrash, belabour, berate, abuse, round on, *informal* let someone have it, *Brit informal* have a go at, *N Amer informal* light into

■ **sail through** SUCCEED EASILY AT, pass easily, romp through, walk through

Sails

course
fore-and-aft sail
fore-course
fore-royal
foresail
forestaysail
fore-topgallant-sail
fore-topsail
gaff foresail
gaff topsail
genny
genoa (jib)
gunter
headsail
jib
jigger
kite
lateen sail

lugsail
main-course
mainsail
maintopsail
mizzen
moonraker
royal sail
skysail
spanker
spinnaker
spritsail
square sail
staysail
storm sail
studdingsail
topgallant
topsail
trysail

sailing ship ▶ **noun**. See list

Sailing Ships and Boats

See also SHIP, WARSHIP.

barque
barquentine
brigantine
calque
caravel
carrack
catamaran
catboat
clipper
cutter
daysailer
dhoney
dhow
dinghy
dromond
East Indiaman
felucca
frigate
full-rigger
galleon
galley
galliot
hermaphrodite brig
hooker
iceboat
Indiaman
Jolly (boat)
junk
keelboat
ketch
lateen
longboat

longship
lugger
man-of-war
monohull
motorsailer
multihull
nugget
pink
pinnace
polacre
pram
proa
razee
rigger
sabot
schooner
scow
shallop
skiff
skipjack
sloop
sloop of war
smack
snekkja
square-rigger
tall ship
tartan
trimaran
windjammer
xebec
yacht
yawl



sailor ► **noun** SEAMAN, seafarer, mariner, boatman, yachtsman, yachtswoman, hand, *informal* (old) salt, sea dog, bluejacket, *Brit informal* mate-lot, *Brit informal, dated* Jack tar

saint ► **noun** See list
-RELATED TERMS hagio-

saintly ► **adjective** HOLY, godly, pious, religious, devout, spiritual, prayerful, virtuous, righteous, good, moral, innocent, sinless, guiltless, irrep- roachable, spotless, uncorrupted, pure, angel- ic
-OPPOSITES ungodly

sake ► **noun** ① this is simplified for the sake of clar- ity PURPOSE, reason, aim, end, objective, ob- ject, goal, motive ② she had to be brave for the her daughter's sake BENEFIT, advantage, good, well-being, welfare, interest profit

salacious ► **adjective** ① salacious writing PORNOGRAPHIC, obscene, indecent, crude, lewd, vulgar, dirty, filthy, erotic, titillating, arousing, suggestive, sexy, risqué, ribald, smutty, bawdy, X-rated, *informal* porn, porno, blue, *euphemistic* adult ② salacious women LUSTFUL, lecherous, li- centious, lascivious, libidinous, prurient, lewd, debauched, wanton, loose, fast, impure, un- chaste, degenerate, sinful, depraved, promiscu- ous, *informal* randy, horny, raunchy, pervy

salary ► **noun** PAY, wages, earnings, payment, remuneration, fee(s), stipend, income, *formal* emolument

sale ► **noun** ① the sale of firearms SELLING, vend- ing, dealing, trading ② they make a sale every mi- nute DEAL, transaction, bargain
-OPPOSITES purchase

■ for sale ON THE MARKET, on sale, on offer, available, purchasable, obtainable

salesperson ► **noun** SALES ASSISTANT, sales- man, saleswoman, shop assistant, seller, agent, shopkeeper, trader, merchant, dealer, pedlar, hawker, *N Amer* clerk, *informal* counter-jumper, rep

salient ► **adjective** IMPORTANT, main, principal, major, chief, primary, notable, noteworthy, outstanding, conspicuous, striking, noticeable, obvious, remarkable, prominent, predominant, dominant, key, crucial, vital, essential, pivotal, prime, central, paramount
-OPPOSITES minor

saliva ► **noun** SPIT, spittle, dribble, drool, slaver, slobber, sputum

sallow ► **adjective** YELLOWISH, jaundiced, pallid, wan, pale, anaemic, bloodless, pasty, un- healthy, sickly, washed out, peaky, *informal* like death warmed up

sally ► **noun** ① the garrison made a sally against us SORTIE, charge, foray, thrust, drive, offen- sive, attack, assault, raid, incursion, invasion, onslaught, *archaic* onset ② a fruitless sally into Wales EXPEDITION, excursion, trip, outing, jaunt, visit ③ he was delighted with his sally. WIT TICISM, smart remark, quip, barb, pleasantry, joke, pun, jest, bon mot, retort, riposte, count- er, rejoinder, *informal* gag, wisecrack, comeback

salon ► **noun** ① a hairdressing salon SHOP, par- lour, establishment, premises; boutique, store ② the chateau's mirrored salon RECEPTION ROOM, drawing room, sitting room, living room, lounge; *dated* parlour

salt ► **noun** ① the potatoes need salt SODIUM CHLORIDE ② (*poetic/literary*) danger is the salt of pleasure ZEST, spice, piquancy, bite, edge, vital- ity, spirit, sparkle, *informal* zing, punch
-RELATED TERMS saline

► **adjective** salt water SALTY, salted, saline, briny, brackish

■ salt something away (*informal*) SAVE, put aside, put by, set aside, reserve, keep, store, stockpile, hoard, stow away, *informal* squirrel away, stash away

■ with a pinch of salt WITH RESERVATIONS, with misgivings, sceptically, cynically, doubt- fully, doubtfully, suspiciously, quizzically, in- credulously

salty ► **adjective** ① salty water SALT, salted, sa- line, briny, brackish ② a salty sense of humour EARTHY, colourful, spicy, racy, naughty, vulgar, rude, piquant, biting

salubrious ► **adjective** ① I found the climate sa- lubrious HEALTHY, health-giving, healthful, bene- ficial, wholesome, *archaic* salutary. ② a salubrious area of London PLEASANT, agreeable, nice, select, high-class, *Brit* upmarket; *informal* posh, swanky, classy, *Brit informal* swish, *N Amer informal* swank
-OPPOSITES unhealthy, unpleasant

salutary ► **adjective** ① a salutary lesson on the fragility of nature BENEFICIAL, advantageous, good, profitable, productive, helpful, useful, valuable, worthwhile, timely ② (*archaic*) the salu- tary Atlantic air HEALTHY, health-giving, health- ful, salubrious, beneficial
-OPPOSITES unwelcome, unhealthy

salutation ► **noun** GREETING, salute, address, welcome

salute ► **noun** ① he gave the Brigadier a salute GREETING, salutation, gesture of respect, obeis- sance, acknowledgement, welcome, address ② a salute to British courage TRIBUTE, testimo- nial, homage, toast, honour, eulogy, celebra- tion of, acknowledgement of

► **verb** ① he saluted the ambassadors GREET, ad- dress, hail, welcome, acknowledge, toast, make obeisance to ② we salute a great photographer PAY TRIBUTE TO, pay homage to, honour, cele- brate, acknowledge, take one's hat off to

salvage ► **verb** ① an attempt to salvage the vessel RESCUE, save, recover, retrieve, raise, reclaim ② he salvaged a precious point for his club RETAIN, preserve, conserve, regain, recoup, redeem, snatch

► **noun** the salvage is taking place off the coast RES CUE, recovery, reclamation

salvation ► **noun** ① salvation by way of repen- tance REDEMPTION, deliverance, reclamation ② that conviction was her salvation LIFELINE, pre- servation, means of escape, help
-OPPOSITES damnation

salve ► **noun** lip salve OINTMENT, cream, balm, unguent, emollient, embrocation, liniment, *ar- chaic* unction

► **verb** she did it to salve her conscience. SOOTHE, as- suage, ease, allay, lighten, alleviate, comfort, mollify

salver ► **noun** PLATTER, plate, dish, paten, tray, *archaic* charger.

same ► **adjective** ① we stayed at the same hotel. IDENTICAL, selfsame, very same, one and the same. ② they had the same symptoms: MATCHING, identical, alike, duplicate, carbon-copy, twin,

Saints and Their Feast Days

Agatha	5 February	Francis of Sales	24 January
Agnes of Bohemia	2 March	Francis Xavier	3 December
Agnes of Rome (patron saint of virgins)	21 January	Geneviève	3 January
Aidan	31 August	George (patron saint of England)	23 April
Alban	20 June	Gertrude	16 November
Albertus Magnus	15 November	Gilbert of Sempringham	4 February
Alexander Nevsky	23 November	Giles	1 September
Aloysius Gonzaga	21 June	Gregory the Great	3 September
Ambrose	7 December	Gregory of Nazianzus	2 January (W. Ch.), 25 and 30 January (E. Ch.)
Andrew (patron saint of Scotland and Russia)	30 November	Gregory of Nyssa	9 March
Anne (patron saint of Brittany and Quebec)	26 July	Gregory of Tours	17 November
Anselm	21 April	Helena	21 May (E. Ch.), 18 August (W. Ch.)
Anthony of Egypt	17 January	Hilary	13 January
Anthony of Padua	13 June	Hilda	17 November
Athanasius	2 May	Hildegard of Bingen	17 September
Augustine of Canterbury	26 May	Ignatius Loyola	31 July
Augustine of Hippo	28 August	Irenaeus	28 June (W. Ch.), 23 August (E. Ch.)
Barnabas	11 June	Isidore of Seville	4 April
Bartholomew (patron saint of tanners)	24 August	James the Great	25 July
Basil	14 June	James the Just	1 May
Bede (the Venerable Bede)	27 May	James the Less	1 May (W. Ch.), 9 October (E. Ch.)
Benedict	11 July	Jerome	30 September
Bernadette	18 February	Joachim	26 July
Bernard	20 August	Joan of Arc	30 May
Bernard of Aosta	28 May	John the Baptist	24 June (birth), 29 June (beheading)
Bonaventura	15 July	John Chrysostom	27 January
Boniface	5 June	John of the Cross	14 December
Brendan	16 May	John Damascene (John of Damascus)	4 December
Bridget of Sweden	23 July	John the Evangelist	27 December
Bridget of Ireland	1 February	Joseph	19 March
Bruno	6 October	Jude (patron saint of hopeless cases)	28 October
Campion	25 October	Justin	1 June
Catherine of Alexandria	25 November	Kentigern (Mungo)	13 January
Catherine of Siena	29 April	Kevin	3 June
Cecilia (patron saint of church music)	22 November	Laurence	10 August
Charles Borromeo	4 November	Laurence O'Toole	14 November
Christopher (patron saint of travellers)	25 July	Leo the Great	18 February (E. Ch.), 10 November (W. Ch.)
Clare	11 August	Leonard	6 November
Clement of Alexandria	5 December	Louis	25 August
Clement of Rome	23 November	Lucy	13 December
Columba of Iona	9 June	Luke	18 October
Crispin	25 October	Malachy	3 November
Cuthbert	20 March	Margaret of Scotland	16 November
Cyprian	16 or 26 September	Maria Goretti	6 July
Cyril	14 February (W. Ch.), 11 May (E. Ch.)	Mark	25 April
Cyril of Alexandria	9 February	Martha	29 July
David (Dewi) (patron saint of Wales)	1 March	Martin de Porres	5 November
Denys (patron saint of France)	9 October	Martin of Tours (a patron saint of France)	11 November
Dominic	8 August	Mary, the Blessed Virgin	1 January (R. C. Ch.), 25 March, 15 August, 8 September
Dunstan	19 May	Mary Magdalene	22 July
Edmund of Abingdon	16 November	Matthew	21 September
Edmund the Martyr	20 November	Matthias	14 May (W. Ch.), 9 August (E. Ch.)
Edward the Confessor	13 October	Methodius	14 February (W. Ch.), 11 May (E. Ch.)
Edward the Martyr	18 March	Michael	29 September
Elizabeth	5 November		
Elizabeth of Hungary	17 November		
Elmo (Erasmus)	2 June		
Ethelbert	25 or 26 February		
Francis of Assisi	4 October		

Saints and Their Feast Days (cont.)

Monica	27 August	Stephen of Hungary	2 September or (In Hungary) 20 August
Neot	31 July	Swithin	2 July
Nicholas (patron saint of children, sailors, Greece, and Russia)	6 December	Teresa of Ávila	15 October
Ninian	16 August	Teresa of Lisieux	1 October
Olaf (patron saint of Norway)	29 July	Thomas (Doubting Thomas)	21 December
Oswald of York	28 February	Thomas à Becket	29 December
Patrick (patron saint of Ireland)	17 March	Thomas Aquinas	28 January
Paul	29 June	Thomas More	22 June
Peter	29 June	Timothy	22 January (E. Ch.), 26 January (W. Ch.)
Philip	1 May	Titus	23 August (E. Ch.), 6 February (W. Ch.)
Philip the Evangelist	6 June	Ursula	21 October
Polycarp	23 February	Valentine (patron saint of lovers)	14 February
Sebastian	20 January	Veronica	—
Sergius	25 September	Vincent de Paul	27 September
Silas	13 July	Vincent of Saragossa	22 January
Simeon Stylites	5 January (W. Ch.), 1 September (E. Ch.)	Vitus	15 June
Simon	28 October	Vladimir	15 July
Stanislaus of Cracow (patron saint of Poland)	11 April	Wenceslas (patron saint of the Czech Republic)	28 September
Stephen	26 December (W. Ch.), 27 December (E. Ch.)	Wilfrid	12 October

E Ch. = Eastern Church W. Ch. = Western Church R. C. Ch. = Roman Catholic Church

indistinguishable, interchangeable, corresponding, equivalent, parallel, like, comparable, similar, congruent, concordant, consonant ③ *it happened that same month* SELF-SAME, aforesaid, aforementioned ④ *they provide the same menu worldwide* UNCHANGING, unvarying, unvaried, invariable, consistent, uniform, regular

—RELATED TERMS homo-

—OPPOSITES another, different, dissimilar, varying

► **noun** *Louise said the same* THE SAME THING, the aforementioned, the aforesaid, the above-mentioned

■ **all the same** ① *I was frightened all the same* IN SPITE OF EVERYTHING, despite that, nevertheless, even so, however, but, still, yet, though, be that as it may, just the same, at the same time, in any event, notwithstanding, regardless, anyway, anyhow, *informal* still and all ② *it's all the same to me* IMMATERIAL, of no importance, of no consequence, inconsequential, unimportant, of little account, irrelevant, insignificant, trivial, petty

sample ► **noun** ① *a sample of the fabric* SPECIMEN, example, bit, snippet, swatch, exemplification, representative piece, prototype, test piece, dummy, pilot, trial, taste, taster, tester ② *a sample of 10,000 people nationwide* CROSS SECTION, variety, sampling, test

► **verb** *we sampled the culinary offerings* TRY (OUT), taste, test, put to the test, experiment with, appraise, evaluate, *informal* check out.

► **adjective** ① *the sample group is small* REPRESENTATIVE, illustrative, selected, specimen, test, trial, typical. ② *a sample copy can be obtained* SPECIMEN, test, trial, pilot, dummy

sanatorium ► **noun** INFIRMARY, clinic, hospital, medical centre, hospice, sickbay, sickroom; *N Amer* sanitarium, *informal* san.

sanctify ► **verb** ① *he came to sanctify the site* CONSECRATE, bless, make holy, hallow, make sacred, dedicate to God ② *they sanctified themselves* PURIFY, cleanse, free from sin, absolve, unburden, redeem, *rare* lustrate ③ *we must not sanctify this outrage* APPROVE, sanction, condone, vindicate, endorse, support, back, permit, allow, authorize, legitimize, legitimize

sanctimonious ► **adjective** SELF-RIGHTEOUS, holier-than-thou, pious, pietistic, churchy, moralizing, smug, superior, priggish, hypocritical, insincere, *informal* goody-goody, pi

sanction ► **noun** ① *trade sanctions* PENALTY, punishment, deterrent, punitive action, discipline, penalization, restriction, embargo, ban, prohibition, boycott ② *the scheme has the sanction of the court* AUTHORIZATION, consent, leave, permission, authority, warrant, licence, dispensation, assent, acquiescence, agreement, approval, approbation, endorsement, accreditation, ratification, validation, blessing, imprimatur, *informal* the go-ahead, the thumbs up, the OK, the green light

—OPPOSITES reward, prohibition

► **verb** ① *the rally was sanctioned by the government* AUTHORIZE, permit, allow, warrant, accredit, license, endorse, approve, accept, back, support, *informal* OK ② *the penalties available to sanction crime* PUNISH, discipline someone for

—OPPOSITES prohibit

sanctity ► **noun** ① *the sanctity of St Francis* HOLINESS, godliness, blessedness, saintliness, spirituality, piety, piousness, devoutness, righteousness, goodness, virtue, purity; *formal* sanctitude ② *the sanctity of the family meal* SACROSANCTITY, inviolability, importance, paramountcy

sanctuary ► **noun** ① *the sanctuary at Delphi* HOLY PLACE, temple; shrine, altar; sanctum, sac-

ranum, holy of holies, sanctum sanctorum
 ② the island is our sanctuary REFUGE, haven, harbour, port in a storm, oasis, shelter, retreat, bolt-hole, hideaway, fastness ③ he was given sanctuary in the embassy SAFETY, protection, shelter, immunity, asylum ④ a bird sanctuary RESERVE, park, reservation, preserve

sanctum ▶ noun ① the sanctum in the temple HOLY PLACE, shrine, sanctuary, holy of holies, sanctum sanctorum ② a private sanctum for the bar's regulars REFUGE, retreat, bolt-hole, hideout, hideaway, den

sand ▶ noun she ran across the sand BEACH, sands, shore, seashore, (sand) dunes, poetic/literary strand

sane ▶ adjective ① the accused is presumed to be sane OF SOUND MIND, in one's right mind, compos mentis, lucid, rational, balanced, stable, normal, informal all there ② it isn't sane to use nuclear weapons SENSIBLE, practical, advisable, responsible, realistic, prudent, wise, reasonable, rational, level-headed, commonsensical, judicious, politic
 -OPPOSITES mad, foolish

sangfroid ▶ noun COMPOSURE, equanimity, self-possession, equilibrium, aplomb, poise, self-assurance, self-control, nerve, calm, presence of mind, informal cool, unflappability

sanguine ▶ adjective ① he is sanguine about the advance of technology OPTIMISTIC, bullish, hopeful, buoyant, positive, confident, cheerful, cheery, informal upbeat ② (archaic) a sanguine complexion See FLORID sense 1
 -OPPOSITES gloomy

sanitary ▶ adjective HYGIENIC, clean, antiseptic, aseptic, sterile, uninfected, disinfected, unpolluted, uncontaminated, salubrious, healthy, wholesome

sanitize ▶ verb ① the best way to sanitize a bottle STERILIZE, disinfect, clean, cleanse, purify, fumigate, decontaminate ② the diaries have not been sanitized MAKE PRESENTABLE, make acceptable, make palatable, clean up, expurgate, bowdlerize, censor

sanity ▶ noun ① she was losing her sanity MENTAL HEALTH, faculties, reason, rationality, saneness, stability, lucidity, sense, wits, mind ② sanity has prevailed (COMMON) SENSE, wisdom, prudence, judiciousness, rationality, soundness, sensibleness

sap¹ ▶ noun ① sap from the roots of trees JUICE, secretion, fluid, liquid ② they're full of youthful sap VIGOUR, energy, drive, dynamism, life, spirit, liveliness, sparkle, verve, ebullience, enthusiasm, gusto, vitality, vivacity, fire, zest, zeal, exuberance, informal get-up-and-go, oomph, vim

▶ verb they sapped the will of the troops ERODE, wear away/down, deplete, reduce, lessen, attenuate, undermine, exhaust, drain, bleed

sap² ▶ noun (N Amer informal) he fell for it — what a sap! See IDIOT

sarcasm ▶ noun DERISION, mockery, ridicule, scorn, sneering, scoffing, irony.

sarcastic ▶ adjective SARDONIC, ironic, ironical, derisive, snide, scornful, contemptuous, mocking, sneering, jeering, caustic, scathing, trenchant, cutting, sharp, acerbic; Bnt informal sarky; N Amer informal snarky.

sardonic ▶ adjective MOCKING, satirical, sarcastic, ironical, ironic, cynical, scornful, contemptuous, derisive, derisory, sneering, jeering, scathing, caustic, trenchant, cutting, sharp, acerbic, Bnt informal sarky

sash ▶ noun BELT, cummerbund, waistband, girdle, obi, poetic/literary cincture

Satan ▶ noun See DEVIL sense 1

satanic ▶ adjective DIABOLICAL, fiendish, devilish, demonic, demoniacal, ungodly, hellish, infernal, wicked, evil, sinful, iniquitous, nefarious, vile, foul, abominable, unspeakable, loathsome, monstrous, heinous, hideous, horrible, horrifying, shocking, appalling, dreadful, awful, terrible, ghastly, abhorrent, despicable, damnable

sate ▶ verb See SATIATE

satellite ▶ noun ① the European Space Agency's ERS-1 satellite SPACE STATION, space capsule, spacecraft, sputnik ② the two small satellites of Mars MOON, secondary planet See list at PLANET ③ Bulgaria was then a Russian satellite DEPENDENCY, colony, protectorate, possession, holding, historical fief, vassal

▶ adjective a satellite state DEPENDENT, subordinate, subsidiary, puppet

satiate ▶ verb FILL, satisfy, sate, slake, quench, gorge, stuff, surfeit, glut, cloy, sicken, nauseate

satiety ▶ noun SATIATION, satisfaction, repleteness, repletion, fullness, surfeit

satiny ▶ adjective SMOOTH, shiny, glossy, shining, gleaming, lustrous, sleek, silky

satire ▶ noun ① a satire on American politics PARODY, burlesque, caricature, lampoon, skit, pastiche, informal spoof, take-off, send-up ② he has become the subject of satire MOCKERY, ridicule, derision, scorn, caricature, irony, sarcasm

satirical ▶ adjective MOCKING, ironic, ironical, satiric, sarcastic, sardonic, caustic, trenchant, mordant, biting, cutting, stinging, acerbic, critical, irreverent, disparaging, disrespectful

satirize ▶ verb MOCK, ridicule, deride, make fun of, poke fun at, parody, lampoon, burlesque, caricature, take off, criticize, informal send up, take the mickey out of

satisfaction ▶ noun ① he derived great satisfaction from his work CONTENTMENT, content, pleasure, gratification, fulfilment, enjoyment, happiness, pride, self-satisfaction, smugness, complacency ② the satisfaction of consumer needs FULFILMENT, gratification, appeasement, assuaging ③ investors turned to the courts for satisfaction COMPENSATION, recompense, redress, reparation, restitution, repayment, payment, settlement, reimbursement, indemnification, indemnity

satisfactory ▶ adjective ADEQUATE, all right, acceptable, good enough, sufficient, reasonable, quite good, competent, fair, decent, average, passable, fine, in order, up to scratch, up to the mark, up to standard, up to par, informal OK, so-so
 -OPPOSITES inadequate, poor

satisfied ▶ adjective ① a satisfied smile PLEASED, well pleased, content, contented, happy, proud, triumphant, smug, self-satisfied, pleased with oneself, complacent; Bnt informal like the cat that's got the cream. ② the pleasure of satisfied

desire FULFILLED, gratified ① I am satisfied that she is happy with the decision CONVINCED, certain, sure, positive, persuaded, easy in one's mind -OPPOSITES discontented, unhappy.

satisfy ▶ verb ① a last chance to satisfy his hunger for romance FULFIL, gratify, meet, fill, indulge, cater to, pander to, appease, assuage, quench, slake, satiate, sate, take the edge off ② she satisfied herself that it had been an accident CONVINCE, persuade, assure, reassure, put someone's mind at rest ③ products which satisfy the EC's criteria COMPLY WITH, meet, fulfil, answer, conform to, measure up to, come up to, suffice, be good enough, fit/fill the bill ④ there was insufficient collateral to satisfy the loan REPAY, pay (off), settle, make good, discharge, square, liquidate, clear

-OPPOSITES frustrate

satisfying ▶ adjective FULFILLING, rewarding, gratifying, pleasing, enjoyable, pleasurable, to one's liking

saturate ▶ verb ① heavy rain saturated the ground SOAK, drench, waterlog, wet through, souse, steep, douse ② the air was saturated with the stench of joss sticks PERMEATE, suffuse, imbue, pervade, charge, infuse, fill ③ the company has saturated the market FLOOD, glut, oversupply, overfill, overload

saturated ▶ adjective ① his trousers were saturated SOAKED, soaking (wet), wet through, sop-ping (wet), sodden dripping, wringing wet, drenched, soaked to the skin, like a drowned rat ② the saturated ground WATERLOGGED, soggy, squelchy, heavy, muddy, boggy -OPPOSITES dry

saturnine ▶ adjective ① a saturnine temperament GLOOMY, sombre, melancholy, moody, lugubrious, dour, glum, morose, unsmiling, humourless ② his saturnine good looks SWARTHY, dark, dark-skinned, dark-complexioned, mysterious, mercurial, moody -OPPOSITES cheerful

sauce ▶ noun ① a piquant sauce RELISH, condiment, dip, dressing, jus, coulis See list ② (Brit informal) 'I'll have less of your sauce,' said Aunt Edie IMPUDENCE, impertinence, cheek, cheekiness, effrontery, forwardness, brazenness, insolence, rudeness, disrespect, informal mouth, lip, N Amer informal sassiness

saucepan ▶ noun PAN, pot, casserole, skillet, stockpot, stewpot, billy, billycan

saucy ▶ adjective (informal) ① (Brit) saucy postcards SUGGESTIVE, titillating, risqué, rude, bawdy, racy, ribald, spicy, informal raunchy, smutty, nudge-nudge, Brit informal fruity, N Amer informal gamy ② you saucy little minx! CHEEKY, impudent, impertinent, irreverent, forward, disrespectful, bold, as bold as brass, brazen; informal fresh, lippy, mouthy, N Amer informal sassy, archaic malapert ③ (N Amer) the cap sat at a saucy angle on her black hair JAUNTY, rakish, sporty, raffish -OPPOSITES demure, polite

saunter ▶ verb STROLL, amble, wander, meander, drift, walk, stretch one's legs, take the air; informal mosey, tootle, Brit informal pootle, formal promenade

sausage ▶ noun Brit informal banger. See list

savage ▶ adjective ① savage dogs. FEROCIOUS, fierce; wild, untamed, undomesticated, feral ② a savage assault: vicious, brutal, cruel, sadis-

Sauces and Dips

aioli
apple sauce
baba ghanoush
barbecue sauce
Béarnaise sauce
béchamel sauce
bolognese sauce
bordelaise sauce
bread sauce
brown sauce
carbonara sauce
catsup
chasseur sauce
chaud-froid
chawan mushi
cheese sauce
chilli sauce
cranberry sauce
demi-glace
gravy
guacamole
harissa
holsin sauce
hollandaise sauce
horseradish sauce
hummus
ketchup
mayonnaise
milanese sauce

mint sauce
mornay sauce
mousseline sauce
mustard sauce
onion sauce
parsley sauce
pebre
pepper sauce
pesto
pizzaiola sauce
ragù
salsa verde
satay sauce
sauce ravigote
sauce remoulade
skordalia
soubise
soy sauce
sweet and sour sauce
Tabasco sauce
taramasalata
tartare sauce
Teriyaki sauce
tomato ketchup
tzatziki
velouté
white sauce
Worcester sauce

tic, ferocious, fierce, violent, bloody, murderous, homicidal, bloodthirsty, poetic/literary fell, archaic sanguinary ③ a savage attack on European free-trade policy FIERCE, blistering, scathing, searing, stinging, devastating, mordant, trenchant, caustic, cutting, biting, withering, virulent, vitriolic ④ a savage race PRIMITIVE, uncivilized, unenlightened, non-literate, in a state of nature ⑤ a savage landscape RUGGED, rough, wild, inhospitable, uninhabitable ⑥ a savage blow for the town SEVERE, crushing, devastating, crippling, terrible, awful, dreadful, dire, catastrophic, calamitous, ruinous -OPPOSITES tame, mild, civilized

▶ noun ① she'd expected mud huts and savages BARBARIAN, wild man, wild woman, primitive ② she described her son's assailants as savages BRUTE, beast, monster, barbarian, sadist, animal

Sausages*

andouille
baloney/boloney
black pudding
blood pudding
blood sausage
boerewors
bologna
bratwurst
cervelat
chipolata
chorizo
crêpinette
Cumberland sausage
frank
frankfurter

keilbasa
knackwurst
mortadella
pepperoni
salami
saucisson
saveloy
slim jim
summer sausage
Weisswurst
white pudding
weenie
wiener
wurst



► **verb** ① he was savaged by a dog MAUL, attack, tear to pieces, lacerate, claw, bite. ② critics savaged the film CRITICIZE SEVERELY, attack, lambaste, condemn, denounce, pillory, revile, informal pan, tear to pieces, hammer, slam, do a hatchet job on, crucify, Brit informal slate, rubbish, N Amer informal trash, Austral/NZ informal bag, monster, formal excoriate

savant ► **noun** INTELLECTUAL, scholar, sage, philosopher, thinker, wise/learned person, guru, master, pandit
—OPPOSITES ignoramus

save ► **verb** ① the captain was saved by his crew RESCUE, come to someone's rescue, save someone's life, set free, free, liberate, deliver, extricate, bail out, informal save someone's bacon/neck/skin ② the farmhouse has been saved from demolition PRESERVE, keep safe, keep, protect, safeguard, salvage, retrieve, reclaim, rescue ③ start saving old newspapers for wrapping china PUT ASIDE, set aside, put by, put to one side, save up, keep, retain, reserve, conserve, stockpile, store, hoard, save for a rainy day, informal salt away, squirrel away, stash away, hang on to ④ asking me first would have saved a lot of trouble PREVENT, obviate, forestall, spare, stop, avoid, avert

► **preposition & conjunction** (formal) no one needed to know save herself EXCEPT, apart from, but, other than, besides, aside from, bar, barring, excluding, leaving out, saving, informal outside of

saving ► **noun** ① a considerable saving in development costs REDUCTION, cut, decrease, economy ② I'll have to use some of my savings NEST EGG, money put by for a rainy day, life savings, capital, assets, funds, resources, reserves

saving grace ► **noun** REDEEMING FEATURE, good point, thing in its/one's favour, advantage, asset, selling point

saviour ► **noun** ① the country's saviour RESCUER, liberator, deliverer, emancipator, champion, knight in shining armour, friend in need, good Samaritan ② the Saviour is depicted with two archangels CHRIST, Jesus (Christ), the Redeemer, the Messiah, Our Lord, the Lamb of God, the Son of God, the Son of Man, the Prince of Peace

savoir faire ► **noun** SOCIAL SKILL, social grace(s), urbanity, suavity, finesse, sophistication, poise, aplomb, adroitness, polish, style, smoothness, tact, tactfulness, diplomacy, discretion, delicacy, sensitivity, informal savvy
—OPPOSITES gaucheness

savour ► **verb** ① she wanted to savour every moment RELISH, enjoy (to the full), appreciate, delight in, revel in, smack one's lips over, luxuriate in, bask in ② such a declaration savoured of immodesty SUGGEST, smack of, have the hallmarks of, seem like, have the air of, show signs of

► **noun** ① the subtle savour of wood smoke: SMELL, aroma, fragrance, scent, perfume, bouquet; TASTE, flavour, tang, smack ② a savour of bitterness seasoned my feelings for him TRACE, hint, suggestion, touch, smack ③ her usual diversions had lost their savour PIQUANCY, interest, attraction, flavour, spice, zest, excitement, enjoyment; informal zing

savoury ► **adjective** ① sweet or savoury dishes: SALTY, spicy, piquant, tangy ② a rich, savoury aroma. APPETIZING, mouth-watering, delicious,

delectable, luscious, tasty, flavoursome, flavourful, palatable, toothsome, informal scrumptious, finger-licking, yummy, scrummy, moreish ③ one of the less savoury aspects of the affair ACCEPTABLE, pleasant, respectable, wholesome, honourable, proper, seemingly

—OPPOSITES sweet, unappetizing

► **noun** cocktail savouries CANAPE, hors d'oeuvre, appetizer, titbit

savvy (informal) ► **noun** his political savvy See ACUMEN

► **adjective** a savvy investor See SHREWD

saw¹ ► **noun**. See list

Saws

bandsaw	frame saw	panel saw
bench saw	fretsaw	pitsaw
bowsaw	grooving saw	pruning saw
chainsaw	saw	rabbet saw
circular saw	hacksaw	ripsaw
compass saw	handsaw	sawbench
coping saw	hole saw	scroll saw
cross-cut saw	jigsaw	Swede saw
dovetail saw	keyhole saw	tenon saw
	padsaw	whipsaw

saw² ► **noun** SAYING, maxim, proverb, aphorism, axiom, adage, apophthegm, epigram, gnome

say ► **verb** ① she felt her stomach flutter as he said her name SPEAK, utter, voice, pronounce, give voice to, vocalize ② 'I must go,' she said DECLARE, state, announce, remark, observe, mention, comment, note, add, reply, respond, answer, rejoin, informal come out with ③ Newall says he's innocent CLAIM, maintain, assert, hold, insist, contend, allege, profess, formal opine, aver, rare asseverate ④ I can't conjure up the words to say how I feel EXPRESS, put into words, phrase, articulate, communicate, make known, put/get across, convey, verbalize, reveal, divulge, impart, disclose, imply, suggest ⑤ they sang hymns and said a prayer RECITE, repeat, utter, deliver, perform, declaim, orate ⑥ the dial of her watch said one twenty INDICATE, show, read ⑦ I'd say it's about five miles ESTIMATE, judge, guess, hazard a guess, predict, speculate, surmise, conjecture, venture; informal reckon ⑧ let's say you'd just won a million pounds SUPPOSE, assume, imagine, presume, hypothesize, postulate, posit

► **noun** ① everyone is entitled to their say CHANCE TO SPEAK, turn to speak, opinion, view, voice, informal twopence worth, twopenn'orth ② don't I have any say in the matter? INFLUENCE, sway, weight, voice, input, share, part

■ **that is to say** IN OTHER WORDS, to put it another way, i.e., that is, to wit, viz, namely

■ **to say the least** TO PUT IT MILDLY, putting it mildly, without any exaggeration, at the very least

saying ► **noun** PROVERB, maxim, aphorism, axiom, adage, saw, tag, motto, apophthegm, epigram, dictum, gnome, expression, phrase, formula, slogan, catchphrase, platitude, cliché, commonplace, truism

■ **it goes without saying** OF COURSE, naturally, needless to say, it's taken for granted, it's understood/assumed, it's taken as read, it's an accepted fact; obviously, self-evidently, manifestly; informal natch.

say-so ► **noun** (informal) AUTHORIZATION, (seal of) approval, agreement, consent, assent, permission, endorsement, sanction, ratification, approbation, acquiescence, blessing, leave, informal the OK, the go-ahead, the green light, the thumbs up

—OPPOSITES refusal, denial

scalding ► **adjective** EXTREMELY HOT, burning, blistering, searing, red-hot, piping hot, informal boiling (hot), sizzling

scale¹ ► **noun** ① the reptile's scales plate, technical lamella, lamina, squama, scute, scutum ② scales on the skin FLAKE, (scales) scurf, dandruff ③ scale in kettles LIMESCALE, deposit, incrustation, *Brit* fur

scale² ► **noun** ① the Celsius scale of temperature CALIBRATED SYSTEM, graduated system, system of measurement ② opposite ends of the social scale HIERARCHY, ladder, ranking, order, pecking order, spectrum, succession, sequence, series ③ the scale of the map RATIO, proportion, relative size ④ no one foresaw the scale of the disaster EXTENT, size, scope, magnitude, dimensions, range, breadth, compass, degree, reach ⑤ the notes of the scale See list at TONIC SOL-FA

► **verb** thieves scaled an 8ft high fence CLIMB, ascend, clamber up, shin (up), scramble up, mount, *N Amer* shinny (up)

■ **scale something down** REDUCE, cut down, cut back, cut, decrease, lessen, lower, trim, slim down, prune

■ **scale something up** INCREASE, expand, augment, build up, add to, step up, boost, escalate

scaly ► **adjective** ① the dragon's scaly hide technical squamous, squamulose, squamate, lamellate ② scaly patches of dead skin DRY, flaky, flaking, scurfy, rough, scabrous, mangy, scabious, technical furfuraceous

scam ► **noun** (informal) FRAUD, swindle, racket, trick, diddle, informal con (trick), *Brit* informal ramp, *N Amer* informal hustle, grift, bunco

scamp ► **noun** (informal) RASCAL, monkey, devil, imp, wretch, mischief-maker, informal scallywag, horror, monster, tyke, *Brit* informal perisher, *N English* informal scally, *N Amer* informal varmint, archaic rascalion, scapegrace

scamper ► **verb** SCURRY, scuttle, dart, run, rush, race, dash, hurry, hasten, informal scoot, dated make haste

scan ► **verb** ① Adam scanned the horizon SCRUTINIZE, examine, study, inspect, survey, search, scour, sweep, rake, look at, stare at, gaze at, eye, watch, informal check out, *N Amer* informal scope ② I scanned the papers GLANCE THROUGH, look through, have a look at, run/cast one's eye over, skim through, flick through, flip through, leaf through, thumb through

► **noun** ① a careful scan of the terrain INSPECTION, scrutiny, examination, survey ② a quick scan through the report: GLANCE, look, flick, browse ③ a brain scan: EXAMINATION, screening

scandal ► **noun** ① revelation of the sex scandal forced him to resign. WRONGDOING, impropriety, misconduct, immoral behaviour, unethical behaviour, offence, transgression, crime, sin; skeleton in the closet; informal -gate. ② it's a scandal that the disease is not adequately treated DISGRACE, outrage, injustice, (crying) shame ③ no scandal attached to her name: MALICIOUS GOSIP, malicious rumour(s), slander, libel, cal-

umny, defamation, aspersions, muckraking; informal dirt

scandalize ► **verb** SHOCK, appal, outrage, horrify, disgust, offend, affront, insult, cause raised eyebrows

—OPPOSITES impress

scandalous ► **adjective** ① a scandalous waste of taxpayers' money DISGRACEFUL, shocking, outrageous, monstrous, criminal, wicked, shameful, appalling, deplorable, reprehensible, inexcusable, intolerable, insupportable, unforgivable, unpardonable ② a series of scandalous liaisons DISCREDITABLE, disreputable, dishonourable, improper, unseemly, sordid ③ scandalous rumours SCURRILOUS, malicious, slanderous, libellous, defamatory

scant ► **adjective** LITTLE, little or no, minimal, limited, negligible, meagre, insufficient, inadequate, deficient, formal exiguous

—OPPOSITES abundant, ample

scanty ► **adjective** ① their scanty wages MEAGRE, scant, minimal, limited, modest, restricted, sparse, tiny, small, paltry, negligible, insufficient, inadequate, deficient, scarce, in short supply, thin on the ground, few and far between, informal measly, piddling, minging, pathetic, formal exiguous ② her scanty nightdress SKIMPY, revealing, short, brief, low, low-cut, indecent

—OPPOSITES ample, plentiful

scapegoat ► **noun** WHIPPING BOY, Aunt Sally, informal fall guy, *N Amer* informal patsy

scar ► **noun** ① the scar on his left cheek CICATRIX, mark, blemish, disfigurement, discoloration, pockmark, pock, pit, lesion, stigma, birthmark, naevus ② deep psychological scars TRAUMA, damage, injury

► **verb** ① he's likely to be scarred for life DISFIGURE, mark, blemish, pockmark, pit, Christianity stigmatize ② a landscape which has been scarred by strip mining DAMAGE, spoil, mar, deface, injure ③ she was profoundly scarred by the incident TRAUMATIZE, damage, injure, distress, disturb, upset

scarce ► **adjective** ① food was scarce in SHORT SUPPLY, scant, scanty, meagre, sparse, hard to find, hard to come by, insufficient, deficient, inadequate, at a premium, like gold dust, paltry, negligible, informal not to be had for love nor money, formal exiguous ② birds that prefer dense forest are becoming scarcer RARE, few and far between, thin on the ground, uncommon, unusual, *Brit* out of the common

—OPPOSITES plentiful

scarcely ► **adverb** ① she could scarcely hear what he was saying HARDLY, barely, only just, almost not ② I scarcely ever see him RARELY, seldom, infrequently, not often, hardly ever, every once in a while, informal once in a blue moon ③ this could scarcely be accidental SURELY NOT, not, hardly, certainly not, not at all, on no account, under no circumstances, by no means, *N Amer* noway

—OPPOSITES often

scarcity ► **noun** SHORTAGE, dearth, lack, undersupply, insufficiency, paucity, scantness, meagreness, sparseness, poverty, deficiency, inadequacy, unavailability, absence, formal exiguity

scare ► **verb** stop it, you're scaring me: FRIGHTEN, startle, alarm, terrify, petrify, unnerve, intimi-

date, terrorize, cow, strike terror into, put the fear of God into, chill someone to the bone/marrow, make someone's blood run cold, *informal* frighten/scare the living daylight out of, scare stiff, frighten/scare someone out of their wits, scare witless, frighten/scare to death, scare the pants off, make someone's hair stand on end, throw into a blue funk, make someone jump out of their skin, *Brit informal* put the wind up, make someone's hair curl, *N Amer informal* spook, *Irish informal* scare the bejesus out of, *archaic* affright

► **noun** you gave me a scare—how did you get here? FRIGHT, shock, start, turn, jump

scared ► **adjective** FRIGHTENED, afraid, fearful, nervous, panicky, terrified, petrified, horrified, panic-stricken, scared stiff, frightened/scared out of one's wits, scared witless, frightened/scared to death, *Scottish* feart, *informal* in a cold sweat, in a (blue) funk, *Brit informal* funky, windy, *N Amer informal* spooked, *dialect* frit, *archaic* afear'd, affrighted

scaremonger ► **noun** ALARMIST, prophet of doom, Cassandra, voice of doom, doom-monger, *informal* doom (and gloom) merchant

scarf ► **noun** MUFFLER, headscarf, headsquare, square, mantilla, stole, tippet, *N Amer* bushka

scarper ► **verb** (*Brit informal*) See RUN verb sense 2

scary ► **adjective** (*informal*) FRIGHTENING, alarming, terrifying, hair-raising, spine-chilling, blood-curdling, horrifying, nerve-racking, unnerving, eerie, sinister, *informal* creepy, spine-tingling, spooky, hairy

scathing ► **adjective** WITHERING, blistering, searing, devastating, fierce, ferocious, savage, severe, stinging, biting, cutting, mordant, trenchant, virulent, caustic, vitriolic, scornful, sharp, bitter, harsh, unsparing, *formal* mordacious

—OPPOSITES mild

scatter ► **verb** ① scatter the seeds as evenly as possible THROW, strew, toss, fling, sprinkle, spread, distribute, sow, broadcast, disseminate

② the crowd scattered | onlookers were scattered in all directions DISPERSE, break up, disband, separate, go separate ways, dissolve, drive, send, put to flight, chase ③ the sky was scattered with stars FLECK, stud, dot, cover, sprinkle, stipple, spot, pepper, *poetic/literary* bestrew

—OPPOSITES gather, assemble

scatterbrained ► **adjective** ABSENT-MINDED, forgetful, disorganized, dreamy, wool-gathering, with one's head in the clouds, feather-brained, giddy, *informal* scatty, with a mind/memory like a sieve, dizzy, dippy

scavenge ► **verb** SEARCH, hunt, look, forage, rummage, root about/around, grub about/around

scenario ► **noun** ① Walt wrote scenarios for a major Hollywood studio PLOT, outline, storyline, framework, screenplay, script; *formal* diegesis ② every possible scenario must be explored SEQUENCE OF EVENTS, course of events, chain of events, situation. ③ this film has a more contemporary scenario SETTING, background, context, scene, milieu

scene ► **noun** ① the scene of the accident: LOCATION, site, place, position, point, spot, locale,

whereabouts, *technical* locus ② the scene is London, in the late 1890s BACKGROUND, setting, context, milieu, backdrop, mise en scène ③ terrible scenes of violence INCIDENT, event, episode, happening ④ an impressive mountain scene VIEW, vista, outlook, panorama, sight, landscape, scenery ⑤ she made an embarrassing scene FUSS, exhibition of oneself, performance, tantrum, commotion, disturbance, row, upset, furor, brouhaha, *informal* to-do, *Brit informal* carry-on ⑥ the political scene ARENA, stage, sphere, world, milieu, realm, domain, area of interest, field, province, preserve ⑦ a scene from a Laurel and Hardy film CLIP, section, segment, part, sequence

■ behind the scenes SECRETLY, in secret, privately, in private, behind closed doors, surreptitiously, *informal* on the quiet, on the q.t., *formal* sub rosa

scenery ► **noun** ① the beautiful scenery of west Wales LANDSCAPE, countryside, country, terrain, topography, setting, surroundings, environment, view, vista, panorama ② we all helped with the scenery and costumes STAGE SET, set, mise en scène, flats, backdrop, drop curtain, *Brit* backcloth

scenic ► **adjective** PICTURESQUE, pretty, pleasing, attractive, lovely, beautiful, charming, pretty as a picture, easy on the eye, impressive, striking, spectacular, breathtaking, panoramic

scent ► **noun** ① the scent of freshly cut hay SMELL, fragrance, aroma, perfume, redolence, savour, odour, bouquet, nose ② a bottle of scent PERFUME, fragrance, toilet water, eau de toilette, cologne, eau de cologne ③ the hounds picked up the scent of a hare SPOOR, trail, track, Hunting foil, wind

► **verb** ① a shark can scent blood from over half a kilometre away SMELL, detect the smell of, get a whiff of ② Rose looked at him, scenting a threat SENSE, become aware of, detect, discern, recognize, get wind of

scented ► **adjective** PERFUMED, fragranced, perfumy, sweet-smelling, fragrant, aromatic

sceptic ► **noun** ① sceptics said the marriage wouldn't last CYNIC, doubter, pessimist, prophet of doom ② sceptics who have found faith AGNOSTIC, atheist, unbeliever, non-believer, disbeliever, doubting Thomas, *rare* nullifidian

sceptical ► **adjective** DUBIOUS, doubtful, taking something with a pinch of salt, doubting, cynical, distrustful, mistrustful, suspicious, disbelieving, unconvinced, incredulous, scoffing, pessimistic, defeatist

—OPPOSITES certain, convinced

scepticism ► **noun** ① his ideas were met with scepticism DOUBT, doubtfulness, a pinch of salt, disbelief, cynicism, distrust, mistrust, suspicion, incredulity, pessimism, defeatism, *formal* dubiety. ② he passed from scepticism to religious belief AGNOSTICISM, doubt, atheism, unbelief, non-belief

schedule ► **noun** ① we need to draw up a production schedule. PLAN, programme, timetable, scheme. ② I have a very busy schedule TIMETABLE, agenda, diary, calendar; *itinerary*

► **verb** another meeting was scheduled for April 20 ARRANGE, organize, plan, programme, timetable, set up, line up; *N Amer* slate

■ **behind schedule** LATE, running late, overdue, behind time, behind, behindhand

scheme ▶ noun ① *adventurous fund-raising schemes* PLAN, project, plan of action, programme, strategy, stratagem, tactic, game plan, course/line of action, system, procedure, design, formula, recipe, *Brit informal wheeze, archaic shift* ② *police uncovered a scheme to steal the paintings* PLOT, intrigue, conspiracy, ruse, ploy, stratagem, manoeuvre, subterfuge, machinations, *informal game, racket* ③ *the sonnet's rhyme scheme* ARRANGEMENT, system, organization, configuration, pattern, format, *technical schema*
▶ verb *he schemed to bring about the collapse of the government* PLOT, hatch a plot, conspire, intrigue, connive, manoeuvre, plan

scheming ▶ adjective CUNNING, crafty, calculating, devious, designing, conniving, wily, sly, tricky, artful, guileful, slippery, slick, manipulative, Machiavellian, unscrupulous, disingenuous, duplicitous, deceitful, underhand, treacherous
-OPPOSITES ingenuous, honest

schism ▶ noun DIVISION, split, rift, breach, rupture, break, separation, severance, chasm, gulf, discord, disagreement, dissension

schismatic ▶ adjective SEPARATIST, heterodox, dissident, dissentient, dissenting, heretical, breakaway, splinter
-OPPOSITES orthodox

schmaltzy ▶ adjective (*informal*) See SENTIMENTAL sense 2

scholar ▶ noun ① *a leading biblical scholar* ACADEMIC, intellectual, learned person, man/woman of letters, mind, intellect, savant, polymath, highbrow, bluestocking, authority, expert, *informal egghead, N Amer informal pointy-head, archaic bookman* ② (*archaic*) *the school had 28 scholars* PUPIL, student, schoolchild, schoolboy, schoolgirl

scholarly ▶ adjective ① *an earnest, scholarly man* LEARNED, erudite, academic, well read, widely read, intellectual, literary, lettered, educated, knowledgeable, highbrow, studious, bookish, donnish, bluestocking, cerebral, *N Amer informal pointy-headed, archaic clerkly* ② *a scholarly career* ACADEMIC, scholastic, pedagogic
-OPPOSITES uneducated, illiterate

scholarship ▶ noun ① *a centre of medieval scholarship* LEARNING, book learning, knowledge, erudition, education, letters, culture, academic study, academic achievement ② *a scholarship of £200 per term* GRANT, award, endowment, payment, *Brit bursary, exhibition*

scholastic ▶ adjective ACADEMIC, educational, school, scholarly

school ▶ noun ① *the village school* EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION, academy, college, seminary, alma mater See list ② *the university's School of English* DEPARTMENT, faculty, division ③ *the Barbiton school* GROUP, set, circle, followers, following, disciples, apostles, admirers, devotees, votaries, proponents, adherents ④ *a school of linguistics* WAY OF THINKING, school of thought, persuasion, creed, credo, doctrine, belief, faith, opinion, point of view, approach, method, style
-RELATED TERMS scholastic

▶ verb ① *he was schooled in Lyon* EDUCATE, teach, instruct ② *he schooled her in horsemanship* TRAIN,

teach, tutor, coach, instruct, drill, discipline, direct, guide, prepare, groom, prime, verse

Types of School

academy	junior high school
boarding school	junior school
board school	kindergarten
charity school	lower school
charter school	middle school
cheder	night school
choir school	nursery school
church school	parochial school
City Technology College (CTC)	preparatory/prep school
coeducational school	pre-school
college	primary school
comprehensive (school)	private school
convent	public school
county school	residential school
day school	secondary modern (school)
direct-grant school	secondary school
elementary school	senior high school
farm school	separate school
finishing school	sixth-form centre/college
first school	special school
free school	state school
grade school	Talmud Torah
grammar school	upper school
grant-maintained school (GM school)	voluntary school
high school	
infant school	

schooling ▶ noun ① *his parents paid for his schooling* EDUCATION, teaching, tuition, instruction, tutoring, tutelage, lessons, (book) learning ② *the schooling of horses* TRAINING, coaching, instruction, drill, drilling, discipline, disciplining

schoolteacher ▶ noun TEACHER, schoolmaster, schoolmistress, tutor, educationist, *Brit master, mistress, N Amer informal schoolmarm, Austral/NZ informal chalkie, schoolie, formal pedagogue*

science ▶ noun ① *a science teacher* See list ② *the science of criminology* BRANCH OF KNOWLEDGE, body of knowledge/information, area of study, discipline, field

scientific ▶ adjective ① *scientific research* technological, technical, research-based, knowledge-based, empirical ② *you need to approach it in a more scientific way* SYSTEMATIC, methodical, organized, well organized, ordered, orderly, meticulous, rigorous, exact, precise, accurate, mathematical, analytical, rational

scientist ▶ noun RESEARCHER, technologist, *Brit informal boffin* See lists here and at DOCTOR, SCIENCE

scintilla ▶ noun PARTICLE, iota, jot, whit, atom, speck, bit, trace, ounce, shred, crumb, fragment, grain, drop, spot, mite, modicum, hint, touch, suggestion, whisper, suspicion, *informal smidgen, tad, archaic scantling*

scintillate ▶ verb SPARKLE, shine, gleam, glimmer, flash, shimmer, twinkle, glint, glisten, wink; *poetic/literary* glister, coruscate

scintillating ▶ adjective ① *a scintillating diamond necklace* SPARKLING, shining, bright, brilliant, gleaming, glittering, twinkling, shimmer-



Branches of Science

See also **ENGINEERING, GEOGRAPHY, MATHEMATICS, MEDICINE, PSYCHOLOGY.**

acoustics	engineering	mathematics	photochemistry
aerodynamics	entomology	mechanics	physics
agriscience	epidemiology	medical physics	physiography
anatomy	ethnology	medicine	physiology
anthropology	ethology	metallurgy	phytology
astronomy	evolutionary psychology	meteorology	phytopathology
astrophysics	exobiology	microbiology	psychiatry
atomic physics	fluid mechanics	mineralogy	psychology
bacteriology	forensics	molecular biology	quantum mechanics
behavioural science	genetic engineering	mycology	radiochemistry
biochemistry	genetics	natural history	radiology
biology	geochemistry	nephology	robotics
botany	geochronology	neurology	seismology
chemistry	geography	neuroscience	sociobiology
climatology	geology	nuclear chemistry	sociology
computer science	geomorphology	nuclear physics	soil science
conchology	geophysics	oceanography	spectroscopy
cosmology	glaciology	oncology	statistics
cryogenics	haematology	ophthalmology	stratigraphy
crystallography	herpetology	optics	taxonomy
cybernetics	histology	ornithology	tectonics
cytology	holography	palaeobotany	thermodynamics
dendrology	hydrodynamics	palaeoclimatology	toxicology
dynamics	hydrology	palaeontology	veterinary medicine
earth science	hydrostatics	palynology	virology
ecology	ichthyology	parasitology	vulcanology
economics	immunology	particle physics	zoogeography
electrical engineering	information technology	pathology	zoology
electrodynamics	limnology	pedology	zymurgy
electronics	linguistics	petrology	
endocrinology	marine biology	pharmacology	

ing ② a scintillating second-half performance **BRILLIANT**, dazzling, exciting, exhilarating, stimulating, sparkling, lively, vivacious, vibrant, animated, ebullient, effervescent, witty, clever, poetic/literary coruscating
—OPPOSITES dull, boring

scion ▶ **noun** ① a scion of the tree **CUTTING**, graft, slip, shoot, offshoot, twig ② the scion of an aristocratic family **DESCENDANT**, heir, successor, child, offspring, Law issue

scoff ▶ **verb** they scoffed at her article **MOCK**, deride, ridicule, sneer at, jeer at, jibe at, taunt, make fun of, poke fun at, laugh at, scorn, laugh to scorn, dismiss, make light of, belittle, informal pooh-pooh

scoff ▶ **verb** (Bnt informal) the bears scoffed our packed lunch **EAT**, devour, consume, guzzle, gobble, wolf down, bolt, informal put away, nosh, polish off, demolish, shovel down, stuff one's face with, pig oneself on, pig out on, Bnt informal gollop, shift, N Amer informal scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up)

scold ▶ **verb** Mum took Anna away, scolding her for her bad behaviour **REBUKE**, reprimand, reproach, reprove, admonish, remonstrate with, chastise, chide, upbraid, berate, take to task, read someone the Riot Act, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals, informal tell off, dress down, give someone an earful, give someone a roasting, rap over the knuckles, let someone have it, bawl out, give someone hell, Bnt informal tick off, have a go at, carpet, tear someone off a strip, give someone what for, give someone some stick, give someone a rollicking/rocket/

row, N Amer informal chew out, ream out, Austral informal monster, formal castigate
—OPPOSITES praise

▶ **noun** (archaic) she is turning into a scold **NAG**, shrew, fishwife, harpy, termagant, harridan, complainer, moaner, grumbler, N Amer informal kvetch

scolding ▶ **noun** **REBUKE**, reprimand, reproach, reproof admonishment, reproof, remonstrance, lecture, upbraiding, informal telling-off, talking-to, rap over the knuckles, dressing-down, earful, roasting, Bnt informal ticking-off, carpeting, rocket, rollicking, formal castigation

scoop ▶ **noun** ① a measuring scoop **SPOON**, ladle, dipper, bailer ② a scoop of vanilla ice cream **SPOONFUL**, ladleful, portion, lump, ball; informal dollop ③ (informal) reporters competed for scoops: **EXCLUSIVE (STORY)**, inside story, exposé, revelation

▶ **verb** ① a hole was scooped out in the floor **HOLLOW OUT**, gouge out, dig, excavate, cut out ② cut the tomatoes in half and scoop out the flesh **REMOVE**, take out, spoon out, scrape out. ③ she scooped up armfuls of clothes **PICK UP**, gather up, lift, take up, snatch up, grab

scoot ▶ **verb** (informal) See **DASH** verb sense 1

scope ▶ **noun** ① the scope of the investigation: **EXTENT**, range, breadth, width, reach, sweep, purview, span, horizon; area, sphere, field, realm, compass, orbit, ambit, terms/field of reference, jurisdiction, remit; confine, limit; gamut. ② the scope for change is limited by political realities. **OPPORTUNITY**, freedom, latitude, leeway, capacity, liberty, room (to manoeuvre), elbow room; possibility, chance.



Scientists

See also **ECONOMIST, ENGINEER, INVENTOR, NOBEL PRIZEWINNER, PSYCHOLOGIST, ZOOLOGIST.**

- Abbe, Ernst (German physicist)
 Agricola, Georgius (Georg Bauer; German physician/mineralogist)
 Ålfvén, Hannes (Swedish theoretical physicist)
 Alvarez, Luis (American physicist)
 Ampère, André-Marie (French physicist/mathematician)
 Anderson, Carl (American physicist)
 Ångström, Anders (Swedish physicist)
 Appleton, Edward (English physicist)
 Arrhenius, Svante (Swedish chemist)
 Ashton, Francis (English physicist)
 Auer von Welsbach, Carl (Austrian chemist)
 Avery, Oswald (Canadian bacteriologist)
 Avogadro, Amedeo (Italian physicist/chemist)
 Baer, Karl Ernest von (German biologist)
 Baeyer, Johann von (German chemist)
 Banting, Frederick (Canadian physiologist)
 Bateson, William (English geneticist)
 Beckmann, Ernst (German chemist)
 Becquerel, Antoine-Henri (French physicist)
 Behring, Emil von (German bacteriologist)
 Bergius, Friedrich (German chemist)
 Bernard, Claude (French physiologist)
 Berthollet, Claude (French chemist)
 Berzelius, Jöns Jakob (Swedish chemist)
 Best, Charles (American-born Canadian physiologist)
 Bichat, Marie (French pathologist)
 Bjerknes, Vilhelm (Norwegian meteorologist/geophysicist)
 Black, Joseph (Scottish chemist)
 Blackett, Patrick M. S. (English physicist)
 Blumenbach, Johann (German physiologist)
 Bohr, Niels (Danish physicist)
 Boltzmann, Ludwig (Austrian physicist)
 Bondi, Hermann (British cosmologist/physicist, b. in Vienna)
 Bordet, Jules (Belgian bacteriologist/immunologist)
 Born, Max (German theoretical physicist)
 Bosch, Carl (German chemist)
 Bose, Satyendra Nath (Indian physicist)
 Bovet, Daniel (Swiss pharmacologist)
 Boyle, Robert (Irish physicist/chemist)
 Bragg, William Henry (English physicist)
 Braun, Karl (German physicist)
 Bridgman, P. W. (American physicist)
 Buchan, Alexander (Scottish meteorologist)
 Buchner, Eduard (German chemist)
 Bunsen, Robert (German chemist)
 Calvin, Melvin (American biochemist)
 Cannizzaro, Stanislao (Italian chemist)
 Carnot, Sadi (French scientist)
 Cavendish, Henry (English physicist/chemist)
 Chadwick, James (English physicist)
 Chain, Ernst (British biochemist, b. in Germany)
 Chamberlain, Owen (American physicist)
 Cherenkov, Pavel (Soviet physicist)
 Clausius, Rudolf (German physicist)
 Cockcroft, John (English physicist)
 Compton, Arthur (American physicist)
 Coulomb, Charles-Augustin de (French physicist)
 Crick, Francis (English biophysicist)
 Crookes, William (English physicist/chemist)
 Culpeper, Nicholas (English herbalist)
 Curie, Marie (French physicist, b. in Poland)
 Curie, Pierre (French physicist)
 Dale, Henry (English physiologist)
 Dalton, John (English chemist)
 Dana, James (American geologist/mineralogist)
 Davison, Clinton J. (American physicist)
 Davy, Humphry (English chemist)
 Dawkins, Richard (English biologist)
 de Broglie, Louis-Victor, Prince (French physicist)
 Debye, Peter (American physicist, b. in the Netherlands)
 de Duve, Christian (British biochemist, b. in Belgium)
 de Vries, Hugo (Dutch plant physiologist/geneticist)
 Dewar, James (Scottish chemist/physicist)
 Diels, Otto (German chemist)
 Dirac, Paul (English theoretical physicist)
 Doppler, Christian (Austrian physicist)
 Eccles, John (Australian physiologist)
 Ehrlich, Paul (German medical scientist)
 Einstein, Albert (American physicist, b. in Germany)
 Einthoven, Willem (Dutch physiologist)
 Erlanger, Joseph (American physiologist)
 Esaki, Leo (Japanese physicist)
 Euler, Ulf von (Swedish physiologist)
 Faraday, Michael (English chemist/physicist)
 Fermi, Enrico (American physicist)
 Feynman, Richard (American physicist)
 Fischer, Emil (German chemist)
 Fitzgerald, George (Irish physicist)
 Fleming, Alexander (Scottish bacteriologist)
 Florey, Howard (Australian pathologist)
 Foucault, Jean (French physicist)
 Franklin, Rosalind (English crystallographer)
 Fraunhofer, Joseph von (German physicist)
 Fresnel, Augustin (French physicist)
 Frisch, Otto (British physicist, b. in Austria)
 Funk, Casimir (American biochemist, b. in Poland)
 Galileo Galilei (Italian physicist)
 Gamow, George (American physicist, b. in Russia)
 Gasser, Herbert (American physiologist)
 Gay-Lussac, Joseph (French chemist/physicist)
 Geber (14th century; Spanish alchemist)
 Geiger, Hans (German physicist)
 Gell-Mann, Murray (American physicist)
 Gibbs, J. Willard (American chemist)
 Gilbert, William (English physician/physicist)
 Glashow, Sheldon Lee (American theoretical physicist)
 Goldschmidt, Viktor Moritz (Norwegian chemist, b. in Switzerland)
 Grimaldi, Francesco (Italian physicist)
 Guericke, Otto von (German physicist)
 Haber, Fritz (German chemist)
 Haeckel, Ernst (German biologist)
 Hahn, Otto (German chemist)
 Haldane, J. B. S. (Scottish biologist)
 Haller, Albrecht von (Swiss anatomist and physiologist)
 Hawking, Stephen (English theoretical physicist)
 Haworth, Norman (English chemist)
 Heaviside, Oliver (English physicist)
 Heisenberg, Werner (German physicist)
 Helmholtz, Hermann von (German physiologist/physicist)
 Hertz, Heinrich (German physicist)
 Hess, Victor (American physicist, b. in Austria)
 Hevesy, George de (Swedish radiochemist, b. in Hungary)
 Hodgkin, Alan (English physiologist)
 Hodgkin, Dorothy (British biochemist, b. in Egypt)
 Hoff, Jacobus van't (Dutch chemist)
 Hooke, Robert (English physicist)

Scientists (cont.)

- Hopkins, Frederick (English biochemist)
 Hoyle, Fred (English astrophysicist)
 Huxley, Andrew (English physiologist)
 Huxley, Julian (English biologist)
 Huxley, T. H. (English biologist)
 Huygens, Christiaan (Dutch physicist/mathematician)
 Ingenhousz, Jan (Dutch scientist)
 Ipatieff, Vladimir (American chemist, b. in Russia)
 Jabir ibn Hayyan (Arab chemist)
 Jacob, François (French biochemist)
 Jeans, James (English physicist)
 Joliot-Curie, Jean-Frédéric (French nuclear physicist)
 Joliot-Curie, Irène (French nuclear physicist)
 Jones, Steve (English geneticist)
 Joule, James Prescott (English physicist)
 Kamerlingh Onnes, Heike (Dutch physicist)
 Kekulé, Friedrich (German chemist)
 Kelvin, William (British physicist)
 Kendall, Edward (American biochemist)
 Kirchhoff, Gustav (German physicist)
 Klaproth, Martin (German chemist)
 Koch, Robert (German bacteriologist)
 Krebs, Hans (British biochemist, b. in Germany)
 Kurchatov, Igor (Russian physicist)
 Landau, Lev (Soviet theoretical physicist)
 Langmuir, Irving (American chemist/physicist)
 Lavoisier, Antoine (French chemist)
 Lawrence, Ernest (American physicist)
 Liebig, Justus von (German chemist)
 Lodge, Oliver (English physicist)
 Loewi, Otto (American pharmacologist/physiologist, b. in Germany)
 Lonsdale, Kathleen (Irish physicist)
 Lorentz, Hendrik (Dutch theoretical physicist)
 Lovelock, James (English scientist)
 Lysenko, Trofim (Soviet biologist/geneticist)
 Mach, Ernst (Austrian physicist)
 Macleod, John (Scottish physiologist)
 McClintock, Barbara (American geneticist)
 Maxwell, James Clerk (Scottish physicist)
 Medawar, Peter (English immunologist)
 Meltner, Lise (Swedish physicist, b. in Austria)
 Mendeleev, Dmitri (Russian chemist)
 Meyerhof, Otto (American biochemist, b. in Germany)
 Michelson, A. A. (American physicist)
 Millikan, Robert (American physicist)
 Moissan, Ferdinand (French chemist)
 Monod, Jacques Lucien (French biochemist)
 Morley, Edward Williams (American physicist)
 Mosander, Carl (Swedish chemist)
 Moseley, Harry (English physicist)
 Müller, Paul Hermann (Swiss chemist)
 Needham, Dorothy (English biochemist)
 Nernst, Hermann Walther (German chemist)
 Newton, Isaac (English physicist/mathematician)
 Nobel, Alfred Bernhard (Swedish chemist)
 Oersted, Hans Christian (Danish physicist)
 Ohm, Georg (German physicist)
 Oppenheimer, J. Robert (American physicist)
 Ostwald, Wilhelm (German chemist)
 Pasteur, Louis (French chemist/bacteriologist)
 Pauli, Wolfgang (American physicist, b. in Austria)
 Pauling, Linus (American chemist)
 Pavlov, Ivan Petrovich (Russian physiologist)
 Pelletier, Pierre-Joseph (French chemist)
 Perkin, William Henry (English chemist)
 Perrin, Jean Baptiste (French chemist)
 Pirie, Norman (Scottish biochemist)
 Planck, Max (German physicist)
 Porter, George (English chemist)
 Porter, Keith Roberts (Canadian/American biologist)
 Proust, Joseph Louis (French chemist)
 Prout, William (English chemist)
 Purcell, Edward (American physicist)
 Raman, Chandrasekhara (Indian physicist)
 Ramsay, William (Scottish chemist)
 Rayleigh, John William Strutt, 3rd Baron (English physicist)
 Röntgen, Wilhelm (German physicist)
 Rutherford, Ernest (New Zealand physicist)
 Sabatier, Paul (French chemist)
 Saha, Meghnad (Indian theoretical physicist)
 Sakharov, Andrei (Russian nuclear physicist)
 Salam, Abdus (Pakistani theoretical physicist)
 Sanger, Frederick (English biochemist)
 Scheele, Carl Wilhelm (Swedish chemist)
 Schrödinger, Erwin (Austrian theoretical physicist)
 Schwann, Theodor (German physiologist)
 Seaborg, Glenn (American nuclear chemist)
 Segrè, Emilio (American physicist, b. in Italy)
 Sherrington, Charles (English physiologist)
 Shockley, William (American physicist)
 Soddy, Frederick (English physicist)
 Spallanzani, Lazzaro (Italian physiologist/biologist)
 Starling, Ernest (English physiologist)
 Swan, Joseph (English physicist/chemist)
 Szent-Györgyi, Albert von (American biochemist, b. in Hungary)
 Szilard, Leo (American physicist, b. in Hungary)
 Teller, Edward (American physicist, b. in Hungary)
 Thomson, Joseph (English atomic physicist)
 Torricelli, Evangelista (Italian physicist/mathematician)
 Townes, Charles (American physicist)
 Tyndall, John (Irish physicist)
 Urey, Harold C. (American chemist)
 Van Allen, James (American physicist)
 Virchow, Rudolf (German physician/pathologist)
 Volta, Alessandro (Italian physicist)
 Walton, E. T. S. (Irish physicist)
 Warburg, Otto Heinrich (German biochemist)
 Watson, James (American geneticist/biologist)
 Watson-Watt, Robert (Scottish physicist)
 Wegener, Alfred (German meteorologist)
 Weinberg, Steven (American theoretical physicist)
 Weismann, August (German biologist)
 Welsbach: see Auer
 Werner, Alfred (Swiss chemist, b. in France)
 Wheeler, John (American theoretical physicist)
 Wigner, Eugene (American physicist)
 Wilkins, Maurice (British biochemist, b. in New Zealand)
 Wilson, John (Canadian geophysicist)
 Windaus, Adolf (German chemist)
 Wöhler, Friedrich (German chemist)
 Wollaston, William Hyde (English chemist/physicist)
 Woodward, R. B. (American chemist)
 Yukawa, Hideki (Japanese physicist)
 Zeeman, Pieter (Dutch physicist)
 Zsigmondy, Richard (German chemist, b. in Austria)
 Zworykin, Vladimir (American physicist, b. in Russia)

scorch ▶ **verb** ① the buildings were scorched by the fire **BURN**, sear, singe, char, blacken, discolour ② grass scorched by the sun **DRY UP**, desiccate, parch, wither, shrivel, burn, bake

scorching ▶ **adjective** ① the scorching July sun **EXTREMELY HOT**, red-hot, blazing, flaming, fiery, burning, blistering, searing, sweltering, torrid, *N Amer* broiling, *informal* boiling (hot), baking (hot), sizzling ② scorching criticism **FERCE**, savage, scathing, withering, blistering, searing, devastating, stringent, severe, harsh, stinging, biting, mordant, trenchant, caustic, virulent, vitriolic
—**OPPOSITES** freezing, mild

score ▶ **noun** ① the final score was 4–3 **RESULT**, outcome, total, sum total, tally, count ② an IQ score of 161 **RATING**, grade, mark, percentage ③ I've got a score to settle with you **GRIEVANCE**, bone to pick, axe to grind, grudge, complaint, dispute, bone of contention ④ (*informal*) he knew the score before he got here **THE SITUATION**, the position, the facts, the truth of the matter, the (true) state of affairs, the picture, how things stand, the lie of the land, *Bnt* the state of play, *N Amer* the lay of the land, *informal* the set-up, what's what ⑤ scores of complaints **A GREAT MANY**, a lot, a great/good deal, large quantities, plenty, *informal* lots, umpteen, a slew, loads, masses, stacks, scads, heaps, piles, bags, tons, oodles, dozens, hundreds, thousands, millions, billions, *Bnt* *informal* shedloads, *N Amer* *informal* a bunch, gazillions, *Austral* *NZ* *informal* a swag

▶ **verb** ① he's already scored 13 goals this season **GET**, gain, chalk up, achieve, make, record, rack up, notch up, *informal* bag, knock up ② (*informal*) his new movie really scored **BE SUCCESSFUL**, be a success, triumph, make an impression, go down well, *informal* be a hit, be a winner, be a sell-out, go down a storm ③ the piece was scored for flute, violin, and continuo **ORCHESTRATE**, arrange, set, adapt, write, compose ④ score the wood in criss-cross patterns **SCRATCH**, cut, notch, incise, scrape, nick, snick, chip, gouge, mark, *archaic* scotch

■ **score points off** **GET THE BETTER OF**, gain the advantage over, outdo, worst, have the edge over, have the last laugh on, make a fool of, humiliate, *informal* get/be one up on, get one over on, best

■ **score something out/through** **CROSS OUT**, strike out, put a line through, ink out, blue-pencil, scratch out, delete, obliterate, expunge

scorn ▶ **noun** he was unable to hide the scorn in his voice **CONTEMPT**, derision, contemptuousness, disdain, derisiveness, mockery, sneering, *archaic* contumely, despite

—**OPPOSITES** admiration, respect

▶ **verb** ① critics scorned the painting **DERIDE**, hold in contempt, treat with contempt, pour/heap scorn on, look down on, look down one's nose at, disdain, curl one's lip at, mock, scoff at, sneer at, jeer at, laugh at, laugh out of court, disparage, slight, dismiss, cock a snook at, spit in the eye/face of, thumb one's nose at, *informal* turn one's nose up at, *archaic* contemn ② 'I am a woman scorned,' she thought **SPURN**, rebuff, reject, ignore, shun, snub ③ she would have scorned to stoop to such tactics **REFUSE TO**, refrain from, not lower oneself to, be above, consider it beneath one

—**OPPOSITES** admire, respect

scornful ▶ **adjective** **CONTEMPTUOUS**, derisive, withering, mocking, scoffing, sneering, jeering, scathing, snide, disparaging, supercilious, disdainful, superior, *archaic* contumelious
—**OPPOSITES** admiring, respectful

scotch ▶ **verb** **PUT AN END TO**, put a stop to, nip in the bud, put the lid on, ruin, wreck, destroy, smash, shatter, demolish, queer, frustrate, thwart, *informal* put paid to, put the kibosh on, *Bnt* *informal* scupper

scot-free ▶ **adverb** **UNPUNISHED**, without punishment, unscathed, unhurt, unharmed, without a scratch

Scotland ▶ **noun** Caledonia, *Bnt* north of the border, *informal* the land of cakes *See list*

Traditional Counties of Scotland

Aberdeenshire	Kirkcudbrightshire
Angus	Lanarkshire
Argyllshire	Midlothian
Ayrshire	Moray
Banffshire	Nairnshire
Berwickshire	Orkney Islands
Bute	Peebleshire
Caithness	Perthshire
Clackmannanshire	Renfrewshire
Dumfriesshire	Ross and Cromarty
Dunbartonshire	Roxburgh
East Lothian	Selkirkshire
Fife	Shetland Islands
Hebrides	Stirlingshire
Inverness-shire	Sutherland
Kincardineshire	West Lothian
Kinross-shire	Wigtownshire

scoundrel ▶ **noun** **ROGUE**, rascal, miscreant, good-for-nothing, reprobate, cheat, swindler, fraudster, trickster, charlatan, *informal* villain, bastard, beast, son of a bitch, **SOB**, rat, louse, swine, dog, skunk, heel, snake (in the grass), wretch, scumbag, *Insh* *informal* sleeveen, spalpeen, *N Amer* *informal* rat fink, *informal*, dated rotter, hound, bounder, blighter, dated cad, *archaic* blackguard, knave, varlet, whoreson

scour¹ ▶ **verb** she scoured the cooker and cleaned out the cupboards **SCRUB**, rub, clean, wash, cleanse, wipe, polish, buff (up), shine, burnish, abrade

scour² ▶ **verb** Christine scoured the shops for a gift **SEARCH**, comb, hunt through, rummage through, go through with a fine-tooth comb, root through, rake through, leave no stone unturned, look high and low in, ransack, turn upside-down, *Austral* *NZ* *informal* fossick through

scourge ▶ **noun** ① (*historical*) he was beaten with a scourge **WHIP**, horsewhip, lash, strap, birch, switch, *N Amer* bullwhip, rawhide, *historical* cat-o'-nine-tails ② inflation was the scourge of the mid-1970s **AFFLICTION**, bane, curse, plague, menace, evil, misfortune, burden, cross to bear, blight, cancer, canker
—**OPPOSITES** blessing, godsend

▶ **verb** ① (*historical*) he was publicly scourged **FLOG**, whip, beat, horsewhip, lash, flagellate, strap, birch, cane, thrash, belt, leather, *informal* tan someone's hide, take a strap to ② a disease which scourged the English for centuries **AFFLICT**, plague, torment, torture, curse, oppress, burden, bedevil, beset



scout ▶ **noun** ① *scouts reported that the enemy were massing ahead* LOOKOUT, outrider, advance guard, vanguard, spy ② *a lengthy scout round the area* RECONNAISSANCE, reconnoitre, exploration, search, expedition, informal *recce*, *Brit* informal *shufti*, *N Amer* informal *recon* ③ *a record company scout* TALENT SPOTTER, talent scout, *N Amer* informal *bird dog*

▶ **verb** ① *I scouted around for some logs* SEARCH, look, hunt, ferret about/around, root about/around ② *a night patrol was sent to scout out the area* RECONNOITRE, explore, make a reconnaissance of, inspect, investigate, spy out, survey, examine, scan, study, observe, informal *make a recce* of, check out, case, *Brit* informal *take a shufti* round, *N Amer* informal *recon*

scowl ▶ **verb** GLOWER, frown, glare, grimace, look, hunt, ferret about/around, root about/around ② *a night patrol was sent to scout out the area* RECONNOITRE, explore, make a reconnaissance of, inspect, investigate, spy out, survey, examine, scan, study, observe, informal *make a recce* of, check out, case, *Brit* informal *take a shufti* round, *N Amer* informal *recon*

scraggy ▶ **adjective** SCRAWNY, thin, as thin as a rake, skinny, skin and bone, gaunt, bony, angular, gawky, raw-boned, *dated* spindle-shanked –OPPOSITES fat

scram ▶ **verb** (informal) *scram* or *I'll call the police* GO AWAY, leave, get out, go, get moving, be off (with you), shoo, informal *skedaddle*, split, run along, beat it, get lost, shove off, buzz off, push off, clear off, on your bike, *Brit* informal *get stuffed*, sling your hook, hop it, bog off, naff off, *N Amer* informal *bug off*, take a powder, take a hike, *Austral/NZ* informal *rack off*, *poetic/literary* *begone*

scramble ▶ **verb** ① *we scrambled over the boulders* CLAMBER, climb, crawl, claw one's way, scabble, grope one's way, struggle, *N Amer* *shinny* ② *small children scrambled for the scattered coins* JOSTLE, scuffle, tussle, struggle, strive, compete, contend, vie, jockey ③ *the alcohol has scrambled his brains* MUDDLE, confuse, mix up, jumble (up), disarrange, disorganize, disorder, disturb, mess up

▶ **noun** ① *a short scramble over the rocks* CLAMBER, climb, trek ② *I lost Tommy in the scramble for a seat* TUSSELE, jostle, scrimmage, scuffle, struggle, free-for-all, competition, contention, vying, jockeying, muddle, confusion, melee

scrap¹ ▶ **noun** ① *a scrap of paper* FRAGMENT, piece, bit, snippet, shred, offcut, oddment, remnant ② *there wasn't a scrap of evidence* BIT, speck, iota, particle, ounce, whit, jot, atom, shred, scintilla, tittle, jot or tittle, informal *smudgen*, *tad* ③ *he slept rough and lived on scraps* LEFTOVERS, leavings, crumbs, scrapings, remains, remnants, residue, odds and ends, bits and pieces ④ *the whole thing was made from bits of scrap* WASTE, rubbish, refuse, litter, debris, detritus; flotsam and jetsam, *N Amer* *garbage*, trash; informal *junk*

▶ **verb** ① *old cars which are due to be scrapped* THROW AWAY, throw out, dispose of, get rid of, toss out, throw on the scrap heap, discard, remove, dispense with, lose, bin; decommission, recycle, break up, demolish; informal *chuck* (away/out), ditch, dump, junk, get shut of; *Brit* informal *get shot of*, *N Amer* informal *trash* ② *campaigners called for the plans to be scrapped*, ABANDON, drop, abolish, withdraw, throw out, do

away with, put an end to, cancel, axe, jettison, informal *ditch*, dump, junk

–OPPOSITES keep, preserve

scrap² (informal) ▶ **noun** *he and Joe had several scraps* QUARREL, argument, row, fight, disagreement, difference of opinion, falling-out, dispute, squabble, contretemps, clash, altercation, brawl, tussle, conflict, shouting match, informal *tiff*, set-to, run-in, slanging match, shindy, spat, dust-up, ruction, *Brit* informal *barney*, ding-dong, bust-up

▶ **verb** *the older boys started scrapping with me* QUARREL, argue, row, fight, squabble, brawl, bicker, spar, wrangle, lock horns, be at each other's throats

scrape ▶ **verb** ① *we scraped all the paint off the windows* ABRABE, grate, sand, sandpaper, scour, scratch, rub, file, rasp ② *their boots scraped along the floor* GRATE, creak, rasp, grind, scratch ③ *she scraped her hair back behind her ears* RAKE, drag, pull, tug, draw ④ *he scraped a hole in the ground* SCOOP OUT, hollow out, dig (out), excavate, gouge out ⑤ *Ellen had scraped her shins on the wall* GRAZE, scratch, abrade, scuff, rasp, skin, rub raw, cut, lacerate, bark, chafe, *Medicine* *excoriate*

▶ **noun** ① *the scrape of her key in the lock* GRATING, creaking, grinding, rasp, rasping, scratch, scratching ② *there was a long scrape on his shin* GRAZE, scratch, abrasion, cut, laceration, wound ③ (informal) *he's always getting into scrapes* PREDICAMENT, plight, tight corner/spot, ticklish/tricky situation, problem, crisis, mess, muddle, informal *jam*, fix, stew, bind, hole, hot water, a pretty/fine kettle of fish, *Brit* informal *spot of bother*

■ **scrape by** MANAGE, cope, survive, muddle through/along, make ends meet, get by/along, make do, keep the wolf from the door, keep one's head above water, eke out a living, informal *make out*

scrappy ▶ **adjective** DISORGANIZED, untidy, disjointed, unsystematic, uneven, bitty, sketchy, piecemeal, fragmentary, incomplete, unfinished

scratch ▶ **verb** ① *the paintwork was scratched* SCORE, abrade, scrape, scuff ② *thorns scratched her skin* GRAZE, scrape, abrade, skin, rub raw, cut, lacerate, bark, chafe, wound, *Medicine* *excoriate* ③ *many names had been scratched out* CROSS OUT, strike out, score out, delete, erase, remove, eliminate, expunge, obliterate ④ *she was forced to scratch from the race* WITHDRAW, pull out of, back out of, bow out of, stand down

▶ **noun** ① *he had two scratches on his cheek* GRAZE, scrape, abrasion, cut, laceration, wound ② *a scratch on the paintwork* SCORE, mark, line, scrape

■ **up to scratch** GOOD ENOUGH, up to the mark, up to standard, up to par, satisfactory, acceptable, adequate, passable, sufficient, all right; informal *OK*, up to snuff

scrawl ▶ **verb** *he scrawled his name at the bottom of the page* SCRIBBLE, write hurriedly, write untidily, dash off

▶ **noun** *pages of handwritten scrawl*: SCRIBBLE, squiggle(s), hieroglyphics, rare *cacography*

scrawny ▶ **adjective** SKINNY, thin, as thin as a rake, skin and bone, gaunt, bony, angular, gawky, scraggy, raw-boned, *dated* spindle-shanked.

—OPPOSITES fat.

scream ▶ **verb** he screamed in pain SHRIEK, screech, yell, howl, shout, bellow, bawl, cry out, call out, yelp, squeal, wail, squawk, informal holler

▶ **noun** ① a scream of pain. SHRIEK, screech, yell, howl, shout, bellow, bawl, cry, yelp, squeal, wail, squawk, informal holler ② (informal) the whole thing's a scream: LAUGH, hoot, informal gas, giggle, riot, bundle of fun/laughs ③ (informal) he's an absolute scream: WIT, hoot, comedian, comic, entertainer, joker, clown, character, informal gas, giggle, riot, informal, dated caution, case, card

screech ▶ **verb**. See SCREAM **verb**

screen ▶ **noun** ① he dressed hurriedly behind the screen PARTITION, (room) divider, windbreak ② a computer with a 15-inch screen DISPLAY, monitor, visual display unit, VDU, cathode-ray tube, CRT ③ every window has a screen because of mosquitoes MESH, net, netting ④ the hedge acts as a screen against the wind BUFFER, protection, shield, shelter, guard ⑤ the earth must be put through a screen SIEVE, riddle, strainer, colander, filter

▶ **verb** ① the end of the hall had been screened of PARTITION OFF, divide off, separate off, curtain off ② the cottage was screened by the trees: CONCEAL, hide, veil, shield, shelter, shade, protect, guard, safeguard ③ the prospective candidates will have to be screened VER, check, check up on, investigate, informal check out ④ all donated blood is screened for the virus CHECK, test, examine, investigate ⑤ coal used to be screened by hand SIEVE, riddle, sift, strain, filter, winnow ⑥ the programme is screened on Thursday evenings SHOW, broadcast, transmit, televise, put out, put on the air

screw ▶ **noun** ① stainless steel screws bolt, fastener, nail, pin, tack, spike, rivet, brad ② the handle needs a couple of screws to tighten it TURN, twist, wrench. ③ the ship's twin screws PROPELLER, rotor

▶ **verb** ① he screwed the lid back on the jar TIGHTEN, turn, twist, wind ② the bracket was screwed in place FASTEN, secure, fix, attach ③ (informal) she intended to screw money out of them EXTORT, force, extract, wrest, wring, squeeze, informal bleed

■ **put the screws on** (informal) PRESSURIZE, put pressure on, pressure, coerce, browbeat, use strong-arm tactics on, hold a gun to someone's head, informal put the heat on, lean on

■ **screw something up** ① Christina screwed up her face in disgust: WRINKLE (UP), pucker, crumple, crease, furrow, contort, distort, twist, purse. ② (informal) they'll screw up the whole economy. WRECK, ruin, destroy, wreak havoc on, damage, spoil, mar; dash, shatter, scotch, make a mess of, mess up, informal louse up, foul up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for, nux, queer, Brit informal scupper, cock up.

scribble ▶ **verb** he scribbled a few lines on a piece of paper SCRAWL, write hurriedly, write untidily, scratch, dash off, jot (down); doodle.

▶ **noun** a page of scribble: SCRAWL, squiggle(s), jottings; doodle, doodlings; rare cacography.

scribe ▶ **noun** ① (historical) a medieval scribe: CLERK, secretary, copyist, transcriber, amanuensis; historical penman, scrivener. ② (informal) a local cricket scribe. WRITER, author, penman; journalist, reporter; informal hack

scrimmage ▶ **noun** FIGHT, tussle, brawl, struggle, fracas, free-for-all, rough and tumble; Law, dated affray, informal scrap, dust-up, punch-up, set-to, shindy, Brit informal scrum; N Amer informal rough house.

scrimp ▶ **verb** ECONOMIZE, skimp, scrimp and save, save, be thrifty, be frugal, tighten one's belt, cut back, husband one's resources, draw in one's horns, watch one's pennies; N Amer pinch the pennies

script ▶ **noun** ① her neat, tidy script: HANDWRITING, writing, hand, pen, penmanship, calligraphy ② the script of the play TEXT, screenplay, libretto, score, lines, dialogue, words

scripture ▶ **noun** THE BIBLE, the Holy Bible, Holy Writ, the Gospel, the Good Book, the Word of God, the Book of Books, sacred text(s) See lists at BIBLE, SACRED

scrooge ▶ **noun** MISER, penny-pincher, pinch-penny, niggard, informal skinflint, meanie, money-grubber, cheapskate, N Amer informal tightwad

—OPPOSITES spendthrift

scrounge ▶ **verb** (informal) BEG, borrow; informal cadge, sponge, bum, touch someone for, Brit informal scab, N Amer informal mooch, Austral/NZ informal bludge

scrounger ▶ **noun** (informal) BEGGAR, borrower, parasite, cadger, informal sponger, freeloader, N Amer informal mooch, moocher, schnortter, Austral/NZ informal bludger

scrub¹ ▶ **verb** ① he scrubbed the kitchen floor SCOUR, rub, clean, cleanse, wash, wipe ② (informal) the plans were scrubbed ABANDON, scrap, drop, cancel, call off, axe, jettison, discard, discontinue, abort, informal ditch, dump, junk

scrub² ▶ **noun** there the buildings ended and the scrub began BRUSH, brushwood, scrubland, undergrowth

scruffy ▶ **adjective** SHABBY, worn, down at heel, ragged, tattered, mangy, dirty, untidy, unkempt, bedraggled, messy, dishevelled, ill-groomed, informal tatty, the worse for wear, N Amer informal raggedy

—OPPOSITES smart, tidy

scrumptious ▶ **adjective** (informal) DELICIOUS, delectable, mouth-watering, tasty, appetizing, rich, savoury, flavoursome, flavourful, toothsome, succulent, luscious; informal scrummy, yummy, Brit informal moreish, N Amer informal finger-licking, nummy

—OPPOSITES unpalatable

scrunch ▶ **verb** CRUMPLE, crunch, crush, rumple, screw up, squash, squeeze, compress, informal squidge

scruple ▶ **verb** she would not scruple to ask them for money HESITATE, be reluctant, be loath, have qualms, have scruples, have misgivings, have reservations, think twice, balk, demur, recoil from, shrink from, shy away from, flinch from

scruples ▶ **plural noun** he had no scruples about eavesdropping: QUALMS, compunction, pangs/twinges of conscience, hesitation, reservations, second thoughts, doubt(s), misgivings, uneasiness, reluctance.

scrupulous ▶ **adjective** ① scrupulous attention to detail: CAREFUL, meticulous, painstaking, thorough, assiduous, sedulous, attentive, conscientious, punctilious, searching, close, minute, rig-

Sculptors

Aaltonen, Wäinö (Finnish)
 Andre, Carl (American)
 Appel, Karel (Dutch)
 Archipenko, Aleksandr (American, b. in Russia)
 Arp, Jean (Alsatian)
 Barlach, Ernst (German)
 Bartholdi, Auguste (French)
 Bernini, Gian Lorenzo (Italian)
 Bourdelle, Émile (French)
 Brancusi, Constantin (Romanian)
 Butler, Reginald (English)
 Calder, Alexander (American)
 Canova, Antonio (Italian)
 Caro, Anthony (English)
 Cellini, Benvenuto (Italian)
 Christo (Christo Javacheff; Bulgarian)
 Clodion (French)
 Daumier, Honoré (French)
 Degas, Edgar (French)
 della Quercia, Jacopo (Italian)
 della Robbia, Luca (Italian)
 Donatello (Italian)
 Dubuffet, Jean (French)
 Duchamp, Marcel (American, b. in France)
 Epstein, Jacob (British, b. in America)
 Flaxman, John (English)
 Frink, Elisabeth (English)
 Gabo, Naum (American, b. in Russia)

Gaudier-Brzeska, Henri (French)
 Ghiberti, Lorenzo (Italian)
 Giacometti, Alberto (Swiss)
 Giambologna (Italian)
 Gibbons, Grinling (British woodcarver, b. in the Netherlands)
 Gill, Eric (English engraver)
 Goldsworthy, Andy (English)
 Gormley, Anthony (English)
 Goujon, Jean (French)
 Hanson, Duane (American)
 Hepworth, Barbara (English)
 Johns, Jasper (American)
 Judd, Donald (American)
 Landseer, Edwin Henry (English)
 Leighton, Frederic (English)
 Lichtenstein, Roy (American)
 Lipchitz, Jacques (French, b. in Lithuania)
 Lysippus (Greek)
 Maillol, Aristide (French)
 Manzu, Giacomo (Italian)
 Marini, Marino (Italian)
 Matisse, Henri (French)
 Meštrović, Ivan (American, b. in Croatia)
 Michelangelo Buonarroti (Italian)
 Michelozzo di Bartolommeo (Italian)
 Modigliani, Amedeo (Italian)
 Moholy-Nagy, László (American, b. in Hungary)

Moore, Henry (English)
 Morris, Robert (American)
 Myron (Greek)
 Noguchi, Isamu (American)
 Oldenburg, Claes (American, b. in Switzerland)
 Orcagna, Andrea (Italian)
 Paolozzi, Eduardo (Scottish, of Italian descent)
 Pevsner, Antoine (French, b. in Russia)
 Phidias (Athenian)
 Picasso, Pablo (Spanish)
 Pisano, Andrea (Italian)
 Pisano, Nicola (Italian)
 Pollaiuolo, Antonio (Italian)
 Pollaiuolo, Piero (Italian)
 Polyclitus (Greek)
 Praxiteles (Greek)
 Rodin, Auguste (French)
 Roubiliac, Louis-François (French)
 Sansovino, Jacopo Tatti (Italian)
 Segal, George (American)
 Smith, David (American)
 Sluter, Claus (Dutch)
 Stoss, Veit (German)
 Thorvaldsen, Bertel (Danish)
 Tinguely, Jean (Swiss)
 Verrocchio, Andrea del (Italian)
 Watts, George Frederick (English)
 Whiteread, Rachel (English)
 Zadkine, Ossip (French)

orous, particular, strict ② *a scrupulous man*
 HONEST, honourable, upright, upstanding,
 high-minded, right-minded, moral, ethical,
 good, virtuous, principled, incorruptible
 –OPPOSITES careless, dishonest

scrutinize ▶ **verb** EXAMINE, inspect, survey, study, look at, peruse, investigate, explore, probe, inquire into, go into, check

scrutiny ▶ **noun** EXAMINATION, inspection, survey, study, perusal, investigation, exploration, probe, inquiry, *informal* going-over

scud ▶ **verb** SPEED, race, rush, sail, shoot, sweep, skim, whip, whizz, flash, fly, scurry, flit, scutter

scuff ▶ **verb** SCRAPE, scratch, rub, abrade, mark

scuffle ▶ **noun** there was a scuffle outside the pub
 FIGHT, struggle, tussle, brawl, fracas, free-for-all, rough and tumble, scrimmage, *Law, dated* affray, *informal* scrap, dust-up, punch-up, set-to, shindy, *N Amer informal* rough house

▶ **verb** demonstrators scuffled with police
 FIGHT, struggle, tussle, exchange blows, come to blows, brawl, clash, *informal* scrap

sculpt ▶ **verb** CARVE, model, chisel, sculpture, fashion, form, shape, cast, cut, hew

sculptor ▶ **noun** carver, modeller See list

sculpture ▶ **noun** a bronze sculpture
 MODEL, carving, statue, statuette, figure, figurine, efigy, bust, head, likeness

▶ **verb** the choir stalls were carefully sculptured. See SCULPT

scum ▶ **noun** ① the water was covered with a thick green scum
 FILM, layer, covering, froth; filth,

dross, dirt ② (*informal*) drug dealers are scum
 DE SPICABLE PEOPLE, the lowest of the low, the dregs of society, vermin, riff-raff, *informal* the scum of the earth, dirt

scupper (*Brit*) ▶ **verb** ① the captain decided to scupper the ship. SINK, scuttle, submerge, send to the bottom ② (*informal*) he denied trying to scupper the agreement
 RUIN, wreck, destroy, sabotage, torpedo, spoil, mess up, *informal* screw up, foul up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for, *archaic* bring to naught

scurrilous ▶ **adjective** DEFAMATORY, slanderous, libellous, scandalous, insulting, offensive, gross, abusive, vituperative, malicious, *informal* bitchy

scurry ▶ **verb** pedestrians scurried for cover
 HURRY, hasten, run, rush, dash, scamper, scuttle, scramble, *Brit* scutter, *informal* scoot, beetle, *dated* make haste

–OPPOSITES amble

▶ **noun** there was a scurry to get out
 RUSH, race, dash, run, hurry, scramble, bustle

scuttle ▶ **verb**. See SCURRY verb

sea ▶ **noun** ① the sea sparkled in the sun
 (THE) OCEAN, the waves; *informal* the drink; *Brit informal* the briny; *poetic/literary* the deep, the main, the foam See list ② the boat overturned in the heavy seas. WAVES, swell, breakers, rollers, combers, *informal* boomers. ③ a sea of roofs and turrets: EX PANSE, stretch, area, tract, sweep, blanket, sheet, carpet, mass; multitude, host, profusion, abundance, plethora.

–RELATED TERMS marine, maritime, nautical.

—OPPOSITES land

► **adjective** *sea creatures* MARINE, oceanic, saltwater, seawater, ocean-going, seagoing, seafaring; maritime, naval, nautical, technical pelagic, thalassic

■ **at sea** CONFUSED, perplexed, puzzled, baffled, mystified, bemused, bewildered, nonplussed, disconcerted, disoriented, dumbfounded, at a loss, at sixes and sevens, *informal* flummoxed, bamboozled, fazed, *N Amer informal* discombobulated, *archaic* wildered, mazed

Seas and Oceans

Adriatic Sea	Inland Sea
Aegean Sea	Ionian Sea
Andaman Sea	Irish Sea
Antarctic Ocean	Japan, Sea of
Arabian Sea	Java Sea
Arafura Sea	Kara Sea
Aral Sea	Laptev Sea
Arctic Ocean	Ligurian Sea
Atlantic Ocean	Marmara, Sea of
Azov, Sea of	Mediterranean Sea
Baltic Sea	North Sea
Banda Sea	Okhotsk, Sea of
Barents Sea	Pacific Ocean
Beaufort Sea	Red Sea
Bellingshausen Sea	Ross Sea
Bering Sea	Sargasso Sea
Black Sea	Savu Sea
Caribbean Sea	Scotia Sea
Caspian Sea	South China Sea
China Sea	Southern Ocean
Chukchi Sea	Sulu Sea
Coral Sea	Tasman Sea
Dead Sea	Timor Sea
East China Sea	Tyrrhenian Sea
Flores Sea	Weddell Sea
Gallilee, Sea of	White Sea
Greenland Sea	Yellow Sea
Indian Ocean	

seafaring ► **adjective** MARITIME, nautical, naval, seagoing, sea

seal¹ ► **noun** ① the seal round the bath SEALANT, sealer, adhesive ② the kang put his seal on the letter EMBLEM, symbol, insignia, device, badge, crest, coat of arms, mark, monogram, stamp ③ the Minister gave his seal of approval to the project RATIFICATION, approval, blessing, consent, agreement, permission, sanction, endorsement, clearance

► **verb** ① she quietly sealed the door behind her FASTEN, secure, shut, close, lock, bolt ② seal each bottle while it is hot STOP UP, seal up, make airtight/watertight, cork, stopper, plug ③ police sealed off the High Street. CLOSE OFF, shut off, cordon off, fence off, isolate ④ he held out his hand to seal the bargain: CLINCH, secure, settle, conclude, complete, establish, set the seal on, confirm, guarantee; *informal* sew up.

seal² ► **noun** seals were basking in the water See list

seam ► **noun** ① the seam was coming undone JOIN, stitching; Surgery suture. ② a seam of coal LAYER, stratum, vein, lode ③ the seams of his face WRINKLE, line, crow's foot, furrow, crease, corrugation, crinkle, pucker, groove, ridge.

seaman ► **noun** SAILOR, seafarer, mariner, boatman, hand, *informal* (old) salt, sea dog, blue-

Seals, Sea Lions, and Sea Cows

Baikal seal	grey seal	Ross seal
bearded seal	harbour seal	sea cow
common seal	harp seal	sea elephant
crabeater seal	hooded seal	seal
dugong	leopard seal	sea lion
elephant seal	manatee	Steller's sea cow
fur seal	monk seal	walrus
	ringed seal	Weddell seal

jacket, *Brit informal* matelot, *informal*, dated tar, Jack Tar

—OPPOSITES landlubber

seamy ► **adjective** SORDID, disreputable, seedy, sleazy, squalid, insalubrious, unwholesome, unsavoury, rough, unpleasant

—OPPOSITES salubrious

sear ► **verb** ① the heat of the blast seared his face SCORCH, burn, singe, char ② sear the meat before adding the other ingredients FLASH-FRY, seal, brown ③ his betrayal had seared her terribly HURT, wound, pain, cut to the quick, sting, distress, grieve, upset, trouble, harrow, torment, torture

search ► **verb** ① I searched for the key in my handbag HUNT, look, seek, forage, fish about/around, look high and low, cast about/around, ferret about/around, root about/around, rummage about/around, *Brit informal* rootle about/around ② he searched the house thoroughly LOOK THROUGH, hunt through, explore, scour, rifle through, go through, sift through, comb, go through with a fine-tooth comb, turn upside down, turn inside out, leave no stone unturned in, *Austral/NZ informal* fossick through ③ the guards searched him for weapons EXAMINE, inspect, check, frisk

► **noun** we continued our search for a hotel HUNT, look, quest, pursuit

■ **in search of** SEARCHING FOR, hunting for, seeking, looking for, on the lookout for, in pursuit of

■ **search me!** (*informal*) I DON'T KNOW, how should I know?, it's a mystery, I haven't a clue, I haven't the least idea, I've no idea, *informal* dunno, don't ask me, I haven't the faintest/foggiest (idea/notion), it beats me, ask me another

searching ► **adjective** PENETRATING, piercing, probing, penetrative, keen, shrewd, sharp, intent

searing ► **adjective** ① the searing heat SCORCHING, blistering, sweltering, blazing (hot), burning, fiery, torrid; *informal* boiling (hot), baking (hot), sizzling, roasting ② searing pain INTENSE, excruciating, agonizing, sharp, stabbing, shooting, stinging, severe, extreme, racking ③ a searing attack FIERCE, savage, blistering, scathing, stinging, devastating, mordant, trenchant, caustic, cutting, biting, withering

seashell ► **noun** See list at SHELL

seaside ► **noun** COAST, shore, seashore, waterside; beach, sand, sands, *poetic/literary* strand

—RELATED TERMS littoral

season ► **noun** the rainy season | the opera season PERIOD, time, time of year, spell, term

► **verb** ① season the casserole to taste. FLAVOUR, add flavouring to, add salt/pepper to, spice. ② his

S

albums include standard numbers seasoned with a few of his own tunes' ENLIVEN, leaven, spice (up), liven up, *informal* pep up

■ **in season** AVAILABLE, obtainable, to be had, on offer, on the market, plentiful, abundant.

seasonable ► **adjective** USUAL, expected, predictable, normal for the time of year

seasoned ► **adjective** EXPERIENCED, practised, well versed, knowledgeable, established, habituated, veteran, hardened, battle-scarred
-OPPOSITES inexperienced

seasoning ► **noun** FLAVOURING, salt and pepper, herbs, spices, condiments.

seat ► **noun** ① a wooden seat CHAIR, bench, stool, settle, stall, (seats) seating, room, *Brit informal* pew ② the seat of government HEADQUARTERS, base, centre, nerve centre, hub, heart, location, site, whereabouts, place ③ the family's country seat RESIDENCE, ancestral home, mansion, stately home, *formal* abode

► **verb** ① they seated themselves round the table POSITION, put, place, ensconce, install, settle, *informal* plonk, park ② the hall seats 500 HAVE ROOM FOR, contain, take, sit, hold, accommodate

seating ► **noun** SEATS, room, places, chairs, accommodation

secede ► **verb** the Kingdom of Belgium seceded from the Netherlands in 1830 WITHDRAW FROM, break away from, break with, separate (oneself) from, leave, split with, split off from, disaffiliate from, resign from, pull out of, *informal* quit
-OPPOSITES join

secluded ► **adjective** SHELTERED, private, concealed, hidden, unfrequented, sequestered, tucked away
-OPPOSITES busy

seclusion ► **noun** ISOLATION, solitude, retreat, privacy, retirement, withdrawal, purdah, concealment, hiding, secrecy

second¹ ► **adjective** ① the second day of the trial NEXT, following, subsequent, succeeding ② he keeps a second pair of glasses in his office ADDITIONAL, extra, alternative, another, spare, back-up, relief, fallback, *N Amer* alternate ③ he dropped down to captain the second team SECONDARY, lower, subordinate, subsidiary, lesser, inferior ④ the conflict could turn into a second Vietnam. ANOTHER, new, repeat of, copy of, carbon copy of
-OPPOSITES first

► **noun** ① Eva had been working as his second. ASSISTANT, attendant, helper, aide, supporter, auxiliary, right-hand man/woman, girl/man Friday, second in command, number two, deputy, understudy, subordinate, *informal* sidekick ② (informal) he enjoyed the pie and asked for seconds A SECOND HELPING, a further helping, more

► **verb** George Beale seconded the motion. FORMALLY SUPPORT, give one's support to, vote for, back, approve, endorse

■ **second to none** INCOMPARABLE, matchless, unrivalled, imitable, beyond compare/comparison, unparalleled, without parallel, unequalled, without equal, in a class of its own, peerless, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil, unique, perfect, consummate, transcendent, surpassing, superlative, supreme, *formal* unexampled

second² ► **noun** I'll only be gone for a second: MOMENT, bit, little while, short time, instant, split

second, *informal* sec, jiffy, *Brit informal* mo, tick, two ticks

■ **in a second** VERY SOON, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, shortly, any minute (now), in the twinkling of an eye, in (less than) no time, in no time at all; *N Amer* momentarily, *informal* in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, in the blink of an eye, *Brit informal* in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo, *N Amer informal* in a snap; poetic/literary ere long

second³ ► **verb** he was seconded to their Welsh office. ASSIGN TEMPORARILY, lend; transfer, move, shift, relocate, assign, reassign, send.

secondary ► **adjective** ① a secondary issue LESS IMPORTANT, subordinate, lesser, minor, peripheral, incidental, ancillary, subsidiary, non-essential, inessential, of little account, unimportant ② secondary infections ACCOMPANYING, attendant, concomitant, consequential, resulting, resultant.

-OPPOSITES primary, main

second-class ► **adjective** SECOND-RATE, second-best, inferior, lesser, unimportant

second-hand ► **adjective** ① second-hand clothes USED, old, worn, pre-owned, handed-down, hand-me-down, cast-off, *Brit informal* reach-me-down ② second-hand information INDIRECT, derivative; vicarious.

-OPPOSITES new, direct

► **adverb** I was discounting anything I heard second-hand INDIRECTLY, at second-hand, on the bush telegraph, *informal* on the grapevine
-OPPOSITES directly

second in command ► **noun** DEPUTY, number two, subordinate, right-hand man/woman, understudy

secondly ► **adverb** FURTHERMORE, also, moreover; second, in the second place, next, secondarily

second-rate ► **adjective** INFERIOR, substandard, low-quality, below par, bad, poor, deficient, defective, faulty, imperfect, shoddy, inadequate, insufficient, unacceptable, *Brit informal* rropy, duff, rubbish.

-OPPOSITES first-rate, excellent

secret ► **noun** ① the secrecy of the material CONFIDENTIALITY, classified nature ② a government which thrived on secrecy: SECRETIVENESS, covertness, furtiveness, surreptitiousness, stealth, stealthiness

secret ► **adjective** ① a secret plan CONFIDENTIAL, top secret, classified, undisclosed, unknown, private, under wraps, *informal* hush-hush *formal* sub rosa. ② a secret drawer in the table HIDDEN, concealed, disguised, invisible ③ a secret operation to infiltrate terrorist groups: CLANDESTINE, covert, undercover, underground, surreptitious, stealthy, furtive, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, closet; *informal* hush-hush. ④ a secret message | a secret code: CRYPTIC, encoded, coded; mysterious, abstruse, recondite, arcane, esoteric, cabalistic. ⑤ a secret place. SECLUDED, private, concealed, hidden, unfrequented, out of the way, tucked away ⑥ a very secret person. See SECRETIVE.

-OPPOSITES public, open.

► **noun** ① he just can't keep a secret CONFIDENTIAL MATTER, confidence, private affair; skeleton in the cupboard. ② the secrets of the universe: MYSTERY

TERY, enigma, paradox, puzzle, conundrum, poser, riddle ③ *the secret of their success* RECIPE, (magic) formula, blueprint, key, answer, solution

■ **In secret** SECRETLY, in private, privately, behind closed doors, behind the scenes, in camera, under cover, under the counter, discreetly, behind someone's back, furtively, stealthily, on the sly, on the quiet, conspiratorially, covertly, clandestinely, on the side, *informal* on the q t, *formal* sub rosa

secret agent ▶ **noun** SPY, double agent, counterspy, undercover agent, operative, plant, mole, *N Amer informal* spook

secretary ▶ **noun** ASSISTANT, personal assistant, PA, administrator, amanuensis, girl/man Friday

secretary general ▶ **noun** See list at UNITED NATIONS

secrete¹ ▶ **verb** a substance secreted by the prostate gland: PRODUCE, discharge, emit, excrete, release, send out
—OPPOSITES absorb

secrete² ▶ **verb** we secreted ourselves in the bushes CONCEAL, hide, cover up, veil, shroud, screen, stow away, bury, cache, *informal* stash away
—OPPOSITES reveal

secretive ▶ **adjective** UNCOMMUNICATIVE, secret, unforthcoming, playing one's cards close to one's chest, reticent, reserved, silent, non-communicative, quiet, tight-lipped, close-mouthed, taciturn
—OPPOSITES open, communicative

secretly ▶ **adverb** ① *they met secretly for a year* IN SECRET, in private, privately, behind closed doors, in camera, behind the scenes, under cover, under the counter, behind someone's back, furtively, stealthily, on the sly, on the quiet, conspiratorially, covertly, clandestinely, on the side, *informal* on the q t, *formal* sub rosa ② *he was secretly jealous of Bartholomew* PRIVATE LV. in one's heart (of hearts), deep down

sect ▶ **noun** (RELIGIOUS) CULT, religious group, denomination, persuasion, religious order, splinter group, faction See lists at CHRISTIANITY, RELIGION

sectarian ▶ **adjective** FACTIONAL, separatist, partisan, parti pris, doctrinaire, dogmatic, extreme, fanatical, rigid, inflexible, bigoted, hide-bound, narrow-minded
—OPPOSITES tolerant, liberal.

section ▶ **noun** ① *the separate sections of a train* PART, piece, bit, segment, component, division, portion, element, unit, constituent ② *the last section of the questionnaire* SUBDIVISION, part, subsection, division, portion, bit, chapter, passage, clause. ③ *the reference section of the library*. DEPARTMENT, area, part, division. ④ *a residential section of the capital* See SECTOR sense 2

sector ▶ **adjective** ① *every sector of the industry is affected* PART, branch, arm, division, area, department, field, sphere ② *the north-eastern sector of the town* DISTRICT, quarter, part, section, zone, region, area, belt.

secular ▶ **adjective** NON-RELIGIOUS, lay, temporal, worldly, earthly, profane; *formal* laic.
—OPPOSITES holy, religious.

secure ▶ **adjective** ① *check to ensure that all bolts are secure* FASTENED, fixed, secured, done up, closed, shut, locked ② *an environment in which children can feel secure* SAFE, protected from harm/danger, out of from danger, sheltered, safe and sound, out of harm's way, in a safe place, in safe hands, invulnerable, at ease, unworried, relaxed, happy, confident ③ *a secure future* CERTAIN, assured, reliable, dependable, settled, fixed

—OPPOSITES loose, vulnerable, uncertain

▶ **verb** ① *pins secure the handle to the main body* FIX, attach, fasten, affix, connect, couple ② *the doors had not been properly secured* FASTEN, close, shut, lock, bolt, chain, seal ③ *he leapt out to secure the boat* TIE UP, moor, make fast, anchor ④ *they sought to secure the country against attack* PROTECT, make safe, fortify, strengthen ⑤ *a written constitution would secure the rights of the individual* ASSURE, ensure, guarantee, protect, confirm, establish ⑥ *the division secured a major contract* OBTAIN, acquire, gain, get, get possession of, *informal* get hold of, land

security ▶ **noun** ① *the security of the nation's citizens* SAFETY, freedom from danger, protection, invulnerability ② *he could give her the security she needed* PEACE OF MIND, feeling of safety, stability, certainty, happiness, confidence ③ *security at the court was tight* SAFETY MEASURES, safeguards, surveillance, defence, protection ④ *additional security for your loan may be required* GUARANTEE, collateral, surety, pledge, bond, *archaic* gage
—OPPOSITES vulnerability, danger

sedate¹ ▶ **verb** *the patient had to be sedated* TRANQUILLIZE, put under sedation, drug

sedate² ▶ **adjective** ① *a sedate pace* SLOW, steady, dignified, unhurried, relaxed, measured, leisurely, slow-moving, easy, easy-going, gentle ② *he had lived a sedate and straightforward life* CALM, placid, tranquil, quiet, uneventful, boring, dull
—OPPOSITES exciting, fast

sedative ▶ **adjective** sedative drugs TRANQUILLIZING, calming, calmative, relaxing, soporific, depressant, *Medicine* neuroleptic

▶ **noun** *the doctor gave him a sedative* TRANQUILIZER, calmative, sleeping pill, narcotic, opiate, depressant, *informal* trunk, sleeper, downer

sedentary ▶ **adjective** SITTING, seated, desk-bound; inactive
—OPPOSITES active

sedge ▶ **noun**. See list at GRASS

sediment ▶ **noun** DREGS, lees, precipitate, deposit, grounds, settlements, residue, remains; silt, alluvium, *technical* residuum, *archaic* grouts

sedition ▶ **noun** RABBLE-ROUSING, incitement to rebel, subversion, troublemaking, provocation, rebellion, insurrection, mutiny, insurgence, civil disorder

seditious ▶ **adjective** RABBLE-ROUSING, provocative, inflammatory, subversive, troublemaking, rebellious, insurrectionist, mutinous, insurgent.

seduce ▶ **verb** ① *he took her to his hotel room and tried to seduce her*: persuade to have sex, *euphemistic* have one's (wicked) way with, take advantage of; *dated* debauch ② *a firm which had seduced customers into buying worthless products*: AT-

TRACT, allure, lure, tempt, entice, beguile, inveigle, manoeuvre

seducer ▶ noun WOMANIZER, philanderer, Romeo, Don Juan, Lothario, Casanova, playboy, ladies' man, informal ladykiller, wolf, skirt-chaser

seductive ▶ adjective SEXY, alluring, tempting, exciting, provocative, sultry, slinky, coquettish, flirtatious, informal vampish, come-hither, come-to-bed

seductress ▶ noun TEMPTRESS, siren, femme fatale, Mata Hari, flirt, coquette, informal vamp

sedulous ▶ adjective DILIGENT, careful, meticulous, thorough, assiduous, attentive, industrious, conscientious, ultra-careful, punctilious, scrupulous, painstaking, minute, rigorous, particular

see¹ ▶ verb ① he saw her running across the road DISCERN, spot, notice, catch sight of, glimpse, catch/get a glimpse of, make out, pick out, spy, distinguish, detect, perceive, note, informal clap/lay/set eyes on, clock, poetic/literary behold, descry, espy ② I saw a documentary about it last week: WATCH, look at, view, catch ③ would you like to see over the house? INSPECT, view, look round, tour, survey, examine, scrutinize, informal give something a/the once-over ④ I finally saw what she meant UNDERSTAND, grasp, comprehend, follow, take in, realize, appreciate, recognize, work out, get the drift of, perceive, fathom (out), informal get, latch on to, cotton on to, catch on to, tumble to, savvy, figure out, get a fix on, Bnt informal twig, suss (out) ⑤ I must go and see what Victor is up to FIND OUT, discover, learn, ascertain, determine, establish ⑥ see that no harm comes to him ENSURE, make sure/certain, see to it, take care, mind ⑦ I see trouble ahead FORESEE, predict, forecast, prophesy, anticipate, envisage, picture, visualize ⑧ about a year later, I saw him in town. ENCOUNTER, meet, run into/across, come across, stumble on/across, happen on, chance on, informal bump into, archaic run against ⑨ they see each other from time to time MEET, meet up with, get together with, socialize with ⑩ you'd better see a doctor CONSULT, confer with, talk to, speak to, have recourse to, call on, call in, turn to, ask. ⑪ he's seeing someone else now GO OUT WITH, date, take out, be involved with; informal go steady with, Bnt informal, dated walk out with, N Amer informal, dated step out with, dated court ⑫ he saw her to her car ESCORT, accompany, show, walk, conduct, lead, take, usher, attend ■ see about ARRANGE, see to, deal with, take care of, look after, attend to, sort out ■ see through UNDERSTAND, get/have the measure of, read like a book; informal be wise to, have someone's number, know someone's (little) game ■ see someone through SUSTAIN, encourage, buoy up, keep going, support, be a tower of strength to, comfort, help (out), stand by, stick by ■ see something through PERSEVERE WITH, persist with, continue (with), carry on with, keep at, follow through, stay with, informal stick at, stick it out, hang in there. ■ see to ATTEND TO, deal with, see about, take care of, look after, sort out, fix, organize, arrange

see² ▶ noun a bishop's see: DIOCESE, bishopric.

seed ▶ noun ① sow the seeds in trays or pots: pip, stone, kernel, ovule ② each war contains within it the seeds of a fresh war GENESIS, source, origin, root, starting point, germ, beginnings, potential (for), cause, reason, motivation, motive, grounds ③ (archaic) Abraham and his seed DESCENDANTS, heirs, successors, scions, offspring, children, sons and daughters, progeny, family, Law issue, derogatory spawn, archaic fruit of someone's loins

—RELATED TERMS seminal

■ go/run to seed DETERIORATE, degenerate, decline, decay, fall into decay, go to rack and ruin, go downhill, moulder, rot, informal go to pot, go to the dogs, go down the toilet

seedy ▶ adjective ① the seedy world of prostitution SORDID, disreputable, seamy, sleazy, squalid, unwholesome, unsavoury ② a seedy block of flats DILAPIDATED, tumbledown, ramshackle, falling to pieces, decrepit, gone to rack and ruin, run down, down at heel, shabby, dingy, slummy, insalubrious, squalid, informal crummy, Bnt informal grotty

—OPPOSITES high-class

seek ▶ verb ① they sought shelter from the winter snows SEARCH FOR, try to find, look for, be on the lookout for, be after, hunt for, be in quest of ② the company is seeking a judicial review of the decision TRY TO OBTAIN, work towards, be intent on, aim at/for ③ he sought help from the police ASK FOR, request, solicit, call for, entreat, beg for, petition for, appeal for, apply for, put in for ④ we constantly seek to improve the service TRY, attempt, endeavour, strive, work, do one's best, formal essay

seem ▶ verb APPEAR (TO BE), have the appearance/air of being, give the impression of being, look, look as though one is, look like, show signs of, look to be, come across as, strike someone as, sound

seeming ▶ adjective APPARENT, ostensible, supposed, outward, surface, superficial, pretended, feigned

—OPPOSITES actual, genuine

seemingly ▶ adverb APPARENTLY, on the face of it, to all appearances, as far as one can see/tell, on the surface, to all intents and purposes, outwardly, superficially, supposedly

seemly ▶ adjective DECOROUS, proper, decent, becoming, fitting, suitable, appropriate, apt, apposite, meet, in good taste, genteel, polite, the done thing, right, correct, acceptable, comme il faut

—OPPOSITES unseemly, unbecoming

seep ▶ verb OOZE, trickle, exude, drip, dribble, flow, issue, escape, leak, drain, bleed, filter, percolate, soak

seer ▶ noun SOOTHSAYER, oracle, prophet(ess), augur, prognosticator, diviner, fortune teller, crystal-gazer, clairvoyant, psychic, Scottish spae-wife; poetic/literary sibyl

see-saw ▶ verb FLUCTUATE, swing, go up and down, rise and fall, oscillate, alternate, yo-yo, vary.

seethe ▶ verb ① the brew seethed: BOIL, bubble, simmer, foam, froth, fizz, effervesce. ② the water seethed with fish: TEEM, swarm, boil, swirl, churn, surge. ③ I seethed at the injustice of it all: BE ANGRY, be furious, be enraged, be incensed, be beside oneself, boil, simmer, rage, rant,

rave, storm, fume, smoulder, *informal* be livid, be wild, foam at the mouth, be steamed up, be hot under the collar, *Brit informal* do one's nut, throw a wobbly

see-through ► **adjective** TRANSPARENT, translucent, clear, limpid, pellucid; thin, lightweight, flimsy, sheer, diaphanous, filmy, gossamer, chifflony, gauzy

—OPPOSITES opaque

segment ► **noun** ① *orange segments* PIECE, bit, section, part, chunk, portion, division, slice, fragment, wedge, lump, tranche ② *all segments of society* PART, section, sector, division, portion, constituent, element, unit, compartment, branch, wing

► **verb** *they plan to segment their market share* DIVIDE (UP), subdivide, separate, split, cut up, carve up, slice up, break up; segregate, divorce, partition, section

—OPPOSITES amalgamate

segregate ► **verb** SEPARATE, set apart, keep apart, isolate, quarantine, closet, partition, divide, detach, disconnect, sever, dissociate

—OPPOSITES amalgamate

seize ► **verb** ① *she seized the microphone* GRAB, grasp, snatch, take hold of, get one's hands on, grip, clutch, *Brit informal* nab ② *rebels seized the air base* CAPTURE, take, overrun, occupy, conquer, take over ③ *the drugs were seized by customs* CONFISCATE, impound, commandeer, requisition, appropriate, expropriate, take away, *Law* distrain, *Scottish Law* pound ④ *terrorists seized his wife* KIDNAP, abduct, take captive, take prisoner, take hostage, hold to ransom, *informal* snatch

—OPPOSITES relinquish, release

■ **seize on** *they seized on the opportunity* TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, exploit, grasp with both hands, leap at, jump at, pounce on

seizure ► **noun** ① *Napoleon's seizure of Spain* CAPTURE, takeover, annexation, invasion, occupation, colonization. ② *the seizure of defaulters' property* CONFISCATION, appropriation, expropriation, sequestration, *Law* distrain, *Scottish Law* pound ③ *the seizure of UN staff by rebels* KIDNAP, PING, kidnap, abduction ④ *the baby suffered a seizure*: CONVULSION, fit, spasm, paroxysm, *Medicine* ictus; *dated* apoplexy.

seldom ► **adverb** RARELY, infrequently, hardly (ever), scarcely (ever), almost never, now and then, occasionally, sporadically, *informal* once in a blue moon

—OPPOSITES often.

select ► **verb** *select the correct tool for the job* CHOOSE, pick (out), single out, sort out, take, opt for, decide on, settle on, determine, nominate, appoint, elect.

► **adjective** ① *a select group of SAS members* CHOICE, hand-picked, prime, first-rate, first-class, superior, finest, best, top-class, supreme, superb, excellent; *informal* A1, top-notch. ② *a select clientele* EXCLUSIVE, elite, favoured, privileged; wealthy, *informal* posh

—OPPOSITES inferior

selection ► **noun** ① *Jim made his selection of toys* CHOICE, pick; option, preference. ② *a wide selection of dishes* RANGE, array, diversity, variety, assortment, mixture. ③ *a selection of his poems*: ANTHOLOGY, assortment, collection, assemblage; miscellany, medley, pot-pourri.

selective ► **adjective** DISCERNING, discriminating, discriminatory, critical, exacting, demanding, particular, fussy, fastidious, faddish, *informal* choosy, pernickety, picky, *Brit informal* faddy

self ► **noun** EGO, I, oneself, persona, person, identity, character, personality, psyche, soul, spirit, mind, inner self

—OPPOSITES other

self-assembly ► **noun** *kits for self-assembly* DO-IT-YOURSELF, DIY

► **adjective** *self-assembly furniture* FLAT-PACK, kit, self-build, do-it-yourself, DIY

self-assurance ► **noun** SELF-CONFIDENCE, confidence, assertiveness, self-reliance, self-possession, composure, presence of mind, aplomb

—OPPOSITES diffidence

self-assured ► **adjective** SELF-CONFIDENT, confident, assertive, assured, authoritative, commanding, self-reliant, self-possessed, poised

self-centred ► **adjective** EGOCENTRIC, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, self-seeking, self-interested, self-serving, narcissistic, vain, inconsiderate, thoughtless, *informal* looking after number one

self-confidence ► **noun** MORALE, confidence, self-assurance, assurance, assertiveness, self-reliance, self-possession, composure

self-conscious ► **adjective** EMBARRASSED, uncomfortable, uneasy, nervous, unnatural, inhibited, gauche, awkward, modest, shy, diffident, bashful, retiring, shrinking

—OPPOSITES confident

self-contained ► **adjective** ① *each train was a self-contained unit* COMPLETE, independent, separate, free-standing, enclosed ② *a very self-contained child* INDEPENDENT, self-sufficient, self-reliant, introverted, quiet, private, aloof, insular, reserved, reticent, secretive

self-control ► **noun** SELF-DISCIPLINE, restraint, self-possession, will power, composure, coolness, moderation, temperance, abstemiousness, *informal* cool

self-denial ► **noun** SELF-SACRIFICE, selflessness, unselfishness, self-discipline, asceticism, self-deprivation, abstemiousness, abstinence, abstention, moderation, temperance

—OPPOSITES self-indulgence

self-discipline ► **noun** SELF-CONTROL, restraint, self-restraint, will power, purposefulness, strong-mindedness, resolve, moral fibre, doggedness, persistence, determination, grit

self-employed ► **adjective** FREELANCE, working for oneself, independent, casual, consultant, consulting, temporary, jobbing, visiting, outside, external, extramural, penpatetic, *informal* one's own boss.

self-esteem ► **noun** SELF-RESPECT, pride, dignity, self-regard, faith in oneself, morale, self-confidence, confidence, self-assurance.

self-evident ► **adjective** OBVIOUS, clear, plain, evident, apparent, manifest, patent, distinct, transparent, overt, conspicuous, palpable, unmistakable, undeniable

—OPPOSITES unclear

self-explanatory ► **adjective** EASILY UNDERSTOOD, comprehensible, intelligible, straightforward, unambiguous, accessible, crystal clear, user-friendly, simple, self-evident, obvious



—OPPOSITES impenetrable

self-governing ▶ **noun** INDEPENDENT, sovereign, autonomous, free; self-legislating, self-determining

—OPPOSITES dependent

self-important ▶ **adjective** CONCEITED, arrogant, bumptious, full of oneself, puffed up, swollen-headed, pompous, overbearing, opinionated, cocky, presumptuous, sententious, vain, overweening, proud, egotistical, *informal* snooty, uppity, uppish

—OPPOSITES humble

self-indulgent ▶ **adjective** HEDONISTIC, pleasure-seeking, sybaritic, indulgent, luxurious, lotus-eating, epicurean, intemperate, immoderate, overindulgent, excessive, extravagant, licentious, dissolute, decadent

—OPPOSITES abstemious

self-interest ▶ **noun** SELF-SEEKING, self-serving, self-obsession, self-absorption, self-regard, egocentrism, egotism, egomania, selfishness, *informal* looking after number one

—OPPOSITES altruism

self-interested ▶ **adjective** SELF-SEEKING, self-serving, self-obsessed, self-absorbed, wrapped up in oneself, egocentric, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, selfish

selfish ▶ **adjective** EGOCENTRIC, egotistic, egotistical, egomaniacal, self-centred, self-absorbed, self-obsessed, self-seeking, self-serving, wrapped up in oneself, inconsiderate, thoughtless, unthinking, uncaring, uncharitable, mean, miserly, grasping, greedy, mercenary, acquisitive, opportunistic, *informal* looking after number one

—OPPOSITES altruistic

selfless ▶ **adjective** UNSELFISH, altruistic, self-sacrificing, self-denying, considerate, compassionate, kind, noble, generous, magnanimous, ungrudging, charitable, benevolent, open-handed

—OPPOSITES inconsiderate.

self-possessed ▶ **adjective** ASSURED, self-assured, calm, cool, composed, at ease, unperturbed, unruffled, confident, self-confident, poised, imperturbable, *informal* together, unfazed, unflappable

—OPPOSITES unsure

self-possession ▶ **noun** COMPOSURE, assurance, self-assurance, self-control, imperturbability, impassivity, equanimity, nonchalance, confidence, self-confidence, poise, aplomb, presence of mind, nerve, sangfroid, *informal* cool.

self-reliant ▶ **adjective** SELF-SUFFICIENT, self-supporting, self-sustaining, able to stand on one's own two feet, independent, autarkic

self-respect ▶ **noun** SELF-ESTEEM, self-regard, amour propre, faith in oneself, pride, dignity, morale, self-confidence

self-restraint ▶ **noun** SELF-CONTROL, restraint, self-discipline, self-possession, will power, moderation, temperance, abstemiousness, abstinence.

—OPPOSITES self-indulgence.

self-righteous ▶ **adjective** SANCTIMONIOUS, holier-than-thou, self-satisfied, smug, priggyish, complacent, pious, moralizing, superior, hypocritical; *informal* goody-goody

—OPPOSITES humble

self-sacrifice ▶ **noun** SELF-DENIAL, selflessness, unselfishness, self-discipline, asceticism, abnegation, self-deprivation, moderation, austerity, temperance, abstinence, abstention

self-satisfied ▶ **adjective** COMPLACENT, self-congratulatory, smug, superior, puffed up, pleased with oneself, *informal* goody-goody, I'm-all-right-Jack, *Brit informal* like the cat that's got the cream

self-seeking ▶ **adjective** SELF-INTERESTED, self-serving, selfish, egocentric, egotistic, egotistical, self-obsessed, self-absorbed, inconsiderate, thoughtless, unthinking, *informal* looking after number one

—OPPOSITES altruistic

self-styled ▶ **adjective** WOULD-BE, so-called, self-appointed, self-titled, professed, self-confessed, soi-disant

self-sufficient ▶ **adjective** SELF-SUPPORTING, self-reliant, self-sustaining, able to stand on one's own two feet, independent, autarkic

self-willed ▶ **adjective** WILFUL, contrary, perverse, uncooperative, wayward, headstrong, stubborn, obstinate, obdurate, pig-headed, mulish, intransigent, recalcitrant, intractable, *Brit informal* bloody-minded; *formal* refractory

—OPPOSITES biddable

sell ▶ **verb** ① they are selling their house PUT UP FOR SALE, offer for sale, put on sale, dispose of, vend, auction (off), trade, barter ② he sells cakes TRADE IN, deal in, traffic in, stock, carry, offer for sale, peddle, hawk, retail, market ③ the book should sell well GO, be bought, be purchased, move, be in demand ④ it sells for £79.95 COST, be priced at, retail at, go for, be ⑤ he still has to sell the deal to Congress PROMOTE, persuade someone to accept, talk someone into, bring someone round to, win someone over to, win approval for

—OPPOSITES buy.

■ **sell someone down the river** (*informal*) See DOUBLE-CROSS

■ **sell out** ① we've sold out of petrol HAVE NONE LEFT, be out of stock, have run out, *informal* be fresh out, be cleaned out ② the edition sold out quickly BE BOUGHT UP, be depleted, be exhausted ③ they say the band has sold out ABANDON ONE'S PRINCIPLES, prostitute oneself, sell one's soul, betray one's ideals, be untrue to oneself, debase oneself, degrade oneself, demean oneself

■ **sell someone out** BETRAY, inform on, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, double-cross, break faith with, stab in the back, *informal* tell on, sell down the river, blow the whistle on, squeal on, stitch up, peach on, do the dirty on, *Brit informal* grass on, shop, *N Amer informal* finger

■ **sell someone short** UNDERVALUE, underrate, underestimate, disparage, deprecate, belittle, *formal* derogate.

seller ▶ **noun** VENDOR, retailer, purveyor, supplier, stockist, trader, merchant, dealer; shopkeeper, salesperson, salesman, saleswoman, sales assistant, shop assistant, travelling salesperson, pedlar, hawker; auctioneer; *N Amer* clerk; *informal* counter-jumper.

semblance ▶ **noun** (OUTWARD) APPEARANCE, air, show, facade, front, veneer, guise, pretence.



seminal ► **adjective** INFLUENTIAL, formative, ground-breaking, pioneering, original, innovative; major, important

seminar ► **noun** ① a seminar for education officials. CONFERENCE, symposium, meeting, convention, forum, summit, discussion, consultation ② teaching in the form of seminars STUDY GROUP, workshop, tutorial, class, lesson

seminary ► **noun** THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, rabbinical college, Talmudical college, academy, training college, training institute, school

send ► **verb** ① they sent a message to HQ DISPATCH, post, mail, address, consign, direct, forward, transmit, convey, communicate, telephone, phone, broadcast, radio, fax, e-mail, dated telegraph, wire, cable ② we sent for a doctor CALL, summon, contact, ask for, request, order ③ the pump sent out a jet of petrol PROPEL, project, eject, deliver, discharge, spout, fire, shoot, release; throw, let fly, informal chuck ④ the barrels send off nasty fumes EMIT, give off, discharge, exude, send out, release, leak ⑤ it's enough to send one mad MAKE, drive, turn ⑥ (informal) it's the music that sends us EXCITE, stimulate, move, rouse, stir, thrill, electrify, intoxicate, enrapture, enthrall, grip, charm, delight, informal blow away, give someone a kick
-OPPOSITES receive

■ **send someone down** ① (Brit) she was sent down from Cambridge EXPEL, exclude, Brit rusticate ② (informal) he was sent down for life SEND TO PRISON, imprison, jail, incarcerate, lock up, confine, detain, intern, informal put away, Brit informal bang up

■ **send someone off** (Sport) ORDER OFF, dismiss, show someone the red card, informal red-card, send for an early bath, sin-bin

■ **send someone/something up** (informal) SATIRIZE, ridicule, make fun of, parody, lampoon, mock, caricature, imitate, ape, informal take off, spoof, take the mickey out of

send-off ► **noun** FAREWELL, goodbye, adieu, leave-taking, valediction, funeral, archaic vale
-OPPOSITES welcome

send-up ► **noun** (informal) SATIRE, burlesque, lampoon, pastiche, caricature, imitation, impression, impersonation, mockery, mimicry, travesty; informal spoof, take-off, mickey-take

senile ► **adjective** DODDERING, doddery, decrepit, senescent, declining, infirm, feeble, aged, long in the tooth, in one's dotage, mentally confused, having Alzheimer's (disease), having senile dementia, informal past it, gaga

senior ► **adjective** ① senior school pupils OLDER, elder ② a senior officer SUPERIOR, higher-ranking, high-ranking, more important; top, chief, N Amer ranking ③ Albert Stone Senior THE ELDER; Brit major, N Amer I, the First
-OPPOSITES junior, subordinate

senior citizen ► **noun** RETIRED PERSON, (old-age) pensioner, OAP, old person, elderly person, geriatric, dotard, Methuselah; N Amer. senior, retiree, golden age; informal old stager, old-timer, oldie, oldster, wrinkly, crumbly; Brit informal buffer, josser.

seniority ► **noun** RANK, superiority, standing, primacy, precedence, priority; age

sensation ► **noun** ① a sensation of light: FEELING, sense, awareness, consciousness, perception, impression. ② I caused a sensation by donat-

ing £1m. COMMOTION, stir, uproar, furore, scandal, impact; interest, excitement, informal splash, to-do, hullabaloo ③ the new cars were a sensation TRIUMPH, success, sell-out, talking point, informal smash (hit), hit, winner, crowd-puller, wow, knockout

sensational ► **adjective** ① a sensational murder trial SHOCKING, scandalous, appalling, amazing, startling, astonishing, staggering, stirring, exciting, thrilling, electrifying, fascinating, interesting, noteworthy, significant, remarkable, momentous, historic, newsworthy ② sensational stories. OVER-DRAMATIZED, dramatic, melodramatic, exaggerated, sensationalist, sensationalistic, graphic, explicit, lurid, informal shock-horror, juicy ③ (informal) she looked sensational GORGEOUS, stunning, wonderful, exquisite, lovely, radiant, delightful, charming, enchanting, captivating, striking, spectacular, remarkable, outstanding, arresting, eye-catching, marvellous, superb, excellent, fine, first-class, informal great, terrific, tremendous, super, fantastic, fabulous, fab, heavenly, divine, knockout, delectable, scrumptious, awesome, magic, wicked, out of this world, Brit informal smashing, brilliant, brill
-OPPOSITES dull, understated, unremarkable

sense ► **noun** ① the sense of touch SENSORY FACULTY, feeling, sensation, perception, sight, hearing, touch, taste, smell ② a sense of guilt FEELING, awareness, sensation, consciousness, recognition ③ a sense of humour APPRECIATION, awareness, understanding, comprehension, discernment ④ she had the sense to press the panic button WISDOM, common sense, sagacity, discernment, perception, wit, intelligence, cleverness, shrewdness, judgement, reason, logic, brain(s), informal gumption, nous, horse sense, savvy, Brit informal loaf, common, N Amer informal smarts ⑤ I can't see the sense in this PURPOSE, point, reason, object, motive, use, value, advantage, benefit ⑥ the different senses of 'well' MEANING, definition, import, signification, significance, purport, implication, nuance, drift, gist, thrust, tenor, message
-OPPOSITES stupidity

► **verb** she sensed their hostility DISCERN, feel, observe, notice, recognize, pick up, be aware of, distinguish, make out, identify, comprehend, apprehend, see, appreciate, realize, suspect, have a funny feeling about, have a hunch, divine, intuit, informal catch on to, Brit informal twig

senseless ► **adjective** ① they found him senseless on the floor UNCONSCIOUS, stunned, insensible, insensate, comatose, knocked out, out cold, out for the count, numb, informal KO'd, dead to the world, Brit informal spark out ② a senseless waste POINTLESS, futile, useless, needless, unavailing, in vain, purposeless, meaningless, unprofitable, absurd, foolish, insane, stupid, idiotic, ridiculous, ludicrous, mindless, illogical
-OPPOSITES conscious, wise

sensibility ► **noun** ① study leads to the growth of sensibility SENSITIVITY, finer feelings, delicacy, taste, discrimination, discernment; understanding, insight, empathy, appreciation; feeling, intuition, responsiveness, receptiveness, perceptiveness, awareness ② the wording might offend their sensibilities: (FINER) FEELINGS, emotions, sensitivities, moral sense

sensible ► **adjective** PRACTICAL, realistic, responsible, reasonable, commonsensical, ration-

al, logical, sound, balanced, sober, nonsense, pragmatic, level-headed, thoughtful, down-to-earth, wise, prudent, judicious, sagacious, shrewd

—OPPOSITES foolish

sensitive ▶ **adjective** ① *she's sensitive to changes in temperature* RESPONSIVE TO, reactive to, sentient of, sensitized to; aware of, conscious of, alive to, susceptible to, affected by, vulnerable to, attuned to ② *sensitive skin* DELICATE, fragile, tender, sore, raw ③ *the matter needs sensitive handling* TACTFUL, careful, thoughtful, diplomatic, delicate, subtle, kid-glove, sympathetic, compassionate, understanding, intuitive, responsive, insightful ④ *he's sensitive about his bald patch* TOUCHY, oversensitive, hypersensitive, easily offended, easily upset, easily hurt, thin-skinned, defensive, paranoid, neurotic, informal twitchy, uptight ⑤ *a sensitive issue*: DIFFICULT, delicate, tricky, awkward, problematic, ticklish, precarious, controversial, emotive, informal sticky.

—OPPOSITES impervious, resilient, clumsy, thick-skinned, uncontroversial

sensitivity ▶ **noun** ① *the sensitivity of the skin* RESPONSIVENESS, sensitiveness, reactivity, susceptibility, vulnerability. ② *the job calls for sensitivity* CONSIDERATION, care, thoughtfulness, tact, diplomacy, delicacy, subtlety, finer feelings, understanding, empathy, sensibility, feeling, intuition, responsiveness, receptiveness, perception, discernment, insight, savoir faire ③ *her sensitivity on the subject of boyfriends* TOUCHINESS, oversensitivity, hypersensitivity, defensiveness ④ *the sensitivity of the issue* DELICACY, trickiness, awkwardness, ticklishness

sensual ▶ **adjective** ① *sensual pleasure* PHYSICAL, carnal, bodily, fleshly, animal, hedonistic, epicurean, sybaritic, voluptuary ② *a beautiful, sensual woman* SEXUALLY ATTRACTIVE, sexy, voluptuous, sultry, seductive, passionate, sexually arousing, erotic, sexual

—OPPOSITES spiritual, passionless

sensualist ▶ **noun** HEDONIST, pleasure-seeker, sybarite, voluptuary, epicure, gastronome, bon vivant, bon viveur

sensuality ▶ **noun** SEXINESS, sexual attractiveness, sultriness, seductiveness, sexuality, eroticism, physicality, carnality

sensuous ▶ **adjective** ① *big sensuous canvases* AESTHETICALLY PLEASING, gratifying, rich, sumptuous, luxurious, sensory, sensorial. ② *sensuous lips* SEXUALLY ATTRACTIVE, sexy, seductive, voluptuous, luscious, lush

sentence ▶ **noun** PRISON TERM, prison sentence, punishment, informal time, stretch, stint, *Brit* informal porridge, bird.

▶ **verb** *they were sentenced to death* PASS JUDGEMENT ON, punish, convict, condemn, doom.

sententious ▶ **adjective** MORALISTIC, moralizing, sanctimonious, self-righteous, pietistic, pious, priggish, judgemental, pompous, pontifical, self-important; informal preachifying, preachy; *Brit* informal pi

sentient ▶ **adjective** (CAPABLE OF) FEELING, living, live; conscious, aware, responsive, reactive

sentiment ▶ **noun** ① *the comments echo my own sentiments* VIEW, feeling, attitude, thought, opinion, belief. ② *there's no room for sentiment in sport*: SENTIMENTALITY, sentimentalism, mawk-

ishness, emotionalism, emotion, sensibility, soft-heartedness, tender-heartedness; informal schmaltz, mush, slushiness, corniness, cheese, *Brit* informal sopppiness; *N Amer* informal sappiness.

sentimental ▶ **adjective** ① *she kept the vase for sentimental reasons* NOSTALGIC, tender, emotional, affectionate ② *the film is too sentimental* MAWKISH, overemotional, cloying, slushy, mushy, sickly, saccharine, sugary, romantic, hearts-and-flowers, touching, *Brit* twee, informal weepy, tear-jerking, schmaltzy, lovey-dovey, gooey, drippy, cheesy, corny, *Brit* informal soppy, *N Amer* informal cornball, sappy, hokey ③ *she is sentimental about animals* SOFT-HEARTED, tender-hearted, soft, informal soppy

—OPPOSITES practical, gritty.

sentry ▶ **noun** GUARD, sentinel, lookout, watch, watchman, patrol

separable ▶ **adjective** DIVISIBLE, distinct, independent, distinguishable, detachable, removable

separate ▶ **adjective** ① *his personal life was separate from his job* UNCONNECTED, unrelated, different, distinct, discrete, detached, divorced, disconnected, independent, autonomous ② *the infirmary was separate from the school*. SET APART, detached, disjoined, fenced off, cut off, segregated, isolated, free-standing, self-contained

—OPPOSITES linked, attached

▶ **verb** ① *they separated two rioting mobs* SPLIT (UP), break up, part, pull apart, divide, poetic/literary sunder ② *the connectors can be separated* DISCONNECT, detach, disengage, uncouple, unyoke, disunite, disjoin, split, divide, sever, disentangle ③ *the wall that separated the two estates* PARTITION, divide, come between, keep apart, bisect, intersect ④ *the south aisle was separated off* ISOLATE, partition off, section off, close off, shut off, cordon off, fence off, screen off ⑤ *they separated at the airport* PART (COMPANY), go their separate ways, split up, say goodbye; disperse, disband, scatter ⑥ *the road separated* FORK, divide, branch, bifurcate, diverge ⑦ *her parents separated* SPLIT UP, break up, part, be estranged, divorce ⑧ *separate fact from fiction* ISOLATE, set apart, segregate, distinguish, differentiate, dissociate, sort out, sift out, filter out, remove, weed out. ⑨ *those who separate themselves from society*. BREAK AWAY FROM, break with, secede from, withdraw from, leave, quit, dissociate oneself from, resign from, drop out of, repudiate, reject

—OPPOSITES unite, join, link, meet, merge, marry

separately ▶ **adverb** INDIVIDUALLY, one by one, one at a time, singly, severally; apart, independently, alone, by oneself, on one's own

separation ▶ **noun** ① *the separation of the two companies*: DISCONNECTION, detachment, severance, dissociation, disunion, disaffiliation, segregation, partition. ② *her parent's separation*: BREAK-UP, split, parting (of the ways), estrangement, rift, rupture, breach; divorce; *Brit* informal bust-up ③ *the separation between art and life*: DISTINCTION, difference, differentiation, division, dividing line; gulf, gap, chasm.

septic ▶ **adjective** INFECTED, festering, suppurating, pus-filled, putrid, putrefying, poisoned, diseased; *Medicine* purulent.

sepulchral ▶ **adjective** GLOOMY, lugubrious, sombre, melancholy, melancholic, sad, sorrowful, mournful, doleful, dismal, *poetic/literary* dolorous

—OPPOSITES cheerful

sepulchre ▶ **noun** TOMB, vault, burial chamber, mausoleum, crypt, undercroft, catacomb, grave

sequel ▶ **noun** ① the film inspired a sequel FOLLOW-UP, continuation ② the sequel was an armed uprising CONSEQUENCE, result, upshot, outcome, development, issue, postscript, effect, after-effect, aftermath, *informal* pay-off

sequence ▶ **noun** ① the sequence of events SUCCESSION, order, course, series, chain, train, string, progression, chronology, pattern, flow, formal concatenation ② a sequence from his film EXCERPT, clip, extract, episode, section

sequester ▶ **verb** ① he sequestered himself from the world ISOLATE ONESELF, hide away, shut oneself away, seclude oneself, cut oneself off, segregate oneself; closet oneself, withdraw, retire ② the government sequestered his property See SEQUESTRATE

sequesterate ▶ **verb** CONFISCATE, seize, take, sequester, appropriate, expropriate, impound, commandeer, Law distrain, *Scottish Law* poind

seraphic ▶ **adjective** BLISSFUL, beatific, sublime, rapturous, ecstatic, joyful, rapt, serene, ethereal, cherubic, saintly, angelic

serendipitous ▶ **adjective** CHANCE, accidental, coincidental; lucky, fluky, fortuitous, unexpected, unforeseen

serendipity ▶ **noun** (HAPPY) CHANCE, (happy) accident, fluke, luck, good luck, good fortune, fortuity, providence, happy coincidence

serene ▶ **adjective** ① on the surface she seemed serene CALM, composed, tranquil, peaceful, untroubled, relaxed, at ease, unperturbed, unruffled, unworried, placid, equable, *N Amer* centered, *informal* together, unflappable ② serene valleys PEACEFUL, tranquil, quiet, still, restful, relaxing, undisturbed

—OPPOSITES agitated, turbulent

series ▶ **noun** ① a series of lectures SUCCESSION, sequence, string, chain, run, round, spate, wave, rash, set, course, cycle, row, line, formal concatenation ② a new drama series SERIAL, programme, soap opera, *informal* soap

serious ▶ **adjective** ① a serious expression SOL-EMN, earnest, grave, sombre, sober, unsmiling, poker-faced, stern, grim, dour, humourless, stony-faced, thoughtful, preoccupied, pensive ② serious decisions IMPORTANT, significant, consequential, momentous, weighty, far-reaching, major, grave, urgent, pressing, crucial, critical, vital, life-and-death, high-priority ③ give serious consideration to this CAREFUL, detailed, in-depth, deep, profound, meaningful ④ a serious play INTELLECTUAL, highbrow, heavyweight, deep, profound, literary, learned, scholarly, *informal* heavy ⑤ serious injuries SEVERE, grave, bad, critical, acute, terrible, dire, dangerous, perilous, parlous, formal grievous ⑥ we're serious about equality: IN EARNEST, earnest, sincere, wholehearted, genuine; committed, resolute, determined.

—OPPOSITES light-hearted, trivial, superficial, lowbrow, minor, half-hearted.

seriously ▶ **adverb** ① Faye nodded seriously: SOL-EMNLY, earnestly, gravely, soberly, sombrely, sternly, grimly, dourly, humourlessly, pensively, thoughtfully ② she was seriously injured. SEVERELY, gravely, badly, critically, acutely, dangerously; formal grievously ③ do you seriously expect me to come? REALLY, actually, honestly ④ seriously, I'm very pleased JOKING ASIDE, to be serious, honestly, truthfully, truly, I mean it, *informal* Scout's honour, *Brit informal* straight up, dated honest Injun ⑤ (informal) 'I've resigned' 'Seriously?' REALLY, is that so, is that a fact, you're joking, well I never, go on, you don't say, *informal* you're kidding, *Brit informal* (well, I'll be blown) ⑥ (informal) he was seriously rich See EXTREMELY

sermon ▶ **noun** ① he preached a sermon HOMILY, address, speech, talk, discourse, oration, lesson ② the headmaster gave them a lengthy sermon LECTURE, tirade, harangue, diatribe, speech, disquisition, monologue, reprimand, reproach, reproof, admonishment, admonition, reproof, remonstrance, criticism, *informal* telling-off, talking-to, dressing-down, earful, *Brit informal* ticking-off, row, rocket, rollicking, formal castigation

serpentine ▶ **adjective** ① a serpentine path WINDING, windy, zigzag, twisty, twisting and turning, meandering, sinuous, snaky, tortuous ② serpentine election rules COMPLICATED, complex, intricate, involved, tortuous, convoluted, elaborate, knotty, confusing, bewildering, baffling, impenetrable

—OPPOSITES straight, simple

serrated ▶ **adjective** JAGGED, sawtoothed, sawtooth, zigzag, notched, indented, toothed, denticulate, denticulated, *Botany* serrate, *technical* crenulated

—OPPOSITES smooth

serried ▶ **adjective** CLOSE TOGETHER, packed together, close-set, dense, tight, compact

servant ▶ **noun** ① servants were cleaning the hall ATTENDANT, retainer; domestic (worker), (hired) help, cleaner, lackey, flunkey, minion, maid, housemaid, footman, page (boy), valet, butler, batman, manservant, housekeeper, steward; drudge, menial, slave, *Brit informal* Mrs Mop, daily (woman), skivvy, scout, *Brit dated* charwoman, charlady, boots, *archaic* abigail, scullion ② a servant of the Labour Party HELPER, supporter, follower

serve ▶ **verb** ① they served their masters faithfully WORK FOR, be in the service of, be employed by, obey ② this job serves the community BE OF SERVICE TO, be of use to, help, assist, aid, make a contribution to, do one's bit for, do something for, benefit ③ she served on the committee for years BE A MEMBER OF, work on, be on, sit on, have a place on ④ he served his apprenticeship in Scotland CARRY OUT, perform, do, fulfil, complete, discharge, spend ⑤ serve the soup hot DISH UP/OUT, give out, distribute; present, provide, supply, eat ⑥ she served another customer ATTEND TO, deal with, see to; ASSIST, help, look after. ⑦ they served him with a writ. PRESENT, deliver, give, hand over. ⑧ a saucer serving as an ashtray: ACT AS, function as, do the work of, be a substitute for ⑨ official forms will serve in most cases: SUFFICE, be adequate, be good enough, fit/fill the bill, do, answer, be useful, meet requirements, suit.

service ► **noun** ① your conditions of service WORK, employment, employ, labour ② he has done us a service FAVOUR, kindness, good turn, helping hand, (services) ASSISTANCE, help, aid, offices, ministrations ③ the food and service were excellent WAITING, waitressing, serving, attendance ④ products which give reliable service USE, usage, functioning ⑤ he took his car in for a service OVERHAUL, maintenance check, servicing ⑥ a marriage service CEREMONY, ritual, rite, observance, liturgy, sacrament, formal ordinance ⑦ a range of local services AMENITY, facility, resource, utility ⑧ soldiers leaving the services (ARMED) FORCES, armed services, military, army, navy, air force

► **verb** the appliances are serviced regularly OVERHAUL, check, go over, maintain, repair, mend, recondition

■ **be of service** HELP, assist, benefit, be of assistance, be beneficial, serve, be useful, be of use, be valuable, do someone a good turn

■ **out of service** OUT OF ORDER, broken, broken-down, out of commission, unserviceable, faulty, defective, inoperative, in disrepair, down, informal conked out, bust, kaput, on the blink, acting up, shot, *Brit informal* knackered

serviceable ► **adjective** ① a serviceable heating system IN WORKING ORDER, working, functioning, functional, operational, operative, usable, workable, viable ② serviceable lace-up shoes FUNCTIONAL, utilitarian, sensible, practical, HARD-WEARING, durable, tough, robust
-OPPOSITES unusable, impractical

servile ► **adjective** OBSEQUIOUS, sycophantic, deferential, subservient, fawning, ingratiating, unctuous, grovelling, toadyish, slavish, humble, self-abasing, informal slimy, bootlicking, smarmy, sticky, *N Amer informal* apple-polishing.
-OPPOSITES assertive

serving ► **noun** PORTION, helping, plateful, plate, bowlful, amount, quantity, ration

servitude ► **noun** SLAVERY, enslavement, bondage, subjugation, subjection, domination, historical serfdom
-OPPOSITES liberty

session ► **noun** ① a special session of the committee MEETING, sitting, assembly, conclave, plenary, hearing, conference, discussion, forum, symposium, Scottish sederunt, diet, *N Amer & NZ* caucus ② training sessions PERIOD, time, spell, stretch, bout ③ the next college session begins in August ACADEMIC YEAR, school year, term, semester, *N Amer* trimester

set¹ ► **verb** ① Beth set the bag on the table PUT (down), place, lay, deposit, position, settle, leave, stand, plant, posit, informal stick, dump, bung, park, plonk, pop, *N Amer informal* plunk ② the cottage is set on a hill. BE SITUATED, be located, lie, stand, be sited, be perched ③ the fence is set in concrete FIX, embed, insert, mount ④ a ring set with precious stones ADORN, ornament, decorate, embellish, poetic/literary bejewel ⑤ I'll go and set the table LAY, prepare, arrange. ⑥ we set them some easy tasks ASSIGN, allocate, give, allot, prescribe. ⑦ just set your mind to it APPLY, address, direct, aim, turn, focus, concentrate ⑧ they set a date for the election DECIDE ON, select, choose, arrange, schedule; fix (on), settle on, determine, designate, name, appoint, specify, stipulate. ⑨ he set his horse towards her DIRECT, steer, orientate, point, aim, train. ⑩ his

jump set a national record ESTABLISH, create, institute ⑪ he set his watch ADJUST, regulate, synchronize, calibrate, put right, correct, programme, activate, turn on. ⑫ the adhesive will set in an hour SOLIDIFY, harden, stiffen, thicken, gel, gelatinize, cake, congeal, coagulate, clot, freeze, crystallize ⑬ the sun was setting GO DOWN, sink, dip, vanish, disappear

-OPPOSITES melt, rise

■ **set about** ① Mike set about raising £5000 BEGIN, start, commence, go about, get to work on, get down to, embark on, tackle, address oneself to, undertake ② the youths set about him ATTACK, assail, assault, hit, strike, beat, thrash, pummel, wallop, tear into, set upon, fall on, informal lay into, lace into, pitch into, let someone have it, do over, work over, rough up, knock about/around, *Brit informal* duff up, have a go at, *N Amer informal* beat up on

■ **set someone against someone else** ALIENATE FROM, estrange from, drive a wedge between, sow dissension, set at odds

■ **set someone apart** DISTINGUISH, differentiate, mark out, single out, separate, demarcate

■ **set something apart** ISOLATE, separate, segregate, put to one side

■ **set something aside** ① set aside some money each month SAVE, put by, put aside, put away, lay by, keep, reserve, store, stockpile, hoard, stow away, cache, withhold, informal salt away, squirrel away, stash away ② he set aside his cup PUT DOWN, cast aside, discard, abandon, dispense with ③ set aside your differences DISREGARD, put aside, ignore, forget, discount, shrug off, bury ④ the Appeal Court set aside the decision OVERRULE, overturn, reverse, revoke, countermand, nullify, annul, cancel, quash, dismiss, reject, repudiate, *Law* disaffirm, *formal* abrogate

■ **set someone back** (informal) See COST verb sense 1

■ **set someone/something back** DELAY, hold up, hold back, slow down/up, retard, check, decelerate, hinder, impede, obstruct, hamper, inhibit, frustrate, thwart

■ **set something down** ① he set down his thoughts WRITE DOWN, put in writing, jot down, note down, make a note of, record, register, log ② we set down a code of practice FORMULATE, draw up, establish, frame, lay down, determine, fix, stipulate, specify, prescribe, impose, ordain. ③ I set it down to the fact that he was drunk ATTRIBUTE, put down, ascribe, assign, chalk up, blame on, impute

■ **set something forth** PRESENT, describe, set out, detail, delineate, explain, expound, state, declare, announce; submit, offer, put forward, advance, propose, propound

■ **set someone free** RELEASE, free, let go, turn loose, let out, liberate, deliver, emancipate

■ **set in bad weather** set in BEGIN, start, arrive, come, develop.

■ **set off** SET OUT, start out, sally forth, leave, depart, embark, set sail, informal hit the road.

■ **set something off** ① the bomb was set off DETONATE, explode, blow up, touch off, trigger; ignite. ② it set off a wave of protest: GIVE RISE TO, cause, lead to, set in motion, occasion, bring about, initiate, precipitate, prompt, trigger (off), spark (off), touch off, provoke, incite ③ the blue dress set off her auburn hair: ENHANCE, bring out, emphasize, show off, throw into relief; complement.

■ **set on/upon** ATTACK, assail, assault, hit, strike, beat, thrash, pummel, wallop, set about, fall on, *informal* lay into, lace into, let someone have it, get stuck into, work over, rough up, knock about/around; *Brit informal* duff up, have a go at, *N Amer informal* beat up on, light into.

■ **set one's heart on** WANT DESPERATELY, wish for, desire, long for, yearn for, hanker after, ache for, hunger for, thirst for, burn for, *informal* be itching for, be dying for

■ **set out** ① he set out early See SET OFF ② you've done what you set out to achieve AIM, intend, mean, seek, hope, aspire, want

■ **set something out** ① the gifts were set out on tables ARRANGE, lay out, put out, array, dispose, display, exhibit ② they set out some guidelines PRESENT, set forth, detail, state, declare, announce, submit, put forward, advance, propose, propound

■ **set someone up** ① his father set him up in business ESTABLISH, finance, fund, back, subsidize ② (informal) she set him up for Newley's murder FALSELY INCRIMINATE, frame, entrap, *Brit informal* fit up

■ **set something up** ① a monument to her memory was set up ERECT, put up, construct, build, raise, elevate ② she set up her own business ESTABLISH, start, begin, initiate, institute, found, create ③ set up a meeting ARRANGE, organize, fix (up), schedule, timetable, line up

set² ▶ noun ① a set of colour postcards GROUP, collection, series, assortment, selection, compendium, batch, number, arrangement, array ② the literary set: CLIQUE, coterie, circle, crowd, group, crew, band, company, ring, camp, fraternity, school, faction, league, *informal* gang, bunch ③ a chemistry set KIT, apparatus, equipment, outfit ④ a set of cutlery CANTEEN, box, case ⑤ a set of china SERVICE ⑥ he's in the bottom set at school CLASS, form, group, stream, band ⑦ the set of his shoulders POSTURE, position, cast, attitude, bearing, carriage ⑧ a stage set SCENERY, setting, backdrop, flats, mise en scène

set³ ▶ adjective ① a set routine FIXED, established, predetermined, hard and fast, pre-arranged, prescribed, specified, defined, unvarying, unchanging, invariable, unvaried, rigid, inflexible, cast-iron, strict, settled, predictable, routine, standard, customary, regular, usual, habitual, accustomed, poetic/literary wonted ② she had set ideas INFLEXIBLE, rigid, fixed, firm, deep-rooted, deep-seated, ingrained, entrenched ③ he had a set speech for such occasions: STOCK, standard, routine, rehearsed, well worn, formulaic, conventional ④ I was all set for the evening READY, prepared, organized, equipped, primed, *informal* geared up, psyched up ⑤ he's set on marrying her DETERMINED TO, intent on, (hell) bent on, resolute about, insistent about ⑥ you were dead set against the idea OPPOSED TO, averse to, hostile to, resistant to, antipathetic to, unsympathetic to; *informal* anti
-OPPOSITES variable, flexible, original, unprepared, uncertain

setback ▶ noun PROBLEM, difficulty, hitch, complication, upset, disappointment, misfortune, mishap, reversal, blow, stumbling block, hindrance, impediment, obstruction; delay, hold-up; *informal* glitch, hiccup.
-OPPOSITES breakthrough.

settee ▶ noun SOFA, couch, divan, chaise longue, chesterfield, *Brit* put-you-up, *N Amer* davenport, day bed

setting ▶ noun ① a rural setting: SURROUNDINGS, position, situation, environment, background, backdrop, milieu, environs, habitat, spot, place, location, locale, site, scene; area, region, district ② a garnet in a gold setting MOUNT, fixture, surround

settle ▶ verb ① they settled the dispute RESOLVE, sort out, solve, clear up, end, fix, work out, iron out, straighten out, set right, rectify, remedy, reconcile, *informal* patch up ② she settled their affairs PUT IN ORDER, sort out, tidy up, arrange, organize, order, clear up ③ they settled on a date for the wedding DECIDE ON, set, fix, agree on, name, establish, arrange, appoint, designate, assign, choose, select, pick ④ she went down to the lobby to settle her bill PAY, settle up, square, clear, defray ⑤ they settled for a 4.2% pay rise ACCEPT, agree to, assent to, formal accede to ⑥ he settled in London. MAKE ONE'S HOME, set up home, take up residence, put down roots, establish oneself, live, move to, emigrate to ⑦ immigrants settled much of Australia COLONIZE, occupy, inhabit, people, populate ⑧ Catherine settled down to her work APPLY ONESELF TO, get down to, set about, attack, concentrate on, focus on, devote oneself to ⑨ the class wouldn't settle down CALM DOWN, quieten down be quiet, be still, *informal* shut up ⑩ a brandy will settle your nerves CALM, quieten, quiet, soothe, pacify, quell, sedate, tranquilize ⑪ he settled into an armchair SIT DOWN, seat oneself, install oneself, ensconce oneself, plant oneself, *informal* park oneself, plonk oneself ⑫ a butterfly settled on the flower LAND, come to rest, alight, descend, perch, archaic light ⑬ sediment settles at the bottom SINK, subside, fall, gravitate
-OPPOSITES agitate, rise

settlement ▶ noun ① a pay settlement AGREEMENT, deal, arrangement, resolution, bargain, understanding, pact ② the settlement of the dispute RESOLUTION, settling, solution, reconciliation ③ a frontier settlement COMMUNITY, colony, outpost, encampment, post, village, commune, historical plantation. ④ the settlement of the area COLONIZATION, settling, populating, historical plantation. ⑤ the settlement of their debts PAYMENT, discharge, defrayal, liquidation, clearance

settler ▶ noun COLONIST, colonizer, frontiersman, frontierswoman, pioneer, immigrant, newcomer, incomer, *N Amer* historical homesteader
-OPPOSITES native

set-up ▶ noun ① a telecommunications set-up SYSTEM, structure, organization, arrangement, framework, layout, configuration ② (informal) a set-up called Film International. ORGANIZATION, group, body, agency, association, operation, company, firm, *informal* outfit ③ (informal) the whole thing was a set-up TRICK, trap, conspiracy; *informal* put-up job, frame-up

seven ▶ cardinal number SEPTET, septuplets, technical heptad
-RELATED TERMS hepta-, septi-

sever ▶ verb ① the head was severed from the body CUT OFF, chop off, detach, disconnect, dis sever, separate, part; amputate, dock; poetic/literary sunder. ② a knife had severed the artery CUT (THROUGH), rupture, split, pierce. ③ they

severed diplomatic relations BREAK OFF, discontinue, suspend, end, terminate, cease, dissolve
—OPPOSITES join, maintain

several ► **adjective** ① *several people* SOME, a number of, a few, various, assorted, sundry, diverse, *poetic/literary* divers ② *they sorted out their several responsibilities* RESPECTIVE, individual, own, particular, specific, separate, different, disparate, distinct, various

severe ► **adjective** ① *severe injuries* ACUTE, very bad, serious, grave, critical, dreadful, terrible, awful, dangerous, parlous, life-threatening, *formal* grievous ② *severe storms* FIERCE, violent, strong, powerful, intense, tempestuous, turbulent ③ *a severe winter* HARSH, bitter, cold, bleak, freezing, icy, arctic, extreme ④ *a severe headache* EXCRUCIATING, agonizing, intense, dreadful, awful, terrible, unbearable, intolerable, *informal* splitting, pounding ⑤ *a severe test of their stamina* DIFFICULT, demanding, tough, arduous, formidable, exacting, rigorous, punishing, onerous, gruelling ⑥ *severe criticism* HARSH, scathing, sharp, strong, fierce, savage, scorching, devastating, trenchant, caustic, biting, withering ⑦ *severe tax penalties* EXTORTIONATE, excessive, unreasonable, inordinate, outrageous, sky-high, harsh, stiff, punitive, *Brit* swingeing ⑧ *they received severe treatment* HARSH, stern, hard, inflexible, uncompromising, unrelenting, merciless, pitiless, ruthless, draconian, oppressive, repressive, punitive, brutal, cruel, savage ⑨ *his severe expression* STERN, dour, grim, forbidding, disapproving, unsmiling, unfriendly, sombre, grave, serious, stony, steely, cold, frosty ⑩ *a severe style of architecture* PLAIN, simple, austere, unadorned, unembellished, unornamented, stark, spartan, ascetic, clinical, uncluttered
—OPPOSITES minor, gentle, mild, easy, lenient, friendly, ornate

severely ► **adjective** ① *he was severely injured* BADLY, seriously, critically, fatally, *formal* grievously ② *she was severely criticized* SHARPLY, roundly, soundly, fiercely, savagely ③ *murderers should be treated more severely* HARSHLY, strictly, sternly, rigorously, mercilessly, pitilessly, roughly, sharply, with a rod of iron, brutally, cruelly, savagely ④ *she looked severely at Harriet* STERNLY, grimly, dourly, disapprovingly, coldly, frostily ⑤ *she dressed severely in black* PLAINLY, simply, austere, starkly

sew ► **verb** *she sewed the seams of the tunic* STITCH, tack, baste, seam, hem, embroider

■ **sew something up** ① *the tear was sewn up* DARN, mend, repair, patch ② (*informal*) *the company sewed up a deal with IBM* SECURE, clinch, pull off, bring off, settle, conclude, complete, finalize, tie up, *informal* swing

sewing ► **noun** STITCHING, needlework, needlecraft, fancy-work See list

sex ► **noun** ① *they talked about sex* SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, intercourse, lovemaking, making love, sex act, (sexual) relations, mating, copulation, *informal* nooky, *Brit informal* bonking, rumpy, pumpy, *how's your father, formal* fornication, *technical* coitus, coition; *dated* carnal knowledge ② *teach your children about sex* THE FACTS OF LIFE, reproduction; *informal* the birds and the bees. ③ *adults of both sexes* GENDER

■ **have sex** HAVE SEXUAL INTERCOURSE, make love, sleep with, go to bed, mate, copulate;

Sewing Techniques and Stitches

appliqué	loop stitch
backstitch	mitring
bar tack	needlepoint
basting	overcasting
binding	overlocking
blackwork	oversewing
blanket stitch	overstitch
blind stitch	patchwork
bullion knot	petit point
buttonhole stitch	pleating
chain stitch	purl
chikan	quilting
couching	ricing
crewel work	ruffling
crocheting	running stitch
cross stitch	saddle stitch
crow's foot	satin stitch
cutwork	scalloping
darning	shadow stitch
dart	shirring
drawn work	slip stitch
embroidery	smocking
facing	stay stitch
faggoting	stem stitch
feather stitch	straight stitch
fine-drawing	Swiss darning
Florentine stitch	tacking
French knot	tapestry
fulling	tent stitch
gathering	topstitch
gros point	trèble
hemstitch	tucking
herringbone stitch	tufting
ladder stitch	whipstitch
lazy daisy stitch	whitework
laid work	wool work
lock stitch	

seduce, rape, *informal* do it, go all the way, know in the biblical sense, *Brit informal* bonk, *N Amer informal* get it on, *euphemistic* be intimate, *poetic/literary* ravish, *formal* fornicate

sex appeal ► **noun** SEXINESS, seductiveness, sexual attractiveness, desirability, sensuality, sexuality, *informal* it, SA

sexism ► **noun** SEXUAL DISCRIMINATION, chauvinism, prejudice, bias.

sexless ► **adjective** ASEXUAL, non-sexual, neuter, androgynous, epicene.

sexual ► **adjective** ① *the sexual organs* REPRODUCTIVE, genital, sex, procreative ② *sexual activity* CARNAL, erotic; *formal* venereal, *technical* coital ③ *she's so sexual* See SEXY sense 1

sexual intercourse ► **noun** See SEX sense 1

sexuality ► **noun** ① *she had a powerful sexuality* SENSUALITY, sexiness, seductiveness, desirability, eroticism, physicality; sexual appetite, passion, desire, lust. ② *I'm open about my sexuality* SEXUAL ORIENTATION, sexual preference, leaning, persuasion; heterosexuality, homosexuality, lesbianism, bisexuality. ③ *sexuality within holy matrimony*: SEXUAL ACTIVITY, sexual relations, sexual intercourse, sex, procreation.

sexy ► **adjective** ① *she's so sexy*: SEXUALLY ATTRACTIVE, seductive, desirable, alluring, sensual, sultry, slinky, provocative, tempting, tantaliz-

ing, nubile, voluptuous, luscious, lush, *informal* fanciable, beddable, *Brit informal* fit, *N Amer informal* foxy, cute, *Austral informal* spunky ② *sexy videos* EROTIC, sexually explicit, arousing, exciting, stimulating, hot, titillating, racy, naughty, risqué, adult, X-rated, rude, pornographic, crude, lewd, *informal* raunchy, steamy, porno, blue, skin ③ *they weren't feeling sexy* (SEXUALLY) AROUSED, sexually excited, amorous, lustful, passionate, *informal* horny, hot, turned on, sexed up, *Brit informal* randy ④ (*informal*) a sexy sales promotion: EXCITING, stimulating, interesting, appealing, intriguing

shabby ► **adjective** ① a shabby little bar RUN DOWN, down at heel, scruffy, dilapidated, ramshackle, tumbledown, seedy, slummy, insalubrious, squalid, sordid, *informal* crummy, scuzzy, shambly, *Brit informal* grotty, *N Amer informal* shacky ② a shabby grey coat SCRUFFY, old, worn out, threadbare, ragged, frayed, tattered, battered, faded, moth-eaten, mangy, *informal* tatty, ratty, the worse for wear, *N Amer informal* raggedy ③ her shabby treatment of Ben CONTEMPTIBLE, despicable, dishonourable, discreditable, mean, low, dirty, hateful, shameful, sorry, ignoble, unfair, unworthy, unkind, shoddy, nasty, *informal* rotten, low-down, *Brit informal* beastly
—OPPOSITES smart, honourable

shack ► **noun** HUT, shanty, cabin, lean-to, shed, hovel, *Scottish* bothy, shieling

■ **shack up with** (*informal*) COHABIT, live with, *informal*, dated live in sin

shackle ► **verb** ① he was shackled to the wall CHAIN, fetter, manacle, secure, tie (up), bind, tether, hobble, put in chains, clap in irons, handcuff ② *journalists were shackled by a new law* RESTRAIN, restrict, limit, constrain, handicap, hamstring, hamper, hinder, impede, obstruct, inhibit, check, curb

shackles ► **plural noun** ① the men filed through their shackles CHAINS, fetters, irons, leg-irons, manacles, handcuffs, bonds, *informal* cuffs, bracelets ② the shackles of bureaucracy RESTRICTIONS, restraints, constraints, impediments, hindrances, obstacles, barriers, obstructions, checks, curbs, *poetic/literary* trammels

shade ► **noun** ① they sat in the shade SHADOW(S), shadiness, shelter, cover, cool ② shades of blue COLOUR, hue, tone, tint, tinge ③ shades of meaning: NUANCE, gradation, degree, difference, variation, variety, nicety, subtlety, undertone, overtone ④ her skirt was a shade too short A LITTLE, a bit, a trace, a touch, a modicum, a tinge, slightly, rather, somewhat, *informal* a tad, a smidgen ⑤ the window shade. BLIND, curtain, screen, cover, covering, awning, canopy ⑥ (*informal*) he was wearing shades SUNGLASSES, dark glasses, *Austral informal* sunnies
—OPPOSITES light

► **verb** ① vines shaded the garden. CAST A SHADOW OVER, shadow, shelter, cover, screen; darken ② she shaded in the picture DARKEN, colour in, pencil in, block in, fill in, cross-hatch. ③ the sky shaded from turquoise to blue: CHANGE, transmute, turn, go; merge, blend.

■ **put someone/something in the shade** SURPASS, outshine, outclass, overshadow, eclipse, transcend, cap, top, outstrip, outdo, put to shame, beat, outperform, upstage, *infor-*

mal run rings around, be a cut above, leave standing

■ **shades of** ECHOES OF, a reminder of, memories of, suggestions of, hints of.

shadow ► **noun** ① he saw her shadow in the doorway SILHOUETTE, outline, shape, contour, profile ② he emerged from the shadows SHADE, darkness, twilight, gloom, murkiness; *archaic* umbrage ③ the shadow of war (BLACK) CLOUD, pall, gloom, blight, threat ④ she knew without any shadow of doubt: TRACE, scrap, shred, crumb, iota, scintilla, jot, whit, grain, *informal* smidgen, smidge, tad ⑤ a shadow of a smile: TRACE, hint, suggestion, suspicion, ghost, glimmer ⑥ he's a shadow of his former self INFERIOR VERSION, poor imitation, apology, travesty; remnant ⑦ the dog became her shadow CONSTANT COMPANION, alter ego, second self, close friend, bosom friend, fidus Achates, *informal* Siamese twin

► **verb** ① the market is shadowed by the church OVER SHADOW, shade, darken, dim ② he is shadowing a poacher FOLLOW, trail, track, stalk, pursue, hunt, *informal* tail, keep tabs on

shadowy ► **adjective** ① a shadowy corridor DARK, dim, gloomy, murky, crepuscular, shady, shaded, *poetic/literary* tenebrous ② a shadowy figure INDISTINCT, hazy, indefinite, vague, nebulous, ill-defined, faint, blurred, blurry, unclear, indistinguishable, unrecognizable, ghostly, spectral, wraithlike
—OPPOSITES bright, clear

shady ► **adjective** ① a shady garden SHADED, shadowy, dim, dark, sheltered, screened, shrouded, leafy, *poetic/literary* bosky, tenebrous ② (*informal*) shady deals SUSPICIOUS, suspect, questionable, dubious, doubtful, disreputable, untrustworthy, dishonest, dishonourable, devious, underhand, unscrupulous, irregular, unethical, *N Amer* snide, *informal* fishy, murky, *Brit informal* dodgy, *Austral/NZ informal* shonky
—OPPOSITES bright, honest

shaft ► **noun** ① the shaft of a golf club POLE, shank, stick, rod, staff, handle, hilt, stem ② the shaft of a feather QUILL, *Ornithology* rachis ③ shafts of sunlight RAY, beam, gleam, streak, finger ④ he directs his shafts against her CUTTING REMARK, barb, gibe, taunt, *informal* dig ⑤ a ventilation shaft MINESHAFT, tunnel, passage, pit, adit, downcast, upcast; borehole, bore, duct, well, flue, vent

shaggy ► **adjective** HAIRY, bushy, thick, woolly, tangled, tousled, unkempt, dishevelled, untidy, matted, *formal* hirsute
—OPPOSITES sleek

shake ► **verb** ① the whole building shook VIBRATE, tremble, quiver, quake, shiver, shudder, judder, jiggle, wobble, rock, sway, convulse ② she shook the bottle JIGGLE, joggle, agitate; *informal* waggle ③ he shook his stick at them. BRANDISH, wave, flourish, swing, wield, *informal* waggle ④ the look in his eyes really shook her: UPSET, distress, disturb, unsettle, disconcert, discompose, disquiet, unnerve, trouble, throw off balance, agitate, fluster; shock, alarm, frighten, scare, worry, *informal* rattle ⑤ this will shake their confidence WEAKEN, undermine, damage, impair, harm; reduce, diminish, decrease
—OPPOSITES soothe, strengthen

► **noun** ① he gave his coat a shake. JIGGLE, joggle; *informal* waggle ② a shake of his fist: FLOURISH, brandish, wave. ③ it gives me the shakes: TREM-

ORS, delirium tremens, *informal* DTs, jitters, wil-
lies, heebie-jeebies, yips, *Austral informal* Joe
Blakes

■ **in two shakes (of a lamb's tail)** (*informal*)
See IN A MOMENT at MOMENT

■ **no great shakes** (*informal*) NOT VERY GOOD,
unexceptional, unmemorable, forgettable, un-
inspired, uninteresting, indifferent, unimpres-
sive, lacklustre, *informal* nothing to write home
about, nothing special, not up to much

■ **shake a leg** (*informal*) See HURRY verb sense 1

■ **shake someone off** GET AWAY FROM, escape,
elude, dodge, lose, leave behind, get rid of,
give someone the slip, throw off the scent, *Brit*
informal get shot of

■ **shake something off** RECOVER FROM, get
over, get rid of, free oneself from, *Brit informal*
get shot of, *N Amer informal* shuck off.

■ **shake someone/something up** ① the acci-
dent shook him up See SHAKE verb sense 4
② plans to shake up the legal profession REORGAN-
IZE, restructure, revolutionize, alter, change,
transform, reform, overhaul

Shakespeare ► noun. See list

The Plays of Shakespeare

COMEDIES

The Comedy of Errors
The Taming of the
Shrew
The Two Gentlemen of
Verona
Love's Labours Lost
A Midsummer Night's
Dream
The Merchant of
Venice
The Merry Wives of
Windsor
Much Ado About
Nothing
As You Like It
Twelfth Night

King Lear
Macbeth

HISTORY PLAYS

Henry VI, parts I, II,
and III
Richard III
King John
Richard II
Henry IV, parts I and II
Henry V
Henry VIII

GREEK AND ROMAN PLAYS

Titus Andronicus
Julius Caesar
Antony and Cleopatra
Timon of Athens
Coriolanus

ROMANCES

Pericles
Cymbeline
The Winter's Tale
The Tempest
The Two Noble
Kinsmen

PROBLEM PLAYS

Troilus and Cressida
All's Well that Ends
Well
Measure for Measure

TRAGEDIES

Romeo and Juliet
Hamlet
Othello

shake-up ► noun (*informal*) REORGANIZATION, re-
structuring, reshuffle, change, overhaul, make-
over; upheaval, *N Amer informal* shakedown.

shaky ► adjective ① *shaky legs* TREMBLING, shak-
ing, tremulous, quivering, quivery, unsteady,
wobbly, weak; tottering, tottery, teetering, dod-
dery; *informal* trembly. ② I feel a bit shaky: FAINT,
dizzy, light-headed, giddy; weak, wobbly,
quivery, groggy, muzzy, *informal* trembly, woozy
③ a shaky table: UNSTEADY, unstable, wobbly,
precarious, rocky, rickety, ramshackle, *Brit infor-
mal* wonky. ④ the evidence is shaky: UNRELIABLE,
untrustworthy, questionable, dubious, doubt-
ful, tenuous, suspect, flimsy, weak, unsound,

unsupported, unsubstantiated, unfounded; *infor-
mal* iffy; *Brit informal* dodgy.

—OPPOSITES steady, stable, sound.

shallow ► adjective SUPERFICIAL, facile, simplis-
tic, oversimplified, flimsy, insubstantial, light-
weight, empty, trivial, trifling; surface, skin-
deep, frivolous, foolish, silly
—OPPOSITES profound.

sham ► noun ① his tenderness had been a sham
PRETENCE, fake, act, fiction, simulation, fraud,
feint, lie, counterfeit, humbug ② the doctor was
a sham CHARLATAN, fake, fraud, impostor, pre-
tender, quack, mountebank, *informal* phoney

► adjective sham togetherness: FAKE, pretended,
feigned, simulated, false, artificial, bogus, in-
sincere, contrived, affected, make-believe, ficti-
tious, imitation, mock, counterfeit, fraudulent,
informal pretend, put-on, phoney, pseudo, *Brit infor-
mal* cod

—OPPOSITES genuine

► verb ① she shams indifference. FEIGN, fake, pre-
tend, put on, simulate, affect ② was he ill or just
shamming? PRETEND, fake, dissemble; malinger,
informal put it on, *Brit informal* swing the lead

shaman ► noun WITCH DOCTOR, medicine man/
woman, healer, kahuna

shamble ► verb SHUFFLE, drag one's feet, lum-
ber, totter, dodder, hobble, lump

shambles ► plural noun ① we have to sort out
this shambles CHAOS, mess, muddle, confusion,
disorder, havoc, mare's nest, *Brit informal* dog's
dinner/breakfast ② the room was a shambles
MESS, pigsty, *informal* disaster area, *Brit informal*
tip

shambolic ► adjective (*Brit informal*). See CHAOT-
IC

shame ► noun ① her face was scarlet with shame
HUMILIATION, mortification, chagrin, ignominy,
embarrassment, indignity, abashment, discom-
fort ② I felt shame at telling a lie GUILT, remorse,
contrition, compunction ③ he brought shame on
the family DISGRACE, dishonour, discredit, deg-
radation, ignominy, disrepute, infamy, scandal,
opprobrium, contempt, dated disesteem. ④ it's a
shame she never married PITY, misfortune, sad
thing, bad luck, *informal* bummer, crime, sin

—OPPOSITES pride, honour

► verb ① you shamed your family's name DISGRACE,
dishonour, discredit, degrade, debase, stigma-
tize, taint, sully, tarnish, besmirch, blacken,
drag through the mud ② he was shamed in pub-
lic HUMILIATE, mortify, chagrin, embarrass,
abash, chasten, humble, take down a peg or
two, cut down to size; *informal* show up; *N Amer*
informal make someone eat crow

—OPPOSITES honour

■ put someone/something to shame OUT-
SHINE, outclass, eclipse, surpass, excel, outstrip,
outdo, put in the shade, upstage; *informal* run
rings around, leave standing; *Brit informal* knock
spots off.

shamefaced ► adjective ASHAMED, abashed,
sheepish, guilty, conscience-stricken, guilt-
ridden, contrite, sorry, remorseful, repentant,
penitent, regretful, rueful, apologetic, embar-
rassed, mortified, red-faced, chagrined, humili-
ated; *informal* with one's tail between one's legs.
—OPPOSITES unrepentant.

shameful ► adjective ① shameful behaviour: DIS-
GRACEFUL, deplorable, despicable, contempt-



ible, dishonourable, discreditable, reprehensible, low, unworthy, ignoble, shabby, shocking, scandalous, outrageous, abominable, atrocious, appalling, vile, odious, heinous, egregious, loathsome, bad, inexcusable, unforgivable, *informal* low-down, hateful ② a shameful secret EMBARRASSING, mortifying, humiliating, degrading, ignominious.

—OPPOSITES admirable

shameless ▶ **adjective** FLAGRANT, blatant, barefaced, overt, brazen, brash, audacious, outrageous, undisguised, unconcealed, transparent, immodest, indecorous, unabashed, unshamed, unblushing, unrepentant

—OPPOSITES modest

shanty ▶ **noun** SHACK, hut, cabin, lean-to, shed, hovel, *Scottish* bothy, shieling

shape ▶ **noun** ① the shape of the dining table FORM, appearance, configuration, formation, structure, figure, build, physique, body, contours, lines, outline, silhouette, profile See list ② a spirit in the shape of a fox GUISE, likeness, semblance, form, appearance, image ③ you're in pretty good shape CONDITION, health, trim, fettle, order; *Brit informal* nick

—RELATED TERMS morpho-

▶ **verb** ① the metal is shaped into tools FORM, fashion, make, mould, model, cast, sculpt, sculpture, carve, cut, whittle ② attitudes were shaped by his report DETERMINE, form, fashion, mould, define, develop, influence, affect

■ **shape up** ① her work is shaping up nicely IM PROVE, get better, progress, show promise, develop, take shape, come on, come along ② a regime to help you shape up GET FIT, get into shape, tone up, slim, lose weight.

■ **take shape** BECOME CLEAR, become definite, become tangible, crystallize, come together, fall into place

Geometrical Shapes

See also PATTERN.

annulus	oblong	rhomboid
circle	octagon	rhombus
decagon	ovoid	semicircle
diamond	parallelogram	square
dodecagon	pentagon	tetragon
ellipse	pentagram	trapezium
hendecagon	pentangle	trapezoid
heptagon	polygon	triangle
hexagon	quadrangle	trigon
kite	quadrant	undecagon
lozenge	quadrilateral	
nonagon	rectangle	

shapeless ▶ **adjective** ① shapeless lumps. FORMLESS, amorphous, unformed, indefinite. ② a shapeless dress: BAGGY, saggy, ill-fitting, sack-like, oversized, unshapely, formless.

shapely ▶ **adjective** WELL PROPORTIONED, clean-limbed, curvaceous, voluptuous, full-figured, Junoesque, attractive, sexy; *informal* curvy; *archaic* comely.

shard ▶ **noun** FRAGMENT, sliver, splinter, shiver, chip, piece, bit, particle.

share ▶ **noun** her share of the profits: PORTION, part, division, quota, quantum, allowance, ration, allocation, measure, due; percentage, commission, dividend; helping, serving; *informal*

cut, slice, rake-off, *Brit informal* whack, divvy

▶ **verb** ① we share the bills SPLIT, divide, go halves on, *informal* go fifty-fifty, go Dutch ② they shared out the peanuts APPORTION, divide up, allocate, portion out, ration out, parcel out, measure out; carve up, *Brit informal* divvy up ③ we all share in the learning process PARTICIPATE IN, take part in, play a part in, be involved in, contribute to, have a hand in, partake in

sharp ▶ **adjective** ① a sharp knife KEEN, razor-edged, sharpened, honed ② a sharp pain EX CRUCIATING, agonizing, intense, stabbing, shooting, severe, acute, keen, fierce, searing, exquisite ③ a sharp taste TANGY, piquant, strong, ACIDIC, acid, sour, tart, pungent, acrid, bitter, acidulous ④ a sharp cry of pain LOUD, piercing, shrill, high-pitched, penetrating, harsh, strident, ear-splitting, deafening ⑤ a sharp wind COLD, chilly, chill, brisk, keen, penetrating, biting, icy, bitter, freezing, raw, *informal* nippy, *Brit informal* parky ⑥ sharp words. HARSH, bitter, cutting, scathing, caustic, barbed, trenchant, acrimonious, acerbic, sarcastic, sardonic, spiteful, venomous, malicious, vitriolic, vicious, hurtful, nasty, cruel, abrasive, *informal* bitchy, catty ⑦ a sharp sense of loss INTENSE, acute, keen, strong, bitter, fierce, heartfelt, overwhelming ⑧ her nose is sharp POINTED, tapering, tapered, spiky, *informal* pointy ⑨ the lens brings it into sharp focus DISTINCT, clear, crisp, stark, obvious, marked, definite, pronounced ⑩ a sharp increase SUD DEN, abrupt, rapid, steep, precipitous ⑪ a sharp corner HAIRPIN, tight ⑫ a sharp drop STEEP, sheer, abrupt, precipitous, vertical ⑬ sharp eyes KEEN, perceptive, observant, acute, beady, hawklike ⑭ she was sharp and witty PERCEPTIVE, perceptive, perspicacious, incisive, sensitive, keen, acute, quick-witted, clever, shrewd, canny, astute, intelligent, intuitive, bright, alert, smart, quick off the mark, insightful, knowing, *informal* on the ball, quick on the uptake, savvy, *Brit informal* suss, *Scottish & N English informal* pawky, *N Amer informal* heads-up ⑮ (informal) a sharp suit SMART, stylish, fashionable, chic, modish, elegant, *informal* trendy, cool, snazzy, classy, flash, snappy, natty, nifty, *N Amer informal* fly, spiffy

—OPPOSITES blunt, mild, sweet, soft, kind, rounded, indistinct, gradual, slow, weak, stupid, naive, untidy

▶ **adverb** ① nine o'clock sharp PRECISELY, exactly, on the dot, promptly, prompt, punctually, dead on, *informal* on the nose, *N Amer informal* on the button. ② the recession pulled people up sharp. ABRUPTLY, suddenly, sharply, unexpectedly

—OPPOSITES roughly

sharpen ▶ **verb** ① sharpen the carving knife HONE, whet, strop, grind, file. ② the players are sharpening up their skills IMPROVE, brush up, polish up, better, enhance; hone, fine-tune, perfect

sharp-eyed ▶ **adjective** OBSERVANT, perceptive, eagle-eyed, hawk-eyed, keen-eyed, gimlet-eyed, watchful, vigilant, alert, on the lookout, *informal* beady-eyed

shatter ▶ **verb** ① the glasses shattered. SMASH, break, splinter, crack, fracture, fragment, disintegrate, shiver; *informal* bust. ② the announcement shattered their hopes DESTROY, wreck, ruin, dash, crush, devastate, demolish, torpedo, scotch; *informal* put the kibosh on, banjax, do for, put

Sheep

BREEDS

Abyssinian	Dalesbred	Lourdes	Southdown
Afrkander	Dartmoor	Manech	South Wales Mountain
Altai	Derbyshire Gritstone	Manx Loghtan	Spanish Merino
Askanian	Devon Closewool	Masai	Suffolk
Australian Menno	Devon Longwool	Masham	Swaledale
Awassi	Dorper	Merino	Swedish Landrace
Berber	Dorset Down	Mongolian	Swiss White Alpine
Bergamo	Dorset Horn	Mug	Swiss White Mountain
Beulah Speckled Face	Dubrovnik	Mule	Talavera
Biella	East Friesland	Norfolk Horn	Targhee
Blackface	English Halfbred	North Country Cheviot	Teeswater
Blackhead Persian	English Longwool	North Ronaldsay	Texel
Black Welsh Mountain	Exmoor Horn	Old Norwegian	Tibetan
Bluefaced Leicester	Finnish Landrace	Orkney	Tsigai
Border Leicester	French Blackheaded	Oxford Down	Tyrol Mountain
Boreray	Galway	Panama	Welsh Halfbred
Bosnian Mountain	Greek Zackel	Persian	Welsh Hill Speckled
Brazilian Woolless	Hampshire Down	Poll Dorset	Welsh Mountain
Brecknock Hill Cheviot	Hebridean	Polwarth	Welsh Mountain
British Blue du Maine	Herdwick	Portland	Badger-faced
British Charollais	Hexham Leicester	Précoce	Welsh Mule
British Friesland	Hill Radnor	Radnor	Wensleydale
British Milkshopee	Icelandic	Rambouillet	Whiteface Dartmoor
British Oldenburg	Ile-de-France	Red Karaman	Whiteface Woodlands
British Texel	Island Pramenka	Rhiv Hill	Wicklow Mountain
British Vendéen	Jacob	Romanov	Wiltshire Horn
Broadtail	Karakachan	Romeldale	
Cambridge	Karakul	Romney Marsh	WILD SHEEP
Campanian Barbary	Kent	Rouge de l'Ouest	aoudad
Cannock Chase	Kerry Hill	Rough Fell	argali
Castlemilk Moorit	Kivircik	Ryeland	barbary sheep
Caucasian	Lacaune	St. Kilda	bharal
Cheviot	Lacho	Sardinian	bighorn
Chios	Lamon	Scottish Blackface	blue sheep
Clun Forest	Leicester	Scottish Halfbred	dall sheep
Colbred	Lincoln Longwool	Shetland	mouflon
Columbia	Llanwenog	Shropshire	mountain sheep
Corriedale	Lleyn	Sicilian	urial
Cotswold	Longwool	Soay	white sheep
	Lonk	South Devon	

paid to, *Bnt* informal scupper ③ we were shattered by the news DEVASTATE, shock, stun, daze, traumatize, crush, distress, informal knock sideways, *Bnt* informal knock for six

shattered ▶ adjective ① he was shattered by the reviews DEVASTATED, shocked, stunned, dazed, traumatized, crushed, heartbroken ② (informal) I feel too shattered to move See EXHAUSTED sense 1 -OPPOSITES thrilled

shave ▶ verb ① he shaved his beard CUT OFF, snip off; crop, trim, barber ② shave off excess wood PLANE, pare, whittle, scrape ③ shave parmesan over the top GRATE, shred ④ he shaved the MP's majority to 2,000 REDUCE, cut, lessen, decrease, pare down, shrink, slim down ⑤ his shot shaved the post GRAZE, brush, touch, glance off, kiss

sheaf ▶ noun BUNDLE, bunch, stack, pile, heap, mass, *Bnt* informal wodge

sheath ▶ noun ① put the sword in its sheath SCABBARD, case ② the wire has a plastic sheath COVERING, cover, case, casing, envelope, sleeve, wrapper, capsule ③ a contraceptive sheath See CONDOM

shed ▶ noun the rabbit lives in the shed HUT, lean-to, outhouse, outbuilding, shack, potting shed, woodshed, *Bnt* lock-up

shed ▶ verb ① the trees shed their leaves DROP, scatter, spill ② the caterpillar shed its skin SLOUGH OFF, cast off, moult, technical exuviate ③ we shed our jackets TAKE OFF, remove, shrug off, discard, doff, climb out of, slip out of, divest oneself of, *Bnt* informal peel off ④ much blood has been shed SPILL, discharge ⑤ the firm is to shed ten workers MAKE REDUNDANT, dismiss, let go, discharge, get rid of, discard, informal sack, fire, give someone their marching orders, send packing, give someone the push, boot out ⑥ they must shed their illusions DISCARD, get rid of, dispose of, do away with, drop, abandon, jettison, scrap, cast aside, dump, reject, repudiate, informal ditch, junk, get shut of, *Bnt* informal get shot of ⑦ the moon shed a watery light CAST, radiate, diffuse, disperse, give out. -OPPOSITES don, hire, keep

shed tears WEEP, cry, sob, lament, grieve, mourn, Scottish greet, informal blub, blubber, boo-hoo

sheen ▶ noun SHINE, lustre, gloss, patina, shininess, burnish, polish, shimmer, brilliance, radiance

sheep ▶ noun ram, ewe, lamb, wether, bell-wether, tup, *Austral* informal jumbuck, woolly See list.

-RELATED TERMS OVINE.



sheepish ▶ **adjective** EMBARRASSED, uncomfortable, hangdog, self-conscious, shamefaced, ashamed, abashed, mortified, chastened, remorseful, contrite, apologetic, rueful, regretful, penitent, repentant

sheer¹ ▶ **adjective** ① *the sheer audacity of the plan* UTTER, complete, absolute, total, pure, downright, out-and-out, arrant, thorough, thoroughgoing, patent, veritable, unmitigated, plain, *Austral/NZ informal fair* ② *a sheer drop* PRECIPITOUS, steep, vertical, perpendicular, abrupt, bluff, sharp ③ *a sheer dress* DIAPHANOUS, gauzy, filmy, floaty, gossamer, thin, translucent, transparent, see-through, insubstantial
—OPPOSITES gradual, thick

sheer² ▶ **verb** ① *the boat sheered off along the coast* SWERVE, veer, slew, skew, swing, change course ② *her mind sheered away from his image* TURN AWAY, flinch, recoil, shy away, avoid

sheet ▶ **noun** ① *she changed the sheets* BED LINEN, linen, bedclothes ② *a sheet of ice* LAYER, stratum, covering, blanket, coating, coat, film, skin ③ *a sheet of glass* PANE, panel, piece, plate, slab ④ *she put a fresh sheet in the typewriter* PIECE OF PAPER, leaf, page, folio ⑤ *a sheet of water* EXPANSE, area, stretch, sweep

shelf ▶ **noun** ① *the plant on the shelf* LEDGE, sill, bracket, rack, mantelpiece, shelving ② *the waters above the shelf* SANDBANK, sandbar, bank, bar, reef, shoal

■ **on the shelf** UNMARRIED, single, unattached, lonely, unloved, neglected

shell ▶ **noun** ① *a crab shell* CARAPACE, exterior, armour, Zoology exoskeleton See list ② *peanut shells* POD, husk, hull, casing, case, covering, integument, *N Amer* shuck ③ *shells passing overhead* PROJECTILE, bomb, explosive, grenade, bullet, cartridge See lists at BULLET, PROJECTILE ④ *the metal shell of the car* FRAMEWORK, frame, chassis, skeleton, hull, exterior

—RELATED TERMS conchoidal, concho-

▶ **verb** ① *they were shelling peas* HULL, pod, husk, *N Amer* shuck ② *rebel artillery shelled the city* BOMBARD, fire on, shoot at, attack, bomb, blitz, strafe

■ **shell something out** (informal) See PAY verb sense 2

shellfish ▶ **noun** CRUSTACEAN, bivalve, mollusc See list at MOLLUSC

shelter ▶ **noun** ① *the trees provide shelter for animals* PROTECTION, cover, screening, shade, safety, security, refuge, sanctuary, asylum ② *a shelter for abandoned cats* SANCTUARY, refuge, home, haven, safe house, harbour, port in a storm

—OPPOSITES exposure

▶ **verb** ① *the hut sheltered him from the wind* PROTECT, shield, screen, cover, shade, save, safeguard, preserve, defend, cushion, guard, insulate ② *the anchorage where the convoy sheltered* TAKE SHELTER, take refuge, seek sanctuary, take cover; informal hole up

—OPPOSITES expose

sheltered ▶ **adjective** ① *a sheltered stretch of water* PROTECTED, screened, shielded, covered, shady, cosy ② *she led a sheltered life* SECLUDED, cloistered, isolated, protected, withdrawn, sequestered, reclusive, privileged, secure, safe, quiet

Shells

abalone
angel wing
ark shell
auger
basket shell
bonnet
bubble shell
canoe shell
carpet shell
carrier shell
cask shell
chambered nautilus
chank
clam
coat-of-mail
cockle
cock's-comb oyster
conch
cone
cowrie
cup-and-saucer
date mussel
dog whelk
dove shell
drill
drupe
ear shell
fig shell
fighting conch
file shell
flamingo tongue
frog shell
furrow shell
gaper
giant clam
hard clam
harp
heart cockle
helmet
hoof shell
horn shell
horse mussel
jewel box
jingle shell
junonia
keyhole limpet
lima
limpet
lion's paw
lucine
marginella
mitre
money cowrie
moon shell
murex
mussel
nautilus
necklace shell
nerite
Noah's ark
nutmeg shell
nut shell
olive
ormer
otter shell
oyster
oyster drill
partridge shell
pearly nautilus
pelican's foot
pen shell
periwinkle
pheasant shell
piddock
pyramid shell
quahog
queen scallop
razor shell
rock shell
saddle oyster
scallop
sea snail
slider limpet
slit limpet
slit shell
spider conch
spindle shell
spire shell
staircase shell
sundial
sunset shell
tellin
thorny oyster
tiger cowrie
tooth shell
top shell
tower shell
triton
triton's trumpet
trough shell
trumpet shell
tulip shell
tun
turban
turkey wing
turret shell
tusk shell
umbrella shell
vase shell
venus
Venus clam
violet sea snail
volute
wedge shell
wentletrap
whelk
wing oyster
winkle
worm shell
zebra mussel

shelve ▶ **verb** POSTPONE, put off, delay, defer, put back, reschedule, hold over/off, put to one side, suspend, stay, keep in abeyance, mothball, abandon, drop, give up, stop, cancel, jettison, axe, *N Amer* put over, table, take a rain check on; informal put on ice, put on the back burner, ditch, dump, junk
—OPPOSITES execute



shepherd ► noun *he worked as a shepherd* shepherdess, herdsman, herder, sheepman

► verb *we shepherded them away* USHER, steer, herd, lead, take, escort, guide, conduct, marshal, walk, show, see, chaperone

sherry ► noun. See list

Types of Sherry

amontillado	fino	palo cortado
amoroso	manzanilla	vino de pasto
cream sherry	oloroso	

shield ► noun ① *he used his shield to fend off blows* Heraldry escutcheon, historical buckler, target, archaic targe ② *a shield against dirt* PROTECTION, guard, defence, cover, screen, security, shelter, safeguard, protector

► verb *he shielded his eyes* PROTECT, cover, screen, shade, save, safeguard, preserve, defend, secure, guard, cushion, insulate
-OPPOSITES expose

shift ► verb ① *he shifted some chairs* MOVE, carry, transfer, transport, convey, lug, haul, fetch, switch, relocate, reposition, rearrange, informal cart ② *she shifted her position* CHANGE, alter, adjust, vary, modify, revise, reverse, retract, do a U-turn ③ *the cargo has shifted* MOVE, slide, slip, be displaced ④ *the wind shifted* VEER, alter, change, turn, swing round ⑤ (*Brit*) *this brush really shifts the dirt* GET RID OF, remove, get off, budge, lift, expunge
-OPPOSITES keep

► noun ① *the southward shift of people* MOVEMENT, move, transference, transport, transposition, relocation ② *a shift in public opinion* CHANGE, alteration, adjustment, amendment, variation, modification, revision, reversal, retraction, U-turn, *Brit* about-turn ③ *they worked three shifts* STINT, stretch, spell of work ④ *the night shift went home* WORKERS, crew, gang, team, squad, patrol ⑤ (*archaic*) *dubious shifts to make money* STRATAGEM, scheme, subterfuge, expedient, dodge, trick, ruse, wile, strategy, device, plan
■ **shift for oneself** COPE, manage, survive, make it, fend for oneself, take care of oneself, make do, get by/along, scrape by/along, muddle through, stand on one's own two feet, informal make out

shiftless ► adjective LAZY, idle, indolent, slothful, lethargic, lackadaisical, spiritless, apathetic, feckless, good-for-nothing, worthless, unambitious, unenterprising

shifty ► adjective (*informal*) DEVOIS, evasive, slippery, duplicitous, false, deceitful, underhand, untrustworthy, dishonest, shady, wily, crafty, tricky, sneaky, treacherous, artful, sly, scheming, *N Amer* snide, *Brit* informal dodgy, *Austral/NZ* informal shonky
-OPPOSITES honest.

shilly-shally ► verb DITHER, be indecisive, be irresolute, vacillate, waver, hesitate, blow hot and cold, falter, drag one's feet, *Brit* haver, hum and haw, *Scottish* swither, informal dilly-dally

shimmer ► verb *the lake shimmered*. GLINT, glisten, sparkle, flash, scintillate, gleam, glow, glimmer, glitter, wink; poetic/literary coruscate

► noun *the shimmer of lights from the traffic*. GLINT,

twinkle, sparkle, flash, gleam, glow, glimmer, lustre, glitter, poetic/literary coruscation.

shin ► verb CLIMB, clamber, scramble, swarm, shoot, go, mount, ascend, scale, descend, *N Amer* skinny

shine ► verb ① *the sun shone* EMIT LIGHT, beam, radiate, gleam, glow, glint, glimmer, sparkle, twinkle, glitter, glisten, shimmer, flash, flare, glare, fluoresce, luminesce; poetic/literary glister, coruscate ② *she shone his shoes* POLISH, burnish, buff, wax, gloss, rub up ③ *they shone at university* EXCEL, be outstanding, be brilliant, be successful, stand out

► noun ① *the shine of the moon on her face* LIGHT, brightness, gleam, glow, glint, glimmer, sparkle, twinkle, glitter, glisten, shimmer, beam, glare, radiance, illumination, luminescence, luminosity, incandescence. ② *linseed oil restores the shine* POLISH, burnish, gleam, gloss, lustre, sheen, patina

shining ► adjective ① *a shining expanse of water* GLEAMING, bright, brilliant, illuminated, lustrous, glowing, glinting, sparkling, twinkling, glittering, glistening, shimmering, dazzling, luminous, luminescent, incandescent, poetic/literary glistening, coruscating. ② *a shining face* GLOWING, beaming, radiant, happy ③ *shining chromium tubes* SHINY, bright, polished, gleaming, glossy, glassy, sheeny, lustrous

■ **a shining example** PARAGON, model, epitome, archetype, ideal, exemplar, nonpareil, paradigm, quintessence, the crème de la crème, the beau idéal, acme, jewel, flower, treasure, informal one in a million, the bee's knees

shiny ► adjective GLOSSY, glassy, bright, polished, gleaming, satiny, sheeny, lustrous
-OPPOSITES matt

ship ► noun BOAT, vessel, craft See lists

-RELATED TERMS marine, maritime, naval

shirk ► verb ① *she didn't shirk any task* EVADE, dodge, avoid, get out of, sidestep, shrink from, shun, slide out of, skip, miss, neglect; informal duck (out of), cop out of, *Brit* informal skive off, *N Amer* informal cut, *Austral/NZ* informal duck-shove ② *no one shirked* AVOID ONE'S DUTY, be remiss, be negligent, play truant, *Brit* informal skive (off), swing the lead, scrimshank, slack off; *N Amer* informal goof off, play hooky

shirker ► noun DODGER, truant, absentee, layabout, loafer, idler, informal slacker; *Brit* informal skiver, scrimshanker, archaic shirk

shiver¹ ► verb *she was shivering with fear* TREMBLE, quiver, shake, shudder, quaver, quake

► noun *she gave a shiver as the door opened* TREMBLE, quiver, shake, shudder, quaver, quake, tremor, twitch

shiver² ► noun *a shiver of glass*. SPLINTER, sliver, shard, fragment, chip, shaving, smithereen, particle, bit, piece.

► verb *the window shivered into thousands of pieces*. SHATTER, splinter, smash, fragment, crack, break

shivery ► adjective TREMBLING, trembly, quivery, shaky, shuddering, shuddery, quavery, quaking, chilly.

shoal ► noun SANDBANK, bank, mudbank, bar, sandbar, tombolo, shelf, cay.

Ships and Boats

See also SAILING SHIP, WARSHIP.

aircraft carrier	dory	keeler	pinnace	speedboat
amphibious assault ship	double-ender	ketch	pirogue	stake boat
amphibious landing craft	dragon boat	laker	pitpan	steamboat
auxiliary	dreadnought	landing craft	pocket battleship	steamer
banker	dredger	lapstrake	pontoon	steamship
barge	drifter	lateen	powerboat	sternwheeler
battlecruiser	dromond	launch	pram	submarine
battleship	DUKW/duck	liberty boat	privateer	submersible
boatel	E-boat	lifeboat	proa	supertanker
bulk carrier	factory ship	lighter	punt	supply ship
bumboat	ferry	liner	Q-ship	surfboat
cabin cruiser	flag boat	longboat	raft	tall ship
cable ship	flagship	longship	randan	tanker
canal boat	flat boat	lugger	revenue cutter	tartan
canoe	freighter	mailboat	RIB	tender
capital ship	frigate	man-of-war	riverboat	three-decker
cargo ship	galleon	merchant ship	roll-on roll-off	torpedo boat
catamaran	galliot	minehunter	rowing boat	trader
coaler	gig	minesweeper	sailing boat	tramp steamer
coal ship	gondola	monitor	sailing ship	trawler
coaster	gunboat	monkey-boat	sampan	trimaran
coble	helicopter carrier	monohull	school ship	troop carrier
cockboat	hooker	mosquito boat	schooner	troopship
cockle	houseboat	motor-boat	scow	tub
cockleshell	hovercraft	motorsailer	scull	tugboat
cog	hydrofoil	motor yacht	sculler	umiak
collier	hydroplane	multihull	sealer	warship
container ship	iceboat	narrowboat	shallop	weekender
coracle	ice-breaker	oiler	sharple	whaleboat
corvette	inboard	oil tanker	shell	whaler
crabber	Indiaman	outboard	ship of the line	wherry
cruiser	inflatable dinghy	outrigger	ship's boat	windjammer
cruise ship	ironclad	packet boat	side-wheeler	workboat
cutter	jet-boat	paddle boat	single-hander	yacht
dahabeeyah	johnboat	paddle steamer	skiff	yawl
destroyer	jolly (boat)	passenger ship	skipjack	
dinghy	junk	pilot boat	sloop	
	kayak	pink	smack	
	keelboat		sneakbox	

Parts of a Ship

after deck	cleat	half-deck	painter	spanker
anchor	companion ladder	hatch	pilot house	stabilizer
berth	companionway	hatchway	pintle	stack
bilge	counter	hawsehole	planking	stanchion
bilge keel	crow's nest	hawsepipe	Plimsoll line	starboard
bitt	daggerboard	hawser	poop	stateroom
board	davit	head	poop deck	stern
boat deck	dodger	hold	porthole	stempost
boiler room	engine room	keel	portside*	strake
bolard	false keel	keelson	promenade deck	stretcher
bow	figurehead	larboard	propeller	stringer
bridge	fin keel	lazaretto	propeller shaft	thole
brig	flight deck	limber	proW	tiller
bulkhead	forecastle/fo'c'sle	limber hole	quarter rail	transom
bulseye	freeboard	mainmast	quarters	trunnion
bulwarks	funnel	maintop	radio room	turtieback
cabin	futtock	mast	rail	wardroom
caboose	galley	mizzenmast	riding lamp	washboard
capstan	gangplank	mizzenmast	rigger	washstrake
carline	gangway	monkey rail	round house	waterline
cathead	glory hole	oar	rowlock	weatherboard
cat hole	guard rail	orlop deck	rudder	weather deck
centreboard	gudgeon	outboard	rudderpost	wheel
chain locker	gun deck	outrigger	scupper	winch
chart room	gunwale/gunnel	paddle wheel	skeg	windlass



shock¹ ► **noun** ① *the news came as a shock* BLOW, upset, disturbance, surprise, revelation, a bolt from the blue, thunderbolt, bombshell, rude awakening, *informal* eye-opener, whammy ② *you gave me a shock* FRIGHT, scare, jolt, start, *informal* turn ③ *she was suffering from shock* TRAUMA, traumatism, prostration, collapse, breakdown ④ *the first shock of the earthquake* VIBRATION, reverberation, shake, jolt, jar, jerk, impact, blow ► **verb** *the murder shocked the nation* APPAL, horrify, outrage, revolt, disgust, nauseate, sicken, traumatize, distress, upset, disturb, disquiet, unsettle, stun, rock, stagger, astound, astonish, amaze, startle, surprise, dumbfound, shake, take aback, throw, unnerve

shock² ► **noun** *a shock of red hair* MASS, mane, mop, thatch, head, crop, bush, frizz, tangle, cascade, halo

shocking ► **adjective** APPALLING, horrifying, horrific, dreadful, awful, frightful, terrible, scandalous, outrageous, disgraceful, vile, abominable, abhorrent, atrocious, odious, repugnant, disgusting, nauseating, sickening, loathsome, distressing, upsetting, disturbing, disquieting, unsettling, staggering, amazing, astonishing, startling, surprising

shoddy ► **adjective** ① *shoddy goods* POOR-QUALITY, inferior, second-rate, third-rate, cheap, cheapjack, trashy, jerry-built, *informal* tacky, rubbishy, junky, *Brit informal* duff, rubbish ② *shoddy workmanship* CARELESS, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, scrappy, crude, negligent, cursory –OPPOSITES quality, careful

shoe ► **noun** See list at FOOTWEAR

shoemaker ► **noun** COBBLER, bootmaker, clogger, *Scottish & N English* souter

shoot ► **verb** ① *they shot him in the street* GUN DOWN, mow down, hit, wound, injure, put a bullet in, pick off, bag, fell, kill, *informal* pot, blast, pump full of lead, plug ② *they shot at the enemy* FIRE, open fire, aim, snipe, let fly, bombard, shell ③ *faster than a gun can shoot* bullets DISCHARGE, fire, launch, loose off, let fly, emit ④ *a car shot past* RACE, speed, flash, dash, dart, rush, hurtle, streak, whizz, go like lightning, go hell for leather, zoom, charge, career, sweep, fly, wing, *informal* belt, scoot, scorch, tear, zip, whip, step on it, burn rubber, *Brit informal* bomb, bucket, shift, *N Amer informal* clip, hightail it, barrel ⑤ *the plant failed to shoot* SPROUT, bud, burgeon, germinate ⑥ *the film was shot in Tunisia* FILM, photograph, take, snap, capture, record, televise, video

► **noun** *nip off the new shoots* SPROUT, bud, offshoot, scion, sucker, spear, runner, tendril, sprig

shop ► **noun** ① *a shop selling clothes* STORE, (retail) outlet, boutique, cash and carry, emporium, department store, supermarket, hypermarket, superstore, chain store, concession, market, mart, trading post, *N Amer* minimart. ② *he works in the machine shop* WORKSHOP, workroom, plant, factory, works, industrial unit, mill, foundry, yard

► **verb** ① *he was shopping for spices* GO SHOPPING, go to the shops, buy, purchase, get, acquire, obtain, pick up, snap up, procure, stock up on, *humorous* indulge in retail therapy. ② (*Brit informal*) *he shopped his fellow robbers* See BETRAY sense 1

shopkeeper ► **noun** SHOP-OWNER, shop manager, vendor, retailer, dealer, seller, trader, wholesaler, salesperson, tradesman, distributor, *N Amer* storekeeper

shopper ► **noun** BUYER, purchaser, customer, consumer, client, patron; *Law* vendee

shopping centre ► **noun** SHOPPING PRECINCT, (shopping) mall, (shopping) arcade, Galleria, parade, marketplace, mart, *N Amer* plaza

shore¹ ► **noun** *he swam out from the shore* SEA SHORE, beach, foreshore, sand(s), shoreline, waterside, front, coast, seaboard, *poetic/literary* strand

–RELATED TERMS littoral

shore² ► **verb** *we had to shore up the building* PROP UP, hold up, bolster, support, brace, buttress, strengthen, fortify, reinforce, underpin

short ► **adjective** ① *a short piece of string* SMALL, little, tiny, *informal* teeny ② *short people* SMALL, little, petite, tiny, diminutive, stubby, elfin, dwarfish, midger, pygmy, Lilliputian, minuscule, miniature, *Scottish* wee, *informal* pint-sized, teeny, knee-high to a grasshopper ③ *a short report* CONCISE, brief, succinct, compact, summary, economical, crisp, pithy, epigrammatic, laconic, thumbnail, abridged, abbreviated, condensed, synoptic, summarized, contracted, truncated, *formal* compendious ④ *a short time* BRIEF, momentary, temporary, short-lived, impermanent, cursory, fleeting, passing, fugitive, lightning, transitory, transient, ephemeral, quick ⑤ *money is a bit short* SCARCE, in short supply, scant, meagre, sparse, insufficient, deficient, inadequate, lacking, wanting ⑥ *he was rather short with her* CURT, sharp, abrupt, blunt, brusque, terse, offhand, gruff, surly, testy, rude, uncivil, *informal* snappy

–OPPOSITES long, tall, plentiful, courteous

► **adverb** *she stopped short* ABRUPTLY, suddenly, sharply, all of a sudden, all at once, unexpectedly, without warning, out of the blue

■ **in short** BRIEFLY, in a word, in a nutshell, in precis, in essence, to come to the point, in conclusion, in summary, to sum up

■ **short of** ① *we are short of nurses* DEFICIENT IN, lacking, wanting, in need of, low on, short on, missing, *informal* strapped for, pushed for, minus ② *short of searching everyone, there is nothing we can do* APART FROM, other than, aside from, besides, except (for), excepting, without, excluding, not counting, save (for)

shortage ► **noun** SCARCITY, sparseness, sparsity, dearth, paucity, poverty, insufficiency, deficiency, inadequacy, famine, lack, want, deficit, shortfall, rarity

–OPPOSITES abundance

shortcoming ► **noun** DEFECT, fault, flaw, imperfection, deficiency, limitation, failing, drawback, weakness, weak point, foible, frailty, vice

–OPPOSITES strength

shorten ► **verb** MAKE SHORTER, abbreviate, abridge, condense, precis, synopsisize, contract, compress, reduce, shrink, diminish, cut (down), dock, trim, crop, pare down, prune, curtail, truncate

–OPPOSITES extend

short-lived ► **adjective** BRIEF, short, momentary, temporary, impermanent, cursory, fleet-



ing, passing, fugitive, lightning, transitory, transient, ephemeral, quick

shortly ► **adverb** ① *she will be with you shortly* SOON, presently, in a little while, at any moment, in a minute, in next to no time, before long, by and by, *N Amer* momentarily, *informal* anon, any time now, pretty soon, before one can say Jack Robinson, in a jiffy, *Brit informal* in a mo, sharpish, *dated* directly ② *'I know,' he replied shortly* CURTLY, sharply, abruptly, bluntly, brusquely, tersely, gruffly, snappily, testily, rudely

short-sighted ► **adjective** ① *I'm a little short-sighted* MYOPIC, near-sighted, *informal* as blind as a bat ② *short-sighted critics* NARROW-MINDED, unimaginative, improvident, small-minded, insular, parochial, provincial
—OPPOSITES long-sighted, imaginative

short-staffed ► **adjective** UNDERSTAFFED, short-handed, undermanned, below strength

short-tempered ► **adjective** IRRITABLE, irascible, hot-tempered, quick-tempered, snappish, fiery, touchy, volatile, cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, grumpy, ill-tempered, bad-tempered, testy, tetchy, prickly, choleric, *informal* snappy, chippy, grouchy, cranky, on a short fuse, *Brit informal* narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* soreheaded
—OPPOSITES placid

shot¹ ► **noun** ① *a shot rang out* report of a gun, crack, bang, blast, (shots) gunfire ② *the cannon have run out of shot* BULLETS, cannonballs, pellets, ammunition See list at BULLET ③ *a winning shot* STROKE, hit, strike, kick, throw, pitch, lob ④ *Mike was an excellent shot* MARKSMAN, markswoman, shooter ⑤ *a shot of us on holiday* PHOTOGRAPH, photo, snap, snapshot, picture, print, slide, still, *Brit* enprint ⑥ *(informal) it's nice to get a shot at driving* ATTEMPT, try, turn, chance, opportunity, *informal* go, stab, crack, bash, *formal* essay ⑦ *tetanus shots* INJECTION, inoculation, immunization, vaccination, booster, *informal* jab

■ **a shot in the arm** (*informal*) BOOST, fillip, tonic, stimulus, spur, impetus, encouragement

■ **a shot in the dark** (WILD) GUESS, surmise, supposition, conjecture, speculation

■ **like a shot** (*informal*) WITHOUT HESITATION, unhesitatingly, eagerly, enthusiastically, immediately, at once, right away/now, straight away, instantly, instantaneously, without delay, *informal* in/like a flash, before one can say Jack Robinson

■ **not by a long shot** BY NO (MANNER OF) MEANS, not at all, in no way, certainly not, absolutely not, definitely not, *Brit* not by a long chalk

shot² ► **adjective** shot silk VARIEGATED, mottled, multicoloured, varicoloured, iridescent, opalescent

shoulder ► **verb** ① *Britain shouldered the primary responsibility* TAKE ON (ONESELF), undertake, accept, assume; bear, carry ② *another lad shouldered him aside* PUSH, shove, thrust, jostle, force, bulldoze, bundle

■ **give someone the cold shoulder** SNUB, shun, cold-shoulder, ignore, cut (dead), rebuff, spurn, ostracize; *informal* give someone the brush-off, freeze out, *Brit informal* send to Coventry, *N Amer informal* give someone the brush

■ **put one's shoulder to the wheel** GET (DOWN) TO WORK, apply oneself, set to work, buckle down, roll up one's sleeves, work hard be diligent, be industrious, exert oneself

■ **shoulder to shoulder** ① *the regiment lined up shoulder to shoulder* SIDE BY SIDE, abreast, alongside (each other) ② *he fought shoulder to shoulder with the others* UNITED, (working) together, jointly, in partnership, in collaboration, in cooperation, side by side, in alliance

shout ► **verb** 'Help,' he shouted YELL, cry (out), call (out), roar, howl, bellow, bawl, call at the top of one's voice, clamour, shriek, scream, raise one's voice, vociferate, *informal* holler
—OPPOSITES whisper

► **noun** a shout of pain YELL, cry, call, roar, howl, bellow, bawl, clamour, vociferation, shriek, scream, *informal* holler

shove ► **verb** ① *she shoved him back into the chair* PUSH, thrust, propel, drive, force, ram, knock, elbow, shoulder, jostle, bundle, hustle, manhandle ② *she shoved past him* PUSH (ONE'S WAY), force one's way, barge (one's way), elbow (one's way), shoulder one's way

► **noun** a hefty shove PUSH, thrust, bump, jolt

■ **shove off** (*informal*) shove off! GO AWAY, get out (of my sight), get going, take oneself off, be off (with you), shoo, *informal* sciam, make yourself scarce, be on your way, beat it, get lost, push off, buzz off, clear off, go (and) jump in the lake, *Brit informal* hop it, bog off, naff off, *N Amer informal* bug off, haul off, take a hike, *Austral informal* nick off, *Austral/NZ informal* rack off, poetic/literary begone

shovel ► **noun** a pick and shovel SPADE, *Austral/NZ* banjo

► **verb** shovelling snow SCOOP (UP), dig, excavate

show ► **verb** ① *the stitches do not show* BE VISIBLE, be seen, be in view, be obvious ② *he wouldn't show the picture* DISPLAY, exhibit, put on show/display, put on view, parade, uncover, reveal ③ *Frank showed his frustration* MANIFEST, exhibit, reveal, convey, communicate, make known, express, proclaim, make plain, make obvious, disclose, betray, *formal* evince ④ *I'll show you how to make a daisy chain* DEMONSTRATE, explain, describe, illustrate, teach, instruct, give instructions ⑤ *recent events show this to be true* PROVE, demonstrate, confirm, show beyond doubt, substantiate, corroborate, verify, establish, attest, certify, testify, bear out, *formal* evince ⑥ *a young woman showed them to their seats* ESCORT, accompany, take, conduct, lead, usher, guide, direct, steer, shepherd ⑦ (*informal*) *they never showed* APPEAR, arrive, come, get here/there, put in an appearance, materialize, turn up, *informal* show up
—OPPOSITES conceal

► **noun** ① *a spectacular show of bluebells* DISPLAY, array, exhibition, presentation, exposition, spectacle ② *the motor show* EXHIBITION, exposition, fair, extravaganza, spectacle, *N Amer* exhibit ③ *they took in a show* (THEATRICAL) PERFORMANCE, musical, play ④ *she's only doing it for show* APPEARANCE, display, impression, ostentation, image ⑤ *Drew made a show of looking busy* PRETENCE, outward appearance, (false) front, guise, semblance, pose, parade ⑥ (*informal*) *I don't run the show* UNDERTAKING, affair, operation, proceedings, enterprise, business, venture



■ **show off** (informal) BEHAVE AFFECTEDLY, put on airs, put on an act, swagger around, swank, strut, strike an attitude, posture, draw attention to oneself, *N Amer informal* cop an attitude

■ **show something off** DISPLAY, show to advantage, exhibit, demonstrate, parade, draw attention to, flaunt.

■ **show up** ① cancers show up on X-rays BE VISIBLE, be obvious, be seen, be revealed ② (informal) only two waitresses showed up See SHOW verb sense 7

■ **show someone/something up** ① the sun showed up the shabbiness of the room EXPOSE, reveal, make visible, make obvious, highlight ② (informal) they showed him up in front of his friends See HUMILIATE

showdown ► noun CONFRONTATION, clash, face-off

shower ► noun ① a shower of rain (LIGHT) FALL, drizzle, sprinkling, mizzle ② a shower of arrows VOLLEY, hail, salvo, bombardment, barrage, fusillade, cannonade ③ a shower of awards AVA LANCHE, deluge, flood, spate, flurry, profusion, abundance, plethora

► verb ① confetti showered down on us RAIN, fall, hail ② she showered them with gifts DELUGE, flood, inundate, swamp, engulf, overwhelm, overload, snow under ③ showering honours on his cronies LAVISH, heap, bestow freely

showing ► noun ① another showing of the series PRESENTATION, broadcast, airing, televising ② the party's present showing PERFORMANCE, (track) record, results, success, achievement

showman ► noun ① a travelling showman IM PRESARIO, stage manager, ringmaster, host, compère, master of ceremonies, MC, presenter, *N Amer informal* emcee ② he is a great showman ENTERTAINER, performer, virtuoso

show-off ► noun (informal) EXHIBITIONIST, extrovert, poser, poseur, peacock, swaggerer, self-publicist, informal pseud

showy ► adjective OSTENTATIOUS, conspicuous, pretentious, flamboyant, gaudy, garish, brash; vulgar, loud, extravagant, fancy, ornate, overelaborate, kitsch, informal flash, flashy, glitzy, ritzy, swanky, *N Amer informal* superfly
-OPPOSITES restrained

shred ► noun ① her dress was torn to shreds TATTER, scrap, strip, ribbon, rag, fragment, sliver, (tiny) bit/piece ② not a shred of evidence SCRAP, bit, speck, iota, particle, ounce, whit, jot, crumb, morsel, fragment, grain, drop, trace, scintilla, spot, informal smidgen.

► verb shredding vegetables CHOP FINELY, cut up, tear up, grate, mince, macerate, grind

shrew ► noun VIRAGO, dragon, termagant, fishwife, witch, tartar, hag, informal battleaxe, old bag, old bat, archaic scold

shrewd ► adjective ASTUTE, sharp-witted, sharp, smart, acute, intelligent, clever, canny, perceptive, perspicacious, sagacious, wise, informal on the ball, savvy; *N Amer informal* heads-up, formal sapient
-OPPOSITES stupid.

shrewdness ► noun ASTUTENESS, sharp-wittedness, acuteness, acumen, acuity, intelligence, cleverness, smartness, wit, caniness, common sense, discernment, insight, understanding, perception, perceptiveness, perspicacity, perspicaciousness, discrimination, saga-

city, sageness, informal nous, horse sense, savvy, formal sapience

shrewish ► adjective BAD-TEMPERED, quarrelsome, spiteful, sharp-tongued, scolding, nagging; venomous, rancorous, bitchy

shriek ► verb she shrieked with laughter SCREAM, screech, squeal, squawk, roar, howl, shout, yelp, informal holler

► noun a shriek of laughter SCREAM, screech, squeal, squawk, roar, howl, shout, yelp; informal holler

shrill ► adjective HIGH-PITCHED, piercing, high, sharp, ear-piercing, ear-splitting, penetrating, screeching, shrieking, screechy

shrine ► noun ① the shrine of St James HOLY PLACE, temple, church, chapel, tabernacle, sanctuary, sanctum ② a shrine to the Beatles MEMORIAL, monument

shrink ► verb ① the number of competitors shrank GET SMALLER, become/grow smaller, contract, diminish, lessen, reduce, decrease, dwindle, decline, fall off, drop off. ② he shrank back against the wall DRAW BACK, recoil, back away, retreat, withdraw, cringe, cower, quail. ③ he doesn't shrink from naming names RECOIL, shy away, demur, flinch, have scruples, have misgivings, have qualms, be loath, be reluctant, be unwilling, be averse, fight shy of, be hesitant, be afraid, hesitate, balk at, archaic disrelish something
-OPPOSITES expand, increase

shrivel ► verb WITHER, shrink, wilt, dry up, desiccate, dehydrate, parch, frazzle

shroud ► noun ① the Turn Shroud WINDING SHEET, historical cerements ② a shroud of mist | a shroud of secrecy COVERING, cover, cloak, mantle, blanket, layer, cloud, veil

► verb a mist shrouded the jetties. COVER, envelop, veil, cloak, blanket, screen, conceal, hide, mask, obscure, poetic/literary enshroud

shrub ► noun BUSH, woody plant. See lists at FLOWER, TREE

shrug

■ shrug something off DISREGARD, dismiss, take no notice of, ignore, pay no heed to, play down, make light of

shudder ► verb she shuddered at the thought SHAKE, shiver, tremble, quiver, vibrate, palpitate

► noun a shudder racked his body. SHAKE, shiver, tremor, tremble, trembling, quiver, quivering, vibration, palpitation

shuffle ► verb ① they shuffled along the passage SHAMBLE, drag one's feet, totter, dodder ② she shuffled her feet SCRAPE, drag, scuffle, scuff ③ he shuffled the cards. MIX (UP), mangle, rearrange, jumble.

shun ► noun AVOID, evade, eschew, steer clear of, shy away from, fight shy of, keep one's distance from, give a wide berth to, have nothing to do with; snub, give someone the cold shoulder, cold-shoulder, ignore, cut (dead), look right through, reject, rebuff, spurn, ostracize; informal give someone the brush-off, freeze out, stiff-arm; *Brit informal* send to Coventry; *N Amer informal* give someone the bum's rush, give someone the brush.
-OPPOSITES welcome.



shut ▶ **verb** please shut the door CLOSE, pull/push to, slam, fasten, put the lid on, bar, lock, secure.

—OPPOSITES open, unlock

■ **shut down** CEASE ACTIVITY, close (down), cease operating, cease trading, be shut (down), informal fold

■ **shut someone/something in** CONFINE, enclose, impound, shut up, pen (in/up), fence in, immure, lock up/in, cage, imprison, intern, incarcerate, *N Amer* corral

■ **shut someone/something out** ① he shut me out of the house LOCK OUT, keep out, refuse entrance to ② she shut out the memories BLOCK, suppress ③ the bamboo shut out the light KEEP OUT, block out, screen, veil

■ **shut up** (informal) BE QUIET, keep quiet, hold one's tongue, keep one's lips sealed, stop talking, quieten (down), informal keep mum, button it, cut the cackle, shut it, shut your face/mouth/trap, belt up, put a sock in it, give it a rest; *Brit* informal shut your gob, *N Amer* informal save it

■ **shut someone/something up** ① I haven't shut the hens up yet See SHUT SOMEONE/SOMETHING IN ② (informal) that should shut them up QUIETEN (DOWN), silence, hush, shush, quiet, gag, muzzle

shuttle ▶ **verb** PLY, run, commute, go/travel back and forth, go/travel to and fro, ferry

shy¹ ▶ **adjective** I was painfully shy BASHFUL, diffident, timid, sheepish, reserved, reticent, introverted, retiring, self-effacing, withdrawn, timorous, mousy, nervous, insecure, unconfident, inhibited, repressed, self-conscious, embarrassed

—OPPOSITES confident

■ **shy away from** FLINCH, demur, recoil, hang back, have scruples, have misgivings, have qualms, be chary, be diffident, be bashful, fight shy, be coy, be loath, be reluctant, be unwilling, be disinclined, be hesitant, hesitate, balk at, informal boggle at, archaic disrelish

shy² ▶ **verb** (dated) they began shying stones THROW, toss, fling, hurl, cast, lob, launch, pitch, informal chuck, heave, sling, bung

shyness ▶ **noun** BASHFULNESS, diffidence, sheepishness, reserve, reservedness, introversion, reticence, timidity, timidness, timorousness, mousiness, lack of confidence, inhibitedness, self-consciousness, embarrassment, coyness, demureness

sibling ▶ **noun** brother, sister, Zoology sib

sick ▶ **adjective** ① the children are sick ILL, unwell, poorly, ailing, indisposed, not oneself, *Brit* off colour, informal laid up, under the weather, *Austral/NZ* informal crook ② he was feeling sick NAUSEOUS, nauseated, queasy, bilious, green about the gills; seasick, carsick, airsick, travel-sick; informal about to throw up ③ (informal) we're sick about the plans. DISAPPOINTED, depressed, dejected, despondent, downcast, unhappy; angry, cross, annoyed, displeased, disgruntled, informal fed up; *Brit* informal cheesed off ④ I'm sick of this music: BORED, tired, weary; Informaffed up ⑤ (informal) a sick joke: MACABRE, black, ghoulis, morbid, perverted, gruesome, sadistic, cruel

—OPPOSITES well.

■ **be sick** (*Brit*) VOMIT, retch, heave, gag; informal throw up, chunder, chuck up, hurl, spew,

keck, *Brit* informal honk, *N Amer* informal spit up, barf, upchuck, toss one's cookies

sicken ▶ **verb** ① the stench sickened him CAUSE TO FEEL SICK/NAUSEOUS, make sick, turn someone's stomach, revolt, disgust; informal make someone want to throw up; *N Amer* informal gross out ② she sickened and died BECOME ILL, fall ill, be taken ill/sick, catch something ③ I'm sickening for something BECOME ILL WITH, fall ill with, be taken ill with, show symptoms of, develop, come down with, *Brit* go down with, *N Amer* informal take sick with

—OPPOSITES recover

sickening ▶ **adjective** NAUSEATING, stomach-turning, stomach-churning, repulsive, revolting, disgusting, repellent, repugnant, appalling, obnoxious, nauseous, vile, nasty, foul, loathsome, offensive, objectionable, off-putting, distasteful, obscene, gruesome, grisly, *N Amer* vomitous, informal gross, formal rebarbative, archaic disgusting

sickly ▶ **adjective** ① a sickly child UNHEALTHY, in poor health, delicate, frail, weak ② sickly faces PALE, wan, pasty, sallow, pallid, ashen, anaemic ③ a sickly green INSIPID, pale, light, light-coloured, washed out, faded ④ sickly love songs. SENTIMENTAL, mawkish, cloying, mushy, slushy, sugary, syrupy, saccharine, informal schmaltzy, weepy, lovey-dovey, corny, *Brit* informal soppy; *N Amer* informal cornball, sappy, hokey, three-hankie

—OPPOSITES healthy

sickness ▶ **noun** ① she was absent through sickness ILLNESS, disease, ailment, complaint, infection, malady, infirmity, indisposition, informal bug, virus, *Brit* informal lurgy, *Austral* informal wog See lists at ILLNESS ② a wave of sickness NAUSEA, biliousness, queasiness ③ he suffered sickness and diarrhoea VOMITING, retching, gagging, travel-sickness, seasickness, carsickness, airsickness, motion sickness, informal throwing up, puking.

side ▶ **noun** ① the side of the road EDGE, border, verge, boundary, margin, fringe(s), flank, bank, perimeter, extremity, periphery, (outer) limit, limits, bounds, poetic/literary marge, bourn ② the wrong side of the road HALF, part, carriageway, lane ③ the east side of the city DISTRICT, quarter, area, region, part, neighbourhood, sector, section, zone, ward ④ one side of the paper SURFACE, face, plane ⑤ his side of the argument POINT OF VIEW, viewpoint, perspective, opinion, way of thinking, standpoint, position, outlook, slant, angle ⑥ the losing side in the war: FACTION, camp, bloc, party, wing. ⑦ the players in their side TEAM, squad, line-up ⑧ (*Brit* informal) there's absolutely no side about her See AFFECTATION sense 1

—RELATED TERMS lateral

—OPPOSITES centre, end

▶ **adjective** ① elaborate side pieces. LATERAL, wing, flanking ② a side issue SUBORDINATE, lesser, lower-level, secondary, minor, peripheral, incidental, ancillary, subsidiary, of little account, extraneous.

—OPPOSITES front, central

▶ **verb** siding with the underdog See TAKE SOMEONE'S SIDE

■ **side by side** ① they cycled along side by side: ALONGSIDE (EACH OTHER), beside each other, abreast, shoulder to shoulder, close together ② most transactions proceed side by side: AT (ONE

AND) THE SAME TIME, simultaneously, contemporaneously

■ **take someone's side** SUPPORT, take someone's part, side with, be on someone's side, stand by, back, give someone one's backing, be loyal to, defend, champion, ally (oneself) with, sympathize with, favour

sideline ► **noun** *he founded the company as a sideline* SECONDARY OCCUPATION, second job, hobby, leisure activity/pursuit, recreation

■ **on the sidelines** WITHOUT TAKING PART, without getting involved

sidelong ► **adjective** *a sidelong glance* INDIRECT, oblique, sideways, sideward, surreptitious, furtive, covert, sly

—OPPOSITES overt

► **adverb** *he looked sidelong at her* INDIRECTLY, obliquely, sideways, out of the corner of one's eye, surreptitiously, furtively, covertly, slyly

side-splitting ► **adjective** (informal) See FUNNY sense 1

sidestep ► **verb** AVOID, evade, dodge, circumvent, skirt round, bypass, informal duck

sidetrack ► **verb** DISTRACT, divert, deflect, draw away

sideways ► **adverb** ① *I slid off sideways* TO THE SIDE, laterally ② *the expansion slots are mounted sideways* EDGEWISE, sideways, side first, edgewise, end on ③ *he looked sideways at her* See SIDELONG adverb

► **adjective** ① *sideways force* LATERAL, sideward, on the side, side to side ② *a sideways look* See SIDE LONG adjective

sidle ► **verb** CREEP, sneak, slink, slip, slide, steal, edge, inch, move furtively

siege ► **noun** BLOCKADE, encirclement, archaic investment See list
—OPPOSITES relief

Sieges

Alamo	Leiden	Plataea
Alesia	Leningrad	Quebec
Antioch	(St)	Sarajevo
Antwerp	Petersburg)	Sebastopol
Calais	Limerick	Syracuse
Charleston	Londonderry	Troy
Constantinople	Lucknow	Tyre
Dien Bien Phu	Madrid	Vicksburg
Grozny	Mafeking	Venice
Jerusalem	Malta	Verdun
Khartoum	Masada	Vienna
Kiev	Metz	Warsaw
Ladysmith	Montpellier	Yorktown
Lamia	Orléans	Zaragoza
La Rochelle	Paris	

siesta ► **noun** AFTERNOON SLEEP, nap, catnap, doze, rest, informal snooze, lie-down, forty winks, a bit of shut-eye, Brit informal kip, zizz

sieve ► **noun** *use a sieve to strain the mixture* STRAINER, sifter, filter, riddle, screen

► **verb** ① *sieve the mixture into a bowl* STRAIN, sift, screen, filter, riddle, archaic bolt ② *the coins were sieved from the ash* SEPARATE OUT, filter out, sift, sort out, divide, segregate, extract

sift ► **verb** ① *sift the flour into a large bowl* SIEVE, strain, screen, filter, riddle, archaic bolt ② *we sift out unsuitable applications* SEPARATE OUT, fil-

ter out, sort out, put to one side, weed out, get rid of, remove ③ *investigators are sifting through the wreckage* SEARCH THROUGH, look through, examine, inspect, scrutinize, pore over, investigate, analyse, dissect, review

sigh ► **verb** ① *she sighed with relief* BREATHE OUT, exhale, groan, moan ② *the wind sighed in the trees* RUSTLE, whisper, murmur, sigh ③ *he sighed for days gone by* YEARN, long, pine, ache, grieve, cry for/over, weep for/over, rue, miss, mourn, lament, hanker for/after

sight ► **noun** ① *she has excellent sight* EYESIGHT, vision, eyes, faculty of sight, visual perception ② *her first sight of it* VIEW, glimpse, glance, look ③ *within sight of the enemy* RANGE OF VISION, field of vision, view ④ (dated) *we are all equal in the sight of God* PERCEPTION, judgement, belief, opinion, point of view, view, viewpoint, mind, perspective, standpoint ⑤ *historic sights* LAND MARK, place of interest, monument, spectacle, view, marvel, wonder ⑥ (informal) *I must look a sight* EYESORE, spectacle, mess, informal fright
—RELATED TERMS optical, visual

► **verb** *one of the helicopters sighted wreckage* GLIMPSE, catch/get a glimpse of, catch sight of, see, spot, spy, notice, observe, poetic/literary espy, descry

■ **catch sight of** GLIMPSE, catch, get a glimpse of, see, spot, spy, make out, pick out, sight, have sight of, poetic/literary espy, descry

■ **set one's sights on** ASPIRE TO, aim at/for, try for, strive for/towards, work towards

sightseer ► **noun** ① *sightseers to the city* TOURIST, visitor, tripper, holidaymaker, Brit informal grockle ② *gawping sightseers* BUSYBODY, gawker, informal rubberneck, Brit informal gawper

sign ► **noun** ① *a sign of affection* INDICATION, signal, symptom, pointer, suggestion, intimation, mark, manifestation, demonstration, token, evidence, poetic/literary sigil ② *a sign of things to come* PORTENT, omen, warning, forewarning, augury, presage, promise, threat ③ *at his sign the soldiers followed* GESTURE, signal, wave, gesticulation, cue, nod ④ *signs saying 'keep out'* NOTICE, signpost, signboard, warning sign, road sign, traffic sign ⑤ *the dancers were daubed with signs* SYMBOL, mark, cipher, letter, character, figure, hieroglyph, ideogram, rune, emblem, device, logo

► **verb** ① *he signed the letter* WRITE ONE'S NAME ON, autograph, endorse, initial, countersign, formal subscribe ② *the government signed the agreement* ENDORSE, validate, certify, authenticate, sanction, authorize, agree to, approve, ratify, adopt, give one's approval to, informal give something the go-ahead, give something the green light, give something the thumbs up ③ *he signed his name* WRITE, inscribe, pen ④ *we have signed a new player* RECRUIT, hire, engage, employ, take on, appoint, sign on/up, enlist ⑤ *she signed to Susan to leave* GESTURE, signal, give a sign to, motion, wave, beckon, nod

■ **sign on/up** ENLIST, take a job, join (up), enrol, register, volunteer

■ **sign someone on/up**. See SIGN verb sense 4

■ **sign something over** TRANSFER, make over, hand over, bequeath, pass on, transmit, cede, Law devolve, convey

signal ► **noun** ① *a signal to stop* GESTURE, sign, wave, gesticulation, cue, indication, warning, motion ② *a clear signal that the company is in*

trouble INDICATION, sign, symptom, hint, pointer, intimation, clue, demonstration, evidence, proof ③ the encroaching dark is a signal for people to emerge CUE, prompt, impetus, stimulus, informal go-ahead

► **verb** ① the driver signalled to her to cross GESTURE, sign, give a sign to, direct, motion, wave, beckon, nod ② they signalled displeasure by refusing to cooperate INDICATE, show, express, communicate, proclaim, declare ③ his death signals the end of an era MARK, signify, mean, be a sign of, be evidence of, herald, poetic/literary betoken, foretoken

signal² ► **adjective** a signal failure NOTABLE, noteworthy, remarkable, striking, glaring, significant, momentous, memorable, unforgettable, obvious, special, extraordinary, exceptional, conspicuous

significance ► **noun** ① a matter of considerable significance IMPORTANCE, import, consequence, seriousness, gravity, weight, magnitude, momentousness, formal moment ② the significance of his remarks MEANING, sense, signification, import thrust, drift, gist, implication, message, essence, substance, point

significant ► **adjective** ① a significant increase NOTABLE, noteworthy, worthy of attention, remarkable, important, of importance, of consequence, serious, crucial, weighty, momentous, uncommon, unusual, rare, extraordinary, exceptional, special, formal of moment ② a significant look MEANINGFUL, expressive, eloquent, suggestive, knowing, telling

significantly ► **adverb** ① significantly better NOTABLY, remarkably, outstandingly, importantly, crucially, materially, appreciably, markedly, considerably, obviously, conspicuously, strikingly, signally ② he paused significantly MEANINGFULLY, expressively, eloquently, revealingly, suggestively, knowingly

signify ► **verb** ① this signified a fundamental change BE EVIDENCE OF, be a sign of, mark, signal, mean, spell, be symptomatic of, herald, indicate, poetic/literary betoken ② the egg signifies life MEAN, denote, designate, represent, symbolize, stand for, poetic/literary betoken ③ signify your agreement by signing below EXPRESS, indicate, show, proclaim, declare ④ the locked door doesn't signify MEAN ANYTHING, be of importance, be important, be significant, be of significance, be of account, count, matter, be relevant

silence ► **noun** ① the silence of the night QUIETNESS, quiet, quietude, still, stillness, hush, tranquillity, noiselessness, soundlessness, peacefulness, peace (and quiet) ② she was reduced to silence SPEECHLESSNESS, wordlessness, dumbness, muteness, taciturnity ③ the politicians kept their silence SECRETIVENESS, secrecy, reticence, taciturnity, uncommunicativeness
—OPPOSITES sound

► **verb** ① he silenced her with a kiss QUIETEN, quiet, hush, shush, gag, muzzle, censor ② silencing outside noises MUFFLE, deaden, soften, mute, smother, dampen, damp down, mask, suppress, reduce ③ this would silence their complaints STOP, put an end to, put a stop to

silent ► **adjective** ① the night was silent: COMPLETELY QUIET, still, hushed, inaudible, noiseless, soundless ② the right to remain silent SPEECHLESS, quiet, unspeaking, dumb, mute, taciturn, uncommunicative, tight-lipped; informal

mum ③ silent thanks UNSPOKEN, wordless, unsaid, unexpressed, unvoiced, tacit, implicit, understood

—OPPOSITES audible, noisy

silently ► **adverb** ① Nancy crept silently up the stairs QUIETLY, inaudibly, noiselessly, soundlessly, in silence ② they drove on silently WITHOUT A WORD, saying nothing, in silence ③ I silently said goodbye WITHOUT WORDS, wordlessly, in one's head, tacitly, implicitly
—OPPOSITES audibly, out loud

silhouette ► **noun** the silhouette of the dome OUTLINE, contour(s), profile, form, shape, figure, shadow

► **verb** the castle was silhouetted against the sky OUTLINE, delineate, define, stand out

silky ► **adjective** SMOOTH, soft, sleek, fine, glossy, satiny, silken

silly ► **adjective** ① don't be so silly FOOLISH, stupid, unintelligent, idiotic, brainless, mindless, witless, imbecilic, doltish, imprudent, thoughtless, rash, reckless, foolhardy, irresponsible, mad, scatterbrained, feather-brained, frivolous, giddy, inane, immature, childish, puerile, empty-headed, informal crazy, dotty, scatty, loopy, screwy, thick, thickheaded, birdbrained, pea-brained, dopey, dim, dim-witted, half-witted, dippy, blockheaded, boneheaded, lame-brained, Brnt informal daft, divvy, N Amer informal chowderheaded, dated tomfool ② that was a silly thing to do UNWISE, imprudent, thoughtless, foolish, stupid, idiotic, senseless, mindless, rash, reckless, foolhardy, irresponsible, injudicious, misguided, irrational, informal crazy, Brnt informal daft ③ he would brood about silly things TRIVIAL, trifling, frivolous, footling, petty, small, insignificant, unimportant, informal piffling, piddling, N Amer informal small-bore ④ he drank himself silly SENSELESS, insensible, unconscious, stupid, into a stupor, into senselessness, stupefied

—OPPOSITES sensible

► **noun** (informal) you are a silly! See FOOL noun sense 1

silt ► **noun** the flooding brought more silt SEDIMENT, deposit, alluvium, mud

► **verb** the harbour had silted up BECOME BLOCKED, become clogged, fill up (with silt)

silver ► **noun** ① freshly polished silver SILVER, WARE, (silver) plate, cutlery, (knives, forks, and spoons) ② a handful of silver COINS, coinage, specie, (small) change, loose change ③ she won three silvers SILVER MEDAL, second prize

► **adjective** ① silver hair GREY, greyish, white ② the silver water SILVERY, shining, lustrous, gleaming, poetic/literary argent

similar ► **adjective** ① you two are very similar ALIKE, (much) the same, indistinguishable, almost identical, homogeneous, informal much of a muchness ② northern India and similar areas COMPARABLE, like, corresponding, homogeneous, equivalent, analogous ③ other parts were similar to Wales LIKE, much the same as, comparable to

—OPPOSITES different, unlike

■ **be similar to** RESEMBLE, look like, have the appearance of

similarity ► **noun** RESEMBLANCE, likeness, sameness, similitude, comparability, correspondence, parallel, equivalence, homogeneity.



indistinguishability, uniformity, *archaic* semblance

similarly ► **adverb** LIKEWISE, in similar fashion, in like manner, comparably, correspondingly, uniformly, indistinguishably, analogously, homogeneously, equivalently, in the same way, the same, identically

similitude ► **noun**. See SIMILARITY

simmer ► **verb** ① the soup was *simmering* on the stove BOIL GENTLY, cook gently, bubble ② she was *simmering* with resentment BE FURIOUS, be enraged, be angry, be incensed, be infuriated, seethe, fume, smoulder; *informal* be steamed up, be hot under the collar

■ **simmer down** BECOME LESS ANGRY, cool off/down, be placated, control oneself, become calmer, calm down, become quieter, quieten down

simper ► **verb** SMILE AFFECTEDLY, smile coquettishly, look coy.

simple ► **adjective** ① it's really pretty simple STRAIGHTFORWARD, easy, uncomplicated, uninvolved, effortless, painless, undemanding, elementary, child's play; *informal* as easy as falling off a log, as easy as pie, as easy as ABC, a piece of cake, a cinch, no sweat, a doddle, a pushover, money for old rope, kids' stuff, a breeze, *Brit informal* easy-peasy, a doss, *N Amer informal* duck soup, a snap, *Austral/NZ informal* a bludge, a snack ② *simple language* CLEAR, plain, straightforward, intelligible, comprehensible, uncomplicated, in words of one syllable, accessible; *informal* user-friendly ③ a *simple white blouse* PLAIN, unadorned, undecorated, unembellished, unornamented, unelaborate, basic, unsophisticated, no-frills, classic, understated, uncluttered, restrained ④ the *simple truth* CAN DO, frank, honest, sincere, plain, absolute, unqualified, bald, stark, unadorned, unvarnished, unembellished ⑤ *simple country people* UNPRETENTIOUS, unsophisticated, ordinary, unaffected, unassuming, natural, honest-to-goodness, *N Amer* cracker-barrel ⑥ he's a bit simple HAVING LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, having special (educational) needs, of low intelligence, simple-minded, unintelligent, backward, (mentally) retarded, *dated* (mentally) subnormal, educationally subnormal, ESN. ⑦ *simple chemical substances* NON-COMPOUND, non-complex, uncombined, unblended, unalloyed, pure, single
—OPPOSITES difficult, complex, fancy, compound.

simpleton ► **noun**. See FOOL noun sense 1

simplicity ► **noun** ① the *simplicity* of the recipes STRAIGHTFORWARDNESS, ease, easiness, simplicity, effortlessness. ② the *simplicity* of the language CLARITY, clearness, plainness, simpleness, intelligibility, comprehensibility, understandability, straightforwardness, accessibility ③ the *building's simplicity*: PLAINNESS, lack/absence of adornment, lack/absence of decoration, austerity, sparseness, clean lines. ④ the *simplicity* of their lifestyle. UNPRETENTIOUSNESS, ordinariness, lack of sophistication, lack of affectation, naturalness.

simplify ► **verb** MAKE SIMPLE/SIMPLER, make easy/easier to understand, make plainer, clarify, make more comprehensible/intelligible; paraphrase, put in words of one syllable
—OPPOSITES complicate.

simplistic ► **adjective** FACILE, superficial, oversimple, oversimplified, shallow, jejune, naive, *N Amer informal* dime-store

simply ► **adverb** ① he spoke *simply* and forcefully STRAIGHTFORWARDLY, directly, clearly, plainly, intelligibly, lucidly, unambiguously ② she was *dressed simply* PLAINLY, without adornment, without decoration, without ornament/ornamentation, soberly, unfussily, unelaborately, classically ③ they lived *simply* UNPRETENTIOUSLY, modestly, quietly ④ they are welcomed *simply* because they have plenty of money MERELY, just, purely, solely, only ⑤ Mrs Marks was *simply* livid UTTERLY, absolutely, completely, positively, really, *informal* plain ⑥ it's *simply* the best thing ever written. WITHOUT DOUBT, unquestionably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, certainly, categorically

simulate ► **verb** ① they *simulated* pleasure FEIGN, pretend, fake, sham, affect, put on, give the appearance of ② *simulating conditions* in space IMITATE, reproduce, replicate, duplicate, mimic

simulated ► **adjective** ① *simulated fear* FEIGNED, fake, mock, affected, sham, insincere, false, bogus; *informal* pretend, put-on, phoney ② *simulated leather* ARTIFICIAL, imitation, fake, mock, synthetic, man-made, ersatz
—OPPOSITES real

simultaneous ► **adjective** CONCURRENT, happening at the same time, contemporaneous, concomitant, coinciding, coincident, synchronous, synchronized

simultaneously ► **adverb** AT (ONE AND) THE SAME TIME, at the same instant/moment, at once, concurrently, concomitantly; (all) together, in unison, in concert, in chorus

sin ► **noun** ① a *sin* in the eyes of God IMMORAL ACT, wrong, wrongdoing, act of evil/wickedness, transgression, crime, offence, misdeed, misdemeanour, *archaic* trespass See list ② the *human capacity for sin*. WICKEDNESS, wrongdoing, wrong, evil, evil-doing, sinfulness, immorality, iniquity, vice, crime ③ (*informal*) *wasting money—it's a sin* SCANDAL, crime, disgrace, outrage
—OPPOSITES virtue

► **verb** I have *sinned* COMMIT A SIN, commit an offence, transgress, do wrong, commit a crime, break the law, misbehave, go astray, *archaic* trespass

The Seven Deadly Sins

anger	gluttony	sloth
covetousness	lust	
envy	pride	

sincere ► **adjective** ① our *sincere* gratitude HEARTFELT, wholehearted, profound, deep; genuine, real, unfeigned, unaffected, true, honest, bona fide. ② a *sincere* person HONEST, genuine, truthful, unhyppocritical, straightforward, direct, frank, candid; *informal* straight, upfront, on the level, *N Amer informal* on the up and up.

sincerely ► **adverb** GENUINELY, honestly, really, truly, truthfully, wholeheartedly, earnestly, fervently.

sincerity ► **noun** HONESTY, genuineness, truthfulness, integrity, probity, trustworthiness;

straightforwardness, openness, candour, candidness

sinecure ► **noun** EASY JOB, soft option, *informal* cushy number, money for old rope, picnic, doddle, cinch, *Austral informal* bludge

sinewy ► **adjective** MUSCULAR, muscly, brawny, powerfully built, burly, strapping, sturdy, rugged, strong, powerful, athletic, muscle-bound, *informal* hunky, beefy, *dated* stalwart, *poetic/literary* thewy
—OPPOSITES puny

sinful ► **adjective** ① *sinful conduct* IMMORAL, wicked, (morally) wrong, wrongful, evil, bad, iniquitous, corrupt, criminal, nefarious, depraved, degenerate, *rare* peccable ② *a sinful waste of money* REPREHENSIBLE, scandalous, disgraceful, deplorable, shameful, criminal
—OPPOSITES virtuous

sinfulness ► **noun** IMMORALITY, wickedness, sin, wrongdoing, evil, evil-doing, iniquitousness, corruption, depravity, degeneracy, vice, *formal* turpitude, *rare* peccability
—OPPOSITES virtue

sing ► **verb** ① *Miguelito began to sing* croon, carol, trill, troll, chant, intone, chorus ② *the birds were singing* WARBLE, trill, chirp, chirrup, cheep, peep ③ *he sang out a greeting* CALL (OUT), cry (out), shout, yell, *informal* holler ④ *(informal) he's going to sing to the police* INFORM (ON SOMEONE), *informal* squeal, rat on someone, blow the whistle on someone, peach (on someone), snitch (on someone), *Brit informal* grass (on someone), shop someone, *N Amer informal* finger someone, fink on someone, drop a/the dime on someone, *Austral informal* pimp on someone

singe ► **verb** SCORCH, burn, sear, char

singer ► **noun** VOCALIST, soloist, songster, songstress, cantor. See lists here and at JAZZ, OPERA, VOICE

Types of Singer

See also VOICE.

balladeer	diva	prima donna
choirboy	folk singer	primo uomo
choirgirl	Heidentenor	singer-
chorister	jongleur	songwriter
chorus boy	minstrel	soloist
chorus girl	opera singer	spinto
coloratura	pop singer	troubadour
crooner	pop star	

single ► **adjective** ① *a single red rose* ONE (ONLY), sole, lone, solitary, by itself/oneself, unaccompanied, alone ② *she wrote down every single word*: INDIVIDUAL, separate, distinct, particular. ③ *is she single?* UNMARRIED, unwed, unwedded, unattached, free, a bachelor, a spinster; *archaic* sole.

—OPPOSITES double, married

■ **single someone/something out** SELECT, pick out, choose, decide on; target, earmark, mark out, separate out, set apart/aside

single-handed ► **adverb** BY ONESELF, alone, on one's own, solo, unaided, unassisted, without help.

single-minded ► **adjective** DETERMINED, committed, unswerving, unwavering, resolute, purposeful, devoted, dedicated, uncompromising,

tireless, tenacious, persistent, indefatigable, dogged, *formal* pertinacious
—OPPOSITES half-hearted

singly ► **adverb** ONE BY ONE, one at a time, one after the other, individually, separately, by oneself, on one's own
—OPPOSITES together

singular ► **adjective** ① *the gallery's singular capacity to attract sponsors* REMARKABLE, extraordinary, exceptional, outstanding, signal, notable, noteworthy, rare, unique, unparalleled, unprecedented, amazing, astonishing, phenomenal, astounding, *informal* fantastic, terrific ② *why was Betty was behaving in so singular a fashion?* STRANGE, unusual, odd, peculiar, funny, curious, extraordinary, bizarre, eccentric, weird, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, abnormal, atypical, unconventional, out of the ordinary, untypical, puzzling, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable

singularity ► **noun** ① *the singularity of their concerns* UNIQUENESS, distinctiveness ② *his singularities* IDIOSYNCRASY, quirk, foible, peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity

singularly ► **adverb**. See EXTREMELY

sinister ► **adjective** ① *there was a sinister undertone in his words*. MENACING, threatening, ominous, forbidding, baleful, frightening, alarming, disturbing, disquieting, dark, black, *formal* minatory, *poetic/literary* direful. ② *a sinister motive* EVIL, wicked, criminal, corrupt, nefarious, villainous, base, vile, malevolent, malicious, *informal* shady
—OPPOSITES innocent

sink ► **verb** ① *the coffin sank below the waves* BECOME SUBMERGED, be engulfed, go down, drop, fall, descend. ② *the cruise liner sank yesterday* FOUNDER, go under, submerge ③ *they sank their ships* SCUTTLE, send to the bottom, *Brit* scupper ④ *the announcement sank hopes of a recovery*. DES TROY, ruin, wreck, put an end to, demolish, smash, shatter, dash, *informal* put the kibosh on, put paid to; *Brit informal* scupper, *archaic* bring to naught ⑤ *they agreed to sink their differences*. IGNORE, overlook, disregard, forget, put aside, set aside, bury ⑥ *I sank myself in student life* IMMERSE, plunge, lose, bury ⑦ *the plane sank towards the airstrip*. DESCEND, drop, go down/downwards ⑧ *the sun was sinking* SET, go down/downwards ⑨ *Loretta sank into an armchair* LOWER ONESELF, flop, collapse, drop down, slump, *informal* plonk oneself ⑩ *her voice sank to a whisper* FALL, drop, become/get quieter, become/get softer. ⑪ *she would never sink to your level* STOOP, lower oneself, descend. ⑫ *he was sinking fast* DETERIORATE, decline, go downhill, fade, grow weak, flag, waste away; be at death's door, be on one's deathbed, be slipping away, *informal* be on one's last legs, be giving up the ghost ⑬ *sink the pots into the ground* EMBED, insert, drive, plant ⑭ *sinking a gold mine* DIG, excavate, bore, drill. ⑮ *(informal) he sank five pints of lager*: DRINK, quaff; *informal* down, knock back, polish off; *N Amer informal* chug, scarf down. ⑯ *they sank their life savings in the company* INVEST, venture, risk
—OPPOSITES float, rise

► **noun** *he washed himself at the sink*: BASIN, washbasin, handbasin, *dated* lavabo

■ **sink in REGISTER**, be understood, be comprehended, be grasped, get through.



sinless ► **adjective** INNOCENT, pure, virtuous, as pure as the driven snow, uncorrupted, faultless, blameless, guiltless, immaculate
—OPPOSITES wicked

sinner ► **noun** WRONGDOER, evil-doer, transgressor, miscreant, offender, criminal, *archaic* trespasser

sinuous ► **adjective** ① a sinuous river WINDING, windy, serpentine, curving, twisting, meandering, snaking, zigzag, curling, coiling ② sinuous grace LITHE, supple, agile, graceful, loose-limbed, limber, lissom

sip ► **verb** Amanda sipped her coffee DRINK (SLOWLY), *dated* sup

► **noun** a sip of whisky MOUTHFUL, swallow, drink, drop, dram, nip, *informal* swig, *dated* sup

siren ► **noun** ① an air-raid siren ALARM (BELL), warning bell, danger signal, *archaic* tocsin ② the siren's allure SEDUCTRESS, temptress, femme fatale, flirt, coquette, *informal* mantrap, vamp

sissy (*informal*) ► **noun** he's a real sissy See DRIP noun sense 2

► **adjective** don't be so sissy COWARDLY, weak, feeble, spineless, effeminate, effete, unmanly, *informal* wet, weedy, wimpish, wimpy

sister ► **noun** ① I have two sisters SIBLING ② our European sisters COMRADE, partner, colleague ③ the sisters in the convent NUN, novice, abbess, prioress

—RELATED TERMS sororal

sit ► **verb** ① you'd better sit down TAKE A SEAT, seat oneself, be seated, perch, ensconce oneself, plump oneself, flop, *informal* take the load/weight off one's feet, plonk oneself, *Brit informal* take a pew ② she sat the package on the table PUT (DOWN), place, set (down), lay, deposit, rest, stand, *informal* stick, bung, dump, park, plonk ③ the chapel sat about 3,000 people HOLD, seat, have seats for, have space/room for, accommodate ④ she sat for Picasso POSE, model ⑤ a hotel sitting on the bank of the River Dee BE SITUATED, be located, be sited, stand ⑥ the committee sits on Saturday BE IN SESSION, meet, be convened ⑦ women jurists sit on the tribunal SERVE ON, have a seat on, be a member of ⑧ his shyness doesn't sit easily with Hollywood tradition BE HARMONIOUS, go, fit in, harmonize ⑨ Mrs Hillman will sit for us BABYSIT, childmind
—OPPOSITES stand

■ **sit back** RELAX, unwind, lie back, *informal* let it all hang out, veg out, *N Amer informal* hang loose, chill out

■ **sit in for** STAND IN FOR, fill in for, cover for, substitute for, deputize for, *informal* sub for

■ **sit in on** ATTEND, be present at, be an observer at, observe, *N Amer* audit

■ **sit tight** (*informal*) ① just sit tight STAY PUT, wait there, remain in one's place ② we're advising our clients to sit tight TAKE NO ACTION, wait, hold back, bide one's time, *informal* hold one's horses

site ► **noun** the site of the battle LOCATION, place, position, situation, locality, whereabouts, *technical* locus

► **verb** bins sited at police stations PLACE, put, position, situate, locate

sitting ► **noun** all-night sittings SESSION, meeting, assembly, hearing

► **adjective** a sitting position. SEDENTARY, seated.
—OPPOSITES standing

sitting room ► **noun** LIVING ROOM, lounge, front room, drawing room, reception room, family room, *dated* parlour

situate ► **verb** LOCATE, site, position, place, station, build

situation ► **noun** ① their financial situation CIRCUMSTANCES, (state of) affairs, state, condition ② I'll fill you in on the situation THE FACTS, how things stand, the lie of the land, what's going on, *Brit* the state of play, *N Amer* the lay of the land, *informal* the score ③ the hotel's pleasant situation LOCATION, position, spot, site, setting, environment, *technical* locus ④ he was offered a situation in America JOB, post, position, appointment, employment, *archaic* employ

six ► **cardinal number** SEXTET, sextuplets, *technical* hexad

—RELATED TERMS hexa-, sexi-

size ► **noun** the room was of medium size DIMENSIONS, measurements, proportions, magnitude, largeness, bigness, area, expanse, breadth, width, length, height, depth, immensity, hugeness, vastness

► **verb** the drills are sized in millimetres SORT, categorize, classify

■ **size someone/something up** (*informal*) ASSESS, appraise, form an estimate of, take the measure of, judge, take stock of, evaluate, *Brit informal* suss out

sizeable ► **adjective** FAIRLY LARGE, substantial, considerable, respectable, significant, largish, biggish, goodly
—OPPOSITES small

sizzle ► **verb** CRACKLE, frizzle, sputter, spit

sizzling ► **adjective** (*informal*) ① sizzling temperatures EXTREMELY HOT, unbearably hot, blazing, burning, scorching, sweltering, *N Amer* broiling, *informal* boiling (hot), baking (hot) ② a sizzling affair PASSIONATE, torrid, ardent, lustful, erotic, *informal* steamy, hot
—OPPOSITES freezing

skedaddle ► **verb** (*informal*) See RUN verb sense 2

skeletal ► **adjective** ① a skeletal man EMACIATED, very thin, as thin as a rake, cadaverous, skin and bone, skinny, bony, gaunt, *informal* anorexic ② a skeletal account LACKING IN DETAIL, incomplete, outline, fragmentary, sketchy, thumbnail
—OPPOSITES fat, detailed

skeleton ► **noun** ① the human skeleton. BONES See list at BONE ② she was no more than a skeleton SKIN AND BONE, *informal* bag of bones ③ a concrete skeleton FRAMEWORK, frame, shell ④ the skeleton of a report OUTLINE, (rough) draft, abstract, (bare) bones

► **adjective** a skeleton staff MINIMUM, minimal, basic, essential

sketch ► **noun** ① a sketch of the proposed design (PRELIMINARY) DRAWING, outline, diagram, design, plan, *informal* rough ② she gave a rough sketch of what had happened OUTLINE, brief description, rundown, main points, thumbnail sketch, (bare) bones, summary, synopsis, summarization, précis, résumé, *N Amer* wrap-up ③ a biographical sketch DESCRIPTION, portrait, profile, portrayal, depiction ④ a hilarious sketch SKIT, scene, piece, act, item, routine.

► **verb** ① he sketched the garden DRAW, make a drawing of, draw a picture of, pencil, rough



out, outline ② the company sketched out its plans DESCRIBE, outline, give a brief idea of, rough out, summarize, precis

sketchily ► **adverb** PERFUNCTORILY, cursorily, incompletely, patchily, vaguely, imprecisely, hastily, hurriedly

sketchy ► **adjective** INCOMPLETE, patchy, fragmentary, cursory, perfunctory, scanty, vague, imprecise, hurried, hasty
—OPPOSITES detailed

skew-whiff ► **adjective** (Brit informal) See CROOKED sense 3

skilful ► **adjective** EXPERT, accomplished, skilled, masterly, master, virtuoso, consummate, proficient, talented, gifted, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, good, competent, capable, brilliant handy, informal mean, wicked, crack, ace, wizard, N Amer informal crackerjack

skill ► **noun** ① his skill as a politician EXPERTISE, skilfulness, expertness, adeptness, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, ability, prowess, mastery, competence, capability, aptitude, artistry, virtuosity, talent ② bringing up a family gives you many skills ACCOMPLISHMENT, strength, gift
—OPPOSITES incompetence

skilled ► **adjective** EXPERIENCED, trained, qualified, proficient, practised, accomplished, expert, skilful, talented, gifted, adept, adroit, deft, dexterous, able, good, competent, informal crack, N Amer informal crackerjack
—OPPOSITES inexperienced

skim ► **verb** ① skim off the scum REMOVE, cream off, scoop off ② the boat skimmed over the water GLIDE, move lightly, slide, sail, skate, float ③ he skimmed the pebble across the water THROW, toss, cast, pitch, bounce ④ she skimmed through the newspaper GLANCE, flick, flip, leaf, thumb, read quickly, scan, run one's eye over ⑤ Hunnah skimmed over this part of the story MENTION BRIEFLY, pass over quickly, skate over, gloss over
—OPPOSITES elaborate on

skimp ► **verb** ① don't skimp on the quantity STINT ON, scrimp on, economize on, cut back on, be sparing, be frugal, be mean, be parsimonious, cut corners, informal be stingy, be stingy, be tight ② the process cannot be skimmed DO HASTILY, do carelessly

skimpy ► **adjective** ① a skimpy black dress REVEALING, short, low, low-cut, flimsy, thin, see-through, indecent ② my information is rather skimpy MEAGRE, scanty, sketchy, limited, paltry, deficient, sparse

skin ► **noun** ① these chemicals could damage the skin EPIDERMIS, dermis, derma ② Mary's fair skin COMPLEXION, colouring, skin colour/tone, pigmentation ③ leopard skins HIDE, pelt, fleece, archaic tell ④ a banana skin PEEL, rind, integument ⑤ milk with a skin on it FILM, layer, membrane ⑥ the plane's skin was damaged CASING, exterior
—RELATED TERMS cutaneous

► **verb** ① skin the tomatoes PEEL, pare, hull, technical decorticate ② he skinned his knee GRAZE, scrape, abrade, bark, rub something raw, chafe, MEDICINE excoriate ③ (informal) Dad would skin me alive if I forgot it. PUNISH SEVERELY, informal murder, come down on someone (like a ton of bricks), Brit informal give someone what for

■ **by the skin of one's teeth** (ONLY) JUST, narrowly, by a hair's breadth, by a very small margin, informal by a whisker

■ **get under someone's skin** (informal) ① the children really got under my skin See IRRITATE sense 1 ② she got under my skin OBSESS, intrigue, captivate, charm, enthrall, enchant, entrance

■ **it's no skin off my nose** (informal) I DON'T CARE, I don't mind, I'm not bothered, it doesn't bother me, it doesn't matter to me, informal I don't give a damn, I don't give a monkey's

skin-deep ► **adjective** SUPERFICIAL, (on the) surface, external, outward, shallow

skinflint ► **noun** (informal) See MISER

skinny ► **adjective** See THIN adjective sense 3

skip ► **verb** ① skipping down the path CAPER, prance, trip, dance, bound, bounce, gambol, frisk, romp, cavort ② we skipped the boring stuff OMIT, leave out, miss out, dispense with, pass over, skim over, disregard, informal gave something a miss ③ I skipped school PLAY TRUANT FROM, miss, N Amer cut, Brit informal skive off, N Amer informal play hookey from, Austral /NZ informal play the wag from ④ I skipped through the magazine HAVE A QUICK LOOK AT, flick through, flip through, leaf through ⑤ (informal) they skipped off again RUN OFF AWAY, take off, informal beat it, clear off, cut and run, Brit informal do a runner, do a bunk, scarper, N Amer informal light out, cut out, Austral informal shoot through

skirmish ► **noun** ① the unit was caught up in a skirmish FIGHT, battle, clash, conflict, encounter, engagement, fray, combat ② there was a skirmish over the budget ARGUMENT, quarrel, squabble, contretemps, disagreement, difference of opinion, falling-out, dispute, clash, altercation, informal tiff, spat, Brit informal row, barney, ding-dong

► **verb** they skirmished with enemy soldiers FIGHT, (do) battle with, engage with, close with, combat, clash with

skirt ► **noun** See list

► **verb** ① he skirted the city GO ROUND, walk round, circle ② the fields that skirt the highway BORDER, edge, flank, line, lie alongside ③ he carefully skirted round the subject AVOID, evade, sidestep, dodge, pass over, gloss over, informal duck, Austral /NZ informal duck-shove

Skirts

A-line skirt	* hobble skirt	puffball skirt
ballet skirt	hoop skirt	rah-rah skirt
crinoline	hula skirt	sarong
dirndl	kilt	slit skirt
divided skirt	lungi	sports skirt
filibeg	maxi	straight skirt
flared skirt	midi	tennis skirt
full skirt	mini	tutu
fustanella	miniskirt	underskirt
gathered skirt	overskirt	wrap-around skirt
gored skirt	pencil skirt	
grass skirt	prupiu	
	pleated skirt	

skit ► **noun** COMEDY SKETCH, comedy act, parody, pastiche, burlesque, satire, pasquinade, informal spoof, take-off, send-up



skittish ▶ **adjective** ① *she grew increasingly skittish* PLAYFUL, lively, high-spirited, sportive, frisky; *poetic/literary* frolicsome, wanton. ② *his horse was skittish* RESTIVE, excitable, nervous, skittery, highly strung, informal jumpy.

skive ▶ **verb** (*Brit informal*) MALINGER, play truant, truant, shirk, idle, *N Amer* cut; *Brit informal* bunk off, swing the lead, scumshank, *N Amer informal* gold-brick, play hookey, goof off; *Austral/NZ informal* play the wag

skulduggery ▶ **noun** TRICKERY, fraudulence, sharp practice, underhandedness, chicanery, *informal* shenanigans, funny business, monkey business, *Brit informal* monkey tricks, jiggery-pokery, *N Amer informal* monkeyshines

skulk ▶ **verb** LURK, loiter, hide, creep, sneak, slink, prow, pussyfoot

skull

—RELATED TERMS cranial.

sky ▶ **noun** AIR, atmosphere, airspace, *poetic/literary* the heavens, the firmament, the blue, the (wide) blue yonder, the welkin, the azure, the empyrean

—RELATED TERMS celestial

■ **to the skies** EFFUSIVELY, profusely, very highly, very enthusiastically, unreservedly, fervently, fulsomely, extravagantly

slab ▶ **noun** PIECE, block, hunk, chunk, lump, cake, tablet, brick.

slack ▶ **adjective** ① *the rope went slack* LOOSE, limp, hanging, flexible. ② *slack skin* FLACCID, flabby, loose, sagging, saggy. ③ *business is slack* SLUGGISH, slow, quiet, slow-moving, flat, depressed, stagnant. ④ *slack accounting procedures* LAX, negligent, remiss, careless, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, lackadaisical, inefficient, casual, *informal* slap-happy.

—OPPOSITES tight, taut

▶ **noun** ① *the rope had some slack in it* LOOSENESS, play, give. ② *foreign demand will help pick up the slack* SURPLUS, excess, residue, spare capacity. ③ *a little slack in the daily routine* LULL, pause, respite, break, hiatus, breathing space; *informal* let-up, breather

▶ **verb** ① *the horse slacked his pace* REDUCE, lessen, slacken, slow. ② (*Brit informal*) *no slacking!* IDLE, shirk, be lazy, be indolent, waste time, lounge about; *Brit informal* skive, *N Amer informal* goof off

■ **slack off** ① *the rain has slacked off* DECREASE, subside, let up, ease off, abate, diminish, die down, fall off. ② *slack off a bit!* RELAX, take things easy, let up, ease up/off, loosen up, slow down; *N Amer informal* hang loose, chill out

■ **slack up** *the horse slacked up* SLOW (DOWN), decelerate, reduce speed.

slacken ▶ **verb** ① *he slackened his grip* LOOSEN, release, relax, loose, lessen, weaken. ② *he slackened his pace* SLOW (DOWN), become/get/make slower, decelerate, slack (up). ③ *the rain is slackening* DECREASE, lessen, subside, ease up/off, let up, abate, slack off, diminish, die down, fall off.

—OPPOSITES tighten

slacker ▶ **noun** (*informal*). See LAYABOUT.

slag

■ **slag someone/something off** (*Brit informal*). See CRITICIZE.

slake ▶ **verb** QUENCH, satisfy, sate, satiate, relieve, assuage

slam ▶ **verb** ① *he slammed the door behind him* BANG, shut/close with a bang, shut/close noisily, shut/close with force. ② *the car slammed into a lamp post* CRASH INTO, smash into, collide with, hit, strike, ram, plough into, run into, bump into, *N Amer* impact. ③ (*informal*) *he was slammed by the critics* See CRITICIZE

slander ▶ **noun** *he could sue us for slander* DEFAMATION (OF CHARACTER), character assassination, calumny, libel, scandalmongering, malicious gossip, disparagement, denigration, aspersions, vilification, traducement, obloquy, lie, slur, smear, false accusation, *informal* mudslinging, bad-mouthing, *archaic* contumely

▶ **verb** *they were accused of slandering the minister* DEFAME (SOMEONE'S CHARACTER), blacken someone's name, tell lies about, speak ill/evil of, sully someone's reputation, libel, smear, cast aspersions on, spread scandal about, besmirch, tarnish, taint, malign, traduce, vilify, disparage, denigrate, run down, *N Amer* slur, *formal* derogate, calumniate

slanderous ▶ **adjective** DEFAMATORY, denigratory, disparaging, libellous, pejorative, false, misrepresentative, scurrilous, scandalous, malicious, abusive, insulting; *informal* mud-slinging

—OPPOSITES complimentary.

slang ▶ **noun** INFORMAL LANGUAGE, colloquialisms, patois, argot, cant

slanging match ▶ **noun** (*informal*). See QUARREL NOUN

slant ▶ **verb** ① *the floor was slanting* SLOPE, tilt, incline, be at an angle, tip, cant, lean, dip, pitch, shelf, list, bank. ② *their findings were slanted in our favour* BIAS, distort, twist, skew, weight, give a bias to

▶ **noun** ① *the slant of the roof* SLOPE, incline, tilt, gradient, pitch, angle, cant, camber, inclination. ② *a feminist slant* POINT OF VIEW, viewpoint, standpoint, stance, angle, perspective, approach, view, attitude, position, bias, leaning

slanting ▶ **adjective** OBLIQUE, sloping, at an angle, on an incline, inclined, tilting, tilted, slanted, aslant, diagonal, canted, cambered

slap ▶ **verb** ① *he slapped her hard* HIT, strike, smack, clout, cuff, thump, punch, spank; *informal* whack, thwack, wallop, biff, bash, *Brit informal* slosh, *N Amer informal* boff, slug, bust, *Austral/NZ informal* dong, quilt; *archaic* smite. ② *he slapped down a £10 note* FLING, throw, toss, slam, bang; *informal* plonk. ③ *slap on a coat of paint* DAUB, plaster, spread. ④ (*informal*) *they slapped a huge tax on imports* IMPOSE, levy, put on

▶ **noun** *a slap across the cheek* SMACK, blow, thump, cuff, clout, punch, spank; *informal* whack, thwack, wallop, clip, biff, bash.

▶ **adverb** (*informal*) *the bypass goes slap through the green belt* STRAIGHT, right, directly, plumb; *informal* smack, (slap) bang; *N Amer informal* spang, smack dab.

■ **a slap in the face** REBUFF, rejection, snub, insult, put-down, humiliation.

■ **a slap on the back** CONGRATULATIONS, commendation, approbation, approval, accolades, compliments, tributes, a pat on the back, praise, acclaim, acclamation; *formal* laudation.

■ **a slap on the wrist** REPRIMAND, rebuke, reproof, scolding, admonishment; *informal* telling-off, rap over the knuckles, dressing-down; *Brit*.

informal ticking-off, wiggling, *Austral/NZ informal* serve

■ **slap someone down** (*informal*) See **BERATE**

slapdash ▶ **adjective** CARELESS, slipshod, sloppy, hurried, haphazard, unsystematic, untidy, messy, hit-or-miss, negligent, neglectful, lax, *informal* slap-happy, *Brit informal* shambolic
—OPPOSITES meticulous

slap-happy ▶ **adverb** (*informal*) ① *his slap-happy friend* HAPPY-GO-LUCKY, devil-may-care, carefree, easy-going, nonchalant, insouciant, blithe, airy, casual ② *slap-happy work* See **SLAPDASH** ③ *she's a bit slap-happy after such a narrow escape* DAZED, stupefied, punch-drunk

slap-up ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) LAVISH, sumptuous, elaborate, expensive, fit for a king, princely, splendid
—OPPOSITES meagre

slash ▶ **verb** ① *her tyres had been slashed* CUT (OPEN), gash, slit, split open, lacerate, knife, make an incision in ② (*informal*) *the company slashed prices* REDUCE, cut, lower, bring down, mark down ③ (*informal*) *they have slashed 10,000 jobs* GET RID OF, axe, cut, shed

▶ **noun** ① *a slash across his temple* CUT, gash, laceration, slit, incision, wound ② *sentence breaks are indicated by slashes* SOLIDUS, oblique, backslash

slate ▶ **verb** (*Brit informal*) See **CRITICIZE**

slatternly ▶ **adjective** SLOVENLY, untidy, messy, scruffy, unkempt, ill-groomed, dishevelled, frowzy, *N Amer informal* raggedy

slaughter ▶ **verb** ① *the animals were slaughtered* KILL, butcher ② *innocent civilians are being slaughtered* MASSACRE, murder, butcher, kill (off), annihilate, exterminate, liquidate, eliminate, destroy, decimate, wipe out, put to death, *poetic/literary* slay ③ (*informal*) *their team were slaughtered* See **DEFEAT** verb sense 1

▶ **noun** ① *the slaughter of 20 demonstrators* MASSACRE, murdering, (mass) murder, mass killing, mass execution, annihilation, extermination, liquidation, decimation, carnage, butchery, genocide, *poetic/literary* slaying ② *a scene of slaughter* CARNAGE, bloodshed, bloodletting, bloodbath ③ (*informal*) *their electoral slaughter* See **DEFEAT** noun sense 1

slaughterhouse ▶ **noun** ABATTOIR, *Brit* butchery, *archaic* shambles

slave ▶ **noun** ① *the work was done by slaves* *historical* serf, vassal, thrall, *archaic* bondsman, bondswoman ② *Anna was his willing slave* DRUDGE, servant, man/maid of all work, lackey, *informal* gofer, *Brit informal* skivvy, dogsbody, poodle

—RELATED TERMS servile

—OPPOSITES freeman, master

▶ **verb** *slaving away for a pittance* TOIL, labour, grind, sweat, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/dog, *informal* work one's socks off, kill oneself, sweat blood, slog away, *Brit informal* graft, *Austral/NZ informal* bullock, *poetic/literary* travail, *archaic* drudge, toil

slaver ▶ **verb** DROOL, slobber, dribble, salivate, *archaic* drivel

slavery ▶ **noun** ① *thousands were sold into slavery* BONDAGE, enslavement, servitude; *historical* thrall, serfdom, vassalage. ② *this work is sheer slavery* DRUDGERY, toil, (hard) slog, hard labour, grind; *poetic/literary* travail; *archaic* toil
—OPPOSITES freedom.

slavish ▶ **adjective** ① *slavish lackeys of the government* SERVILE, subservient, fawning, obsequious, sycophantic, toadying, unctuous, *informal* bootlicking, forelock-tugging, *N Amer informal* apple-polishing ② *slavish copying* UNORIGINAL, uninspired, unimaginative, unimaginative, imitative

slay ▶ **verb** ① (*poetic/literary*) *8,000 men were slain* KILL, murder, put to death, butcher, cut down, cut to pieces, slaughter, massacre, shoot down, gun down, mow down, eliminate, annihilate, exterminate, liquidate, *informal* wipe out, bump off, do in/tor ② (*informal*) *you slay me, you really do* AMUSE GREATLY, entertain greatly, make someone laugh, *informal* have people rolling in the aisles, kill, knock dead, be a hit with

slaying ▶ **noun** (*poetic/literary*) MURDER, killing, butchery, slaughter, massacre, extermination, liquidation

sleazy ▶ **adjective** ① *sleazy arms dealers* CORRUPT, immoral, unsavoury, disreputable, *informal* shady, sleazoid ② *a sleazy bar* SQUALID, seedy, seamy, sordid, insalubrious, mean, cheap, low-class, run down, *informal* scruffy, scuzzy, crummy, skanky, *Brit informal* grotty
—OPPOSITES reputable, upmarket

sledge ▶ **noun** TOBOGGAN, bobsleigh, sleigh, *N Amer* sled

sleek ▶ **adjective** ① *his sleek dark hair* SMOOTH, glossy, shiny, shining, lustrous, silken, silky ② *the car's sleek lines* STREAMLINED, trim, elegant, graceful ③ *sleek young men in city suits* WELL GROOMED, stylish, wealthy-looking

sleep ▶ **noun** go and have a sleep NAP, doze, siesta, catnap, beauty sleep, *informal* snooze, forty winks, a bit of shut-eye, *Brit informal* kip, zizz, *children's language* bye-byes, *poetic/literary* slumber

▶ **verb** *she slept for about an hour* BE ASLEEP, doze, take a siesta, take a nap, catnap, sleep like a log/top, *informal* snooze, snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye, *Brit informal* (have a) kip, get one's head down, (get some) zizz, *N Amer informal* catch some Zs, *humorous* be in the land of Nod, *poetic/literary* slumber
—OPPOSITES wake up

■ **go to sleep** FALL ASLEEP, get to sleep, *informal* drop off, nod off, drift off, crash out, flake out, *N Amer informal* sack out, zone out

■ **put something to sleep** PUT DOWN, destroy

sleepiness ▶ **noun** DROWSINESS, tiredness, somnolence, languor, languidness, dozziness, lethargy, sluggishness, lassitude, enervation

sleepless ▶ **adjective** WAKEFUL, restless, without sleep, insomniac, (wide) awake, unsleeping, tossing and turning, *archaic* watchful

sleeplessness ▶ **noun** INSOMNIA, wakefulness

sleepwalker ▶ **noun** SOMNAMBULIST; *rare* noctambulist

sleepy ▶ **adjective** ① *she felt very sleepy* DROWSY, tired, somnolent, languid, languorous, heavy-eyed, asleep on one's feet, lethargic, sluggish, enervated, torpid, *informal* dopey, *poetic/literary* slumberous ② *the sleepy heat of the afternoon*: SOPORIFIC, sleep-inducing, somnolent. ③ *a sleepy little village* QUIET, peaceful, tranquil, placid, slow-moving; dull, boring.
—OPPOSITES awake, alert.



sleight of hand ▶ noun ① *impressive sleight of hand*: DEXTERITY, adroitness, deftness, skill ② *financial sleight of hand*: DECEPTION, deceit, dissimulation, chicanery, trickery, sharp practice

slender ▶ adjective ① *her tall slender figure*: SLIM, lean, willowy, sylphlike, svelte, lissom, graceful, slight, slightly built, thin, skinny ② *slender evidence*: MEAGRE, limited, slight, scanty, scant, sparse, paltry, insubstantial, insufficient, deficient, negligible, formal exiguous ③ *the chances seemed slender*: FAINT, remote, flimsy, tenuous, fragile, slim, unlikely, improbable
-OPPOSITES plump

slenth ▶ noun (*informal*) (PRIVATE) DETECTIVE, (private) investigator; *informal* private eye, snoop, sleuth-hound, *N Amer informal* shamus, gumshoe

slice ▶ noun ① *a slice of fruitcake*: PIECE, portion, slab, rasher, sliver, wafer, shaving ② *a huge slice of public spending*: SHARE, part, portion, tranche, piece, proportion, allocation, percentage

▶ verb ① *slice the cheese thinly*: CUT (UP), carve ② *one man had his ear sliced off*: CUT OFF, sever, chop off, shear off

slick ▶ adjective ① *a slick advertising campaign*: EFFICIENT, smooth, smooth-running, polished, well organized, well run, streamlined ② *his slick use of words*: GLIB, smooth, fluent, plausible ③ *a slick salesman*: SUAVE, urbane, polished, assured, self-assured, smooth-talking, glib, *informal* smarmy ④ *her slick brown hair*: SHINY, glossy, shining, sleek, smooth, oiled ⑤ *the pavements were slick with rain*: SLIPPERY, slithery, wet, greasy, *informal* slippery

▶ verb *his hair was slicked down*: SMOOTH, sleek, grease, oil, gel, *informal* smarm

slide ▶ verb ① *the glass slid across the table*: GLIDE, move smoothly, slip, slither, skim, skate, skid, slew ② *tears slid down her cheeks*: TRICKLE, run, flow, pour, stream ③ *four men slid out of the shadows*: CREEP, steal, slink, slip, tiptoe, sidle ④ *the country is sliding into recession*: SINK, fall, drop, descend, decline, degenerate

▶ noun ① *the current slide in house prices*: FALL, decline, drop, slump, downturn, downswing ② *a slide show*: TRANSPARENCY, diapositive

-OPPOSITES rise

■ *let something slide*: NEGLECT, pay little/no attention to, not attend to, be remiss about, let something go downhill

slight ▶ adjective ① *the chance of success is slight*: SMALL, modest, tiny, minute, inappreciable, negligible, insignificant, minimal, remote, slim, faint; *informal* minuscule, *formal* exiguous ② *the book is a slight work*: MINOR, inconsequential, trivial, unimportant, lightweight, superficial, shallow. ③ *Elizabeth's slight figure*: SLIM, slender, petite, diminutive, small, delicate, dainty

-OPPOSITES considerable

▶ verb *he had been slighted*: INSULT, snub, rebuff, repulse, spurn, treat disrespectfully, give someone the cold shoulder, cut (dead), scorn, *informal* give someone the brush-off, freeze out, stiff-arm

-OPPOSITES respect

▶ noun *an unintended slight*: INSULT, affront, snub, rebuff; *informal* put-down, dig

-OPPOSITES compliment

slighting ▶ adjective *insulting, disparaging, derogatory, disrespectful, denigratory, pejorative,*

abusive, offensive, defamatory, slanderous, scurrilous, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, archaic contumelious

slightly ▶ adverb A LITTLE, a bit, somewhat, rather, moderately, to a certain extent, faintly, vaguely, a shade
-OPPOSITES very

slim ▶ adjective ① *she was tall and slim*: SLENDER, lean, thin, willowy, sylphlike, svelte, lissom, trim, slight, slightly built ② *a slim silver bracelet*: NARROW, slender, slimline ③ *a slim chance of escape*: SLIGHT, small, slender, faint, poor, remote, unlikely, improbable
-OPPOSITES plump

▶ verb ① *I'm trying to slim*: LOSE WEIGHT, get thinner, lose some pounds/inches, get into shape, *N Amer* slenderize ② *the number of staff had been slimmed down*: REDUCE, cut (down/back), scale down, decrease, diminish, pare down

slime ▶ noun OOZE, sludge, muck, mud, mire, *informal* goo, gunk, gook, gloop, *Brit informal* gunge, *N Amer informal* guck, glop

slimy ▶ adjective ① *the floor was slimy*: SLIPPERY, slithery, greasy, muddy, mucky, sludgy, wet, sticky, *informal* slippery, gunky, gooey, gloopy ② (*informal*) *her slimy press agent*: See OBSEQUIOUS

sling ▶ noun ① *she had her arm in a sling* (SUPPORT) BANDAGE, support, strap ② *armed only with a sling*: CATAPULT, slingshot, *Austral/NZ* shanghai

▶ verb ① *a hammock was slung between two trees*: HANG, suspend, string, swing ② (*informal*) *she slung her jacket on the sofa*: See THROW verb sense 1

slink ▶ verb CREEP, sneak, steal, slip, slide, sidle, tiptoe, pussyfoot

slinky ▶ adjective (*informal*) ① *a slinky black dress*: TIGHT-FITTING, close-fitting, figure-hugging, sexy ② *her slinky elegance*: SINUOUS, willowy, graceful, sleek

slip ▶ verb ① *she slipped on the ice*: SLIDE, skid, slither, glide, fall (over), lose one's balance, tumble ② *the envelope slipped through Luke's fingers*: FALL, drop, slide ③ *we slipped out by a back door*: CREEP, steal, sneak, slide, sidle, slope, slink, tiptoe ④ *standards have slipped*: DECLINE, deteriorate, degenerate, worsen, get worse, go downhill, fall (off), drop, *informal* go to the dogs, go to pot ⑤ *the bank's shares slipped 15p*: DROP, go down, sink, slump, decrease, depreciate. ⑥ *the hours slipped by*: PASS, elapse, go by/past, roll by/past, fly by/past, tick by/past ⑦ *she slipped the map into her pocket*: PUT, tuck, shove, *informal* pop, stick, stuff ⑧ *Sarah slipped into a black skirt*: PUT ON, pull on, don, dress/clothe oneself in, change into ⑨ *she slipped out of her clothes*: TAKE OFF, remove, pull off, doff, *Brit informal* peel off ⑩ *he slipped the knot of his tie*: UNTIE, unfasten, undo

▶ noun ① *a single slip could send them plummeting downwards*: FALSE STEP, misstep, slide, skid, fall, tumble ② *a careless slip*: MISTAKE, error, blunder, gaffe, slip of the tongue/pen, oversight, omission, lapse, inaccuracy, *informal* slip-up, boo-boo, howler; *Brit informal* boob, clanger, bloomer; *N Amer informal* goof, blooper, bloop. ③ *a silk slip*: UNDERSKIRT, petticoat, underslip
■ *give someone the slip* (*informal*) ESCAPE FROM, get away from, evade, dodge, elude, lose, shake off, throw off (the scent), get clear of.

■ **let something slip** REVEAL, disclose, divulge, let out, give away, blurt out, give the game away, *informal* let on, blab, let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans, *Brit informal* blow the gaff

■ **slip away** ① they managed to slip away ES CAPE, get away, break free, *informal* fly the coop, *Brit informal* do a bunk, do a runner, *N Amer informal* take a powder ② she slipped away in her sleep See DIE sense 1

■ **slip up** (*informal*) MAKE A MISTAKE, (make a) blunder, get something wrong, make an error, err, *informal* make a bloomer, make a boo-boo, *Brit informal* boob, drop a clanger, *N Amer informal* goof up

slip² ▶ **noun** ① a slip of paper PIECE OF PAPER, scrap of paper, sheet, note, chit, *informal* stickie ② they took slips from rare plants CUTTING, graft, scion, shoot, offshoot

■ a slip of a — SMALL, slender, slim, slight, slightly built, petite, little, tiny, diminutive, *informal* pint-sized

slipper ▶ **noun** ① he pulled on his slippers CARPET slipper, bedroom slipper, house shoe, *N Amer* slipperette ② satin slippers pump, mule

slippery ▶ **adjective** ① the roads are slippery SLITHERY, greasy, oily, icy, glassy, smooth, slimy, wet, *informal* slippery ② a slippery customer EVASIVE, unreliable, unpredictable, devious, crafty, cunning, wily, tricky, artful, slick, sly, sneaky, scheming, untrustworthy, deceitful, duplicitous, dishonest, treacherous, two-faced, *N Amer* snide, *informal* shady, shifty, *Brit informal* dodgy, *Austral/NZ informal* shonky

slipshod ▶ **adjective** CARELESS, lackadaisical, slapdash, sloppy, disorganized, haphazard, hit-or-miss, untidy, messy, unsystematic, unmethodical, casual, negligent, neglectful, remiss, lax, slack, *informal* slap-happy
—OPPOSITES meticulous

slip-up ▶ **noun** (*informal*) MISTAKE, slip, error, blunder, oversight, omission, gaffe, slip of the tongue/pen, inaccuracy, *informal* boo-boo, howler, *Brit informal* boob, clanger, bloomer, *N Amer informal* goof, blooper, bloop

slit ▶ **noun** ① three diagonal slits CUT, incision, split, slash, gash, laceration ② a slit in the curtains OPENING, gap, chunk, crack, aperture, slot

▶ **verb** he threatened to slit her throat CUT, slash, split open, slice open, gash, lacerate, make an incision in

slither ▶ **verb** SLIDE, slip, glide, wriggle, crawl, skid

sliver ▶ **noun** SPLINTER, shard, shiver, chip, flake, shred, scrap, slither, shaving, paring, piece, fragment

slob ▶ **noun** (*informal*) LAYABOUT, good-for-nothing, sluggard, laggard, *informal* slacker, couch potato, *archaic* sloven

slobber ▶ **verb** DROOL, slaver, dribble, salivate, *archaic* drivel

slog ▶ **verb** ① they were all slogging away WORK HARD, toil, labour, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/dog, exert oneself, grind, slave, grub, plough, plod, peg, *informal* beaver, plug, work one's guts out, work one's socks off, sweat blood; *Brit informal* graft, *Austral/NZ informal* bullock; *poetic/literary* travail; *archaic* drudge, moil. ② they slogged around the streets TRUDGE, tramp, traipse, toil, plod, trek, foot-slog, drag oneself

—OPPOSITES relax

▶ **noun** ① 10 months' hard slog HARD WORK, toil, toiling, labour, effort, exertion, grind, drudgery, *informal* sweat, *Brit informal* graft; *Austral/NZ informal* (hard) yakka, *poetic/literary* travail; *archaic* moil ② a steady uphill slog TRUDGE, tramp, traipse, plod, trek, footslog

—OPPOSITES leisure

slogan ▶ **noun** CATCHPHRASE, catchline, jingle; *N Amer informal* tag line

slop ▶ **verb** water slopped over the edge SPILL, flow, overflow, run, slosh, splash

■ **slop around/about** (*Brit informal*) LAZE (AROUND/ABOUT), lounge (around/about), loll (around/about), loaf (around/about), slouch (about/around), *informal* hang around, *Brit informal* hang about, mooch about/around, *N Amer informal* bum around, lollygag

slope ▶ **noun** ① the slope of the roof GRADIENT, incline, angle, slant, inclination, pitch, decline, ascent, declivity, acclivity, rise, fall, tilt, tip, downslope, upslope, *N Amer* grade, downgrade, upgrade ② a grassy slope HILL, hillside, hillock, bank, escarpment, scarp, *poetic/literary* steep ③ the ski slopes PISTE, run, nursery slope, dry slope, *N Amer* trail

▶ **verb** the garden sloped down to a stream SLANT, incline, tilt, drop away, fall away, decline, descend, shelve, lean, rise, ascend, climb

■ **slope off** (*informal*) LEAVE, go away slip away, steal away, slink off, creep off, sneak off, *informal* push off, clear off

sloping ▶ **adjective** AT A SLANT, on the slant, at an angle, slanting, slanted, leaning, inclining, inclined, angled, cambered, canted, tilting, tilted, dipping, declivitous, acclivitous

—OPPOSITES level

sloppy ▶ **adjective** ① sloppy chicken curry: RUNNY, watery, thin, liquid, semi-liquid, mushy, *informal* gloopy ② their defending was sloppy CARELESS, slapdash, slipshod, lackadaisical, haphazard, lax, slack, slovenly, *informal* slap-happy, *Brit informal* shambolic ③ sloppy T-shirts. BAGGY, loose-fitting, loose, generously cut; shapeless, sack-like, oversized ④ sloppy letters SENTIMENTAL, mawkish, cloying, slushy, saccharine, sugary, syrupy, romantic, hearts-and-flowers, *informal* schmaltzy, lovey-dovey, *Brit informal* soppy, *N Amer informal* cornball, sappy, hokey, three-hankie

slosh ▶ **verb** ① beer sloshed over the side of the glass SPILL, slop, splash, flow, overflow ② workers sloshed round in boots SPLASH, swash, squelch, wade, *informal* splosh ③ she sloshed more wine into her glass POUR, slop, splash ④ (*Brit informal*) Gary sloshed him. See HIT verb sense 1

slot ▶ **noun** ① he slid a coin into the slot APERTURE, slit, crack, hole, opening. ② a mid-morning slot SPOT, time, period, niche, space, *informal* window

▶ **verb** he slotted a cassette into the machine: INSERT, put, place, slide, slip.

sloth ▶ **noun** LAZINESS, idleness, indolence, slothfulness, inactivity, inertia, sluggishness, shiftlessness, apathy, accidie, listlessness, lassitude, lethargy, languor, torpidity, *poetic/literary* hebetude

—OPPOSITES industriousness

slothful ▶ **adjective** LAZY, idle, indolent, work-shy, inactive, sluggish, apathetic, lethargic, list-

less, languid, torpid, *informal* bone idle, *archaic* otiose

slouch ▶ **verb** SLUMP, hunch, loll, droop

slovenly ▶ **adjective** ① *his slovenly appearance* SCRUFFY, untidy, messy, unkempt, ill-groomed, slatternly, dishevelled, bedraggled, tousled, rumpled, frowzy, *informal* slobbish, sloppy, *N Amer informal* raggedy, raunchy ② *his work is slovenly* CARELESS, slapdash, sloppy, slipshod, haphazard, hit-or-miss, untidy, messy, negligent, lax, lackadaisical, slack, *informal* slap-happy
-OPPOSITES tidy, careful

slow ▶ **adjective** ① *their slow walk home* UNHURRIED, leisurely, steady, sedate, slow-moving, plodding, dawdling, sluggish, sluggardly ② *a slow process* LONG-DRAWN-OUT, time-consuming, lengthy, protracted, prolonged, gradual ③ *he can be so slow* OBTUSE, stupid, unperceptive, insensitive, bovine, stolid, slow-witted, dull-witted, unintelligent, doltish, witless, *informal* dense, dim, dim-witted, thick, slow on the uptake, dumb, dopey, boneheaded, *Brit informal* dozy, *N Amer informal* chowderheaded ④ *they were slow to voice their opinions* RELUCTANT, unwilling, disinclined, loath, hesitant, afraid, chary, shy ⑤ *the slow season* SLUGGISH, slack, quiet, inactive, flat, depressed, stagnant, dead ⑥ *a slow narrative* DULL, boring, uninteresting, unexciting, uneventful, tedious, tiresome, wearisome, monotonous, dreary, lacklustre
-OPPOSITES fast

▶ **verb** ① *the traffic forced him to slow down* REDUCE SPEED, go slower, decelerate, brake ② *you need to slow down* TAKE IT EASY, relax, ease up/off, take a break, slack off, let up, *N Amer informal* chill out, hang loose ③ *this would slow down economic growth* HOLD BACK, UP, delay, retard, set back, restrict, check, curb, inhibit, impede, obstruct, hinder, hamper, *archaic* stay
-OPPOSITES accelerate

slowly ▶ **adverb** ① *Rose walked off slowly* AT A SLOW PACE, without hurrying, unhurriedly, steadily, at a leisurely pace, at a snail's pace, *Music* adagio, lento, largo ② *her health is improving slowly* GRADUALLY, bit by bit, little by little, slowly but surely, step by step
-OPPOSITES quickly

sludge ▶ **noun** MUD, muck, mire, ooze, silt, alluvium, *informal* gunk, crud, gloop, gook, goo, *Brit informal* gunge, grot, *N Amer informal* guck, glop

sluggish ▶ **adjective** ① *Alex felt tired and sluggish* LETHARGIC, listless, lacking in energy, lifeless, inert, inactive, slow, torpid, languid, apathetic, weary, tired, fatigued, sleepy, drowsy, enervated, lazy, idle, indolent, slothful, sluggardly, *Medicine* asthenic, *N Amer* logy, *informal* dozy, dopey ② *the economy is sluggish* INACTIVE, quiet, slow, slack, flat, depressed, stagnant
-OPPOSITES vigorous.

sluice ▶ **verb** ① *crews sluiced down the decks* WASH (DOWN), rinse, clean, cleanse ② *the water sluiced out* POUR, flow, run, gush, stream, course, flood, surge, spill

slum ▶ **noun** HOVEL, (slums) ghetto, shanty town.

slumber (*poetic/literary*) ▶ **verb** the child slumbered fitfully. See SLEEP verb

▶ **noun** an uneasy slumber See SLEEP noun

slummy ▶ **adjective** SEEDY, insalubrious, squalid, sleazy, run down, down at heel, shabby, dilapidated, *informal* scruffy, skanky, *Brit informal* grotty, *N Amer informal* shacky
-OPPOSITES upmarket

slump ▶ **verb** ① *he slumped into a chair* SIT HEAVILY, flop, slump, collapse, sink, fall, *informal* plonk oneself ② *houses prices slumped* FALL STEEPLY, plummet, tumble, drop, go down, *informal* crash, nosedive ③ *reading standards have slumped* DECLINE, deteriorate, degenerate, worsen, slip, go downhill

▶ **noun** ① *a slump in profits* STEEP FALL, drop, tumble, downturn, downswing, slide, decline, decrease, *informal* nosedive ② *an economic slump* RECESSION, economic decline, depression, slowdown, stagnation
-OPPOSITES rise, boom

slur ▶ **verb** she was slurring her words MUMBLE, speak unclearly, garble

▶ **noun** a gross slur INSULT, slight, slander, slanderous statement, aspersion, smear, allegation

slush ▶ **noun** ① *he wiped the slush off his shoes* MELTING SNOW, wet snow, mush, sludge ② (*informal*) the slush of romantic films SENTIMENTALITY, mawkishness, sentimentalism, *informal* schmalitz, mush, slushiness, corniness, *Brit informal* soppi-ness, *N Amer informal* sappiness, hokeyness

slut ▶ **noun** PROMISCUOUS WOMAN, prostitute, whore, *informal* tart, floozie, pro, *Brit informal* scrubber, slag, slapper, *N Amer informal* tramp, hooker, hustler, roundheel, dated scarlet woman, loose woman, hussy, trollop, *archaic* harlot, strumpet, wanton

sly ▶ **adjective** ① *she's rather sly* CUNNING, crafty, clever, wily, artful, guileful, tricky, scheming, devious, deceitful, duplicitous, dishonest, underhand, sneaky, *archaic* subtle ② *a sly grin* ROGUISH, mischievous, impish, playful, wicked, arch, knowing ③ *she took a sly sip of water* SURREPTITIOUS, furtive, stealthy, covert

■ **on the sly** IN SECRET, secretly, furtively, surreptitiously, covertly, clandestinely, on the quiet, behind someone's back

smack¹ ▶ **noun** ① *she gave him a smack* SLAP, clout, cuff, blow, spank, rap, swat, crack, thump, punch, *informal* whack, thwack, clip, biff, wallop, swipe, bop, belt, bash, sock ② *the parcel landed with a smack* BANG, crash, crack, thud, thump ③ (*informal*) a smack on the lips KISS, peck, *informal* smacker

▶ **verb** ① *he tried to smack her* SLAP, hit, strike, spank, cuff, clout, thump, punch, swat, box someone's ears, *informal* whack, clip, wallop, biff, swipe, bop, belt, bash, sock, *Scottish & N English informal* skelp, *N Amer informal* boff, slug, bust ② *the waiter smacked a plate down*: BANG, slam, crash, thump, sling, fling, *informal* plonk, *N Amer informal* plunk.

▶ **adverb** (*informal*) smack in the middle EXACTLY, precisely, straight, right, directly, squarely, dead, plumb, point-blank, *informal* slap, bang, *N Amer informal* smack dab

smack² ▶ **noun** ① *the beer has a smack of hops* TASTE, flavour, savour ② *a smack of bitterness in his words*: TRACE, tinge, touch, suggestion, hint, overtone, suspicion, whisper.

■ **smack of** ① *the tea smacked of tannin*: TASTE OF, have the flavour of. ② *the plan smacked of self-promotion*. SUGGEST, hint at, have overtones

of, give the impression of, have the stamp of, seem like, smell of, reek of

small ▶ **adjective** ① a small flat LITTLE, compact, bijou, tiny, miniature, mini, minute, microscopic, minuscule, toy, baby, poky, cramped, boxy, *Scottish* wee, *informal* tiddly, teeny, teensy, itty-bitsy, itty-bitty, pocket-sized, half-pint, dinky, ickle, *Brit informal* titchy, *N Amer informal* little-bitty ② a very small man SHORT, little, petite, diminutive, elfin, tiny, puny, undersized, stunted, dwarfish, midget, pygmy, Lilliputian, *Scottish* wee, *informal* teeny, pint-sized ③ a few small changes SLIGHT, minor, unimportant, trifling, trivial, insignificant, inconsequential, negligible, nugatory, infinitesimal, *informal* minuscule, piffling, piddling ④ small helpings INADEQUATE, meagre, insufficient, ungenerous, *informal* measly, stingy, mungy, pathetic ⑤ they made him feel small FOOLISH, stupid, insignificant, unimportant, embarrassed, humiliated, uncomfortable, mortified, ashamed, crushed ⑥ a small farmer SMALL-SCALE, small-time, modest, unpretentious, humble
—RELATED TERMS micro-, mini-, nano-
—OPPOSITES big, tall, major, ample, substantial

small change ▶ **noun** COINS, change, coppers, silver, cash, specie

small-minded ▶ **adjective** NARROW-MINDED, petty, mean-spirited, uncharitable, close-minded, short-sighted, myopic, blinkered, inward-looking, unimaginative, parochial, provincial, insular, small-town, intolerant, illiberal, conservative, hudgebound, dyed-in-the-wool, set in one's ways, inflexible, prejudiced, bigoted, *Brit* parish-pump, blimpish
—OPPOSITES tolerant

small-time ▶ **adjective** MINOR, small-scale, petty, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, *N Amer* minor-league, *informal* penny-ante, piddling, *N Amer informal* two-bit, bush-league, picayune
—OPPOSITES major

smarmy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) UNCTUOUS, ingratiating, slick, oily, greasy, obsequious, sycophantic, fawning, *informal* slimy, sucky

smart ▶ **adjective** ① you look very smart WELL DRESSED, stylish, chic, fashionable, modish, elegant, neat, spruce, trim, dapper, *N Amer* trig, *informal* snazzy, natty, snappy, sharp, cool, *N Amer informal* sassy, spiffy, fly, kicky ② a smart restaurant FASHIONABLE, stylish, high-class, exclusive, chic, fancy, *Brit* upmarket, *N Amer* high-toned, *informal* trendy, posh, ritzy, plush, classy, swanky, glitzy, *Brit informal* swish, *N Amer informal* swank ③ (*informal*) he's the smart one. CLEVER, bright, intelligent, sharp-witted, quick-witted, shrewd, astute, able, perceptive, perceptive, *informal* brainy, savvy, quick on the uptake ④ a smart pace BRISK, quick, fast, rapid, swift, lively, spanking, energetic, vigorous, *informal* snappy, cracking ⑤ a smart blow on the snout SHARP, severe, forceful, violent
—OPPOSITES untidy, downmarket, stupid, slow, gentle

▶ **verb** ① her eyes were smarting: STING, burn, tingle, prickle; hurt, ache. ② she smarted at the accusations FEEL ANNOYED, feel upset, take offence, feel aggrieved, feel indignant, be put out, feel hurt

■ **look smart** (*Brit*) BE QUICK, hurry up, speed up, *informal* make it snappy, get cracking, get

moving, step on it. *Brit informal* get one's skates on, stir one's stumps, *N Amer informal* get a wiggle on

smarten ▶ **verb** SPRUCE UP, clean up, tidy up, neaten, tidy, groom, freshen, preen, primp, beautify, redecorate, refurbish, modernize, *informal* do up, titivate, doll up, *Brit informal* tart up, posh up, *N Amer informal* gussy up

smash ▶ **verb** ① he smashed a window BREAK, shatter, splinter, crack, shiver, *informal* bust ② she's smashed the car CRASH, WRECK, *Brit* write off, *Brit informal* prang, *N Amer informal* total ③ they smashed into a wall CRASH INTO, collide with, hit, strike, ram, smack into, slam into, plough into, run into, bump into, *N Amer* impact ④ Don smashed him over the head HIT, strike, thump, punch, smack, *informal* whack, bash, biff, bop, clout, wallop, crown, *Brit informal* slosh, dot, *N Amer informal* slug ⑤ he smashed their hopes of glory DESTROY, wreck, ruin, shatter, dash, crush, devastate, demolish, overturn, scotch, *informal* put the kibosh on, do for, put paid to, queer, *Brit informal* scupper

▶ **noun** ① the smash of glass BREAKING, shattering, crash ② a motorway smash CRASH, collision, accident, bump, *Brit* RTA, *N Amer* wreck, *informal* pile-up, smash-up, *Brit informal* prang, shunt ③ (*informal*) a box-office smash SUCCESS, sensation, sell-out, triumph, *informal* (smash) hit, winner, crowd-puller, knockout, wow, biggie

smashing ▶ **adjective** (*Brit informal*) See MARVELOUS sense 2

smattering ▶ **noun** BIT, little, modicum, touch, soupçon, nodding acquaintance, rudiments, basics, *informal* smidgen, smidge, tad

smear ▶ **verb** ① the table was smeared with grease STREAK, smudge, mark, soil, dirty, *informal* splotch, splodge, *poetic/literary* besmear ② smear the meat with olive oil COVER, coat, grease, *poetic/literary* bedaub ③ she smeared sunblock on her skin SPREAD, rub, daub, slap, slather, smother, plaster, cream, slick, apply, *poetic/literary* besmeal ④ they are trying to smear our reputation SULLY, tarnish, blacken, drag through the mud, taint, damage, defame, discredit, malign, slander, libel, *N Amer* slur, *informal* do a hatchet job on, *formal* calumniate, *poetic/literary* besmirch

▶ **noun** ① smears of blood STREAK, smudge, daub, dab, spot, patch, blotch, mark, *informal* splotch, splodge ② press smears about his closest aides FALSE ACCUSATION, lie, untruth, slur, slander, libel, defamation, calumny

smell ▶ **noun** the smell of the kitchen ODOUR, aroma, fragrance, scent, perfume, redolence, bouquet, nose, stench, stink, reek, *Brit informal* pong, niff, whiff, hum, *Scottish informal* guff, *N Amer informal* funk, *poetic/literary* miasma.
—RELATED TERMS osmic, olfactory

▶ **verb** ① he smelled her perfume SCENT, get a sniff of, detect ② the dogs smelled each other SNIFF, nose ③ the cellar smells stink, reek, have a bad smell, *Brit informal* pong, hum, niff, whiff ④ it smells like a hoax to me SMACK OF, have the hallmarks of, seem like, have the air of, suggest

smelly ▶ **adjective** FOUL-SMELLING, stinking, reeking, fetid, malodorous, pungent, rank, noxious; off, gamy, high, musty, fusty; *informal* stinky, *Brit informal* pongy, whiffy, humming; *N Amer informal* funky, *poetic/literary* miasmatic, noisome



smile ▶ **verb** he smiled at her BEAM, grin (from ear to ear), dimple, twinkle, smirk, simper, leer

—OPPOSITES frown

▶ **noun** the smile on her face BEAM, grin, twinkle, smirk, simper, leer

smirk ▶ **verb** SMILE SMUGLY, simper, snigger, leer

smitten ▶ **adjective** ① he was smitten with cholera: STRUCK DOWN, laid low, suffering, affected, afflicted, plagued, stricken ② Jane's smitten with you. INFATUATED, besotted, in love, obsessed, head over heels, enamoured of, attracted to, taken with, captivated, enchanted, under someone's spell, informal bowled over, swept off one's feet, crazy about, mad about, keen on, gone on, sweet on, Brt informal potty about

smog ▶ **noun** FOG, haze, fumes, smoke, pollution, Brt informal pea-souper

smoke ▶ **verb** ① the fire was smoking SMOULDER, emit smoke, archaic reek ② he smoked his cigarette: PUFF ON, draw on, pull on, inhale, light, informal drag on. ③ they smoke their salmon CURE, preserve, dry

▶ **noun** the smoke from the bonfire FUMES, exhaust, gas, vapour, smog

smoky ▶ **adjective** ① the smoky atmosphere SMOKE-FILLED, sooty, smoggy, hazy, foggy, murky, thick; Brt informal fuggy ② her smoky eyes. GREY, sooty, dark, black

smooth ▶ **adjective** ① the smooth flat rocks EVEN, level, flat, plane, unwrinkled, featureless, glassy, glossy, silky, polished ② his face was smooth CLEAN-SHAVEN, hairless ③ a smooth sauce CREAMY, velvety, blended ④ a smooth sea CALM, still, tranquil, undisturbed, unruffled, even, flat, waveless, like a millpond ⑤ the smooth running of the equipment: STEADY, regular, uninterrupted, unbroken, fluid, fluent, straightforward, easy, effortless, trouble-free ⑥ a smooth wine MELLOW, mild, agreeable, pleasant ⑦ the smooth tone of the clarinet DULCET, soft, soothing, mellow, sweet, silvery, honeyed, mellifluous, melodious, lilting, lyrical, harmonious ⑧ a smooth, confident man SUAVE, urbane, sophisticated, polished, debonair, courteous, gracious, glib, slick, ingratiating, unctuous, informal smarmy

—OPPOSITES uneven, rough, hairy, lumpy, irregular, raucous, gauche

▶ **verb** ① she smoothed the soil FLATTEN, level (out/off), even out/off, press, roll, steamroll, iron, plane ② a plan to smooth the way for the agreement. EASE, facilitate, clear the way for, pave the way for, expedite, assist, aid, help, oil the wheels of, lubricate

smoothly ▶ **adverb** ① her hair was combed smoothly back: EVENLY, level, flat, flush. ② the door closed smoothly: FLUIDLY, fluently, steadily, frictionlessly, easily; quietly ③ the plan had gone smoothly: WITHOUT A HITCH, like clockwork, without difficulty, easily, effortlessly, according to plan, swimmingly, satisfactorily, very well; informal like a dream.

smooth-talking ▶ **adjective** (informal) PERSUASIVE, glib, plausible, silver-tongued, slick, eloquent, fast-talking; ingratiating, flattering, unctuous, obsequious, sycophantic; informal smarmy.

—OPPOSITES blunt.

smother ▶ **verb** ① she tried to smother her baby SUFFOCATE, asphyxiate, stifle, choke. ② we smothered the flames: EXTINGUISH, put out, snuff out, dampen, douse, stamp out, choke ③ we smothered ourselves with suncream SMEAR, daub, spread, cover, poetic/literary besmear, bedaub ④ their granny always smothers them OVERWHELM, inundate, envelop, cocoon, Brt wrap someone in cotton wool ⑤ she smothered a sigh STIFLE, muffle, strangle, repress, suppress, hold back, fight back, bite back, swallow, contain, bottle up, conceal, hide, bite one's lip, informal keep a/the lid on

smoulder ▶ **verb** ① the bonfire still smouldered SMOKE, glow, burn, archaic reek ② she was smouldering with resentment SEethe, boil, fume, burn, simmer, be boiling over, be beside oneself, informal be livid

smudge ▶ **noun** a smudge of blood STREAK, smear, mark, stain, blotch, stripe, blob, dab, informal splotch, splodge

▶ **verb** ① her face was smudged with dust STREAK, mark, dirty, soil, blotch, blacken, smear, blot, daub, stain, informal splotch, splodge, poetic/literary bedaub, besmirch ② she smudged her make-up SMEAR, streak, mess up

smug ▶ **adjective** SELF-SATISFIED, self-congratulatory, complacent, superior, pleased with oneself, self-approving, Brt informal like the cat that got the cream, I'm-all-right-jack

smuggle ▶ **verb** IMPORT/EXPORT ILLEGALLY, traffic in, run

smuggler ▶ **noun** CONTRABANDIST, runner, courier, informal mule, moonshiner

smutty ▶ **adjective** VULGAR, rude, crude, dirty, filthy, salacious, coarse, obscene, lewd, pornographic, X-rated, risqué, racy, earthy, bawdy, suggestive, naughty, ribald, off colour, informal blue, raunchy; Brt informal near the knuckle, saucy, N Amer informal gamy, euphemistic adult

snack ▶ **noun** she made herself a snack LIGHT MEAL, sandwich, treat, refreshments, nibbles, titbit(s), informal bite (to eat), Brt informal elevenses

▶ **verb** don't snack on sugary foods EAT BETWEEN MEALS, nibble, munch, informal graze

snaffle ▶ **verb** (informal) See STEAL verb sense 1

snag ▶ **noun** ① the snag is that this might affect inflation COMPLICATION, difficulty, catch, hitch, obstacle, stumbling block, pitfall, problem, impediment, hindrance, inconvenience, setback, hurdle, disadvantage, downside, drawback ② smooth rails with no snags SHARP PROJECTION, jag, thorn, spur ③ a snag in her tights TEAR, rip, hole, gash, slash, ladder, run

▶ **verb** ① she snagged her tights. TEAR, rip, ladder ② the zip snagged on the fabric CATCH, get caught, hook

snake ▶ **noun** the snake shed its skin. poetic/literary serpent, Zoology ophidian; Austral/NZ rhyming slang Joe Blake See list

—RELATED TERMS colubrine, serpentine.

▶ **verb** the road snakes inland TWIST, wind, meander, zigzag, curve.

▶ **snake in the grass** TRAITOR, turncoat, betrayer, informer, back-stabber, double-crosser, quisling, Judas, fraudster, trickster, charlatan, informal two-timer, rat.

snap ▶ **verb** ① the ruler snapped: BREAK, fracture, splinter, come apart, split, crack, informal bust.

Snakes

adder	hognose snake
Aesculapian snake	horned snake
anaconda	indigo snake
asp	keelback
bandy-bandy	king cobra
black mamba	krait
blind snake	mamba
boa	massasauga
boa constrictor	milk snake
boomslang	night adder
brown snake	pine snake
bull snake	pipe snake
bushmaster	pit viper
carpet python	puff adder
carpet snake	python
cerastes	racer
coachwhip	rat snake
cobra	rattlesnake
colubrid	reticulated python
constrictor	ninkhals
copperhead	rock python
coral snake	rubber boa
cornsnake	Russell's viper
cottonmouth	sea krait
death adder	sea snake
diamondback	shieldtail snake
(rattlesnake)	sidewinder
diamond python	skaapsteker
dugite	smooth snake
egg-eating snake	spitting cobra
Egyptian cobra	swamp snake
false coral snake	taipan
fer de lance	tiger snake
file snake	tree snake
flowerpot snake	viper
flying snake	wart snake
Gaboon viper	water moccasin
garter snake	water snake
gopher snake	whip snake
grass snake	wolf snake
green snake	woma
hamadryad	worm snake
highland moccasin	

② she snapped after years of violence FLARE UP, lose one's self-control, freak out, go to pieces, get worked up, *informal* crack up, lose one's cool, blow one's top, fly off the handle, *Brit informal* throw a wobbly ③ a dog was snapping at his heels BITE, gnash its teeth ④ 'Shut up!' Anna snapped SAY ROUGHLY, say brusquely, say abruptly, say angrily, bark, snarl, growl, retort, rejoin, retaliate, round on someone, *informal* jump down someone's throat ⑤ photographers snapped the royals PHOTOGRAPH, picture, take, shoot, film, capture.

► **noun** ① she closed her purse with a snap CLICK, crack, pop ② a cold snap PERIOD, spell, time, interval, stretch, *Brit informal* patch ③ (*informal*) holiday snaps PHOTOGRAPH, picture, photo, shot, snapshot, print, slide, frame, still; *Brit* enprint

■ **snap out of it** (*informal*) RECOVER, get a grip, pull oneself together, get over it, get better, cheer up, perk up; *informal* buck up

■ **snap something up** BUY EAGERLY, accept eagerly, jump at, take advantage of, grab, seize (on), grasp with both hands, pounce on

snappy ► **adjective** (*informal*) ① a snappy mood IR RITABLE, irascible, short-tempered, quick-tem-

pered, hot-tempered, snappish, fiery, touchy, volatile, cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, grumpy, bad-tempered, testy, tetchy, *informal* chippy, grouchy, cranky, on a short fuse, *Brit informal* narky, ratty, eggy, like a bear with a sore head, *N Amer informal* soreheaded ② a snappy catchphrase CONCISE, succinct, memorable, catchy, neat, clever, crisp, pithy, witty, incisive, brief, short ③ a snappy dresser SMART, fashionable, stylish, chic, modish, elegant, neat, spruce, trim, dapper; *informal* snazzy, natty, sharp, nifty, cool, *N Amer informal* sassy, spiffy, fly

—OPPOSITES peaceable, long-winded, slovenly

■ **make it snappy** HURRY (UP), be quick (about it), get a move on, look lively, speed up, *informal* get cracking, step on it, move it, buck up, shake a leg, *Brit informal* get your skates on, *N Amer informal* get a wiggle on, dated make haste

snare ► **noun** ① the hare was caught in a snare TRAP, gin, net, noose ② avoid the snares of the new law PITFALL, trap, catch, danger, hazard, peril, web, mesh, poetic/literary toils

► **verb** ① game birds were snared TRAP, catch, net, bag, ensnare, entrap ② he managed to snare an heiress ENSNARE, catch, get hold of, bag, hook, land

snarl¹ ► **verb** ① the wolves were snarling GROWL, gnash one's teeth ② 'Shut it!' he snarled SAY ROUGHLY, say brusquely say nastily, bark, snap, growl, *informal* jump down someone's throat

snarl² ► **verb** ① the rope got snarled up in a bush TANGLE, entangle, entwine, enmesh, ravel, knot, foul ② this case has snarled up the court process COMPLICATE, confuse, muddle, jumble, *informal* mess up

snarl-up ► **noun** (*informal*) ① a snarl-up in Edinburgh TRAFFIC JAM, tailback, gridlock ② a snarl-up in terminology MUDDLE, mess, tangle, jumble, misunderstanding, misinterpretation, misconception, confusion, mistake, mix-up, bungle, *informal* hash, foul-up, screw-up, *N Amer informal* snafu

snatch ► **verb** ① she snatched the sandwich GRAB, seize, take hold of, get one's hands on, take, pluck, grasp at, clutch at ② (*informal*) someone snatched my bag See STEAL verb sense 1 ③ (*informal*) she snatched the newborn from the hospital See ABDUCT ④ he snatched victory SEIZE, pluck, wrest, achieve, secure, obtain, scrape

► **noun** ① brief snatches of sleep PERIOD, spell, time, fit, bout, interval, stretch ② a snatch of conversation FRAGMENT, snippet, bit, scrap, part, extract, excerpt, portion

snazzy ► **adjective** (*informal*) See STYLISH

sneak ► **verb** ① I sneaked out CREEP, slink, steal, slip, slide, sidle, edge, move furtively, tip-toe, pussyfoot, pad, prowl ② she sneaked a camera in BRING/TAKE SURREPTITIOUSLY, bring/take secretly, bring/take illicitly, smuggle, spirit, slip ③ he sneaked a doughnut TAKE FURTIVELY, take surreptitiously, steal; *informal* snatch ④ (*Brit informal*) the little squirt sneaked on me INFORM, tell tales, report, give someone away, be disloyal, sell out, stab in the back, *informal* squeal, rat, blow the whistle, peach, snitch, stitch up; *Brit informal* grass, split, shop, *Scottish informal* clype; *N Amer informal* finger, *Austral / NZ informal* dob.

► **noun** (*Brit informal*) Ethel was the class sneak. INFORMER, traitor, *informal* snitch, squealer, rat, whistle-blower, *Brit informal* grass, *Scottish informal*

clype, *N Amer informal* fink, *Austral/NZ informal* dobber

► **adjective** a *sneak preview* FURTIVE, secret, stealthy, sly, surreptitious, clandestine, covert, private, quick

sneaking ► **adjective** ① she had a *sneaking admiration* for him SECRET, private, hidden, concealed, unvoiced, undisclosed, undeclared, unavowed. ② a *sneaking feeling* NIGGLING, nagging, lurking, insidious, lingering, gnawing, persistent

sneaky ► **adjective** SLY, crafty, cunning, wily, artful, scheming, devious, guileful, deceitful, duplicitous, underhand, unscrupulous, furtive, secretive, secret, stealthy, surreptitious, clandestine, covert, *informal* foxy, shifty, dirty
—OPPOSITES honest

sneer ► **noun** ① she had a *sneer* on her face SMIRK, curl of the lip, disparaging smile, contemptuous smile, cruel smile ② the *sneers* of others JIBE, barb, jeer, taunt, insult, slight, affront, slur, *informal* dig

► **verb** ① he looked at me and *sneered* SMIRK, curl one's lip, smile disparagingly, smile contemptuously, smile cruelly ② it is easy to *sneer* at them SCOFF AT, scorn, disdain, mock, jeer at, hold in contempt, ridicule, deride, insult, slight; *N Amer* slur

snicker ► **verb** they all *snickered* at her SNIGGER, titter, giggle, chortle, simper

► **noun** he could not suppress a *snicker* SNIGGER, titter, giggle, chortle, simper

snide ► **adjective** DISPARAGING, derogatory, depreciating, denigratory, insulting, contemptuous, mocking, taunting, sneering, scornful, derisive, sarcastic, spiteful, nasty, mean, *Brit informal* sarky

sniff ► **verb** ① she *sniffed* and blew her nose IN HALE, breathe in, snuffle ② Tom *sniffed* the fruit SMELL, scent, get a whiff of

► **noun** ① she gave a loud *sniff* SNUFFLE, inhalation ② a *sniff* of fresh air SMELL, scent, whiff, lungful ③ (*informal*) the first *sniff* of trouble INDICATION, hint, whiff, inkling, suggestion, whisper, trace, sign, suspicion

■ **sniff at** SCORN, disdain, hold in contempt, look down one's nose at, treat as inferior, look down on, sneer at, scoff at, *informal* turn one's nose up at

■ **sniff something out** (*informal*) DETECT, find, discover, bring to light, track down, dig up, hunt out, ferret out, root out, uncover, unearth, run to earth/ground

snigger ► **verb** they *snigger* at him behind his back SNICKER, titter, giggle, chortle, laugh, sneer, smirk

► **noun** the *joke* got hardly a *snigger* SNICKER, titter, giggle, chortle, laugh, sneer, smirk

snip ► **verb** ① an usher *snipped* our tickets CUT, clip, snick, slit, nick, notch ② *snip* off the faded flowers CUT OFF, trim (off), clip, prune, chop off, lop (off), dock, crop, sever, detach, remove, take off

► **noun** ① make *snips* along the edge CUT, slit, snick, nick, notch, incision ② *snips* of wallpaper SCRAP, snippet, cutting, shred, remnant, fragment, sliver, bit, piece. ③ (*Brit informal*) the book was a *snip* See BARGAIN noun sense 2 ④ (*informal*) the job was a *snip*. See CINCH sense 1

snippet ► **noun** PIECE, bit, scrap, fragment, particle, shred, excerpt, extract

snivel ► **verb** ① he slumped in a chair, *snivelling* SNIFFLE, snuffle, whimper, whine, weep, cry, Scottish greet, *informal* blub, blubber, boohoo, *Brit informal* grizzle ② don't *snivel* about what you get COMPLAIN, mutter, grumble, grouse, groan, carp, bleat, whine, *informal* gripe, moan, grouch, beef, bellyache, whinge, sound off, *Brit informal* create, *N Amer informal* kvetch

snobbery ► **noun** AFFECTATION, pretension, pretentiousness, arrogance, haughtiness, airs and graces, elitism, disdain, condescension, superciliousness, *informal* snootiness, uppitiness, *Brit informal* side

snobbish ► **adjective** ELITIST, snobby, superior, supercilious, arrogant, haughty, disdainful, condescending, pretentious, affected, *informal* snooty, uppity, high and mighty, la-di-da, stuck-up, hoity-toity, snotty, *Brit informal* toffee-nosed

snoop (*informal*) ► **verb** ① don't *snoop* into our affairs PRY, inquire, be inquisitive, be curious, poke about/around, be a busybody, poke one's nose into, interfere (in/with), meddle (in/with), intrude (on), *informal* be nosy, *Austral/NZ informal* stickybeak ② they *snooped* around the building IN VESTIGATE, explore, search, nose, have a good look, prowl around

► **noun** ① he went for a *snoop* around SEARCH, nose, look, prowl, ferret, poke, investigation ② *radio* snoops See SNOOPER

snooper ► **noun** MEDDLER, busybody, eavesdropper, investigator, detective, *informal* nosy parker, Paul Pry, snoop, private eye, PI, sleuth, *N Amer informal* gumshoe, *Austral/NZ informal* stickybeak

snooty ► **adjective** (*informal*) ARROGANT, proud, haughty, conceited, aloof, superior, self-important, disdainful, supercilious, snobbish, snobby, patronizing, condescending, *informal* uppity, high and mighty, la-di-da, stuck-up, hoity-toity, *Brit informal* toffee-nosed
—OPPOSITES modest

snooze (*informal*) ► **noun** a good place for a *snooze* NAP, doze, sleep, rest, siesta, catnap, *informal* forty winks, *Brit informal* kip, *poetic/literary* slumber

► **verb** she gently *snoozed* NAP, doze, sleep, rest, take a siesta, catnap, *informal* snatch forty winks, get some shut-eye, *Brit informal* kip, get one's head down, *N Amer informal* catch some Zs, *poetic/literary* slumber

snout ► **noun** MUZZLE, nose, proboscis, trunk, Scottish & *N English* neb

snow ► **noun** SNOWFLAKES, flakes, snowfall, snowstorm, blizzard, sleet, snowdrift, avalanche See list

—RELATED TERMS niveous, nival

Types and Conditions of Snow

breakable crust
champagne powder
corn snow
crust
firm
graupeil
névé

piste
powder (snow)
slush
snow-ice
spring snow
wind pack
windslab

snub ▶ **verb** they snubbed their hosts REBUFF, spurn, repulse, cold-shoulder, brush off, give the cold shoulder to, keep at arm's length, cut (dead), ignore, insult, slight, affront, humiliate, informal freeze out, knock back, *N Amer informal stiff*

▶ **noun** a very public snub REBUFF, repulse, slap in the face, humiliation, insult, slight, affront, *in formal brush-off, put-down*

snuff ▶ **verb** EXTINGUISH, put out, douse, smother, choke, blow out, quench, stub out

snug ▶ **adjective** ① our tents were snug COSY, comfortable, warm, homely, welcoming, restful, reassuring, intimate, sheltered, secure, *informal comfy* ② a snug dress TIGHT, skintight, close-fitting, figure-hugging, slinky
—OPPOSITES bleak, loose

snuggle ▶ **verb** NESTLE, curl up, huddle (up), cuddle up, nuzzle, settle, *N Amer snug down*

soak ▶ **verb** ① soak the beans in water IMMERSE, steep, submerge, submerge, dip, dunk, bathe, douse, marinate, souse ② we got soaked outside DRENCH, wet through, saturate, waterlog, deluge, inundate, submerge, drown, swamp ③ the sweat soaked through his clothes PERMEATE, penetrate, percolate, seep into, spread through, infuse, impregnate ④ use towels to soak up the water ABSORB, suck up, blot (up), mop (up), sponge up, sop up

soaking ▶ **adjective** DRENCHED, wet (through), soaked (through), sodden, soggy, waterlogged, saturated, sopping wet, dripping wet, wringing wet
—OPPOSITES parched

soar ▶ **verb** ① the bird soared into the air FLY, wing, ascend, climb, rise, take off, take flight ② the gulls soared on the winds GLIDE, plane, float, drift, wheel, hover ③ the cost of living soared INCREASE, escalate, shoot up, rise, spial, *informal go through the roof, skyrocket*
—OPPOSITES plummet

sob ▶ **verb** WEEP, cry, shed tears, snivel, whimper, howl, bawl, *Scottish greet, informal blub, blubber, boohoo, Brit informal grizzle*

sober ▶ **adjective** ① the driver was clearly sober NOT DRUNK, clear-headed, teetotal, abstinent, abstemious, dry, *informal on the wagon* ② a sober view of life SERIOUS, solemn, sensible, thoughtful, grave, sombre, staid, level-headed, businesslike, down-to-earth, commonsensical, pragmatic, conservative, unemotional, dispassionate, objective, matter-of-fact, no-nonsense, rational, logical, straightforward, *Scottish douce* ③ a sober suit SOMBRE, subdued, severe, conventional, traditional, quiet, drab, plain.
—OPPOSITES drunk, frivolous, sensational, flamboyant

▶ **verb** ① I ought to sober up BECOME SOBER; *informal dry out* ② his expression sobered her MAKE SERIOUS, subdue, calm down, quieten, steady, bring down to earth, make someone stop and think, give someone pause for thought

sobriety ▶ **noun** ① she noted his sobriety SOBERNESS, clear-headedness, abstinence, teetotalism, non-indulgence, abstemiousness, temperance ② the mayor is a model of sobriety SERIOUSNESS, solemnity, gravity, dignity, level-headedness, common sense, pragmatism, practicality, self-control, self-restraint, conservatism.

so-called ▶ **adjective** INAPPROPRIATELY NAMED, supposed, alleged, presumed, ostensible, reputed, nominal, titular, self-styled, professed, would-be, self-appointed, soi-disant

soccer ▶ **noun** ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL, *Brit football See list*

World Cup Winners and Hosts

DATE	WINNER	HOST NATION
1930	Uruguay	Uruguay
1934	Italy	Italy
1938	Italy	France
1950	Uruguay	Brazil
1954	West Germany	Sweden
1958	Brazil	Switzerland
1962	Brazil	Chile
1966	England	England
1970	Brazil	Mexico
1974	West Germany	West Germany
1978	Argentina	Argentina
1982	Italy	Spain
1986	Argentina	Mexico
1990	West Germany	Italy
1994	Brazil	USA
1998	France	France
2002	—	South Korea and Japan
2006	—	Germany

sociable ▶ **adjective** FRIENDLY, affable, companionable, gregarious, convivial, clubbable, amicable, cordial, warm, genial, communicative, responsive, forthcoming, open, outgoing, extrovert, hail-fellow-well-met, approachable, *informal chummy, clubby, Brit informal matey*
—OPPOSITES unfriendly

social ▶ **adjective** ① a major social problem COMMUNAL, community, collective, group, general, popular, civil, public, societal ② a social club RECREATIONAL, leisure, entertainment, amusement ③ a uniquely social animal GREGARIOUS, interactional, organized
—OPPOSITES individual

▶ **noun** the club has a social once a month PARTY, gathering, function, get-together, celebration, reunion, jamboree, *informal bash, shindig, do, Brit informal rave-up, knees-up, beano, bunfight, jolly*

socialism ▶ **noun** LEFTISM, Fabianism, labourism, welfarism, radicalism, progressivism, social democracy, communism, Marxism, Leninism, Maoism, *historical Bolshevism*

socialist ▶ **adjective** the socialist movement LEFT-WING, leftist, Labour, Labourite, labourist, Fabian, progressive, reform, radical, revolutionary, militant, red, communist, Marxist, Leninist, Maoist, *informal, derogatory lefty, Bolshie, Commie*
—OPPOSITES conservative

▶ **noun** a well-known socialist LEFT-WINGER, leftist, Fabian, Labourite, labourist, progressive, progressivist, reformer, radical, revolutionary, militant, red, communist, Marxist, Leninist, Maoist, *informal, derogatory lefty, Bolshie, Commie*
—OPPOSITES conservative

socialize ▶ **verb** INTERACT, converse, be sociable, mix, mingle, get together, meet, fraternize, consort, entertain, go out; *informal hobnob*



society ▶ **noun** ① *a danger to society* THE COM
MUNITY, the (general) public, the people, the
population, civilization, humankind, mankind,
humanity ② *an industrial society* CULTURE, com-
munity, civilization, nation, population ③ *Lady
Angela will help you enter society* HIGH SOCIETY, po-
lite society, the upper classes, the elite, the
county set, the smart set, the beautiful people,
the beau monde, the haut monde, *informal* the
upper crust, the top drawer ④ *a local history so-
ciety* ASSOCIATION, club, group, circle, fellow-
ship, guild, lodge, fraternity, brotherhood, sis-
terhood, sorority, league, union, alliance ⑤ *the
society of others* COMPANY, companionship, fel-
lowship, friendship, comradeship, camaraderie

sodden ▶ **adjective** ① *his clothes were sodden*
SOAKING, soaked (through), wet (through), sat-
urated, drenched, sopping wet, wringing wet
② *sodden fields* WATERLOGGED, soggy, saturated,
boggy, swampy, miry, marshy, heavy, squelchy,
soft
-OPPOSITES **ARID**

sofa ▶ **noun** SETTEE, couch, divan, chaise
longue, chesterfield, *Bnt* put-you-up, *N Amer*
davenport, day bed

soft ▶ **adjective** ① *soft fruit* MUSHY, squashy,
pulpy, pappy, slushy, squelchy, squishy,
doughy, *informal* goocy, *Bnt informal* squidgy
② *soft ground* SWAMPY, marshy, boggy, miry,
oozy, heavy, squelchy ③ *a soft cushion*
SQUASHY, spongy, compressible, supple,
springy, pliable, pliant, resilient, malleable
④ *soft fabric* VELVETY, smooth, fleecy, downy,
furry, silky, silken, satiny ⑤ *a soft wind* GEN-
TLE, light, mild, moderate ⑥ *soft light* DIM, low,
faint, subdued, muted, mellow ⑦ *soft colours*
PALE, pastel, muted, understated, restrained,
subdued, subtle ⑧ *soft voices* QUIET, low, faint,
muted, subdued, muffled, hushed, whispered,
stifled, murmured, gentle, dulcet, indistinct, in-
audible ⑨ *soft outlines* BLURRED, vague, hazy,
misty, foggy, nebulous, fuzzy, blurry, indis-
tinct, unclear ⑩ *he seduced her with soft words*
KIND, gentle, sympathetic, soothing, tender,
sensitive, affectionate, loving, warm, sweet,
sentimental, mushy, slushy, *informal* schmaltzy
⑪ *she's too soft with her pupils* LENIENT, easy-
going, tolerant, forgiving, forbearing, indul-
gent, clement, permissive, liberal, lax
⑫ *(informal) he's soft in the head* FOOLISH, stupid,
simple, brainless, mindless, mad, scatter-
brained, feather-brained, slow, weak, feeble, *in-
formal* dopey, dippy, dotty, scatty, loopy, *Bnt in-
formal* daft, *Scottish & N English informal* glaikit
-OPPOSITES **HARD, firm, rough, strong, harsh,
lund, strident, sharp, strict, sensible**

soften ▶ **verb** ① *he tried to soften the blow of new
taxes* ALLEVIATE, ease, relieve, soothe, take the
edge off, assuage, cushion, moderate, mitigate,
palliate, diminish, blunt, deaden. ② *the winds
softened* DIE DOWN, abate, subside, moderate, let
up, calm, diminish, slacken, weaken
■ **soften someone up** CHARM, win over, per-
suade, influence, weaken, disarm, sweeten, *in-
formal* butter up, soft-soap

soft-hearted ▶ **adjective** KIND, kindly, tender-
hearted, tender, gentle, sympathetic, compas-
sionate, humane, generous, indulgent, lenient,
merciful, benevolent.

softly-softly ▶ **adjective** CAUTIOUS, circum-
spect, discreet, gentle, patient, tactful, diplo-
matic

soggy ▶ **adjective** MUSHY, squashy, pulpy,
slushy, squelchy, squishy, swampy, marshy,
boggy, miry, soaking, soaked through, wet, sat-
urated, drenched, *Bnt informal* squidgy

soil 1 ▶ **noun** ① *acid soil* EARTH, loam, dirt, clay,
sod, turf, ground ② *British soil* TERRITORY, land,
domain, dominion, region, country

soil 2 ▶ **verb** ① *he soiled his tie* DIRTY, stain,
splash, spot, spatter, splatter, smear, smudge,
sully, spoil, foul, *informal* muck up, *poetic/literary*
begrimed ② *our reputation is being soiled* DISHON-
OUR, damage, sully, stain, blacken, tarnish,
taint, blemish, defile, blot, smear, drag through
the mud, *poetic/literary* besmirch

sojourn (formal) ▶ **noun** a sojourn in France STAY,
visit, stop, stopover, holiday, vacation

▶ **verb** they sojourned in the monastery STAY, live,
put up, stop (over), lodge, room, board, holi-
day, vacation

solace ▶ **noun** they found solace in each other
COMFORT, consolation, cheer, support, relief
▶ **verb** she was solaced with tea and sympathy COM-
FORT, console, cheer, support, soothe, calm

soldier ▶ **noun** FIGHTER, trooper, serviceman,
servicewoman, warrior, US GI, *Bnt informal*
squaddie, *archaic* man-at-arms See lists here and
at COMMANDER and RANK
■ **soldier on** (informal) See PERSEVERE

Types of Soldier

Anzac	gunner	point man
cadet	havildar	private
carabineer	hussar	ranger
cavalryman	infantryman	ranker
centurion	kern	rapparee
chasseur	lancer	recruit
conscript	landsknecht	redcoat
culrassier	legionnaire	regular
desert rat	legionary	rifleman
dragoon	man-at-arms	sabreur
evzone	marine	scout
fensible	mercenary	sapper
foot soldier	musketeer	sentry
fugleman	NCO	sepoy
fusilier	officer	spearman
GI	orderly	Territorial
grenadier	paratrooper	trooper
guardsman	partisan	
guerrilla	pistolier	

sole ▶ **adjective** ONLY, one (and only), single,
solitary, lone, unique, exclusive

solecism ▶ **noun** ① *a poem marred by solecisms*
(GRAMMATICAL) MISTAKE, error, blunder, *informal*
howler, blooper, *Bnt informal* boob ② *it would
have been a solecism to answer: FAUX PAS, gaffe,
impropriety, social indiscretion, infelicity, slip,
error, blunder, lapse, informal* slip-up, boo-boo,
Bnt informal boob, clanger, bloomer, *N Amer infor-
mal* goof, blooper.

solely ▶ **adverb** ONLY, simply, just, merely,
uniquely, exclusively, entirely, wholly, alone

solemn ▶ **adjective** ① *a solemn occasion* DIGNI-
FIED, ceremonious, ceremonial, stately, formal,
courtly, majestic, imposing, awe-inspiring,



splendid, magnificent, grand ② he looked very solemn SERIOUS, grave, sober, sombre, unsmiling, stern, grim, dour, humourless, pensive, meditative ③ a solemn promise SINCERE, earnest, honest, genuine, firm, heartfelt, wholehearted, sworn

—OPPOSITES frivolous, light-hearted, insincere

solemnize ▶ verb PERFORM, celebrate, formalize, officiate at

solicit ▶ verb ① Phil tried to solicit his help ASK FOR, request, seek, apply for, put in for, call for, press for, beg, plead for, dated crave ② they are solicited for their opinions ASK, beg, implore, plead with, entreat, appeal to, lobby, petition, importune supplicate, call on, press, poetic/literary beseech ③ the girls gathered to solicit WORK AS A PROSTITUTE, make sexual advances, tout (for business), N Amer informal hustle

solicitor ▶ noun (Brit) LAWYER, legal representative, legal practitioner, notary (public), advocate, attorney, Brit articulated clerk, Scottish law agent, informal brief

solicitous ▶ adjective CONCERNED, caring, considerate, attentive, mindful, thoughtful interested, anxious, worried

solid ▶ adjective ① the ice cream was solid HARD, rock-hard, rigid, firm, solidified, set, frozen, concrete ② solid gold PURE, 24-carat, unalloyed, unadulterated, genuine ③ a solid line CONTINUOUS, uninterrupted, unbroken, non-stop, undivided ④ solid houses WELL BUILT, sound, substantial, strong, sturdy, durable ⑤ a solid argument WELL FOUNDED, valid, sound, reasonable, logical, authoritative, convincing, cogent, plausible, credible, reliable ⑥ a solid friendship DEPENDABLE, reliable, firm, unshakeable, trustworthy, stable, steadfast, staunch, constant ⑦ solid citizens SENSIBLE, dependable, trustworthy, decent, law-abiding, upright, upstanding, worthy ⑧ the company is very solid FINANCIALLY SOUND, secure, creditworthy, profit-making, solvent, in credit, in the black, Finance ungeared, unlevered ⑨ solid support from their colleagues UNANIMOUS, united, consistent, undivided —OPPOSITES liquid, alloyed, broken, flimsy, untenable, unreliable

solidarity ▶ noun UNANIMITY, unity, like-mindedness, agreement, accord, harmony, consensus, concurrence, cooperation, cohesion, formal concord

solidify ▶ verb HARDEN, set, freeze, thicken, stiffen, congeal, cake, dry, bake, ossify, fossilize, petrify —OPPOSITES liquefy

soliloquy ▶ noun MONOLOGUE, speech, address, lecture, oration, sermon, homily, aside

solitary ▶ adjective ① a solitary life LONELY, companionless, unaccompanied, by oneself, on one's own, alone, friendless, antisocial, unsociable, withdrawn, reclusive, cloistered, hermitic, N Amer lonesome ② solitary farmsteads ISOLATED, remote, lonely, out of the way, in the back of beyond, outlying, off the beaten track, godforsaken, obscure, inaccessible, cut-off, secluded, private, sequestered, desolate, N Amer in the backwoods; Austral/NZ in the backblocks, informal in the sticks, in the middle of nowhere, N Amer informal in the boondocks, Austral/NZ informal beyond the black stump, poetic/literary lone

③ a solitary piece of evidence SINGLE, lone, sole, unique, only, one, individual, odd —OPPOSITES sociable, accessible

▶ noun he became a solitary RECLUSE, loner, hermit, historical anchorite, archaic eremite

solitude ▶ noun ① she savoured her solitude LONELINESS, solitariness, isolation, seclusion, sequestration, withdrawal, privacy, peace ② solitudes like the area around the loch WILDERNESS, rural area, wilds, backwoods, desert, emptiness, wasteland, Austral the bush, the outback, N Amer & Austral/NZ backcountry, informal the sticks, N Amer informal the boondocks

solo ▶ adjective a solo flight UNACCOMPANIED, single-handed, companionless, unescorted, unattended, unchaperoned, independent, solitary, alone, on one's own, by oneself

—OPPOSITES accompanied

▶ adverb she sailed solo UNACCOMPANIED, alone, on one's own, single-handed(ly), by oneself, unescorted, unattended, unchaperoned, unaided, independently

—OPPOSITES accompanied

solution ▶ noun ① an easy solution to the problem ANSWER, result, resolution, way out, panacea, key, formula, explanation, interpretation ② a solution of ammonia in water MIXTURE, mix, blend, compound, suspension, tincture, infusion, emulsion

solve ▶ verb RESOLVE, answer, work out, find a solution to, find the key to, puzzle out, fathom, decipher, decode, clear up, straighten out, get to the bottom of, unravel, piece together, explain, informal figure out, crack, Brit informal suss out

solvent ▶ adjective FINANCIALLY SOUND, debt-free, in the black, in credit, creditworthy, solid, secure, profit-making, Finance ungeared, unlevered

sombre ▶ adjective ① sombre clothes DARK, drab, dull, dingy, restrained, subdued, sober, funereal ② a sombre expression SOLEMN, earnest, serious, grave, sober, unsmiling, stern, grim, dour, humourless, gloomy, depressed, sad, melancholy, dismal, doleful, mournful, lugubrious —OPPOSITES bright, cheerful

somebody ▶ noun she wanted to be a somebody IMPORTANT PERSON, VIP, public figure, notable, dignitary, worthy, someone, (big/household) name, celebrity, star, superstar, grandee, luminary, informal celeb, bigwig, big shot, big cheese, hotshot, megastar —OPPOSITES nonentity

some day ▶ adverb SOMETIME, one day, one of these (fine) days, at a future date, sooner or later, by and by, in due course, in the fullness of time, in the long run —OPPOSITES never

somehow ▶ adverb BY SOME MEANS, by any means, in some way, one way or another, no matter how, by fair means or foul, by hook or by crook, come what may

sometime ▶ adverb ① I'll visit sometime SOME DAY, one day, one of these (fine) days, at a future date, sooner or later, by and by, in due course, in the fullness of time, in the long run ② it happened sometime on Sunday. AT SOME TIME, at some point, during, in the course of.

—OPPOSITES never

▶ adjective the sometime editor of the paper FORMER,

past, previous, prior, foregoing, late, erstwhile, one-time, ex-, *formal* quondam

sometimes ► **adverb** OCCASIONALLY, from time to time, now and then, every so often, once in a while, on occasion, at times, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically, spasmodically, intermittently

somewhat ► **adverb** ① *matters have improved somewhat* A LITTLE, a bit, to some extent, (up) to a point, in some measure, rather, quite, *N Amer informal* some, *informal* kind of, sort of ② *a somewhat thicker book* SLIGHTLY, relatively, comparatively, moderately, fairly, rather, quite, marginally

—OPPOSITES greatly

somnolent ► **adjective** ① *he felt somnolent after lunch* SLEEPY, drowsy, tired, languid, dozy, groggy, lethargic, sluggish, enervated, torpid, *informal* snoozy, doopy, yawny, *poetic/literary* slumberous ② *a somnolent village* QUIET, restful, tranquil, calm, peaceful, relaxing, soothing, undisturbed, untroubled

son ► **noun** MALE CHILD, boy, heir, descendant, offspring, *informal* lad
—RELATED *TERMS* filial

song ► **noun** ① *a beautiful song* AIR, strain, ditty, melody, tune, number, track ② *the song of the birds* CALL(S), chirping, cheeping, peeping, chirruping, warble(s), warbling, trilling, twitter, birdsong

■ **song and dance** (*informal*) See FUSS *noun* sense 1

songster, songstress ► **noun** SINGER, vocalist, soloist, crooner, chorister, choirboy, choirgirl, alto, bass, baritone, contralto, tenor, soprano, balladeer, *informal* warbler, popster, soulster, folkie, *historical* minstrel, troubadour, *archaic* melodist

sonorous ► **adjective** ① *a sonorous voice* RESONANT, rich, full, round, booming, deep, clear, mellow, orotund, fruity, strong, resounding, reverberant ② *sonorous words of condemnation* IMPRESSIVE, imposing, grandiloquent, magniloquent, high-flown, lofty, orotund, bombastic, grandiose, pompous, pretentious, overblown, turgid, oratorical, rhetorical, *informal* highfalutin

soon ► **adverb** ① *we'll be there soon* SHORTLY, presently, in the near future, before long, in a little while, in a minute, in a moment, in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye, in no time, before you know it, any minute (now), any day (now), by and by, *informal* pronto, in a jiffy, before you can say Jack Robinson, anon, *Brit informal* sharpish, in a tick, in two ticks, *dated* directly ② *how soon can you get here?* EARLY, quickly, promptly, speedily, punctually

sooner ► **adverb** ① *he should have done it sooner* EARLIER, before, beforehand, in advance, ahead of time, already ② *I would sooner stay* RATHER, preferably, by preference, by choice, more willingly, more readily

soothe ► **verb** ① *Rachel tried to soothe him* CALM (DOWN), pacify, comfort, hush, quiet, subdue, settle (down), lull, tranquilize, appease, conciliate, mollify, *Brit* quieten (down) ② *an anaesthetic to soothe the pain* ALLEVIATE, ease, relieve, take the edge off, assuage, allay, lessen, palliate, diminish, decrease, dull, blunt, deaden
—OPPOSITES agitate, aggravate

soothing ► **adjective** ① *soothing music* RELAXING, restful, calm, calming, tranquil, peaceful, reposeful, tranquillizing, soporific ② *soothing ointment* PALLIATIVE, mild, calmative

soothsayer ► **noun** SEER, oracle, augur, prophet(ess), sage, prognosticator, diviner, fortune teller, crystal-gazer, clairvoyant, psychic, *Scottish* spawwife, *poetic/literary* sibyl

sophisticated ► **adjective** ① *sophisticated techniques* ADVANCED, modern, state-of-the-art, the latest, new, up to the minute, innovative, trail-blazing, revolutionary, futuristic, avant-garde, complex, complicated, intricate ② *a sophisticated woman* WORLDLY, worldly-wise, experienced, enlightened, cosmopolitan, knowledgeable, urbane, cultured, cultivated, civilized, polished, refined, elegant, stylish, *informal* cool
—OPPOSITES crude, naive

sophistication ► **noun** WORLDLINESS, experience, urbanity, culture, civilization, polish, refinement, elegance, style, poise, finesse, savoir faire, *informal* cool

sophistry ► **noun** ① *to claim this is pure sophistry* SPECIOUS REASONING, fallacy, sophism, casuistry ② *he went along with her sophistry* FALLACIOUS ARGUMENT, sophism, fallacy, *Logic* paralogism

soporific ► **adjective** *soporific drugs* SLEEP-INDUCING, sedative, somnolent, calmative, tranquillizing, narcotic, opiate, drowsy, sleepy, somniferous, *Medicine* hypnotic
—OPPOSITES invigorating

► **noun** *she was given a soporific* SLEEPING PILL, sedative, calmative, tranquillizer, narcotic, opiate, *Medicine* hypnotic
—OPPOSITES stimulant

soppy ► **adjective** (*Brit informal*) ① *the songs are really soppy* See SENTIMENTAL sense 2 ② *they were too soppy for our games* See FEEBLE sense 3

sorcerer, sorceress ► **noun** WIZARD, witch, magician, warlock, enchanter, enchantress, magus, shaman, witch doctor, *archaic* mage

sorcery ► **noun** (BLACK) MAGIC, the black arts, witchcraft, wizardry, enchantment, spells, incantation, witching, witchery, thaumaturgy, shamanism, *Irish* pishogue

sordid ► **adjective** ① *a sordid love affair* SLEAZY, seedy, seamy, unsavoury, tawdry, cheap, debased, degenerate, dishonourable, disreputable, discreditable, contemptible, ignominious, shameful, wretched, abhorrent ② *a sordid little street* SQUALID, slummy, dirty, filthy, mucky, grimy shabby, messy, soiled, scummy, unclean, *informal* cruddy, grungy, crummy, scuzzy, *Brit informal* grotty
—OPPOSITES respectable, immaculate

sore ► **adjective** ① *a sore leg* PAINFUL, hurting, hurt, aching, throbbing, smarting, stinging, agonizing, excruciating, inflamed, sensitive, tender, raw, bruised, wounded, injured ② *we are in sore need of you* DIRE, urgent, pressing, desperate, parlous, critical, crucial, acute, grave, serious, drastic, extreme, life-and-death, great, terrible, *formal* exigent ③ (*N. Amer informal*) *they were sore at us* UPSET, angry, annoyed, cross, furious, vexed, displeased, disgruntled, dissatisfied, exasperated, irritated, galled, irked, put out, aggrieved, offended, affronted, piqued, nettled, *informal* aggravated, miffed, peeved, hacked off, riled; *Brit informal* narked, cheesed



off, brassed off, *N Amer informal* teed off, ticked off

► **noun** *a sore on his leg* INFLAMMATION, swelling, lesion, wound, scrape, abrasion, cut, laceration, graze, contusion, bruise, ulcer, boil, abscess, carbuncle

SORROW ► **noun** ① *he felt sorrow at her death* SADNESS, unhappiness, misery, despondency, regret, depression, despair, desolation, dejection, wretchedness, gloom, dolefulness, melancholy, woe, heartache, grief, poetic/literary *dolour* ② *the sorrows of life* TROUBLE, difficulty, problem, adversity, misery, woe, affliction, trial, tribulation, misfortune, setback, reverse, blow, failure, tragedy

—OPPOSITES joy

► **verb** *they sorrowed over her grave* MOURN, lament, grieve, be sad, be miserable, be despondent, despair, suffer, ache, agonize, anguish, pine, weep, wail

—OPPOSITES rejoice

sorrowful ► **adjective** ① *sorrowful eyes* SAD, unhappy, dejected, regretful, downcast, miserable, downhearted, despondent, despairing, disconsolate, desolate, glum, gloomy, doleful, dismal, melancholy, mournful, woeful, woe-begone, forlorn, crestfallen, heartbroken, *informal* blue, down in the mouth, down in the dumps ② *sorrowful news* TRAGIC, sad, unhappy, awful, miserable, sorry, pitiful, traumatic, upsetting, depressing, distressing, dispiriting, heartbreaking, harrowing, *formal* grievous

sorry ► **adjective** ① *I was sorry to hear about his accident* SAD, unhappy, sorrowful, distressed, upset, downcast, downhearted, disheartened, despondent, heartbroken, inconsolable, grief-stricken ② *he felt sorry for her* FULL OF PITY, sympathetic, compassionate, moved, consoling, empathetic, concerned ③ *I'm sorry if I was brusque* REGRETFUL, remorseful, contrite, repentant, rueful, penitent, apologetic, abject, guilty, self-reproachful, ashamed, sheepish, shamefaced ④ *he looks a sorry sight* PITIFUL, pitiable, heart-rending, distressing, unfortunate, unhappy, wretched, unlucky, shameful, regrettable, awful

—OPPOSITES glad, unsympathetic, unrepentant

sort ► **noun** ① *what sort of book is it?* TYPE, kind, nature, manner, variety, class, category, style, calibre, quality, form, group, set, bracket, genre, species, family, order, generation, vintage, make, model, brand, stamp, ilk, kidney, cast, grain, mould, *N Amer* stripe ② (*informal*) *he's a good sort* PERSON, individual, soul, creature, human being, character, customer, *informal* fellow, type, beggar, cookie, *Bnt informal* bod, *informal*, dated body, dog, cove

► **verb** ① *they sorted things of similar size* CLASSIFY, class, categorize, catalogue, grade, group, organize, arrange, order, marshal, assemble, systematize, systemize, pigeonhole ② *the problem was soon sorted* RESOLVE, settle, solve, fix, work out, straighten out, deal with, put right, set right, rectify, iron out, answer, explain, fathom, unravel, clear up, *informal* sew up, hammer out, thrash out, patch up, figure out

■ **out of sorts** ① *I'm feeling out of sorts* UNWELL, ill, poorly, sick, queasy, nauseous, peaky, run down, below par, *Bnt* off colour; *informal* under the weather, funny, rough, lousy, rotten, awful, *Bnt informal* off, ropy; *Scottish informal*

wabbit, peely-wally, *Austral/NZ informal* crook, dated seedy ② *I've been out of sorts and I'd like a chat* UNHAPPY, sad, miserable, down, depressed, melancholy, gloomy, glum, dispirited, despondent, forlorn, woe-begone, low, in the doldrums, *informal* blue, fed up, down in the dumps, down in the mouth

■ **sort of** (*informal*) ① *you look sort of familiar* SLIGHTLY, faintly, remotely, vaguely, somewhat, moderately, quite, rather, fairly, reasonably, relatively, *informal* pretty, kind of ② *he sort of pirouetted* AS IT WERE, kind of, somehow

■ **sort something out** ① *she sorted out the clothes* See SORT verb sense 1 ② *they must sort out their problems* See SORT verb sense 2

sortie ► **noun** ① *a sortie against their besiegers* FORAY, sally, charge, offensive, attack, assault, onslaught, thrust, drive, *archaic* onset ② *a bomber sortie* RAID, flight, mission, operation

SO-SO ► **adjective** (*informal*) MEDIOCRE, indifferent, average, middle-of-the-road, middling, moderate, ordinary, adequate, fair, uninspired, undistinguished, unexceptional, unremarkable, run-of-the-mill, lacklustre, *informal* bog-standard, no great shakes, not up to much, *NZ informal* half-pie

soul ► **noun** ① *seeing the soul through the eyes* SPIRIT, psyche, (inner) self, inner being, life force, vital force, individuality, make-up, subconscious, anima, *Philosophy* pneuma, *Hinduism* atman ② *he is the soul of discretion* EMBODIMENT, personification, incarnation, epitome, quintessence, essence, model, exemplification, exemplar, image, manifestation ③ *not a soul in sight* PERSON, human being, individual, man, woman, mortal, creature ④ *their music lacked soul* INSPIRATION, feeling, emotion, passion, animation, intensity, fervour, ardour, enthusiasm, warmth, energy, vitality, spirit

soulful ► **adjective** EMOTIONAL, deep, profound, fervent, heartfelt, sincere, passionate, meaningful, significant, eloquent, expressive, moving, stirring, sad, mournful, doleful

soulless ► **adjective** ① *a soulless room* CHARACTERLESS, featureless, bland, dull, colourless, lacklustre, dreary, drab, uninspiring, undistinguished, anaemic, insipid ② *it was soulless work* BORING, dull, tedious, dreary, humdrum, tiresome, wearisome, uninteresting, uninspiring, unexciting, soul-destroying, mind-numbing, dry, monotonous, repetitive

—OPPOSITES exciting

sound¹ ► **noun** ① *the sound of the car* NOISE, note, din, racket, row, hubbub, resonance, reverberation ② *she did not make a sound* UTTERANCE, cry, word, noise, peep; *informal* cheep ③ *the sound of the flute* MUSIC, tone, notes ④ *I don't like the sound of that* IDEA, thought, concept, prospect, description ⑤ *we're within sound of the sea* EARSHOT, hearing (distance), range

—RELATED TERMS acoustic, sonic, aural, audio, SONO-

—OPPOSITES silence

► **verb** ① *the buzzer sounded* MAKE A NOISE, resonate, resound, reverberate, go off, blare, ring, chime, peal ② *drivers must sound their horns* BLOW, blast, toot, blare; operate, set off, ring ③ *do you sound the 'h'?* PRONOUNCE, verbalize, voice, enunciate, articulate, vocalize, say ④ *she sounded a warning* UTTER, voice, deliver, express, speak, announce, pronounce. ⑤ *it sounds*



a crazy idea **APPEAR**, look (like), seem, strike someone as being, give every indication of being

sound² ▶ **adjective** ① your heart is sound **HEALTHY**, in good condition, in good shape, fit, hale and hearty, in fine fettle, undamaged, unimpaired ② a sound building **WELL BUILT**, solid, substantial, strong, sturdy, durable, stable, intact, unimpaired ③ sound advice **WELL FOUNDED**, valid, reasonable, logical, weighty, authoritative, reliable ④ a sound judge of character **RELIABLE**, dependable, trustworthy, fair, good, sensible, wise, judicious, sagacious, shrewd, perceptive ⑤ financially sound **SOLVENT**, debt-free, in the black, in credit, creditworthy, secure ⑥ a sound sleep **DEEP**, undisturbed, uninterrupted, untroubled, peaceful ⑦ a sound thrashing **THOROUGH**, proper, real, complete, unqualified, out-and-out, thoroughgoing, severe, *informal* right (royal)

—**OPPOSITES** unhealthy, unsafe, unreliable, insolvent, light

sound³ ▶ **verb** sound the depth of the river **MEASURE**, gauge, determine, test, investigate, survey, plumb, fathom, probe

■ **sound someone/something out** **INVESTIGATE**, test, check, examine, probe, research, look into, canvass, survey, poll, question, interview, sample, *informal* pump

sound⁴ ▶ **noun** an oil spill in Prince William Sound **CHANNEL**, (sea) passage, strait(s), narrows, waterway, inlet, arm (of the sea), fjord, creek, bay, estuary, firth

soup ▶ **noun**. See list

Soups

bird's nest soup
bisque
borscht
bouillabaisse
bouillon
broth
burgoo
callaloo
chowder
cock-a-leekie
congee
consommé
cullen skink
gazpacho
goulash
gumbo
madrilene

menudo
minestrone
mock turtle soup
mulligatawny
oxtail
pea soup
petite marmite
pistou
potage
pot-au-feu
rasam
sancoche
Scotch broth
shchi
skilly
stracciatella
vichyssoise

sour ▶ **adjective** ① sour wine **ACID**, acidic, acidy, acidulated, tart, bitter, sharp, vinegary, pungent; *N Amer* acerb, technical acerbic ② sour milk **BAD**, off, turned, curdled, rancid, high, rank, foul, fetid ③ a sour old man **EMBITTERED**, resentful, rancorous, jaundiced, bitter; nasty, spiteful, irritable, peevish, fractious, cross, crabby, crotchety, cantankerous, disagreeable, petulant, querulous, grumpy, bad-tempered, ill-humoured, sullen, surly, sulky, churlish, *informal* snappy, grouchy, *Brit informal* ratty, stropy, shirty; *N Amer informal* cranky, soreheaded.

—**OPPOSITES** sweet, fresh, amiable

▶ **verb** ① the war had soured him **EMBITTER**, disillusion, disenchant, poison, alienate, dissatisfy, frustrate ② the dispute soured relations **SPOIL**,

mar, damage, harm, impair, wreck, upset, poison, blight, tarnish

—**OPPOSITES** improve

source ▶ **noun** ① the source of the river **SPRING**, origin, (well) head, headspring, headwater(s), poetic/literary wellspring ② the source of the rumour **ORIGIN**, birthplace, spring, fountainhead, fount, starting point, history, provenance, derivation, root, beginning, genesis, start, rise, author, originator, initiator, inventor, *N Amer* provenience ③ a historian uses primary and secondary sources **REFERENCE**, authority, informant, document

souse ▶ **verb** **DRENCH**, douse, soak, steep, saturate, plunge, immerse, submerge, dip, sink, dunk

soused ▶ **adjective** ① a soured herring **PICKLED**, marinated, soaked, steeped ② (informal) he was well and truly soured See **DRUNK** adjective

south ▶ **adjective** **SOUTHERN**, southerly, meridional, austral

South Africa ▶ **noun** See list

Provinces of South Africa

PROVINCE	CAPITAL
Eastern Cape	Bisho
Free State	Bloemfontein
Gauteng	Johannesburg
KwaZulu/Natal	Pietermaritzburg
Mpumalanga	Nelspruit
Northern Cape	Kimberley
Northern Province	Pietersburg
North-West Province	Mmabatho
Western Cape	Cape Town

souvenir ▶ **noun** **MEMENTO**, keepsake, reminder, remembrance, token, memorial, trophy, relic

sovereign ▶ **noun** **RULER**, monarch, crowned head, head of state, potentate, suzerain, overlord, dynast, leader See list at **TITLE**

—**RELATED TERMS** regal

▶ **adjective** ① sovereign control **SUPREME**, absolute, unlimited, unrestricted, boundless, ultimate, total, unconditional, full, principal, chief, dominant, predominant, ruling, royal, regal, monarchical ② a sovereign state **INDEPENDENT**, autonomous, self-governing, self-determining, non-aligned, free ③ (dated) a sovereign remedy for all ills **EFFECTIVE**, effectual, efficient, powerful, potent, useful, helpful, valuable, worthwhile, excellent, reliable, unfailing, *informal* sure-fire, *formal* efficacious

sovereignty ▶ **noun** ① their sovereignty over the islands **JURISDICTION**, rule, supremacy, domination, power, ascendancy, suzerainty, hegemony, domination, authority, control, influence. ② full sovereignty was achieved in 1955 **AUTONOMY**, independence, self-government, self-rule, home rule, self-determination, freedom.

sow ▶ **verb** ① sow the seeds in rows. **PLANT**, scatter, spread, broadcast, disperse, strew, disseminate, distribute, drill, dibble, seed. ② the new policy has sown confusion: **CAUSE**, bring about, occasion, create, lead to, produce, engender, generate, prompt, initiate, precipitate, trigger, provoke, culminate in, entail, necessitate, foster, foment; poetic/literary beget.



space ▶ **noun** ① *there was not enough space* ROOM, capacity, area, volume, expanse, extent, scope, latitude, margin, leeway, play, clearance ② *green spaces in London* AREA, expanse, stretch, sweep, tract ③ *the space between the timbers* GAP, interval, opening, aperture, cavity, cranny, fissure, crack, interstice, lacuna ④ *write your name in the appropriate space* BLANK, gap, box ⑤ *a space of seven years* PERIOD, span, time, duration, stretch, course, interval ⑥ *the first woman in space* OUTER SPACE, deep space, the universe, the galaxy, the solar system, infinity ▶ **verb** *the chairs were spaced widely* POSITION, arrange, range, array, dispose, lay out, locate, situate, set, stand

spaceman, spacewoman ▶ **noun** ASTRO NAUT, cosmonaut, space traveller, space cadet, *N Amer informal jock* See list at ASTRONAUT

spacious ▶ **adjective** ROOMY, capacious, palatial, airy, sizable, generous, large, big, vast, immense, extensive, expansive, sweeping, rolling, rambling, open, *formal* commodious
—OPPOSITES cramped

spadework ▶ **noun** GROUNDWORK, preliminary work, preliminaries, preparatory measures, preparations, planning, foundations, hard work, donkey work, labour, drudgery, toil, *informal* grind, *Brit informal* graft

Spain ▶ **noun** See list
—RELATED TERMS Iberian, Hispanic, Hispano-

Regions of Spain

REGION	CAPITAL
Andalusia	Seville
Aragon	Saragossa
Asturias	Oviedo
Balearic Islands	Palma
Basque Provinces	Vitoria
Canary Islands	Las Palmas
Cantabria	Santander
Castilla la Mancha	Toledo
Castilla-León	Valladolid
Catalonia	Barcelona
Comunidad de Madrid	—
Extremadura	Merida
Galicia	Santiago de Compostela
La Rioja	Logroño
Murcia	Murcia
Navarre	Pamplona
Valencia	Valencia

span ▶ **noun** ① *a six-foot wing span* EXTENT, length, width, reach, stretch, spread, distance, range ② *the span of one working day* PERIOD, space, time, duration, course, interval ▶ **verb** ① *an arch spanned the stream* BRIDGE, cross, traverse, pass over ② *his career spanned twenty years* LAST, cover, extend, spread over, comprise

spank ▶ **verb** SMACK, slap, hit, cuff, *informal* wallop, belt, whack, gave someone a hiding; *Scottish & N English* skelp

spar ▶ **verb** QUARREL, argue, fight, disagree, differ, be at odds, be at variance, fall out, dispute, squabble, wrangle, bandy words, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads; *informal* scrap, arguify, spat; *Brit informal* row

spare ▶ **adjective** ① *a spare set of keys* EXTRA, supplementary, additional, second, other, alternative, emergency, reserve, back-up, relief, fallback, substitute, fresh, *N Amer* alternate ② *they sold off the spare land* SURPLUS, superfluous, excessive, redundant, unnecessary, inessential, unessential, unneeded, uncalled for, dispensable, disposable, expendable, unwanted, *informal* going begging ③ *your spare time* FREE, leisure, own ④ *a spare woman* SLENDER, lean, willowy, svelte, lissom, rangy, clean-limbed, trim, slight, thin, skinny, gaunt, lanky, spindly, *informal* skin and bone

▶ **verb** ① *he could not spare any money* AFFORD, do without, manage without, dispense with, part with, give, provide ② *they were spared by their captors* PARDON, let off, forgive, reprieve, release, free, leave uninjured, leave unhurt, be merciful to, show mercy to, have mercy on, be lenient to, have pity on

■ **go spare** (*Brit informal*) See GET ANGRY at ANGRY

■ **to spare** LEFT (OVER), remaining, unused, unneeded, not required, still available, surplus (to requirements), superfluous, extra, *informal* going begging

sparing ▶ **adjective** THRIFTY, economical, frugal, canny, careful, prudent, cautious, mean, miserly, niggardly, parsimonious close, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, ungenerous, grasping, *informal* stingy, tight-fisted, tight, minging, money-grubbing, *N Amer informal* cheap
—OPPOSITES lavish

spark ▶ **noun** ① *a spark of light* FLASH, glint, twinkle, flicker, flare, pinprick ② *not a spark of truth in the story* PARTICLE, iota, jot, whit, glimmer, atom, bit, trace, vestige, ounce, shred, crumb, grain, mite, hint, touch, suggestion, whisper, scintilla, *informal* smidgen, tad

▶ **verb** *the trial sparked a furious row* CAUSE, give rise to, lead to, occasion, bring about, start, initiate, precipitate, prompt, trigger (off), provoke, stimulate, stir up

sparkle ▶ **verb** ① *her earrings sparkled* GLITTER, glint, glisten, twinkle, flash, blink, wink, shimmer, shine, gleam, *poetic/literary* coruscate, glister ② *she sparkled as the hostess* BE LIVELY, be vivacious, be animated, be ebullient, be exuberant, be bubbly, be effervescent, be witty, be full of life

▶ **noun** *the sparkle of the pool* GLITTER, glint, twinkle, flicker, shimmer, flash, shine, gleam, *poetic/literary* coruscation

sparkling ▶ **adjective** ① *sparkling wine* EFFERVESCENT, fizzy, carbonated, aerated, gassy, bubbly, frothy, mousseux, spumante ② *a sparkling performance* BRILLIANT, dazzling, scintillating, exciting, exhilarating, stimulating, invigorating, vivacious, lively, vibrant, animated
—OPPOSITES still, dull

sparse ▶ **adjective** SCANT, scanty, scattered, scarce, infrequent, few and far between, meagre, paltry, skimpy, limited, in short supply
—OPPOSITES abundant

spartan ▶ **adjective** AUSTERE, harsh, hard, frugal, stringent, rigorous, strict, stern, severe, ascetic, abstemious, bleak, joyless, grim, bare, stark, plain
—OPPOSITES luxurious



spasm ► **noun** ① *a muscle spasm* CONTRACTION, convulsion, cramp, twitch, jerk, tic, shudder, shiver, tremor ② *a spasm of coughing* FIT, paroxysm, attack, burst, bout, seizure, outbreak, out-break, access, *informal* splurt, *formal* boutade

spasmodic ► **adjective** INTERMITTENT, fitful, irregular, sporadic, erratic, occasional, infrequent, scattered, patchy, isolated, periodic, periodical, on and off

spate ► **noun** SERIES, succession, run, cluster, string, rash, epidemic, outbreak, wave, flurry, rush, flood, deluge, torrent

spatter ► **verb** SPLASH, bespatter, splatter, spray, sprinkle, shower, speck, speckle, fleck, mottle, blotch, mark, cover, *informal* splotch, *Brit informal* splodge

spawn ► **verb** GIVE RISE TO, bring about, occasion, generate, engender, originate, lead to, result in, effect, induce, initiate, start, set off, precipitate, trigger, breed, bear, *poetic/literary* beget

speak ► **verb** ① *she refused to speak about it* TALK, say anything/something, utter, state, declare, tell, voice, express, pronounce, articulate, enunciate, vocalize, verbalize ② *we spoke the other day* CONVERSE, have a conversation, talk, communicate, chat, pass the time of day, have a word, gossip, *informal* have a confab, chew the fat, *Brit informal* natter, *N Amer informal* shoot the breeze, *formal* confabulate ③ *the Minister spoke for two hours* GIVE A SPEECH, talk, lecture, hold forth, discourse, expound, expatiate, orate, sermonize, pontificate, *informal* spout, spiel, speechify, jaw, sound off ④ *he was spoken of as a promising student* MENTION, talk about, discuss, refer to, remark on, allude to ⑤ *his expression spoke disbelief* INDICATE, show, display, register, reveal, betray, exhibit, manifest, express, convey, impart, bespeak, communicate, evidence, suggest, denote, reflect, *formal* evince ⑥ *you must speak to him about his rudeness* REPRIMAND, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, upbraid, reprove, reproach, scold, remonstrate with, take to task, pull up, *informal* tell off, dress down, rap over the knuckles, come down on, *Brit informal* tick off, have a go at, treat someone off a strip, give someone what for, *formal* castigate

■ **speak for** ① *she speaks for the Liberal Democrats* REPRESENT, act for, appear for, express the views of, be spokesperson for ② *I spoke for the motion* ADVOCATE, champion, uphold, defend, support, promote, recommend, back, endorse, sponsor, espouse

■ **speak out** SPEAK PUBLICLY, speak openly, speak frankly, speak one's mind, sound off, stand up and be counted

■ **speak up** SPEAK LOUDLY, speak clearly, raise one's voice, shout, yell, bellow, *informal* holler

speaker ► **noun** SPEECH-MAKER, lecturer, talker, speechifier, orator, declaimer, rhetorician, spokesperson, spokesman/woman, mouthpiece, reader, lector, commentator, broadcaster, narrator, *informal* tub-thumper, spieler, *historical* demagogue, rhetor

spear ► **noun** JAVELIN, lance, assegai, harpoon, bayonet, gaff, leister, *historical* pike

spearhead ► **noun** ① *a Bronze Age spearhead* SPEAR TIP, spear point ② *the spearhead of the struggle against fascism* LEADER(S), driving force,

forefront, front runner(s), front line, vanguard, van, cutting edge

► **verb** *she spearheaded the campaign* LEAD, head, front, lead the way, be in the van, be in the vanguard

special ► **adjective** ① *a very special person* EXCEPTIONAL, unusual, singular, uncommon, notable, noteworthy, remarkable, outstanding, unique ② *our town's special character* DISTINCTIVE, distinct, individual, particular, specific, peculiar ③ *a special occasion* MOMENTOUS, significant, memorable, signal, important, historic, festive, gala, red-letter ④ *a special tool for cutting tiles* SPECIFIC, particular, purpose-built, tailor-made, custom-built

—OPPOSITES ordinary, general

specialist ► **noun** EXPERT, authority, pundit, professional, connoisseur, master, maestro, adept, virtuoso, *informal* pro, buff, ace, whizz, hotshot, *Brit informal* dab hand, *N Amer informal* maven

—OPPOSITES amateur

speciality ► **noun** ① *his speciality was watercolours* FORTE, strong point, strength, métier, strong suit, talent, skill, bent, gift, *informal* bag, thing, cup of tea ② *a speciality of the region* DELICACY, specialty, fine food/product, traditional food/product

species ► **noun** TYPE, kind, sort, genus, family, order, breed, strain, variety, class, classification, category, set, bracket, style, manner, form, genre, generation, vintage

specific ► **adjective** ① *a specific purpose* PARTICULAR, specified, fixed, set, determined, distinct, definite, single, individual, peculiar, discrete, express, precise ② *I gave specific instructions* DETAILED, explicit, express, clear-cut, unequivocal, precise, exact, meticulous, strict, definite

—OPPOSITES general, vague

specification ► **noun** ① *clear specification of objectives* STATEMENT, identification, definition, description, setting out, framing, designation, detailing, enumeration, stipulation, prescription ② *a shelter built to their specifications* INSTRUCTIONS, guidelines, parameters, stipulations, requirements, conditions, provisions, restrictions, order, description, details

specify ► **verb** STATE, name, identify, define, describe, set out, frame, itemize, detail, list, spell out, enumerate, particularize, cite, instance, stipulate, prescribe

specimen ► **noun** SAMPLE, example, instance, illustration, demonstration, exemplification, bit, snippet, model, prototype, pattern, dummy, pilot, trial, taster, tester

specious ► **adjective** MISLEADING, deceptive, false, fallacious, unsound, casuistic, sophistic, plausible

speck ► **noun** ① *a mere speck in the distance* DOT, pinprick, spot, fleck, speckle ② *a speck of dust* PARTICLE, grain, atom, molecule, bit, trace

speckled ► **adjective** FLECKED, speckly, specked, freckled, freckly, spotted, spotty, dotted, mottled, dappled

spectacle ► **noun** ① *a spectacle fit for a monarch* DISPLAY, show, pageant, parade, performance, exhibition, extravaganza, spectacular ② *they were rather an odd spectacle* SIGHT, vision,



scene, prospect, vista, picture ③ *don't make a spectacle of yourself* EXHIBITION, laughing stock, fool, curiosity

spectacles ► plural noun GLASSES, eyewear, *N Amer* eyeglasses, *informal* specs

spectacular ► adjective ① *a spectacular victory* IMPRESSIVE, magnificent, splendid, dazzling, sensational, dramatic, remarkable, outstanding, memorable, unforgettable ② *a spectacular view* STRIKING, picturesque, eye-catching, breathtaking, arresting, glorious, *informal* out of this world

—OPPOSITES unimpressive, dull

► noun *a spectacular put on for the tourists* See SPECTACLE sense 1

spectator ► noun WATCHER, viewer, observer, onlooker, bystander, witness, commentator, reporter, monitor, *poetic/literary* beholder
—OPPOSITES participant

spectral ► adjective GHOSTLY, phantom, wraith-like, shadowy, incorporeal, insubstantial, disembodied, unearthly, other-worldly, *informal* spooky

spectre ► noun ① *the spectres in the crypt* GHOST, phantom, apparition, spirit, wraith, shadow, presence, *informal* spook, *poetic/literary* phantasm, shade ② *the looming spectre of war* THREAT, menace, shadow, cloud, prospect, danger, peril, fear, dread

spectrum ► noun RANGE, gamut, sweep, scope, span, compass, orbit, ambit

speculate ► verb ① *they speculated about my private life* CONJECTURE, theorize, hypothesize, guess, surmise, think, wonder, muse ② *investors speculate on the stock market* GAMBLE, take a risk, venture, wager, invest, play the market, *Brit informal* have a flutter, punt

speculative ► adjective ① *any discussion is largely speculative* CONJECTURAL, suppositional, theoretical, hypothetical, putative, academic, notional, abstract, tentative, unproven, unfounded, groundless, unsubstantiated ② *a speculative investment* RISKY, hazardous, unsafe, uncertain, unpredictable, *informal* chancy, dicey, iffy, *Brit informal* dodgy

speech ► noun ① *he doesn't have the power of speech* SPEAKING, talking, verbal expression, verbal communication ② *her speech was slurred* DICTION, elocution, articulation, enunciation, pronunciation, utterance, words ③ *an after-dinner speech* TALK, address, lecture, discourse, oration, disquisition, peroration, deliverance, presentation, sermon, homily, monologue, soliloquy, *informal* spiel ④ *Spanish popular speech* LANGUAGE, tongue, parlance, idiom, dialect, vernacular, patois, *informal* lingo, patter, -speak, -ese

—RELATED TERMS lingual, oral, phono-, -phone, -phasia

speechless ► adjective LOST FOR WORDS, dumbstruck, bereft of speech, tongue-tied, inarticulate, mute, dumb, voiceless, silent, *informal* mum, *archaic* mumchance
—OPPOSITES verbose

speed ► noun ① *the speed of their progress* RATE, pace, tempo, momentum ② *the speed with which they responded* RAPIDITY, swiftness, speediness, quickness, dispatch, promptness, immediacy, briskness, sharpness, haste, hurry, precipitate-

ness, acceleration, velocity, *informal* lick, clip, *poetic/literary* celerity

—RELATED TERMS tacho-, tachy-

► verb ① *I sped home* HURRY, rush, dash, run, race, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper, hasten, *informal* tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip, hotfoot it, leg it, *Brit informal* bomb, *N Amer informal* hightail it ② *he was caught speeding* DRIVE TOO FAST, exceed the speed limit ③ *a holiday will speed his recovery* HASTEN, expedite, speed up, accelerate, advance, further, promote, boost, stimulate, aid, assist, facilitate
—OPPOSITES slow, hinder

■ **speed up** HURRY UP, accelerate, go faster, get a move on, put a spurt on, pick up speed, gather speed, *informal* get cracking, get moving, step on it, shake a leg, *Brit informal* get one's skates on, *N Amer informal* get a wiggle on

speedily ► adverb RAPIDLY, swiftly, quickly, last, post-haste, at the speed of light, at full tilt, promptly, immediately, briskly, hastily, hurriedly, precipitately, *informal* p d q (pretty damn quick), double quick, hell for leather, at the double, like the wind, like (greased) lightning, *Brit informal* like the clappers, like billy-o, *N Amer informal* lickety-split, *poetic/literary* apace

speedy ► adjective ① *a speedy reply* RAPID, swift, quick, fast, prompt, immediate, expeditious, express, brisk, sharp, whirlwind, lightning, meteoric, hasty, hurried, precipitate, breakneck, rushed, *informal* p d q (pretty damn quick), snappy, quickie ② *a speedy hatchback* FAST, high-speed, *informal* nippy, zippy, *poetic/literary* fleet

—OPPOSITES slow

spell¹ ► verb *the drought spelled disaster for them* SIGNAL, signify, mean, amount to, add up to, constitute, portend, augur, herald, bode, promise, involve, *poetic/literary* betoken, foretoken, forebode

■ **spell something out** EXPLAIN, make clear, make plain, elucidate, clarify, specify, itemize, detail, enumerate, list, expound, particularize, catalogue

spell² ► noun ① *the witch recited a spell* INCANTATION, charm, conjuration, formula, (spells) magic, sorcery, witchcraft, *N Amer* hex ② *she surrendered to his spell* INFLUENCE, (animal) magnetism, charisma, allure, lure, charm, attraction, enticement, magic, romance, mystique
■ **cast a spell on** BEWITCH, enchant, entrance, curse, jinx, witch, *N Amer* hex

spell³ ► noun ① *a spell of dry weather* PERIOD, time, interval, season, stretch, run, course, streak, *Brit informal* patch ② *a spell of dizziness* BOUT, fit, attack

spellbinding ► adjective FASCINATING, enthralling, entrancing, bewitching, captivating, riveting, engrossing, gripping, absorbing, compelling, compulsive, mesmerizing, hypnotic, *informal* unputdownable

—OPPOSITES boring

spellbound ► adjective ENTHRALLED, fascinated, rapt, riveted, transfixed, gripped, captivated, bewitched, enchanted, mesmerized, hypnotized, *informal* hooked.

spend ► verb ① *she spent £185 on shoes* PAY OUT, dish out, expend, disburse, squander, waste, fritter away, lavish, *informal* fork out, lay out,



shell out, cough up, blow, splash out, splurge.
Bnt informal stump up, blue, *N Amer informal* pony up ② *the morning was spent gardening* PASS, occupy, fill, take up, while away ③ *I've spent hours on this essay* PUT IN, devote, waste ④ *the storm had spent its force* USE UP, consume, exhaust, deplete, drain

spendthrift ▶ **noun** *he is such a spendthrift* PROFLIGATE, prodigal, squanderer, waster, *informal* big spender

—OPPOSITES miser

▶ **adjective** *his spendthrift father* PROFLIGATE, improvident, thriftless, wasteful, extravagant, prodigal

—OPPOSITES frugal

spent ▶ **adjective** ① *a spent force* USED UP, consumed, exhausted, finished, depleted, drained, *informal* burnt out ② *that's enough — I'm spent* EXHAUSTED, tired (out), weary, worn out, dog-tired, on one's last legs, drained, fatigued, ready to drop, *informal* done in, all in, dead on one's feet, dead beat, bushed, wiped out, frazzled, *Bnt informal* knackered, whacked, *N Amer informal* pooped, tuckered out

spew ▶ **verb** ① *factories spewed out yellow smoke* EMIT, discharge, eject, expel, belch out, pour out, spout, gush, spurt, disgorge ② *(informal) he wanted to spew* See VOMIT verb sense 1

sphere ▶ **noun** ① *a glass sphere* GLOBE, ball, orb, spheroid, globule, round, bubble ② *our sphere of influence* AREA, field, compass, orbit, range, scope, extent ③ *the sphere of foreign affairs* DOMAIN, realm, province, field, area, territory, arena, department

spherical ▶ **adjective** ROUND, globular, globose, globoid, globe-shaped, spheroidal, spheric, *poetic/literary* orbicular

spice ▶ **noun** ① *the spices in curry powder* SEASONING, flavouring, condiment See list ② *the risk added spice to their affair* EXCITEMENT, interest, colour, piquancy, zest, an edge, *informal* a kick, *poetic/literary* salt

■ **spice something up** ENLIVEN, make more exciting, vitalize, perk up, put some life into, ginger up, galvanize, electrify, boost, *informal* pep up, jazz up, buck up

Spices

See also **HERB**.

allspice
black pepper
capers
caraway seeds
cardamom
cassia
cayenne pepper
chilli
cinnamon
cloves
coriander
cumin
curcuma
fennel seeds
fenugreek
five spices
garam masala

garlic
ginger
ginseng
grains of Paradise
green pepper
juniper berries
mace
mustard
nutmeg
paprika
pepper
pimento
star anise
turmeric
vanilla
white pepper

in apple-pie order, immaculate, uncluttered, trim, spruce, spotless

—OPPOSITES untidy

spicy ▶ **adjective** ① *a spicy casserole* PIQUANT, tangy, peppery, hot, piquante, spiced, seasoned, tasty, flavoursome, zesty, strong, pungent ② *spicy stories* ENTERTAINING, colourful, lively, spirited, exciting, piquant, zesty, risqué, racy, scandalous, ribald, titillating, bawdy, naughty, salacious, dirty, smutty, *informal* raunchy, juicy, *Bnt informal* saucy, fruity, *N Amer informal* gamy

—OPPOSITES bland, boring

spider ▶ **noun** See list at ARACHNID

—RELATED TERMS arachnoid

spiel ▶ **noun** (*informal*) SPEECH, patter, (sales) pitch, talk, monologue, rigmarole, story, saga

spike ▶ **noun** ① *a metal spike* PRONG, barb, point, skewer, stake, spit, tine, pin, spur, *Mountainaineering* piton ② *the spikes of a cactus* THORN, spine, prickle, bristle, *Zoology* spicule

▶ **verb** ① *she spiked an oyster* IMPALE, spear, skewer, pierce, penetrate, perforate, stab, stick, transfix, *poetic/literary* transperce ② *(informal) his drink was spiked with drugs* ADULTERATE, contaminate, drug, lace, *informal* dope, doctor, cut

spill ▶ **verb** ① *Kevin spilled his drink* KNOCK OVER, tip over, upset, overturn ② *the bath water spilled on to the floor* OVERFLOW, flow, pour, run, slop, slosh, splash, leak, escape, *archaic* overbrim ③ *students spilled out of the building* STREAM, pour, surge, swarm, flood, throng, crowd ④ *the horse spilled his rider* UNSEAT, throw, dislodge, unhoise ⑤ *(informal) he's spilling out his troubles to her* REVEAL, disclose, divulge, blurt out, babble, betray, tell, *informal* blab

▶ **noun** ① *an oil spill* SPILLAGE, leak, leakage, overflow, flood ② *he took a spill in the opening race* FALL, tumble, *informal* header, cropper, nosedive

■ **spill the beans** (*informal*) REVEAL ALL, tell all, give the game away, talk, *informal* let the cat out of the bag, blab, come clean

spin ▶ **verb** ① *the bike wheels are spinning* REVOLVE, rotate, turn, go round, whirl, gyrate, circle ② *she spun round to face him* WHIRL, wheel, twirl, turn, swing, twist, swivel, pirouette, pivot ③ *her head was spinning* REEL, whirl, go round, swim ④ *she spun me a yarn* TELL, recount, relate, narrate, weave, concoct, invent, fabricate, make up

—RELATED TERMS rotary

▶ **noun** ① *a spin of the wheel* ROTATION, revolution, turn, whirl, twirl, gyration ② *a positive spin on the campaign* SLANT, angle, twist, bias ③ *a spin in the car* TRIP, jaunt, outing, excursion, journey, drive, ride, run, turn, airing, *informal* tootle, *Scottish informal* hurl

■ **In a flat spin** (*Bnt informal*) See AGITATED

■ **spin something out** PROLONG, protract, draw out, drag out, string out, extend, carry on, continue, fill out, pad out, *archaic* wire-draw

spindle ▶ **noun** pivot, pin, rod, axle, capstan, axis

spindly ▶ **adjective** ① *he was pale and spindly* LANKY, thin, skinny, lean, spare, gangling, gangly, scrawny, bony, rangy, angular, *dated* spindle-shanked ② *spindly chairs* RICKETY, flimsy, wobbly, shaky

—OPPOSITES stocky

spine ▶ **noun** ① *he injured his spine* BACKBONE, spinal column, vertebral column; back; *technical*



spick and span ▶ **adjective** NEAT, tidy, orderly, well kept, shipshape (and Bristol fashion),

rachis See list at VERTEBRA ② the spine of his philosophy CORE, centre, cornerstone, foundation, basis ③ the spines of a hedgehog NEEDLE, quill, bristle, barb, spike, prick, thorn, technical spicule

—RELATED TERMS vertebral

spine-chilling ▶ adjective TERRIFYING, blood-curdling, petrifying, hair-raising, frightening, scaring, chilling, horrifying, fearsome, eerie, sinister, ghostly, Scottish eldritch, informal scary, creepy, spooky

—OPPOSITES comforting, reassuring

spineless ▶ adjective WEAK, weak-willed, weak-kneed, feeble, soft, ineffectual, irresolute, indecisive, COWARDLY, timid, timorous, fearful, faint-hearted, pusillanimous, craven, unmanly, namby-pamby, lily-livered, chicken-hearted, informal wimpish, wimpy, sissy, chicken, yellow, yellow-bellied, gutless, Brit informal wet

—OPPOSITES bold, brave, strong-willed

spiny ▶ adjective PRICKLY, spiky, thorny, bristly, bristled, spiked, barbed, scratchy, sharp, technical spinose, spinous

spiral ▶ adjective a spiral column of smoke COILED, helical, corkscrew, curling, winding, twisting, whorled, technical voluted, helicoid, helicoidal

▶ noun a spiral of smoke COIL, helix, corkscrew, curl, twist, gyre, whorl, scroll, technical volute, volution

▶ verb ① smoke spiralled up COIL, wind, swirl, twist, wreath, snake, gyrate, poetic/literary gyre

② prices spiralled SOAR, shoot up, rocket, increase rapidly, rise rapidly, escalate, climb, informal skyrocket, go through the roof ③ the economy is spiralling downward DETERIORATE, decline, go downhill, degenerate, worsen, get worse, informal take a nosedive, go to pot, go to the dogs, hit the skids, go down the tubes

—OPPOSITES fall, improve

spire ▶ noun STEEPLE, fleche

spirit ▶ noun ① harmony between body and spirit SOUL, psyche, (inner) self, inner being, inner man/woman, mind, ego, id, Philosophy pneuma

② a spirit haunts the island GHOST, phantom, spectre, apparition, wraith, presence, informal spook, poetic/literary shade ③ that's the spirit ATTITUDE, frame of mind, way of thinking, point of view, outlook, thoughts, ideas ④ she was in good spirits when I left MOOD, frame of mind, state of mind, emotional state, humour, temper

⑤ team spirit MORALE, esprit de corps ⑥ the spirit of the age ETHOS, prevailing tendency, motivating force, essence, quintessence, atmosphere, mood, feeling, climate, attitudes, beliefs, principles, standards, ethics ⑦ his spirit never failed him COURAGE, bravery, pluck, valour, strength of character, fortitude, backbone, mettle, stout-heartedness, determination, resolution, resolve, fight, grit, informal guts, spunk, Brit informal bottle, N Amer informal sand, moxie

⑧ they played with great spirit ENTHUSIASM, eagerness, keenness, liveliness, vivacity, vivaciousness, animation, energy, verve, vigour, dynamism, zest, dash, elan, panache, sparkle, exuberance, gusto, brio, pep, fervour, zeal, fire, passion, informal get-up-and-go ⑨ the spirit of the law REAL/TRUE MEANING, true intention, essence, substance ⑩ he drinks spirits STRONG LIQUOR/DRINK, informal hard stuff, firewater, hooch, Brit informal short See list at ALCOHOL, WHISKY

—OPPOSITES body, flesh

■ spirit someone/something away WHISK AWAY/OFF, vanish with, make off with, make someone/something disappear, run away with, abscond with, carry off, steal someone/something away, abduct, kidnap, snatch, seize

spirited ▶ adjective LIVELY, vivacious, vibrant, full of life, vital, animated, high-spirited, sparkling, sprightly, energetic, active, vigorous, dynamic, dashing, enthusiastic, passionate, determined, resolute, purposeful, informal feisty, spunky, have-a-go, gutsy, N Amer informal peppy

—OPPOSITES timid, apathetic, lifeless

spiritless ▶ adjective APATHETIC, passive, unenthusiastic, lifeless, listless, weak, feeble, spineless, languid, bloodless, insipid, characterless, submissive, meek, irresolute, indecisive, lacklustre flat, colourless, passionless, uninspired, wooden, dry, anaemic, vapid, dull, boring, wishy-washy

—OPPOSITES spirited, lively

spiritual ▶ adjective ① your spiritual self NON-MATERIAL, incorporeal, intangible, inner, mental, psychological, transcendent, ethereal, other-worldly, mystic, mystical, metaphysical, rare extramundane ② spiritual writings RELIGIOUS, sacred, divine, holy, non-secular, church, ecclesiastical, devotional

—OPPOSITES physical, secular

spit¹ ▶ verb ① Crunston coughed and spat EXPECTORATE, hawk, Brit informal gob ② 'Go to hell,' she spat SNAP, say angrily, hiss ③ the fat began to spit SIZZLE, hiss, crackle, sputter ④ (Brit) it began to spit RAIN LIGHTLY, drizzle, spot, N English mizzle, N Amer sprinkle

▶ noun ① spit dribbled from his mouth SPITTLE, saliva, sputum, slobber, dribble, Brit informal gob ② (informal) he is the spit of his father EXACT LIKE NESS, image, very/living image, double, twin, lookalike, duplicate, copy, Doppelganger, informal spitting image, ringer, dead ringer

spit² ▶ noun chicken cooked on a spit SKEWER, brochette, rotisserie

spite ▶ noun he said it out of spite MALICE, malevolence, ill will, vindictiveness, vengefulness, revenge, malignity, evil intentions, animus, enmity, informal bitchiness, cattiness, poetic/literary maleficence

—OPPOSITES benevolence

▶ verb he did it to spite me UPSET, hurt, make miserable, grieve, distress, wound, pain, torment, injure

—OPPOSITES please

■ in spite of DESPITE, notwithstanding, regardless of, for all, undeterred by, in defiance of, in the face of, even though, although

spiteful ▶ adjective MALICIOUS, malevolent, evil-intentioned, vindictive, vengeful, malign, mean, nasty, hurtful, mischievous, wounding, cruel, unkind; informal bitchy, catty, poetic/literary malefic, maleficent

—OPPOSITES benevolent

splash ▶ verb ① splash your face with cool water SPRINKLE, spray, shower, splatter, slosh, slop, squirt, daub, wet ② his boots were splashed with mud SPATTER, bespatter, splatter, speck, speckle, blotch, smear, stain, mark, Scottish & Irish slabber, informal splotch, splodge, poetic/literary bedabble ③ waves splashed on the beach SWASH, wash, break, lap, dash, beat, lash, batter, crash, buffet, poetic/literary plash ④ children splashed in

the water **PADDLE**, wade, slosh, wallow, *informal* splash ③ the story was splashed across the front pages **BLAZON**, display, spread, plaster, trumpet, publicize, *informal* splatter

► **noun** ① a splash of fat on his shirt **SPOT**, blob, dab, daub, smudge, smear, speck, fleck, mark, stain, *informal* splotch, splodge ② a splash of lemonade **DROP**, dash, bit, spot, soupçon, dribble, driblet, *Scottish informal* scoosh ③ a splash of colour **PATCH**, burst, streak

■ **make a splash** (*informal*) CAUSE A SENSATION, cause a stir, attract attention, draw attention to oneself/itself, get noticed, make an impression, make an impact

■ **splash out** (*Brit informal*) BE EXTRAVAGANT, go on a spending spree, spare no expense, spend lavishly, *informal* lash out, splurge, *Brit informal* push the boat out

spleen ► **noun** BAD TEMPER, bad mood, ill temper, ill humour, anger, wrath, vexation, annoyance, irritation, displeasure, dissatisfaction, resentment, rancour, spite, ill feeling, malice, maliciousness, bitterness, animosity, antipathy, hostility, malevolence, venom, gall, malignance, malignity, acrimony, bile, hatred, hate, *poetic/literary* ire, choler

—OPPOSITES good humour

splendid ► **adjective** ① splendid costumes **MAGNIFICENT**, sumptuous, grand, impressive, imposing, superb, spectacular, resplendent, opulent, luxurious, de luxe, rich, fine, costly, expensive, lavish, ornate, gorgeous, glorious, dazzling, elegant, handsome, beautiful, stately, majestic, princely, noble, proud, palatial, *informal* plush, posh, swanky, itzy, splendiferous, *Brit informal* swish, *N Amer informal* swank, *poetic/literary* blave ② (*informal*) we had a splendid holiday **EXCELLENT**, wonderful, marvellous, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful, first-class, first-rate, *informal* super, great, amazing, fantastic, terrific, tremendous, phenomenal, sensational, heavenly, gorgeous, dreamy, grand, fabulous, fab, awesome, magic, ace, cool, mean, bad, wicked, mega, crucial, far out, A1, sound, out of this world, *Brit informal* smashing, brilliant, brill, *N Amer informal* dandy, neat, *Austral/NZ informal* beaut, bonzer, *black English def, informal, dated* divine, capital, *Brit informal dated* champion, wizard, ripping, cracking, spiffing, top-hole, *N Amer informal, dated* swell, *archaic* goodly

—OPPOSITES modest, awful

splendour ► **noun** MAGNIFICENCE, sumptuousness, grandeur, impressiveness, resplendence, opulence, luxury, richness, fineness, lavishness, ornateness, glory, beauty, elegance, majesty, stateliness, *informal* ritziness, splendiferousness

—OPPOSITES ordinariness, simplicity, modesty

splenetic ► **adjective** BAD-TEMPERED, ill-tempered, angry, cross, peevish, petulant, pettish, irritable, irascible, choleric, dyspeptic, testy, tetchy, snappish, waspish, crotchety, crabby, querulous, resentful, rancorous, bilious, **SPITEFUL**, malicious, ill-natured, hostile, acrimonious, sour, bitter, malevolent, malignant, malign, *informal* bitchy

—OPPOSITES good-humoured

splice ► **verb** the ropes are spliced together; **INTERWEAVE**, braid, plait, entwine, intertwine, interlace, knit, mesh, *Nautical* marry

■ **get spliced** (*informal*) See **MARRY** sense 1

splinter ► **noun** a splinter of wood **SLIVER**, shiver, chip, shard, fragment, piece, bit, shred, *Scottish* skelf, (**splinters**) matchwood, flinders

► **verb** the windscreens splintered **SHATTER**, break into tiny pieces, smash, smash into smithereens, fracture, split, crack, disintegrate, crumble

split ► **verb** ① the axe split the wood **BREAK**, chop, cut, hew, lop, cleave, snap, crack ② the ice cracked and split **BREAK APART**, fracture, rupture, fissure, snap, come apart, splinter ③ her dress was split! **TEAR**, rip, slash, slit, *poetic/literary* rend ④ the issue could split the Party **DIVIDE**, disunite, separate, sever, bisect, partition, *poetic/literary* tear asunder ⑤ they split the money between them **SHARE** (OUT), divide (UP), apportion, allocate, allot, distribute, dole out, parcel out, measure out, carve up, slice up, *informal* divvy up ⑥ the path split **FORK**, divide, bifurcate, diverge, branch ⑦ they split up last year **BREAK UP**, separate, part, part company, become estranged, divorce, get divorced, *Brit informal* bust up ⑧ (*informal*) let's split See **LEAVE** sense 1

—RELATED TERMS fissile, schizo-

—OPPOSITES mend, join, unite, pool, converge, get together, marry

► **noun** ① a split in the rock face **CRACK**, fissure, cleft, crevice, break, fracture, breach ② a split in the curtain **RIPE**, tear, cut, rent, slash, slit ③ a split in the Party **DIVISION**, rift, breach, schism, rupture, partition, separation, severance, scission, break-up ④ the acrimonious split with his wife **BREAK-UP**, split-up, separation, parting, estrangement, rift, divorce, *Brit informal* bust-up

—OPPOSITES marriage

■ **split hairs** **QUIBBLE**, cavil, carp, niggle, chop logic, *informal* nit-pick, *archaic* pettifog

■ **split on someone** (*Brit informal*) See **BETRAY** sense 1

split-up ► **noun** **BREAK-UP**, separation, split, parting, estrangement, rift, divorce, *Brit informal* bust-up

spoil ► **verb** ① too much sun spoils the complexion **MAR**, damage, impair, blemish, disfigure, blight, flaw, deface, scar, injure, harm, ruin, destroy, wreck, be a blot on the landscape, *rare* disfigure ② rain spoiled my plans **RUIN**, wreck, destroy, upset, undo, mess up, make a mess of, dash, sabotage, scotch, torpedo, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works of, *informal* foul up, louse up, muck up, screw up, put the kibosh on, banjax, do for, *Brit informal* cock up, scupper, *archaic* bring to naught ③ his sisters spoil him **OVERINDULGE**, pamper, indulge, mollycoddle, cosset, coddle, baby, wait on hand and foot, kill with kindness, nanny, *archaic* cocker ④ stockpiled food may spoil **GO BAD**, go off, go rancid, turn, go sour, go mouldy, go rotten, rot, perish

—OPPOSITES improve, enhance, further, help, neglect, be strict with, keep

■ **spoiling for EAGER FOR**, looking for, keen to have, after, bent on, longing for, *informal* itching for

spoils ► **plural noun** ① the spoils of war **BOOTY**, loot, stolen goods, plunder, ill-gotten gains, haul, pickings; *informal* swag, boodle. ② the spoils of office **BENEFITS**, advantages, perks, prize, *formal* perquisites



spoilsport ► **noun** KILLJOY, dog in the manger, misery, damper, *informal* wet blanket, party-pooper

spoken ► **adjective** *spoken communication* VERBAL, oral, vocal, viva voce, uttered, said, stated, unwritten, by word of mouth

—OPPOSITES non-verbal, written

■ **spoken for** ① *the money is spoken for* RESERVED, set aside, claimed, owned, booked ② *Claudine is spoken for* ATTACHED, going out with someone, in a relationship, *informal* going steady, *dated* courting

spokesman, spokeswoman ► **noun** SPOKESPERSON, representative, agent, mouth-piece, voice, official, *informal* spin doctor

sponge ► **verb** ① *I'll sponge your face* WASH, clean, wipe, swab, mop, rinse, sluice, swill ② (*informal*) *he lived by sponging off others* BEG, be a parasite, live off, *informal* scrounge, freeloader, cadge, bum, *N Amer informal* mooch, *Austral/NZ* bludge

sponger ► **noun** (*informal*) PARASITE, hanger-on, leech, scrounger, beggar, *informal* freeloader, cadger, bum, bloodsucker, *N Amer informal* mooch, moocher, schnorrel, *Austral/NZ informal* bludger

spongy ► **adjective** SOFT, squashy, cushioned, cushiony, compressible, yielding, springy, resilient, elastic, porous, absorbent, permeable, *technical* spongyform, *Brit informal* squidgy —OPPOSITES hard, solid

sponsor ► **noun** *the money came from sponsors* BACKER, patron, promoter, benefactor, benefactress, supporter, contributor, subscriber, friend, guarantor, underwriter, *informal* angel

► **verb** *a bank sponsored the event* FINANCE, put up the money for, fund, subsidize, back, promote, support, contribute to, be a patron of, guarantee, underwrite, *informal* foot the bill for, pick up the tab for, *N Amer informal* bankroll

sponsorship ► **noun** BACKING, support, promotion, patronage, subsidy, funding, financing, aid, financial assistance

spontaneous ► **adjective** ① *a spontaneous display of affection* UNPLANNED, unpremeditated, unrehearsed, impulsive, impetuous, unstudied, impromptu, spur-of-the-moment, extempore, extemporaneous, unforced, voluntary, unconstrained, unprompted, unbidden, unsolicited, *informal* off-the-cuff ② *a spontaneous reaction to danger* REFLEX, automatic, mechanical, natural, knee-jerk, involuntary, unthinking, unconscious, instinctive, instinctual, *informal* gut ③ *a spontaneous kind of person* NATURAL, uninhibited, relaxed, unselfconscious, unaffected, open, genuine, easy, free and easy, impulsive, impetuous

—OPPOSITES planned, calculated, conscious, voluntary, inhibited

spontaneously ► **adverb** ① *they applauded spontaneously* WITHOUT BEING ASKED, of one's own accord, voluntarily, on impulse, impulsively, on the spur of the moment, extempore, extemporaneously, *informal* off the cuff ② *he reacted spontaneously* WITHOUT THINKING, automatically, mechanically, unthinkingly, involuntarily, instinctively, naturally, by oneself/itself

spooky ► **adjective** (*informal*) EERIE, sinister, ghostly, uncanny, weird, unearthly, mysteri-

ous, FRIGHTENING, spine-chilling, hair-raising, *informal* creepy, scary, spine-tingling

sporadic ► **adjective** OCCASIONAL, infrequent, irregular, periodic, scattered, patchy, isolated, odd, intermittent, spasmodic, fitful, desultory, erratic, unpredictable

—OPPOSITES frequent, steady, continuous

sport ► **noun** ① *we did a lot of sport* (COMPETITIVE) GAME(S), physical recreation, physical activity, physical exercise, pastime See list ② (*dated*) *they were rogues out for a bit of sport* FUN, pleasure, enjoyment, entertainment, diversion, amusement

► **verb** *he sported a beard* WEAR, have on, dress in, DISPLAY, exhibit, show off, flourish, parade, flaunt

sporting ► **adjective** SPORTSMANLIKE, generous, gentlemanly, considerate, fair, just, honourable, *Brit informal* decent

—OPPOSITES dirty, unfair

sportsperson ► **noun** SPORTSMAN, SPORTS WOMAN, player, contestant, competitor, participant See list

sporty ► **adjective** (*informal*) ① *he's quite a sporty type* ATHLETIC, fit, active, energetic ② *a sporty outfit* STYLISH, smart, jaunty, CASUAL, *informal*, *informal* trendy, cool, snazzy, *N Amer informal* sassy ③ *a sporty car* FAST, speedy, *informal* nippy, zippy

—OPPOSITES unfit, lazy, formal, sloppy, slow

spot ► **noun** ① *a grease spot on the wall* MARK, patch, dot, fleck, smudge, smear, stain, blotch blot, splash, *informal* blotch, sploodge ② *a spot on his nose* PIMPLE, pustule, blackhead, boil, swelling, eruption, wen, sty, (spots) acne, *technical* comedo, papule, *informal* zit, whitehead, *Scottish informal* plook ③ *a secluded spot* PLACE, location, site, position, point, situation, scene, setting, locale, locality, area, neighbourhood, region, venue, *technical* locus ④ *social policy has a regular spot on the agenda* POSITION, place, slot, space ⑤ *a spot to eat or drink* BIT, little, some, small amount, morsel, bite, mouthful, drop, splash, *informal* smidgen, tad ⑥ (*informal*) *in a tight spot* PREDICAMENT, mess, difficulty, trouble, plight, corner, quandary, dilemma, *informal* fix, jam, hole, sticky situation, pickle, scrape, hot water

► **verb** ① *she spotted him in his car* NOTICE, see, observe, note, discern, detect, perceive, make out, recognize, identify, locate, catch sight of, glimpse, *Brit informal* clock, *poetic/literary* behold, espy ② *her clothes were spotted with grease* STAIN, mark, fleck, speckle, smudge, streak, splash, spatter, *informal* blotch, sploodge ③ *it was spotting with rain* RAIN LIGHTLY, drizzle, *Brit* spit, *N English* mizzle, *N Amer* sprinkle

■ **on the spot** IMMEDIATELY, at once, straight away, right away, without delay, without hesitation, that instant, directly, there and then, then and there, forthwith, instantly, summarily, *N Amer* in short order, *archaic* straightway, instant

■ **spot on** (*Brit informal*) ACCURATE, correct, right, perfect, exact, unerring, *Brit informal* bang on, *N Amer informal* on the money, on the nose

spotless ► **adjective** ① *the kitchen was spotless* PERFECTLY CLEAN, ultra-clean, pristine, immaculate, shining, shiny, gleaming, spick and span ② *a spotless reputation* UNBLEMISHED, unsoiled, untarnished, untainted, unstained, pure,



Sports

See also ATHLETICS, EQUESTRIAN, GYMNASTICS, MARTIAL ARTS, SWIMMING, TEAMS.

aerobatics	downhill racing	motor rallying	skateboarding
aerobics	drag racing	mountain biking	skeet
Alpine skiing	Eton fives	mountaineering	ski-bob racing
American football	equestrianism	netball	skiing
angling	falconry	ninepins	skijoring
archery	fencing	Nordic skiing	ski jumping
Association Football	field hockey	off-roading	skin diving
athletics	figure skating	orienteering	skittles
Australian Rules football	fishing	paddleball	skydiving
autocross	five-a-side football	pall-mall	slalom
badminton	fives	parachuting	sled-dog racing
ballooning	flat-green bowls	paragliding	snooker
baseball	fly-fishing	parapente	snorkelling
basketball	football	parasailing	snowboarding
beach volleyball	fowling	parascending	soccer
beagling	free skating	paraskiing	softball
billiards	freestyle skiing	pelota	speedball
bobsleighbing	French cricket	pétanque	speed skating
bocce	Gaelic football	pigeon racing	speedway
boules	game fishing	pistol shooting	spelunking
bowls	gliding	pool	sprinting
bowling	goalball	potholing	squash
boxing	golf	powerboat racing	stock-car racing
bullfighting	greyhound racing	quoits	stoolball
bungee jumping	gymnastics	rackets	surfing
caber tossing	handball	racquetball	swimming
Canadian football	hang-gliding	rallycross	synchronized swimming
canoe racing	hiking	real tennis	table tennis
canyoning	hockey	rock climbing	tennis
carom billiards	hurling	rollerblading	tenpin bowling
caving	ice climbing	roller hockey	tobogganing
clay-pigeon shooting	ice dancing	roller skating	touch football
climbing	ice hockey	roller skiing	trapshooting
clock golf	ice skating	rounders	volleyball
coarse fishing	jai alai	rowing	wakeboarding
coursing	jet-skiing	Rugby fives	walking
cricket	kabaddi	rugby league	water polo
croquet	karting	rugby union	waterskiing
crossbow archery	kayaking	sailing	weightlifting
cross-country running	korfball	sailplaning	white-water rafting
crown-green bowls	lacrosse	scrambling	wildfowling
curling	langlauf	scuba-diving	wild-water racing
cycle racing	lawn tennis	sculling	windsurfing
cycling	luge	sea fishing	wrestling
cyclo-cross	match fishing	shinty	yacht racing
darts	motocross	shooting	
dinghy racing	motorcycle racing	short tennis	
diving	motor racing	sidecar racing	

whiter than white, innocent, impeccable, blameless, irreproachable, above reproach, *informal* squeaky clean

—OPPOSITES dirty, tarnished, impure

spotlight ► *noun* she was constantly in the spotlight PUBLIC EYE, glare of publicity, limelight, focus of public/media attention

► *verb* this article spotlights the problem FOCUS AT TENTION ON, highlight, point up, draw/call attention to, give prominence to, throw into relief, turn the spotlight on, bring to the fore

spotted ► *adjective* ① the spotted leaves MOT TLED, dappled, speckled, flecked, freckled, freckly, dotted, stippled, brindle(d), *informal* splotchy ② a black-and-white spotted dress POLKA-DOT, spotty, dotted.

—OPPOSITES plain.

spotty ► *adjective* ① a spotty dog SPOTTED, mottled, speckled, speckly, flecked, specked, stippled, *informal* splodgy, splotchy ② a spotty dress POLKA-DOT, spotted, dotted ③ (Bnt) his spotty face PIMPLY, pimpled, acned, Scottish *informal* plooky

spouse ► *noun* PARTNER, mate, consort, *informal* better half, Bnt *informal* other half See also HUSBAND *noun*, WIFE

spout ► *verb* ① lava was spouting from the crater SPURT, gush, spew, erupt, shoot, squirt, spray, disgorge, discharge, emit, belch forth ② he spouts on foreign affairs HOLD FORTH, sound off, go on, talk at length, expatiate; *informal* mouth off, speechify, spiel.

► *noun* a can with a spout: NOZZLE, lip, rose

■ up the spout (Bnt *informal*) ① my computer's up the spout See BROKEN sense 3 ② his daughter's

Sportspeople

- Aaron, Hank (American baseball player)
 Abrahams, Harold (English athlete)
 Agassi, Andre (American tennis player)
 Agostini, Giacomo (Italian racing motorcyclist)
 Alekhine, Alexander (French chess player)
 Alexeev, Vasily (Russian weightlifter)
 Ali, Muhammad (Cassius Clay; American boxer)
 Andretti, Mario (American motor-racing driver, b. in Italy)
 Aouita, Saïd (Moroccan runner)
 Ashe, Arthur (American tennis player)
 Atherton, Michael (English cricketer)
 Baggio, Roberto (Italian footballer)
 Bailey, Donovan (Canadian athlete, b. in Jamaica)
 Ballesteros, Severiano (Spanish golfer)
 Banks, Gordon (English footballer)
 Bannister, Roger (English runner)
 Barrington, Jonah (English squash player)
 Batistuta, Gabriel (Argentinian footballer)
 Beckenbauer, Franz (German footballer and manager)
 Becker, Boris (German tennis player)
 Beckham, David (English footballer)
 Belmonte y García, Juan (Spanish matador)
 Berra, Yogi (American baseball player)
 Best, George (Northern Irish footballer)
 Blanco, Serge (French Rugby Union player)
 Bonington, Chris (English mountaineer)
 Border, Allan (Australian cricketer)
 Borg, Björn (Swedish tennis player)
 Botham, Ian (English cricketer)
 Boycott, Geoffrey (English cricketer)
 Brabham, Jack (Australian motor-racing driver)
 Bradman, Don (Australian cricketer)
 Bristow, Eric (English darts player)
 Broome, David (English showjumper)
 Brough, Louse (American tennis player)
 Bruno, Frank (English boxer)
 Bryant, David (English bowls player)
 Bubka, Sergei (Ukrainian pole-vaulter)
 Budge, Don; (American tennis player)
 Bueno, Maria (Brazilian tennis player)
 Burrell, Leroy (American runner)
 Busby, Matt (Scottish-born footballer and manager)
 Campese, David (Australian Rugby Union player)
 Cantona, Eric (French footballer)
 Carling, Will (English Rugby Union player)
 Carson, Willie (Scottish jockey)
 Cawley, Evonne (Evonne Goolagong; Australian tennis player)
 Chappell, Greg (Australian cricketer)
 Chappell, Ian (Australian cricketer)
 Charlton, Bobby (English footballer)
 Charlton, Jack (English footballer and manager)
 Christie, Linford (British sprinter, b. in Jamaica)
 Cobb, Ty (American baseball player)
 Coe, Sebastian (English runner)
 Comaneci, Nadia (American gymnast, b. in Romania)
 Compton, Denis (English cricketer and footballer)
 Connolly, Maureen ('Little Mo'; American tennis player)
 Connors, Jimmy (American tennis player)
 Constantine, Learie (West Indian cricketer)
 Cooper, Henry (English boxer)
 Cordobés, El (Manuel Benítez Pérez; Spanish matador)
 Couples, Fred (American golfer)
 Cowdrey, Colin (English cricketer)
 Cram, Steve (English runner)
 Cruyff, Johann (Dutch footballer and manager)
 Culbertson, Ely (American bridge player)
 Curry, John (English ice skater)
 Dalglish, Kenny (Scottish footballer and manager)
 Daly, John (American golfer)
 Davies, Jonathan (Welsh Rugby Union player)
 Davies, Laura (English golfer)
 Davis, Fred (English billiards and snooker player)
 Davis, Joe (English billiards and snooker player)
 Davis, Steve (English snooker player)
 Dean, Christopher (English ice skater)
 Dempsey, Jack (American boxer)
 Dettori, Frankie (Italian jockey)
 DiMaggio, Joe (American baseball player)
 Duke, Geoffrey E. (British racing motorcyclist)
 Duval, David (American golfer)
 Edberg, Stefan (Swedish tennis player)
 Eddery, Pat (Irish jockey)
 Edwards, Gareth (Welsh Rugby Union player)
 Edwards, Jonathan (English athlete)
 el-Guerrouj, Hicham (Moroccan athlete)
 Els, Ernie (South African golfer)
 Eusebio (Ferreira da Silva) (Portuguese footballer, b. in Mozambique)
 Evert, Chris (American tennis player)
 Faldo, Nick (English golfer)
 Fangio, Juan Manuel (Argentinian motor-racing driver)
 Finney, Tom (English footballer)
 Fischer, Bobby (American chess player)
 Fittipaldi, Emerson (Brazilian motor-racing driver)
 Foreman, George (American boxer)
 Fosbury, Richard (American athlete)
 Francome, John (English jockey)
 Frazier, Joe (American boxer)
 Fry, C. B. (English cricketer, footballer, and athlete)
 Gascoigne, Paul (English footballer)
 Gavaskar, Sunil (Indian cricketer)
 Gebrselassie, Haile (Ethiopian athlete)
 Gehrig, Lou (American baseball player)
 Gibson, Althea (American tennis player)
 Giggs, Ryan (Welsh footballer)
 Gooch, Graham (English cricketer)
 Gower, David (English cricketer)
 Grace, W. G. (English cricketer)
 Graf, Steffi (German tennis player)
 Greaves, Jimmy (English footballer)
 Greene, Maurice (American athlete)
 Gretzky, Wayne (Canadian ice-hockey player)
 Griffith Joyner, Florence (American runner)
 Gullit, Ruud (Dutch footballer and manager)
 Gunnell, Sally (English hurdler)
 Hadlee, Richard (New Zealand cricketer)
 Hailwood, Mike (English racing motorcyclist)
 Häkkinen, Mika (Finnish motor-racing driver)
 Hanley, Ellery (English Rugby League player)
 Hendry, Stephen (Scottish snooker player)
 Henman, Tim (English tennis player)
 Heyhoe-Flint, Rachael (English cricketer)
 Higgins, Alex (Northern Irish snooker player)
 Hill, Darnon (English motor-racing driver)
 Hill, Graham (English motor-racing driver)
 Hinault, Bernard (French racing cyclist)
 Hingis, Martina (Czech tennis player)
 Hoad, Lewis (Australian tennis player)
 Hobbs, Jack (English cricketer)
 Hogan, Ben (American golfer)
 Howe, Gordie (Canadian ice-hockey player)
 Hunt, James (English motor-racing driver)
 Hussain, Nasser (British cricketer, b. in India)



Sportspeople (cont.)

- Hutton, Len (English cricketer)
 Illingworth, Ray (English cricketer)
 Indurain, Miguel (Spanish racing cyclist)
 Ivanisevic, Goran (Croatian tennis player)
 Jacklin, Tony (English golfer)
 Jackson, Colin (Welsh hurdler)
 John, Barry (Welsh Rugby Union player)
 Johnson, Ben (Canadian sprinter)
 Johnson, Earvin 'Magic' (American basketball player)
 Johnson, Jack (American boxer)
 Johnson, Michael (American athlete)
 Jones, Bobby (American golfer)
 Jordan, Michael (American basketball player)
 Joselito (José Gómez; Spanish matador)
 Kafelnikov, Yevgeni (Russian tennis player)
 Kapil Dev (Indian cricketer)
 Karpov, Anatoly (Russian chess player)
 Kasparov, Gary (Azerbaijani chess player)
 Keegan, Kevin (English footballer and manager)
 Khan, Hashim (Pakistani squash player)
 Khan, Imran (Pakistani cricketer)
 Khan, Jahangir (Pakistani squash player)
 Killy, Jean-Claude (French skier)
 King, Billie Jean (American tennis player)
 Klammer, Franz (Austrian skier)
 Klinsmann, Jürgen (German footballer)
 Korbut, Olga (Soviet gymnast, b. in Belarus)
 Korchnoi, Victor (Russian chess player)
 Krajicek, Richard (Dutch tennis player)
 Kristiansen, Ingrid (Norwegian runner)
 Lara, Brian (West Indian cricketer)
 Larwood, Harold (English cricketer)
 Lasker, Emanuel (German chess player)
 Latynina, Larisa (Ukrainian gymnast)
 Lauda, Niki (Austrian motor-racing driver)
 Laver, Rod (Australian tennis player)
 Law, Denis (Scottish footballer)
 Lawton, Tommy (English footballer)
 Lendl, Ivan (American tennis player, b. in Czechoslovakia)
 Lenglen, Suzanne (French tennis player)
 Leonard, Sugar Ray (American boxer)
 Lewis, Carl (American athlete)
 Lewis, Lennox (English boxer)
 Liddell, Eric (British athlete, b. in China)
 Lillie, Dennis (Australian cricketer)
 Lindwall, Raymond (Australian cricketer)
 Lineker, Gary (English footballer)
 Liston, Sonny (American boxer)
 Llewellyn, Harry (Welsh showjumper)
 Lloyd, Clive (West Indian cricketer)
 Lombardi, Vince (US American football coach)
 Lomu, Jonah (New Zealand Rugby Union player)
 Lopez, Nancy (American golfer)
 Louis, Joe (Joseph Barrow; American boxer)
 Lyle, Sandy (Scottish golfer)
 McBride, Willie John (Irish Rugby Union player)
 McEnroe, John (American tennis player)
 McGuire, Mark (American baseball player)
 Mansell, Nigel (English motor-racing driver)
 Mantle, Mickey (American baseball player)
 Maradona, Diego (Argentinian footballer)
 Marciano, Rocky (American boxer)
 Matthews, Stanley (English footballer)
 May, Peter (English cricketer)
 Mays, Willie (American baseball player)
 Meads, Colin (New Zealand Rugby Union player)
 Merclo, Eddy (Belgian cyclist)
 Milo of Croton (Greek wrestler)
 Montana, Joe (US American footballer)
 Montgomerie, Colin (Scottish golfer)
 Moore, Bobby (English footballer)
 Morphy, Paul (American chess player)
 Moses, Ed (American athlete)
 Moss, Stirling (English motor-racing driver)
 Navratilova, Martina (American tennis player, b. in Czechoslovakia)
 Newcombe, John (Australian tennis player)
 Nicklaus, Jack (American golfer)
 Norman, Greg (Australian golfer)
 Novotna, Jana (Czech tennis player)
 Nurmi, Paavo (Finnish runner)
 Oerter, Al (American athlete)
 Offiah, Martin (English Rugby League player)
 O'Meara, Mark (American golfer)
 Ovett, Steve (English runner)
 Owen, Michael (English footballer)
 Owens, Jesse (John Cleveland Owens; American athlete)
 Palmer, Arnold (American golfer)
 Pelé (Edson Arantes do Nascimento; Brazilian footballer)
 Perry, Fred (American tennis player, b. in Britain)
 Pienaar, François (South African Rugby Union player)
 Pierce, Mary (French tennis player, b. in Canada)
 Piggott, Lester (English jockey)
 Platini, Michel (French footballer and manager)
 Player, Gary (South African golfer)
 Prost, Alain (French motor-racing driver)
 Puskas, Ferenc (Hungarian footballer)
 Rafter, Patrick (Australian tennis player)
 Ramsey, Alf (English footballer and manager)
 Ranjitsinhji Vibhaji, Kumar Shri, Maharajah (Indian cricketer)
 Reardon, Ray (Welsh snooker player)
 Redgrave, Steven (English rower)
 Rhodes, Jonty (South African cricketer)
 Rhodes, Wilfred (English cricketer)
 Richards, Gordon (English jockey)
 Richards, Viv (West Indian cricketer)
 Robinson, Sugar Ray (Walker Smith, American boxer)
 Robson, Bryan (English footballer and manager)
 Ronaldo (Ronaldo Luiz Nazario da Lima) (Brazilian footballer)
 Rusedski, Greg (British tennis player, b. in Canada)
 Ruth, Babe (American baseball player)
 Sampras, Pete (American tennis player)
 Sánchez-Vicario, Arantxa (Spanish tennis player)
 Schmeichel, Peter (Danish footballer)
 Schumacher, Michael (German motor-racing driver)
 Scudamore, Peter (English jockey)
 Seles, Monica (American tennis player, b. in Yugoslavia)
 Senna, Ayrton (Brazilian motor-racing driver)
 Shearer, Alan (English footballer)
 Sheene, Barry (English racing motorcyclist)
 Shilton, Peter (English footballer)
 Simpson, O. J. (US American football player)
 Smith, Harvey (English showjumper)
 Sobers, Gary (West Indian cricketer)
 Spassky, Boris (Russian chess player)
 Spitz, Mark (American swimmer)
 Stewart, Alec (Scottish cricketer)
 Stewart, Jackie (Scottish motor-racing driver)
 Stewart, Payne (American golfer)
 Suiker, Davor (Croatian footballer)
 Sullivan, John Lawrence (American boxer)
 Surtees, John (English motor-racing driver)

Sportspeople (cont.)

Szewinska, Irena (Polish athlete)
 Tendulkar, Sachin (Indian cricketer)
 Thompson, Daley (English decathlete)
 Thorpe, Jim (American athlete, baseball player, and American footballer)
 Todd, Mark (New Zealand equestrian)
 Torvill, Jayne (English ice skater)
 Trevino, Lee (American golfer)
 Trueman, Fred (English cricketer)
 Turishcheva, Ludmilla (Soviet gymnast)
 Tyson, Mike (American boxer)
 Viren, Lasse (Finnish runner)
 Wade, Virginia (English tennis player)
 Walsh, Courtney (Jamaican cricketer)
 Warne, Shane (Australian cricketer)

up the spout See PREGNANT sense 1

sprawl ▶ **verb** ① he sprawled on a sofa STRETCH out, lounge loll, lie, recline, drape oneself, slump, flop, slouch ② the town sprawled ahead of them SPREAD stretch, extend, be strung out, be scattered, straggle, spill

spray 1 ▶ **noun** ① a spray of water SHOWER, sprinkling, sprinkle, jet, mist, drizzle, spume, spindrift, foam, froth ② a perfume spray ATOMIZER, vaporizer, aerosol, sprinkler, nebulizer

▶ **verb** ① water was sprayed around SPRINKLE, shower, spatter, scatter, disperse, diffuse, mist, douche, poetic/literary besprinkle ② water sprayed into the air SPOUT, jet, gush, spurt, shoot, squirt

spray 2 ▶ **noun** ① a spray of holly SPRIG, twig ② a spray of flowers BOUQUET, bunch, posy, nosegay, corsage, buttonhole, boutonnière

spread ▶ **verb** ① he spread the map out LAY OUT, open out, unfold, unroll, roll out, straighten out, fan out, stretch out, extend, poetic/literary outspread ② the landscape spread out below EXTEND, stretch, open out, be displayed, be exhibited, be on show, sprawl ③ papers were spread all over his desk SCATTER, stew, disperse, distribute ④ he's been spreading rumours DISSEMINATE, circulate, pass on, put about, communicate, diffuse, make public, make known, purvey, broadcast, publicize, propagate, promulgate, repeat, poetic/literary bruit about/abroad ⑤ she spread cold cream on her face SMEAR, daub, plaster, slather, lather, apply, put, smooth, rub ⑥ he spread the toast with butter COVER, coat, layer, daub, smother, butter

—OPPOSITES fold up, suppress
 ▶ **noun** ① the spread of learning EXPANSION, proliferation, extension, growth, dissemination, diffusion, transmission, propagation ② a spread of six feet SPAN, width, extent, stretch, reach ③ the immense spread of the heavens EXPANSE, area, sweep, stretch ④ a wide spread of subjects RANGE, span, spectrum, sweep, variety ⑤ (informal) his mother laid on a huge spread LARGE/ELABORATE MEAL, feast, banquet, informal blowout, nosh, Brt informal nosh-up, slap-up meal

spree ▶ **noun** ① a shopping spree UNRESTRAINED BOUT, orgy, informal binge, splurge; humorous retail therapy ② a drinking spree DRINKING BOUT, debauch, informal binge, bender, session, booze-up, blind, Scottish informal skite, N Amer informal

Watson, Tom (American golfer)
 Waugh, Mark (Australian cricketer)
 Waugh, Steve (Australian cricketer)
 Weismuller, Johnny (American swimmer)
 Williams, J. P. R. (Welsh Rugby Union player)
 Williams, Serena (American tennis player)
 Williams, Venus (American tennis player)
 Wills (Moody), Helen (American tennis player)
 Winkler, Hans (German showjumper)
 Witt, Katarina (German ice skater)
 Woods, Tiger (American golfer)
 Worrell, Frank (West Indian cricketer)
 Zátopek, Emil (Czech runner)
 Zidane, Zinedine (French footballer)
 Zola, Gianfranco (Italian footballer)

jag, toot, poetic/literary bacchanal, bacchanalia, archaic wassail

sprig ▶ **noun** SMALL STEM, spray, twig

sprightly ▶ **adjective** SPRY, lively, agile, nimble, energetic, active, full of energy, vigorous, spitted, animated, vivacious, fisky, informal full of vim and vigour, N English informal wick
 —OPPOSITES doddery, lethargic

spring ▶ **verb** ① the cat sprang off her lap LEAP, jump, bound, vault, hop ② the branch sprang back FLY, whip, flick, whisk, kick, bounce ③ all art springs from feelings ORIGINATE, derive, arise, stem, emanate, proceed, issue, evolve, come ④ fifty men sprang from nowhere APPEAR SUDDENLY, appear unexpectedly, materialize, pop up, shoot up, sprout, develop quickly, proliferate, mushroom ⑤ he sprang the truth on me ANOUNCE SUDDENLY UNEXPECTEDLY, reveal suddenly/unexpectedly, surprise someone with

▶ **noun** ① with a sudden spring he leapt on to the table LEAP, jump, bound, vault, hop, pounce ② the mattress has lost its spring SPRINGINESS, bounciness, bounce, resilience, elasticity, flexibility, stretch, stretchiness, give ③ there was a spring in his step BUOYANCY, bounce, energy, liveliness, jauntiness, sprightliness, confidence ④ a mineral spring WELL HEAD, source, spa, geyser, poetic/literary wellspring, fount ⑤ the springs of his own emotions ORIGIN, source, fountain-head, root, roots, basis
 —RELATED TERMS vernal

springy ▶ **adjective** ELASTIC, stretchy, stretchable, tensile, flexible, pliant, pliable, whippy, bouncy, resilient, spongy
 —OPPOSITES rigid, squashy

sprinkle ▶ **verb** ① he sprinkled water over the towel SPLASH, trickle, spray, shower, spatter ② sprinkle sesame seeds over the top SCATTER, strew, drizzle ③ sprinkle the cake with icing sugar DREDGE, dust ④ the sky was sprinkled with stars DOT, stipple, stud, fleck, speckle, spot, pepper, scatter, cover, poetic/literary besprinkle

sprinkling ▶ **noun** ① a sprinkling of nutmeg SCATTERING, sprinkle, scatter, dusting, pinch, dash. ② mainly women, but a sprinkling of men FEW, one or two, couple, handful, small number, trickle, scattering

sprint ▶ **verb** RUN, race, dart, rush, dash, hasten, hurry, scurry, scamper, hare, bolt, fly, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, speed, zoom, go like lightning, go hell for leather, go like



the wind, jog, trot, *informal* tear, pelt, scoot, hot-foot it, leg it, belt, zip, whip, *Brit informal* bomb, *N Amer informal* hightail it, barrel

—OPPOSITES walk

sprite ▶ **noun** FAIRY, elf, pixie, imp, brownie, puck, peri, kelpie, leprechaun, nymph, nixie, sylph, naiad

sprout ▶ **verb** ① the weeds begin to sprout GERMINATE, put/send out shoots, bud, burgeon ② he had sprouted a beard GROW, develop, put/send out ③ parsley sprouted from the pot SPRING up, shoot up, come up, grow, burgeon, develop, appear

spruce ▶ **adjective** the Captain looked very spruce NEAT, well groomed, well turned out, well dressed, smart, trim, dapper, elegant, chic, *informal* natty, snazzy, *N Amer informal* spiffy, trig

—OPPOSITES untidy

▶ **verb** ① the cottage had been spruced up SMARTEN, tidy, neaten, put in order, clean, *informal* do up, *Brit informal* tart up, posh up, *N Amer informal* gussy up ② Sarah had spruced herself up GROOM, tidy, smarten, preen, primp, *N Amer* trig, *informal* titivate, doll up, *Brit informal* tart up

spry ▶ **adjective** SPRIGHTLY, lively, agile, nimble, energetic, active, full of energy, vigorous, spirited, animated, vivacious, frisky, *informal* full of vim and vigour, *N English informal* wick

—OPPOSITES doddery, lethargic

spume ▶ **noun** FOAM, froth, surf, spindrift, bubbles

spunk ▶ **noun** (*informal*) COURAGE, bravery, valour, nerve, confidence, daring, audacity, pluck, spirit, grit, mettle, spine, backbone, *informal* guts, gumption, *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* moxie

spur ▶ **noun** ① competition can be a spur STIMULUS, incentive, encouragement, inducement, filip, impetus, prod, motivation, inspiration, *informal* kick up the backside, shot in the arm ② a spur of bone PROJECTION, spike, point, technical process

—OPPOSITES disincentive, discouragement

▶ **verb** the thought spurred him into action STIMULATE, encourage, prompt, propel, prod, induce, impel, motivate, move, galvanize, inspire, incentivize, urge, drive, egg on, stir, incite, goad, provoke, prick, sting, *N Amer* light a fire under

—OPPOSITES discourage

■ on the spur of the moment IMPULSIVELY, on impulse, impetuously, without thinking, without premeditation, unpremeditatedly, impromptu, extempore, spontaneously, *informal* off the cuff

spurious ▶ **adjective** BOGUS, fake, false, counterfeit, forged, fraudulent, sham, artificial, imitation, simulated, feigned, deceptive, misleading, *informal* phoney, pretend, *Brit informal* cod

—OPPOSITES genuine

spurn ▶ **verb** REJECT, rebuff, scorn, turn down, treat with contempt, disdain, look down one's nose at, despise, snub, slight, jilt, dismiss, brush off, turn one's back on, give someone the cold shoulder, cold-shoulder, *informal* turn one's nose up at, give someone the brush-off, kick in the teeth, *Brit informal* knock back, *N Amer informal* give someone the bum's rush

—OPPOSITES welcome, accept.

spurt ▶ **verb** water spurted from the tap SQUIRT, shoot, jet, erupt, gush, pour, stream, pump, surge, spew, course, well, spring, burst, disgorge, discharge, emit, belch forth, expel, eject, *Brit informal* sloosh

▶ **noun** ① a spurt of water SQUIRT, jet, spout, gush, stream, rush, surge, flood, cascade, torrent ② a spurt of courage BURST, fit, bout, rush, spate, surge, attack, outburst, blaze ③ Daisy put on a spurt BURST OF SPEED, turn of speed, sprint, rush, burst of energy

spy ▶ **noun** a foreign spy SECRET AGENT, intelligence agent, double agent, counterspy, mole, plant, scout, *informal* snooper, *N Amer informal* spook, *archaic* intelligencer

▶ **verb** ① he spied for the West BE A SPY, gather intelligence, work for the secret service, *informal* snoop ② investigators spied on them OBSERVE FURTIVELY, keep under surveillance/observation, watch, keep a watch on, keep an eye on ③ she spied a coffee shop NOTICE, observe, see, spot, sight, catch sight of, glimpsey, make out, discern, detect, *informal* clap/lay/set eyes on, *poetic/literary* espy, behold, descry

spying ▶ **noun** ESPIONAGE, intelligence gathering, surveillance, infiltration, undercover work, cloak-and-dagger activities

squabble ▶ **noun** there was a squabble over which way they should go QUARREL, disagreement, row, argument, contretemps, falling-out, dispute, clash, altercation, shouting match, exchange, war of words, *informal* tiff, set-to, run-in, slang-ing match, shindig, shindy, stand-up, spat, scrap, dust-up, *Brit informal* barney, ding-dong, *N Amer informal* rhubarb

▶ **verb** the boys were squabbling over a ball QUARREL, row, argue, bicker, fall out, disagree, have words, dispute, spar, cross swords, lock horns, be at loggerheads, *informal* scrap, argify

squad ▶ **noun** ① an assassination squad TEAM, crew, gang, band, cell, body, mob, outfit, force ② a firing squad DETACHMENT, detail, unit, platoon, battery, troop, patrol, squadron, cadre, commando

squalid ▶ **adjective** ① a squalid prison DIRTY, filthy, grubby, grimy, mucky, slummy, foul, vile, poor, sorry, wretched, miserable, mean, seedy, shabby, sordid, insalubrious, NEGLECTED, uncared-for, broken-down, run down, down at heel, depressed, dilapidated, ramshackle, tumbledown, gone to rack and ruin, crumbling, decaying, *informal* scruffy, crummy, shambly, ratty, *Brit informal* grotty, *N Amer informal* shacky ② a squalid deal with the opposition IMPROPER, sordid, unseemly, unsavoury, sleazy, seedy, seamy, shoddy, cheap, base, low, corrupt, dishonest, dishonourable, disreputable, despicable, discreditable, disgraceful, contemptible, shameful, *informal* sleazoid

—OPPOSITES clean, pleasant, smart, upmarket, proper, decent

squall ▶ **noun** GUST, storm, blast, flurry, shower, gale, blow, rush

squally ▶ **adjective** STORMY, gusty, gusting, blustery, blustering, windy, blowy, wild, tempestuous, rough

squalor ▶ **noun** DIRT, filth, grubbiness, grime, muck, foulness, vileness, poverty, wretchedness, meanness, seediness, shabbiness, sordidness, sleaziness, insalubrious, NEGLECT, decay, di-



lapidation, *informal* scruffiness, crumminess, grunge, rattiness, *Brit informal* grottness
 -OPPOSITES cleanliness, pleasantness, smartness

squander ▶ **verb** WASTE, misspend, misuse, throw away, fritter away, spend recklessly, spend unwisely, spend like water, *informal* blow, go through, splurge, pour down the drain, *Brit informal* blue
 -OPPOSITES manage, make good use of, save

square ▶ **noun** ① a shop in the square market square, marketplace, plaza, piazza ② (*informal*) you're such a square! (OLD) FOGEY, conservative traditionalist, conventionalist, conformist, bourgeois, fossil, *Brit* museum piece, *informal* stick-in-the-mud, fuddy-duddy, back number, stuffed shirt
 -OPPOSITES trendy

▶ **adjective** ① a square table QUADRILATERAL, rect angular, oblong, right-angled, at right angles, perpendicular, straight, level, parallel, horizontal, upright, vertical, true, plane ② the sides were square at half-time LEVEL, even, drawn, equal, tied neck and neck, level pegging, nip and tuck, side by side, evenly matched, *informal* even-steven(s) ③ I'm going to be square with you FAIR, honest just, equitable, straight, true, up right, above board, ethical, decent, proper, *informal* on the level ④ (*informal*) don't be square! OLD-FASHIONED, behind the times, out of date, conservative, traditionalist, conventional, conformist, bourgeois, strait-laced, logeyish, stuffy, *informal* stick-in-the-mud, fuddy-duddy
 -OPPOSITES crooked, uneven, underhand, trendy

▶ **verb** ① the theory does not square with the data AGREE, tally, be in agreement, be consistent, match up, correspond, fit, coincide, accord conform, be compatible ② his goal squared the match 1-1 LEVEL, even, make equal ③ would you square up the bill? PAY, settle, discharge, clear, meet ④ (*informal*) they tried to square the press BRIBE, buy off, buy, corrupt, suborn, *informal* grease someone's palm, give a backhander to ⑤ I'm squared things with his boss RESOLVE, sort out, settle, clear up, work out, iron out, smooth over, straighten out, deal with, put right, set right, put to rights, rectify, remedy, *informal* patch up

squash ▶ **verb** ① the fruit got squashed CRUSH, squeeze, flatten, compress, press, smash, distort, pound, trample, stamp on, pulp, mash, cream, liquidize, beat, pulverize ② she squashed her clothes inside the bag FORCE, ram, thrust, push, cram, jam, stuff, pack, compress, squeeze, wedge, press ③ the proposal was immediately squashed REJECT, block, cancel, scotch, frustrate, thwart, suppress, put a stop to, nip in the bud, put the lid on, *informal* put paid to, put the kibosh on, stymie, *Brit informal* dish, scupper

squashy ▶ **adjective** ① a squashy pillow SPRINGY, resilient, spongy, soft, pliant, pliable, yielding, elastic, cushiony, compressible ② squashy pears MUSHY, pulpy, pappy, slushy, squelchy, squishy, oozy, doughy, soft, *Brit informal* squidgy
 -OPPOSITES firm, hard

squat ▶ **verb** I was squatting on the floor CROUCH (DOWN), hunker (down), sit on one's haunches, sit on one's heels

▶ **adjective** he was muscular and squat STOCKY,

thickset, dumpy, stubby, stumpy, short, small, *Brit informal* tubsy

squawk ▶ **verb & noun** ① a pheasant squawked | the gull gave a squawk SCREECH, squeal, shriek, scream, croak, crow, caw, cluck, cackle, hoot, cry, call

squeak ▶ **noun & verb** ① the vole's dying squeak | the rat squeaked PEEP, cheep, pipe, piping, squeal, tweet, yelp, whimper ② the squeak of the hinge | the hinges of the gate squeaked SCREECH, creak, scrape, grate, rasp, jar, groan

squeal ▶ **noun** the harsh squeal of a fox SCREECH, scream, shriek, squawk

▶ **verb** ① a dog squealed SCREECH, scream, shriek, squawk ② the hookies only squealed because we beat them COMPLAIN, protest, object, grouse, grumble, whine, wail, carp, squawk, *informal* kick up a fuss, kick up a stink, gripe, grouch, bellyache, moan, bitch, beef, whinge, *N English informal* mither ③ (*informal*) he squealed on the rest of the gang to the police INFORM, tell tales, sneak, report, give away, be disloyal, sell out, stab in the back, *informal* rat, peach, snitch, put the finger on, sell down the river, stitch up, *Brit informal* grass, split, shop, *N Amer informal* rat out, finger, diop a/the dime on, *Austral informal* dob, pimp on, pool

squeamish ▶ **adjective** ① I'm too squeamish to gut fish EASILY NAUSEATED, nervous, (be squeamish about) BE PUT OFF BY, cannot stand the sight of, — makes one feel sick ② less squeamish nations will sell them arms SCRUPULOUS, principled, fastidious, particular, punctilious, honourable, upright, upstanding, high-minded, righteous, right-minded, moral, ethical

squeeze ▶ **verb** ① I squeezed the bottle COM PRESS, press, crush, squash, pinch, nip, grasp, grip, clutch, flatten ② squeeze the juice from both oranges EXTRACT, press, force, express ③ Sally squeezed her feet into the sandals FORCE, thrust, cram, jam, stuff, pick, wedge, press, squash ④ we all squeezed into Steve's van CROWD, crush, cram pack, jam, squash, wedge oneself, shove, push, force one's way ⑤ he would squeeze more money out of Bill EXTORT, force, extract, wrest, wring, milk, *informal* bleed someone of something

▶ **noun** ① he gave her hand a squeeze PRESS, pinch, nip, grasp, grip, clutch, hug, clasp, compression ② it was a tight squeeze in the tiny hall CRUSH, jam, squash, press, huddle, congestion ③ a squeeze of lemon juice FEW DROPS, dash, splash, dribble, trickle, spot, hint, touch

squint ▶ **verb** ① the sun made them squint SCREW UP ONE'S EYES, narrow one's eyes, peer, blink ② he has squinted from birth BE CROSS-EYED, have a squint, suffer from strabismus, *Scottish* be skelly, *Brit informal* be boss-eyed

▶ **noun** ① (*informal*) we must have another squint at his record card LOOK, glance, peep, peek, glimpse, view, examination, study, inspection, scan, sight, *informal* eyeful, dekho, butcher's, gander, look-see, once-over, shufti ② does he have a squint? CROSS-EYES, strabismus, *Brit informal* boss-eye

squire ▶ **noun** ① the squire of the village LAND OWNER, landholder, landlord, lord of the manor, country gentleman ② (*historical*) his squire carried a banner ATTENDANT, courtier, equerry, aide, steward, page boy

squirrm ▶ **verb** ① I tried to *squirrm away* WRIGGLE, wiggle, writhe, twist, slide, slither, turn, shift, fidget, jiggle, twitch, thresh, flounder, flail, toss and turn ② he *squirrmed* as everyone laughed WINCE, shudder, feel embarrassed, feel ashamed

squirrel ▶ **noun**. See list

—RELATED TERMS SCIURINE

■ **squirrel something away** SAVE, put aside, put by, lay by, set aside, lay aside, keep in reserve, stockpile, accumulate, stock up with/on, hoard, *informal* salt away, stash away

Squirrels and Related Rodents

anomalure
chickaree
chipmunk
flying squirrel
giant squirrel
gopher
grey squirrel
groundhog
ground squirrel
marmot
meerkat

mountain beaver
palm squirrel
petaurist
pocket gopher
prairie dog
red squirrel
scaly-tailed squirrel
souselik
sun squirrel
tree squirrel
woodchuck

squirt ▶ **verb** ① a jet of ink *squirted out of the tube* SPURT, shoot, spray, fountain, jet, erupt, gush, rush, pump, surge, stream, spew, well, spring, burst, issue, emanate, emit, belch forth, expel, eject, *Bnt informal* sloosh ② she *squirted me with scent* SPLASH, wet, spray, shower, spatter, splatter, sprinkle, *Scottish & Irish* slabber, *poetic/literary* besprinkle

▶ **noun** ① a squirt of water SPURT, jet, spray, fountain, gush, stream, surge ② (*informal*) he was just a little *squirt* IMPUDENT PERSON, insignificant person, gnat, insect, *informal* pipsqueak, whippersnapper, *Bnt informal* squirt, *Scottish informal* nyaff, *N Amer informal* bozo, picayune, pisher

stab ▶ **verb** ① he *stabbed him in the stomach* KNIFE, run through, skewer, spear, bayonet, gore, spike, stick, impale, transfix, pierce, prick, puncture, *poetic/literary* transpierce ② she *stabbed at the earth with a fork* LUNGE, thrust, jab, poke, prod, dig

▶ **noun** ① a stab in the leg KNIFE WOUND, puncture, incision, prick, cut, perforation ② they *made stabs into the air* LUNGE, thrust, jab, poke, prod, dig, punch ③ a stab of pain TWINGE, pang, throb, spasm, cramp, dart, blaze, prick, flash, thrill ④ (*informal*) he had a stab at writing AT TEMPT, try, effort, endeavour, guess, *informal* go, shot, crack, hash, whack, *formal* essay

■ **stab someone in the back** BETRAY, be disloyal to, be unfaithful to, desert, break one's promise to, double-cross, break faith with, sell out, play false, inform on/against, *informal* tell on, sell down the river, squeal on, stitch up, peach on, do the dirty on, *Bnt informal* grass on, shop, *N Amer informal* rat out, finger, drop a/the dime on, *Austral informal* pump on, pool, put someone's pot on

stability ▶ **noun** ① the stability of play equipment FIRMNESS, solidity, steadiness, strength, security, safety ② his mental *stability* BALANCE OF MIND, mental health, sanity, normality, soundness, rationality, reason, sense ③ the stability of their relationship: STEADINESS, firmness, solidity, strength, durability, lasting nature, enduring

nature, permanence, changelessness, invariability, immutability, indestructibility, reliability, dependability

stable ▶ **adjective** ① a *stable tent* FIRM, solid, steady, secure, fixed, fast, safe, moored, anchored, stuck down, immovable ② a *stable person* WELL BALANCED, of sound mind, compositus, sane, normal, right in the head, rational, steady, reasonable, sensible, sober, down-to-earth, matter-of-fact, having both one's feet on the ground, *informal* all there ③ a *stable relationship* SECURE, solid, strong, steady, firm, sure, steadfast, unwavering, unvarying, unfaltering, unfluctuating, established, abiding, durable, enduring, lasting, permanent, reliable, dependable

—OPPOSITES loose, wobbly, unbalanced, rocky, lasting, changeable

stack ▶ **noun** ① a stack of boxes HEAP, pile, mound, mountain, pyramid, tower ② a stack of hay HAYSTACK, rick, hayrick, stook, mow, shock, dated cock ③ (*informal*) a stack of money See LOT pronoun ④ CHIMNEY, smokestack, funnel, exhaust pipe

—OPPOSITES few, little

▶ **verb** ① Leo was *stacking plates* HEAP (UP), pile (up), make a heap/pile/stack of, assemble, put together, collect, hoard, store, stockpile ② they *stacked the shelves* LOAD, fill (up), lade, pack, charge, stuff, cram, stock

—OPPOSITES empty

stadium ▶ **noun** ARENA, field, ground, pitch, bowl, amphitheatre, coliseum, ring, dome, manège, track, course, racetrack, racecourse, speedway, velodrome, (*in ancient Rome*) circus

staff ▶ **noun** ① there is a reluctance to take on new staff EMPLOYEES, workers, workforce, personnel, human resources, manpower, labour, *informal* liveware ② he carried a wooden staff STICK, stave, pole, crook ③ a staff of office ROD, tip-staff, cane, mace, wand, sceptre, crozier verge, *Greek Mythology* caduceus

▶ **verb** the centre is *staffed by teachers* MAN, people, crew, work, operate, occupy

stage ▶ **noun** ① this stage of the development PHASE, period, juncture, step, point, time, moment, instant, level ② the last stage of the race PART, section, portion, stretch, leg, lap, circuit ③ a theatre stage PLATFORM, dais, stand, grandstand, staging, apron, rostrum, podium ④ she has written for the stage THEATRE, drama, dramatics, dramatic art, thespianism, *informal* the boards ⑤ the political stage SCENE, setting, context, frame, sphere, field, realm, arena, backdrop, affairs

▶ **verb** ① they *staged two plays* PUT ON, put before the public, present, produce, mount, direct, perform, act, give ② workers *staged a protest* ORGANIZE, arrange, coordinate, lay on, put together, get together, set up, orchestrate, choreograph, mastermind, engineer, take part in, participate in, join in

stagger ▶ **verb** ① he *staggered to the door* LURCH, walk unsteadily, reel, sway, teeter, totter, stumble, wobble ② I was absolutely *staggered* AMAZE, astound, astonish, surprise, startle, stun, confound, dumbfound, stupefy, daze, nonplus, take aback, leave open-mouthed, leave aghast, *informal* flabbergast, bowl over; *Bnt informal* knock for six ③ meetings are *staggered throughout the day* SPREAD (OUT), space (out),

time at intervals, overlap ④ *stagger the screws at each joint* ALTERNATE, step, arrange in a zigzag

stagnant ▶ **adjective** ① *stagnant water* STILL, motionless, static, stationary, standing, dead, slack, FOUL, stale, putrid, smelly ② *a stagnant economy* INACTIVE, sluggish, slow-moving, lethargic, static, flat, depressed, declining, moribund, dying, dead, dormant
-OPPOSITES flowing, fresh, active, vibrant

stagnate ▶ **verb** ① *obstructions allow water to stagnate* STOP FLOWING, become stagnant, become trapped, stand, become foul, become stale, fester, putrefy ② *exports stagnated* LAG, decline, deteriorate, fall, become stagnant, do nothing, stand still, be sluggish
-OPPOSITES flow, rise, boom

staid ▶ **adjective** SEDATE, respectable, quiet, serious, serious-minded, steady, conventional, traditional, unadventurous, unenterprising, set in one's ways, sober, proper, decorous, formal, stuffy, stiff, *informal* starchy, stick-in-the-mud
-OPPOSITES frivolous, daring, informal

stain ▶ **verb** ① *her clothing was stained with blood* DISCOLOUR, blemish, soil, mark, muddy, spot, spatter, splatter, smear, splash, smudge, blotch, blacken ② *the report stained his reputation* DAMAGE, injure, harm, sully, blacken, tarnish, taint, smear, bring discredit to, dishonour, drag through the mud, *poetic/literary* besmirch ③ *the wood was stained* COLOUR, tint, dye, tinge, pigment, colour-wash

▶ **noun** ① *a mud stain* MARK, spot, spatter, splatter, blotch, smudge, smear ② *a stain on his character* BLEMISH, injury, taint, blot, smear, discredit, dishonour, damage ③ *dark wood stain* TINT, colour, dye, tinge, pigment, colourant, colour wash

stake¹ ▶ **noun** *a stake in the ground* POST, pole, stick, spike, upright, support, prop, strut, pale, paling, picket, pile, piling, cane

▶ **verb** ① *the plants have to be staked* PROP UP, tie up, tether, support, hold up, brace, truss ② *he staked his claim* ASSERT, declare, proclaim, state, make, lay, put in

■ **stake something out** ① *builders staked out the plot* MARK OFF/OUT, demarcate, measure out, delimit, fence off, section off, close off, shut off, cordon off ② *(informal) the police staked out his flat* OBSERVE, watch, keep an eye on, keep under observation, keep watch on, monitor, keep under surveillance, surveil, *informal* keep tabs on, keep a tab on, case

stake² ▶ **noun** ① *playing dice for high stakes* BET, wager, ante ② *they are racing for record stakes* PRIZE MONEY, purse, pot, winnings ③ *low down in the popularity stakes* COMPETITION, contest, battle, challenge, rivalry, race, running, struggle, scramble ④ *a 40% stake in the business* SHARE, interest, ownership, involvement

▶ **verb** *he staked all his week's pay* BET, wager, lay, put on, gamble, chance, venture, risk, hazard

stale ▶ **adjective** ① *stale food* OLD, past its best, past its sell-by date, off, dry, hard, musty, rancid ② *stale air* STUFFY, close, musty, fusty, stagnant, frowzy, *Brit* frowsty, foggy ③ *stale beer* FLAT, turned, spoiled, off, insipid, tasteless ④ *stale jokes* HACKNEYED, tired, worn out, overworked, threadbare, warmed-up, banal, trite, clichéd, platitudinous, unoriginal, unimaginative, uninspired, flat; out of date, outdated, outmoded, passé, archaic, obsolete, *N Amer*

warmed-over, informal old hat, corny, out of the ark, played out

-OPPOSITES fresh, original

stalemate ▶ **noun** DEADLOCK, impasse, stand-off, draw, tie, dead heat

stalk¹ ▶ **noun** *the stalk of a plant* STEM, shoot, trunk, stock, cane, bine, bent, haulm, straw, reed

-RELATED TERMS cauline

stalk² ▶ **verb** ① *a stout was stalking a rabbit* CREEP UP ON, trail, follow, shadow, track down, go after, be after, course, hunt, *informal* tail ② *she stalked out* STRUT, stride, march, flounce, storm, stomp, sweep

stall ▶ **noun** ① *a market stall* STAND, table, counter, booth, kiosk ② *stalls for larger animals* PEN, coop, sty, corral, enclosure, compartment ③ *(Brit) theatre stalls* *N Amer* orchestra, parterre

▶ **verb** ① *the Government has stalled the project* OBSTRUCT, impede, interfere with, hinder, hamper, block, interrupt, hold up, hold back, thwart, balk, sabotage, delay, stonewall, check, stop, halt, derail, put a brake on, *informal* stymie, *N Amer informal* bork ② *quit stalling* USE DELAYING TACTICS, play for time, temporize, gain time, procrastinate, hedge, beat about the bush, drag one's feet, delay, filibuster, stonewall ③ *stall him for a bit* DELAY, divert, distract, HOLD OFF, stave off, fend off, keep off, ward off, keep at bay

stalwart ▶ **adjective** STAUNCH, loyal, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, constant, trusty hard-working, steadfast, redoubtable, unwavering
-OPPOSITES disloyal, unfaithful, unreliable

stamina ▶ **noun** ENDURANCE, staying power, tirelessness, fortitude, strength, energy, toughness, determination, tenacity, perseverance, grit

stammer ▶ **verb** *he began to stammer* STUTTER, stumble over one's words, hesitate, falter, pause, halt, splutter

▶ **noun** *he had a stammer* STUTTER, speech impediment, speech defect

stamp ▶ **verb** ① *he stamped on my toe* TRAMPLE, step, tread, tramp, CRUSH, squash, flatten ② *John stamped off*, *muttering* STOMP, stomp, clomp, clump ③ *the name is stamped on the cover* IMPRINT, print, impress, punch, inscribe, emboss, brand, frank ④ *his face was stamped on Martha's memory* FIX, inscribe, etch, carve, imprint, impress ⑤ *his style stamps him as a player to watch* IDENTIFY, characterize, brand, distinguish, classify, mark out, set apart, single out

▶ **noun** ① *the stamp of authority* MARK, hallmark, indication, sign, seal, sure sign, telltale sign, quality, smack, smell, savour, air ② *he was of a very different stamp* TYPE, kind, sort, variety, class, category, classification, style, description, condition, calibre, status, quality, nature, ilk, kidney, cast, grain, mould, *N Amer* stripe

■ **stamp something out** PUT AN END/STOP TO, end, stop, crush, put down, crack down on, curb, nip in the bud, scotch, squash, quash, quell, subdue, suppress, extinguish, stifle, abolish, get rid of, eliminate, eradicate, beat, overcome, defeat, destroy, wipe out; *informal* put the kibosh on

stamp collecting ▶ **noun** PHILATELY.

stampede ▶ noun the noise caused a stampede CHARGE, panic, rush, flight, rout

▶ verb the sheep stampeded BOLT, charge, flee, take flight, race, rush, career, sweep, run

stance ▶ noun ① a natural golfer's stance POSTURE, body position, pose, attitude ② a liberal stance ATTITUDE, stand, point of view, viewpoint, opinion, way of thinking, outlook, standpoint, position, angle, perspective, approach, line, policy

stand ▶ verb ① Lionel stood in the doorway BE ON ONE'S FEET, be upright, be erect, be vertical ② the men stood up RISE, get/rise to one's feet, get up, straighten up, pick oneself up, find one's feet, be upstanding, formal arise ③ today a house stands on the site BE, be situated, be located, be positioned, be sited, have been built ④ he stood the book on the shelf PUT, set, set up, erect, up-end, place, position, locate, prop, lean, stick, install, arrange, informal park ⑤ my decision stands REMAIN IN FORCE, remain valid/effective/operative, remain in operation, hold, hold good, apply, be the case, exist, formal obtain ⑥ his heart could not stand the strain WITH STAND, endure, bear, put up with, take, cope with, handle, sustain, resist, stand up to ⑦ (in formal) I won't stand cheek ENDURE, tolerate, bear, put up with, stomach, take, abide, support, countenance, Scottish thole, informal swallow, Brit informal stick, wear, formal brook

—OPPOSITES sit, lie, sit down, lie down

▶ noun ① the party's stand on immigration ATTITUDE, stance, point of view, viewpoint, opinion, way of thinking, outlook, standpoint, position, approach, thinking, policy, line ② a stand against tyranny OPPOSITION, resistance, objection, hostility, animosity ③ a large mirror on a stand BASE, support, mounting, platform, rest, plinth, bottom, tripod, rack, trivet ④ a beer stand STALL, counter, booth, kiosk, tent ⑤ a taxi stand RANK, station, park, bay ⑥ the train drew to a stand STOP, halt, standstill, dead stop ⑦ a stand of trees COPSE, spinney, thicket, grove

■ stand by WAIT, be prepared, be in (a state of) readiness, be ready for action, be on full alert, wait in the wings

■ stand by someone/something ① she stood by her husband REMAIN BE LOYAL TO, stick with/by, remain/be true to, stand up for, support, back up, defend, stick up for ② the government must stand by its pledges ABIDE BY, keep (to), adhere to, hold to, stick to, observe, comply with

■ stand down RELAX, stand easy, come off full alert

■ stand for ① V stands for volts MEAN, be an abbreviation of, represent, signify, denote, indicate, symbolize ② (informal) I won't stand for any nonsense PUT UP WITH, endure, tolerate, stomach, accept, take, abide, stand, support, countenance, informal swallow, Brit informal stick, wear, formal brook ③ we stand for animal welfare ADVOCATE, champion, uphold, defend, stand up for, support, back, endorse, be in favour of, promote, recommend, urge

■ stand in DEPUTIZE, act, act as deputy, substitute, fill in, sit in, do duty, take over, act as locum, be a proxy, cover, hold the fort, step into the breach, replace, relieve, take over from, informal sub, fill someone's shoes, step into someone's shoes, N Amer pinch-hit

■ stand out ① his veins stood out PROJECT, stick out, bulge (out), be proud, jut (out) ② she stood out in the crowd BE NOTICEABLE, be visible, be obvious, be conspicuous, stick out, be striking, be distinctive, be prominent, attract attention, catch the eye, leap out, show up, informal stick/stand out a mile, stick/stand out like a sore thumb

■ stand up REMAIN/BE VALID, be sound, be plausible, hold water, hold up, stand questioning, survive investigation, bear examination, be verifiable

■ stand someone up FAIL TO KEEP A DATE WITH, fail to meet, fail to keep an appointment with, jilt

■ stand up for someone/something SUPPORT, defend, back, back up, stick up for, champion, promote, uphold, take someone's part, take the side of, side with

■ stand up to someone/something ① she stood up to her parents DEFY, confront, challenge, resist, take on, put up a fight against, argue with, take a stand against ② the old house has stood up to the war WITHSTAND, survive, come through (unscathed), outlast, outlive, weather, ride out, ward off

standard ▶ noun ① the standard of her work QUALITY, level, grade, calibre, merit, excellence ② a safety standard GUIDELINE, norm, yardstick, benchmark, measure, criterion, guide, touchstone, model, pattern, example, exemplar ③ a standard to live by PRINCIPLE, ideal, (standards) code of behaviour, code of honour, morals, scruples, ethics ④ the regiment's standard FLAG, banner, pennant, ensign, colour(s), banderole, guidon, Brit pendant, Nautical burgee

▶ adjective ① the standard way of doing it NORMAL, usual, typical, stock, common, ordinary, customary, conventional, established, settled, set, fixed, traditional, prevailing, poetic/literary wonted ② the standard work on the subject DEFINITIVE, established, classic, recognized, accepted, authoritative, most reliable, exhaustive

—OPPOSITES unusual, special

standardize ▶ verb SYSTEMATIZE, make consistent, make uniform, make comparable, regulate, normalize, bring into line, equalize, homogenize, regiment

stand-in ▶ noun a stand-in for the minister SUBSTITUTE, replacement, deputy, surrogate, proxy, understudy, locum, supply, fill-in, cover, relief, stopgap, informal temp, N Amer informal pinch-hitter

▶ adjective a stand-in goalkeeper SUBSTITUTE, replacement, deputy, fill-in, stopgap, supply, surrogate, relief, acting, temporary, provisional, caretaker, N Amer informal pinch-hitting

standing ▶ noun ① his standing in the community STATUS, rank, ranking, position, reputation, estimation, stature, dated station ② a person of some standing SENIORITY, rank, eminence, prominence, prestige, repute, stature, esteem, importance, account, consequence, influence, distinction, informal clout, dated mark ③ a squabble of long standing DURATION, existence, continuance, endurance, life

▶ adjective ① standing stones UPRIGHT, erect, vertical, plumb, upended, on end, perpendicular, on one's feet, not yet reaped, Heraldry rampant ② standing water STAGNANT, still, motionless, static, stationary, dead, slack ③ a standing invi-



Stars

See also ASTEROID, CONSTELLATION, GALAXY, METEOR, PLANET.

STAR	CONSTELLATION	STAR	CONSTELLATION	STAR	CONSTELLATION
Achernar	Eridanus	Barnard's Star	Ophiuchus	Mirach	Andromeda
Acrux	CruX	Becrux Mimosa	CruX	Mirfak	Perseus
Adhara	Canis Major	Bellatrix	Orion	Mirzam	Canis Major
Alcor	Ursa Major	Betelgeuse	Orion	North Star	Ursa Minor
Alcyone	Taurus	Canopus	Carina	Nunki	Sagittarius
Aldebaran	Taurus	Capella	Auriga	Peacock	Pavo
Algenib	Pegasus	Castor	Gemini	Polaris	Ursa Minor
Algieba	Leo	Deneb	Cygnus	Pollux	Gemini
Algol	Perseus	Denebola	Leo	Procyon	Canis Minor
Alioth	Ursa Major	Dog Star	Canis Major	Proxima	Centaurus
Almach	Andromeda	Dubhe	Ursa Major	Centauri	
Alnilam	Orion	Elnath	Taurus	Regulus	Leo
Alnitak	Orion	Fomalhaut	Piscis Austrinus	Rigel	Orion
Alpha Centauri or Rigil Kentaurus	Centaurus	Gacrux	CruX	Shaula	Scorpius
Alphard	Hydra	Garnet star	Cepheus	Sirius	Canis Major
Altair	Aquila	Hadar	Centaurus	Spica	Virgo
Antares	Scorpius	Hamal	Aries	Tau Ceti	Cetus
Arcturus	Boötes	Markab	Pegasus	Tycho's star	Cassiopeia
		Merak	Ursa Major	Vega	Lyra
		Mira	Cetus		

tation PERMANENT, perpetual, everlasting, continuing, abiding, indefinite, open-ended, regular, repeated

—OPPOSITES flat, lying down, seated, flowing, temporary, occasional

stand-off ► noun DEADLOCK, stalemate, impasse, draw, tie, dead heat, suspension of hostilities, lull

stand-offish ► adjective (informal) ALOOF, distant, remote, detached, withdrawn, reserved, uncommunicative, unresponsive, unforthcoming, unapproachable, unfriendly, unsociable, introspective, introverted

—OPPOSITES friendly, approachable, sociable

standpoint ► noun POINT OF VIEW, viewpoint, vantage point, attitude, stance, view, opinion, position, way of thinking, outlook, perspective

standstill ► noun HALT, stop, dead stop, stand

staple ► adjective MAIN, principal, chief, major, primary, leading, foremost, first, most important, predominant, dominant, (most) prominent, basic, standard, prime, premier, informal number-one

star ► noun ① the sky was full of stars CELESTIAL BODY, heavenly body, sun, asteroid, planet See lists ② the stars of the film PRINCIPAL, leading lady/man, lead, female/male lead, hero, heroine ③ a star of the world of chess CELEBRITY, superstar, big name, famous name, household name, someone, somebody, lion, leading light, VIP, personality, personage, luminary, informal celeb, big shot, big noise, megastar —RELATED TERMS astral, astro-, sidereal, sidero-, stellar

—OPPOSITES nobody

► adjective ① a star pupil BRILLIANT, talented, gifted, able, exceptional, outstanding, bright, clever, masterly, consummate, precocious, prodigious ② the star attraction TOP, leading, best, greatest, foremost, major, pre-eminent, champion

—OPPOSITES poor, minor

Types of Star

astrometric	eclipsing	pulsar
binary	binary	quasar
binary star	flare star	red dwarf
brown dwarf	giant	red giant
cepheid	lodestar	supergiant
collapsar	neutron star	supernova
dark star	nova	variable star
double star	polar	visual binary
dwarf star	polar star	white dwarf

starchy ► adjective (informal) See STAID

stare ► verb GAZE, gape, goggle, glare, ogle, peer, informal gawk, rubberneck, Bnt informal gawp

stark ► adjective ① a stark silhouette SHARP, sharply defined, well focused, crisp, distinct, obvious, evident, clear, clear-cut, graphic, striking ② a stark landscape DESOLATE, bare, barren, arid, vacant, empty, forsaken, godforsaken, bleak, sombre, depressing, cheerless, joyless, poetic/literary drear ③ a stark room AUSTERE, severe, bleak, plain, simple, bare, unadorned, unembellished, undecorated ④ stark terror SHEER, utter, complete, absolute, total, pure, downright, out-and-out, outright, rank, thorough, consummate, unqualified, unmitigated, unalloyed ⑤ the stark facts BLUNT, bald, bare, simple, basic, plain, unvarnished, harsh, grim

—OPPOSITES fuzzy, indistinct, pleasant, ornate, disguised

► adverb stark naked COMPLETELY, totally, utterly, absolutely, downright, dead, entirely, wholly, fully, quite, altogether, thoroughly, truly

start ► verb ① the meeting starts at 7.45 BEGIN, commence, get under way, go ahead, get going, informal kick off ② this was how her illness had started. COME INTO BEING, begin, commence, be born, come into existence, appear, arrive, come forth, emerge, erupt, burst out, arise, originate, develop ③ she started her own charity ESTABLISH, set up, found, create, bring into being,



institute, initiate, inaugurate, introduce, open, launch, float, kick-start, get something off the ground, pioneer, organize, mastermind, *informal* kick something off ④ *we had better start on the work* MAKE A START, begin, commence, take the first step, make the first move, get going, go ahead, set things moving, start/get/set the ball rolling, buckle to/down, turn to, *informal* get moving, get cracking, get stuck in, get down to it, get to it, get down to business, get one's finger out, get the show on the road, take the plunge, kick off, get off one's backside, fire away, *Brit informal* get weaving ⑤ *he started across the field* SET OFF, set out, start out, set forth, begin one's journey, get on the road, depart, leave, get under way, make a start, sally forth, embark, sail, *informal* hit the road ⑥ *you can start the machine* ACTIVATE, set in motion, switch on, start up, turn on, fire up, energize, actuate, set off, start off, set something going/moving ⑦ *the machine started* BEGIN WORKING, start up, get going, spring into life ⑧ *'Oh my!' she said, starting* FLINCH, jerk, jump, twitch, recoil, shy, shrink, blench, wince
 -OPPOSITES finish, stop, clear up, wind up, hang about, give up, arrive, stay, close down
 ▶ **noun** ① *the start of the event* BEGINNING, commencement, inception ② *the start of her illness* ONSET, commencement, emergence, (first) appearance, arrival, eruption, dawn, birth ③ *a quarter of an hour's start* LEAD, head start, advantage ④ *a start in life* ADVANTAGEOUS BEGINNING, flying start, helping hand, lift, assistance, support, encouragement, boost, kick-start, *informal* break, leg up ⑤ *she awoke with a start* JERK, twitch, flinch, wince, spasm, convulsion, jump
 -OPPOSITES end, finish, handicap

startle ▶ **verb** SURPRISE, frighten, scare, alarm, give someone a shock/fright/jolt, make someone jump, PERTURB, unsettle, agitate, disturb, disconcert, disquiet, *informal* give someone a turn, make someone jump out of their skin
 -OPPOSITES put at ease

startling ▶ **adjective** SURPRISING, astonishing, amazing, unexpected, unforeseen, staggering, shocking, stunning, extraordinary, remarkable, dramatic, disturbing, unsettling, perturbing, disconcerting, disquieting, frightening, alarming, scary
 -OPPOSITES predictable, ordinary

starvation ▶ **noun** EXTREME HUNGER, lack of food, famine, undernourishment, malnourishment, fasting, deprivation of food, death from lack of food

starving ▶ **adjective** DYING OF HUNGER, deprived of food, undernourished, malnourished, starved, half-starved, very hungry, ravenous, famished, empty, hollow, fasting
 -OPPOSITES full

stash (*informal*) ▶ **verb** *he stashed his things away* STORE, stow, pack, load, cache, hide, conceal, secrete, hoard, save, stockpile, *informal* salt away, squirrel away

▶ **noun** *a stash of money* CACHE, hoard, stock, stockpile, store, supply, accumulation, collection, reserve

state¹ ▶ **noun** ① *the state of the economy* CONDITION, shape, situation, circumstances, position, predicament, plight ② (*informal*) *don't get into a state* FLUSTER, frenzy, fever, fret, panic, state of agitation/anxiety, *informal* flap, tizzy, tiz-woz,

dither, stew, sweat, *N Amer informal* twit ③ (*informal*) *your room is in a state* MESS, chaos, disorder, disarray, confusion, muddle, heap, shambles, clutter, untidiness, disorganization ④ *an autonomous state* COUNTRY, nation, land, sovereign state, nation state, kingdom, realm, power, republic, confederation, federation ⑤ *the country is divided into thirty-two states* PROVINCE, federal state, region, territory, canton, department, county, district, *Brit* shire ⑥ *the power of the state* GOVERNMENT, parliament, administration, regime, authorities

▶ **adjective** *a state visit to China* CEREMONIAL, official, formal, governmental, national, public
 -OPPOSITES unofficial, private, informal

state² ▶ **verb** *I stated my views* EXPRESS, voice, utter, put into words, declare, affirm, assert, announce, make known, put across/over, communicate, air, reveal, disclose, divulge, proclaim, present, expound, set out, set down, *informal* come out with

stated ▶ **adjective** SPECIFIED, fixed, settled, set, agreed, declared, designated, laid down
 -OPPOSITES undefined, irregular, tacit

stately ▶ **adjective** DIGNIFIED, majestic, ceremonious, courtly, imposing, impressive, solemn, awe-inspiring, regal, elegant, grand, glorious, splendid, magnificent, resplendent, slow-moving, measured, deliberate

statement ▶ **noun** DECLARATION, expression of views/facts, affirmation, assertion, announcement, utterance, communication, proclamation, presentation, expounding, account, testimony, evidence, report, bulletin, communicate

state-of-the-art ▶ **adjective** MODERN, ultra-modern, the latest, new, the newest, up to the minute, advanced, highly developed, innovative, trailblazing, revolutionary, sophisticated

statesman, stateswoman ▶ **noun** SENIOR POLITICIAN, respected political figure, elder statesman, political leader, national leader

static ▶ **adjective** ① *static prices* UNCHANGED, fixed, stable, steady, unchanging, changeless, unvarying, invariable, constant, consistent ② *a static display* STATIONARY, motionless, immobile, unmoving, still, stock-still, at a standstill, at rest, not moving a muscle, like a statue, rooted to the spot, frozen, inactive, inert, lifeless, inanimate
 -OPPOSITES variable, mobile, active, dynamic

station ▶ **noun** ① *a railway station* STOPPING PLACE, stop, halt, stage, terminus, terminal, depot ② *a research station* ESTABLISHMENT, base, camp, post, depot, mission, site, facility, installation, yard ③ *a police station* OFFICE, depot, base, headquarters, *N Amer* precinct, station house, *informal* cop shop, *Brit informal* nick ④ *a radio station* CHANNEL, broadcasting organization, wavelength ⑤ (*Austral/NZ*) *a sheep station* RANCH, range, farm ⑥ *the lookout resumed his station* POST, position, place ⑦ (*dated*) *Karen was getting ideas above her station* RANK, place, status, position in society, social class, stratum, level, grade, caste, *archaic* condition, degree

▶ **verb** *the regiment was stationed at Woolwich* PUT ON DUTY, post, position, place, establish, install, deploy, base, garrison

stationary ▶ **adjective** ① *a stationary car* STATIC, parked, stopped, motionless, immobile, unmoving, still, stock-still, at a standstill, at

rest, not moving a muscle, like a statue, rooted to the spot, frozen, inactive, inert, lifeless, inanimate ② a stationary population UNCHANGING, unvarying, invariable, constant, consistent, unchanged, changeless, fixed, stable, steady
-OPPOSITES moving, shifting

statue ▶ noun SCULPTURE, figure, effigy, statuette, figurine, idol, carving, bronze, graven image, model, bust, head

statuesque ▶ adjective TALL AND DIGNIFIED, imposing, striking, stately, majestic, noble, magnificent, splendid, impressive, regal

stature ▶ noun ① she was small in stature HEIGHT, tallness, size, build ② an architect of international stature REPUTATION, repute, standing, status, position, prestige, distinction, eminence, pre-eminence, prominence, importance, influence, note, fame, celebrity, renown, acclaim

status ▶ noun ① the status of women STANDING, rank, ranking, position, social position, level, place, estimation, dated station ② wealth and status PRESTIGE, kudos, cachet, standing, stature, regard, fame, note, renown, honour, esteem, image, importance, prominence, consequence, distinction, influence, authority, eminence

statute ▶ noun LAW, regulation, enactment, act, bill, decree, edict, rule, ruling, resolution, dictum, command, order, directive, pronouncement, proclamation, dictate, diktat, fiat, by-law, *N Amer* formal ordinance

staunch ▶ adjective a staunch supporter STALWART, loyal, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, constant, trusty, hard-working, steadfast, redoubtable, unwavering

-OPPOSITES disloyal, unfaithful, unreliable

staunch ▶ verb she tried to staunch the flow of blood STEM, stop, halt, check, hold back, restrain restrict, control, contain, curb, block, dam, slow, lessen, reduce, diminish, retard, *N Amer* stanch, *archaic* stay

stave

■ stave something in BREAK IN, smash in, put a hole in, push in, kick in, cave in

■ stave something off AVERT, prevent, avoid, counter, preclude, forestall, nip in the bud, ward off, fend off, head off, keep off, keep at bay

stay ▶ verb ① he stayed where he was REMAIN (BEHIND), stay behind, stay put; wait, linger, stick, be left, hold on, hang on, lodge, *informal* hang around/round, *Brit informal* hang about, *archaic* bide, tarry ② they won't stay hidden CONTINUE (TO BE), remain, keep, persist in being, carry on being, go on being ③ our aunt is staying with us visit, spend time, put up, stop (off/over), holiday, lodge, room, board, have rooms, be housed, be accommodated, be quartered, be billeted, *N Amer* vacation, *formal* sojourn, *archaic* bide ④ legal proceedings were stayed POSTPONE, put off, delay, defer, put back, hold over/off, adjourn, suspend, prorogue, *N Amer* put over, table, lay on the table, take a rain check on, *US Law* continue; *informal* put on ice, put on the back burner ⑤ (poetic/literary) we must stay the enemy's advance DELAY, slow down/up, hold back/up, set back, keep back, put back, put a brake on, retard; hinder, hamper, obstruct, in-

hibit, impede, curb, check, restrain, restrict, arrest, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works of, *N Amer* throw a monkey wrench in the works of
-OPPOSITES leave, advance, promote

▶ noun ① a stay at a hotel visit, stop, stop-off, stopover, break, holiday, *N Amer* vacation, *formal* sojourn ② a stay of judgement POSTPONE MENT, putting off, delay, deferment, deferral, putting back, adjournment, suspension, prorogation, *N Amer* tabling, *US Law* continuance

stay ▶ noun the stays holding up the mast STRUT, WIRE, brace, tether, guy, prop, rod, support, truss, *Nautical* shroud

▶ verb her masts were well stayed BRACE, tether, strut, wire, guy, prop, support, truss

steadfast ▶ adjective ① a steadfast friend LOYAL, faithful, committed, devoted, dedicated, dependable, reliable, steady, true, constant, staunch, trusty ② a steadfast policy FIRM, determined, resolute, relentless, implacable, single-minded, unchanging, unwavering, unhesitating, unfaltering, unswerving, unyielding, unflinching, uncompromising
-OPPOSITES disloyal, irresolute

steady ▶ adjective ① the ladder must be steady STABLE, firm, fixed, secure, fast, safe, immovable, unshakeable, dependable, anchored, moored, jammed, rooted, braced ② keep the camera steady MOTIONLESS, still, unshaking, static, stationary, unmoving ③ a steady gaze FIXED, intent, unwavering, unfaltering ④ a steady young man SENSIBLE, level-headed, rational, settled, mature, down-to-earth, full of common sense, reliable, dependable, sound, sober, serious-minded, responsible, serious ⑤ a steady income CONSTANT, unchanging, regular, consistent, invariable, continuous, continual, unceasing, ceaseless, perpetual, unremitting, unwavering, unfaltering, unending, endless, round-the-clock, all-year-round ⑥ a steady boyfriend REGULAR, usual, established, settled, firm, devoted, faithful

-OPPOSITES unstable, loose, shaky, darting, slightly, immature, fluctuating, sporadic, occasional

▶ verb ① he steadied the rifle STABILIZE, hold steady, brace, support, balance, poise, secure, fix, make fast ② she needed to steady her nerves CALM, soothe, quieten, compose, settle, subdue, quell, control, get a grip on

steal ▶ verb ① the raiders stole a fax machine PURLOIN, thief, take, take for oneself, help oneself to, loot, pilfer, run off with, carry off, shoplift, embezzle, misappropriate, have one's fingers/hand in the till, *informal* walk off with, rob, swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle, snatch; *Brit informal* nick, pinch, half-inch, whip, knock off, nobbie, *N Amer informal* heist, *formal* peculate ② his work was stolen by his tutor PLAGIARIZE, copy, pass off as one's own, pirate, poach, borrow, *informal* rip off, lift, pinch, nick, crib ③ he stole a kiss SNATCH, sneak, get stealthily/surreptitiously ④ he stole out of the room. CREEP, sneak, slink, slip, slide, glide, tiptoe, sidle, slope, edge

▶ noun (informal) at £30 it's a steal See BARGAIN noun sense 2

stealing ▶ noun THEFT, thieving, thievery, robbery, larceny, burglary, shoplifting, pilfering, pilferage, looting, misappropriation, embezzlement, *formal* peculation

stealth ► **noun** FURTIVENESS, secretiveness, secrecy, surreptitiousness, sneakiness, slyness
-OPPOSITES openness

stealthy ► **adjective** FURTIVE, secretive, secret, surreptitious, sneaking, sly, clandestine, covert, conspiratorial
-OPPOSITES open

steam ► **noun** ① *steam from the kettle* WATER VAPOUR, condensation, mist, haze, fog, moisture ② *he ran out of steam* ENERGY, vigour, vitality, stamina, enthusiasm, MOMENTUM, impetus, force, strength, thrust, impulse, push, drive, speed, pace

► **verb** (informal) *he steamed into the shop* See RUN verb sense 1

■ **steamed up** (informal) ① *he got steamed up about forgetting his papers* See AGITATED ② *they got steamed up about the media* See ANGRY sense 1

■ **let off steam** (informal) GIVE VENT TO ONE'S FEELINGS, speak one's mind, speak out, sound off, lose one's inhibitions, let oneself go, use up surplus energy

■ **steam up** MIST (UP/OVER), fog (up), become misty/misted

steamy ► **adjective** ① *the steamy jungle* HUMID, muggy, sticky, dripping, moist, damp, clammy, sultry, sweaty, steaming ② (informal) *a steamy love scene* See EROTIC ③ (informal) *they had a steamy affair* PASSIONATE, tortrid, amorous, ardent, lustful, informal sizzling, hot, red-hot

steel

■ **steel oneself** BRACE ONESELF, nerve oneself, summon (up) one's courage, screw up one's courage, gear oneself up, prepare oneself, get in the right frame of mind, fortify oneself, harden oneself, informal psych oneself up, poetic/literary gird (up) one's loins

steely ► **adjective** ① *steely light* BLUE-GREY, grey, steel-coloured, steel-grey, iron-grey ② *steely muscles* HARD, firm, toned, rigid, stiff, tense, tensed, taut ③ *steely eyes* CRUEL, unfeeling, merciless, ruthless, pitiless, heartless, hard-hearted, hard, stony, cold-blooded, cold-hearted, harsh, callous, severe, unrelenting, unpitiful, unforgiving, uncaring, unsympathetic, poetic/literary adamant, ④ *steely determination* RESOLUTE, firm, steadfast, dogged, single-minded, bitter, burning, ferocious, fanatical, ruthless, iron, grim, gritty, unquenchable, unflinching, unswerving, unfaltering, untiring, unwavering

-OPPOSITES flabby, kind, half-hearted

steep¹ ► **adjective** ① *steep cliffs* PRECIPITOUS, sheer, abrupt, sharp, perpendicular, vertical, bluff, vertiginous ② *a steep increase* SHARP, sudden, precipitate, precipitous, rapid ③ (informal) *steep prices* EXPENSIVE, dear, costly, high, stiff, unreasonable, excessive, exorbitant, extortionate, outrageous, prohibitive, Brit over the odds
-OPPOSITES gentle, gradual, reasonable

steep² ► **verb** ① *the ham is then steeped in brine* MARINADE, marinate, soak, sousé, macerate, pickle ② *winding sheets were steeped in mercury sulphate* SOAK, saturate, immerse, wet through, drench, technical ret ③ *a city steeped in history* IMBUE WITH, fill with, permeate with, pervade with, suffuse with, infuse with, soak in

steeple ► **noun** SPIRE, tower, bell tower, belfry, campanile, munaret

steer ► **verb** ① *he steered the boat* GUIDE, direct, manoeuvre, drive, pilot, navigate, Nautical con. helm ② *Luke steered her down the path* GUIDE, conduct, direct, lead, take, usher, shepherd, marshal, herd

■ **steer clear of** KEEP AWAY FROM, keep one's distance from, keep at arm's length, give a wide berth to, avoid, avoid dealing with, have nothing to do with, shun, eschew

stem¹ ► **noun** a plant stem STALK, shoot, trunk, stock, cane, bine

-RELATED TERMS cauline

■ **stem from** HAVE ITS ORIGINS IN, arise from, originate from, spring from, derive from, come from, emanate from, flow from, proceed from, BE CAUSED BY, be brought on/about by, be produced by

stem² ► **verb** *he stemmed the flow of blood* STANCH, stop, halt, check, hold back, restrict, control, contain, curb, block, dam, slow, lessen, reduce, diminish, N Amer stanch, archaic stay

stench ► **noun** STINK, reek, Brit informal niff, pong, whiff, hum, Scottish informal guff, N Amer informal funk, poetic/literary miasma

stentorian ► **adjective** LOUD, thundering, thunderous, ear-splitting, deafening, powerful, strong, carrying, booming, resonant, strident
-OPPOSITES quiet, soft

step ► **noun** ① *Frank took a step forward* PACE, stride ② *she heard a step on the stairs* FOOTSTEP, footfall, tread ③ *she left the room with a springy step* GAIT, walk, tread ④ *it is only a step to the river* SHORT DISTANCE, stone's throw, spitting distance, informal {a hop, skip, and jump} ⑤ *the top step* STAIR, tread, (steps) STAIRS, staircase, stairway ⑥ *each step of the ladder* RUNG, tread ⑦ *resigning is a very serious step* COURSE OF ACTION, measure, move, act, action, initiative, manoeuvre, operation ⑧ *a significant step towards a ceasefire* ADVANCE, development, move, movement, breakthrough ⑨ *the first step on the managerial ladder* STAGE, level, grade, rank, degree, notch

► **verb** ① *she stepped forward* WALK, move, tread, pace, stride ② *the bull had stepped on his hat* TREAD, stamp, trample, squash, crush, flatten

■ **In step** *he is in step with mainstream thinking* IN ACCORD, in harmony, in agreement, in tune, in line, in keeping, in conformity

■ **mind/watch one's step** BE CAREFUL, take care, step/tread carefully, exercise care/caution, mind how one goes, look out, watch out, be wary, be on one's guard, be on the qui vive

■ **out of step** *the paper was often out of step with public opinion* AT ODDS, at variance, in disagreement, out of tune, out of line, not in keeping, out of harmony

■ **step by step** ONE STEP AT A TIME, bit by bit, gradually, in stages, by degrees, slowly, steadily

■ **step down** RESIGN, stand down, give up one's post/job, bow out, abdicate; informal quit.

■ **step in** ① *nobody stepped in to save the bank* INTERVENE, intercede, involve oneself, become/get involved, take a hand ② *I stepped in for a sick colleague* STAND IN, sit in, fill in, cover, substitute, take over; replace, take someone's place, informal sub

■ **step on it** (informal) HURRY UP, get a move on, speed up, go faster, be quick, informal get crackin', get moving, step on the gas, *Bnt* informal get one's skates on, *N Amer* informal get a wiggle on, dated make haste

■ **step something up** ① the army stepped up its offensive INCREASE, intensify, strengthen, augment, escalate, informal up, crank up ② I stepped up my pace SPEED UP, increase, accelerate, quicken, hasten

stereotype ► noun the stereotype of the rancher STANDARD/CONVENTIONAL IMAGE, received idea, cliché, hackneyed idea, formula

► verb women are often stereotyped as scheming TYPE CAST, pigeonhole, conventionalize, categorize, label, tag

stereotyped ► adjective STOCK, conventional, stereotypical, standard, formulaic, predictable, hackneyed, clichéd, cliché-ridden, banal, trite, unoriginal, typecast, informal corny, old hat
—OPPOSITES unconventional, original

sterile ► adjective ① mules are sterile INFERTILE, unable to reproduce/conceive, unable to have children/young, technical infecund, archaic barren ② sterile desert UNPRODUCTIVE, infertile, unfruitful, uncultivable, barren ③ a sterile debate POINTLESS, unproductive, unfruitful, unrewarding, useless, unprofitable, profitless, futile, vain, idle, archaic bootless ④ sterile academicism UNIMAGINATIVE, uninspired, uninspiring, unoriginal, stale, lifeless, musty ⑤ sterile conditions ASEPTIC, sterilized, germ-free, antiseptic, disinfected, uncontaminated, unpolluted, pure, clean, sanitary, hygienic
—OPPOSITES fertile, productive, creative, original, septic

sterilize ► verb ① the scalpel was first sterilized DISINFECT, fumigate, decontaminate, sanitize, pasteurize, clean, cleanse, purify, technical autoclave ② over 65 million people were sterilized MAKE UNABLE TO HAVE CHILDREN, make infertile, hysterectomize, vasectomize ③ stray pets are usually sterilized NEUTER, castrate, spay, geld, cut, fix, desex, *N Amer & Austral* alter, *Bnt* informal doctor
—OPPOSITES contaminate

sterling ► adjective (*Bnt*) EXCELLENT, first-rate, first-class, exceptional, outstanding, splendid, superlative, praiseworthy, laudable, commendable, admirable, valuable, worthy, deserving
—OPPOSITES poor, unexceptional

stern¹ ► adjective ① a stern expression SERIOUS, unsimiling, frowning, severe, forbidding, grim, unfriendly, austere, dour, stony, flinty, steely, unrelenting, unforgiving, unbending, unsympathetic, disapproving ② stern measures STRICT, severe, stringent, harsh, drastic, hard, tough, extreme, rigid, ruthless, rigorous, exacting, demanding, uncompromising, unsparing, inflexible, authoritarian, draconian
—OPPOSITES genial, friendly, lenient, lax

stern² ► noun the stern of the ship. REAR (END), back, after end, poop, transom, tail
—OPPOSITES bow

stew ► noun ① a beef stew CASSEROLE, hotpot, ragout, goulash, carbonnade, daube, grillade, *N Amer* burgoo See list ② (informal) she's in a right old stew PANIC, fluster, fret, fuss, fever, informal flap, sweat, lather, tizzy, dither, twitter, state, *N Amer* informal twit, poetic/literary pothor.

► verb ① stew the meat for an hour BRAISE, casserole, simmer, boil, jug, archaic seethe ② (informal) there's no point stewing over it See WORRY verb sense 1 ③ (informal) the girls sat stewing in the heat SWELTER, be very hot, perspire, sweat, informal roast, bake, be boiling

Stews

boeuf bourguignon	jollof rice
bouillabaisse	Lancashire hotpot
bredie	lobscouse
Brunswick stew	mannish water
burgoo	mulligan
callaloo	olio
carbonnade	olla podrida
casserole	osso bucco
cassoulet	pepper pot
chilli con carne	potjie
daube	pot pie
étouffée	ragout
feljoda	ratatouille
fricassée	salmi
goulash	slumgullion
grillade	smoor
hopping john	stifado
hotpot	stovies
Irish stew	tsimmes

steward ► noun ① an air steward FLIGHT ATTENDANT, cabin attendant, stewardess, air hostess, *N Amer* informal stew ② the race stewards OFFICIAL, marshal, organizer ③ the steward of the estate (ESTATE) MANAGER, agent, overseer, custodian, caretaker, *Bnt* land agent, bailiff, *Scottish* factor, *historical* reeve

stick¹ ► noun ① a fire made of sticks PIECE OF WOOD, twig, small branch ② he walks with a stick WALKING STICK, cane, staff, alpenstock, crook, crutch, trademark Zimmer frame ③ the plants need supporting on sticks CANE, pole, post, stake, upright ④ he beat me with a stick CLUB, cudgel, bludgeon, shillelagh, truncheon, baton, cane, birch, switch, rod, *Bnt* informal cosh ⑤ (*Bnt* informal) he'll get stick for this See CRITICISM sense 1

—OPPOSITES praise, commendation

■ **the sticks** (informal) THE COUNTRY, the countryside, rural areas, the provinces, the backwoods, the back of beyond, the wilds, the hinterland, a backwater, *N Amer* the backcountry, the backland, *Austral/NZ* the backblocks, the boozey, *S African* the backveld, the platteland, informal the middle of nowhere, *N Amer* informal the boondocks, the boonies, *Austral/NZ* informal Woop Woop, beyond the black stump

stick² ► verb ① he stuck his fork into the sausage THRUST, push, insert, jab, poke, dig, plunge ② the bristles stuck into his skin PIERCE, penetrate, puncture, prick, stab ③ the cup stuck to its saucer ADHERE, cling, be fixed, be glued. ④ stick the stamp there AFFIX, attach, fasten, fix, paste, glue, gum, tape, sellotape, pin, tack ⑤ the wheels stuck fast BECOME TRAPPED, become jammed, jam, catch, become wedged, become lodged, become fixed, become embedded ⑥ that sticks in his mind REMAIN, stay, linger, dwell, persist, continue, last, endure ⑦ the charges won't stick BE UPHELD, hold, be believed, informal hold water. ⑧ (informal) just stick that sand: wick on my desk PUT (DOWN), place, set (down),



lay (down), deposit, position, leave, stow, *informal* dump, bung, park, plonk, pop, *N Amer informal* plunk ① (*Brit informal*) I can't stick it any longer TOLERATE, put up with, take, stand, stomach, endure, bear, *Scottish* thole, *informal* abide

■ **stick at** PERSEVERE WITH, persist with, keep at, work at, continue with, carry on with, not give up with, hammer away at, stay with, go the distance, stay the course, *informal* soldier on with, hang in there

■ **stick by** BE LOYAL TO, be faithful to, be true to, stand by, keep faith with, keep one's promise to

■ **stick it out** PUT UP WITH IT, grin and bear it, keep at it, keep going, stay with it, see it through, persevere, persist, carry on, struggle on, *informal* hang in there, soldier on, tough it out

■ **stick out** ① his front teeth stuck out PROTRUDE, jut (out), project, stand out, extend, poke out, bulge, overhang ② they stuck out in their strange clothes BE NOTICEABLE, be visible, be obvious, be conspicuous, stand out, be obtrusive, be prominent, attract attention, catch the eye, leap out, show up, *informal* stick/stand out a mile, stick/stand out like a sore thumb

■ **stick to** he stuck to his promise ABIDE BY, keep, adhere to, hold to, comply with, fulfil, make good, stand by

■ **stick up for** SUPPORT, take someone's side, side with, be on the side of, stand by, stand up for, take someone's part, defend, come to the defence of, champion, speak up for, fight for

stick-in-the-mud ► noun (*informal*) (OLD) FOGY, conservative, fossil, troglodyte, *Brit* museum piece, *informal* fuddy-duddy, square, stuffed shirt

sticky ► adjective ① sticky tape (SELF-)ADHESIVE, gummed, *technical* adherent ② sticky clay GLUTINOUS, viscous, viscid, ropy, gluey, tacky, gummy, treacly, syrupy, mucilaginous, *Brit* claggy, *informal* gooey, gloopy, icky, *Brit informal* gungy, *N Amer informal* gloppy ③ sticky weather HUMID, muggy, close, sultry, steamy, sweaty ④ a sticky situation AWKWARD, difficult, tricky, ticklish, problematic, delicate, touch-and-go, embarrassing, sensitive, uncomfortable, *informal* hairy -OPPOSITES dry, fresh, cool, easy

stiff ► adjective ① stiff cardboard RIGID, hard, firm, inelastic, inflexible ② a stiff paste SEMISOLID, viscous, viscid, thick, stiffened, firm ③ I'm stiff all over ACHING, achy, painful, arthritic, rheumatic, *informal* creaky, rheumatically, rusty ④ a rather stiff manner FORMAL, reserved, unfriendly, chilly, cold, frigid, icy, austere, wooden, forced, strained, stilted, *informal* starchy, uptight, stand-offish ⑤ a stiff fine HARSH, severe, heavy, crippling, punishing, stringent, drastic, draconian, *Brit* swingeing ⑥ stiff resistance VIGOROUS, determined, full of determination, strong, spirited, resolute, tenacious, steely, four-square, unflagging, unyielding, dogged, stubborn, obdurate, *N Amer* rock-ribbed ⑦ a stiff climb DIFFICULT, hard, arduous, tough, strenuous, laborious, uphill, exacting, tiring, demanding, formidable, challenging, punishing, gruelling; *informal* killing, hellish; *Brit informal* knackered ⑧ a stiff breeze STRONG, fresh, brisk ⑨ a stiff drink STRONG, potent, alcoholic

-OPPOSITES flexible, plastic, limp, runny, supple, limber, relaxed, informal, lenient, mild, half-hearted, easy, gentle, weak

stiffen ► verb ① stir until the mixture stiffens BECOME STIFF, thicken, set, become solid, solidify, harden, gel, congeal, coagulate, clot ② she stiffened her muscles | without exercise, joints will stiffen MAKE/BECOME STIFF, tense (up), tighten, tauten ③ intimidation stiffened their resolve STRENGTHEN, harden, toughen, fortify, reinforce, give a boost to

-OPPOSITES soften, liquefy, relax, weaken

stifle ► verb ① she stifled him with a bolster SUFFOCATE, choke, asphyxiate, smother ② Eleanor stifled a giggle SUPPRESS, smother, restrain, fight back, choke back, gulp back, check, swallow, curb, silence ③ cartels stifle competition CONSTRAIN, hinder, hamper, impede, hold back, curb, check, restrain, prevent, inhibit, suppress

-OPPOSITES let out, encourage

stifling ► adjective AIRLESS, suffocating, oppressive, very hot, sweltering, humid, close, muggy, *informal* boiling

-OPPOSITES fresh, airy, cold

stigma ► noun SHAME, disgrace, dishonour, ignominy, opprobrium, humiliation -OPPOSITES honour, credit

stigmatize ► verb CONDEMN, denounce, brand, label, mark out, disparage, vilify, pillory, pour scorn on, defame

still ► adjective ① Polly lay still MOTIONLESS, unmoving, not moving a muscle, stock-still, immobile, like a statue, as if turned to stone, rooted to the spot, transfixed, static, stationary ② a still night QUIET, silent, hushed, soundless, noiseless, undisturbed, CALM, peaceful, serene, windless, *poetic/literary* stilly ③ the lake was still CALM, flat, even, smooth, placid, tranquil, pacific, waveless, glassy, like a millpond, unruffled

-OPPOSITES moving, active, noisy, rough

► noun the still of the night QUIETNESS, quiet, quietude, silence, stillness, hush, soundlessness, calm, tranquillity, peace, serenity

-OPPOSITES noise, disturbance, hubbub

► adverb ① he's still here UP TO THIS TIME, up to the present time, until now, even now, yet ② He's crazy Still, he's harmless NEVERTHELESS, nonetheless, all the same, just the same, anyway, anyhow, even so, yet, but, however, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, be that as it may, in any event, at any rate, *informal* still and all

► verb ① he stilled the crowd QUIETEN, quiet, silence, hush, calm, settle, pacify, soothe, lull, allay, subdue ② the wind stilled ABATE, die down, lessen, subside, ease up/off, let up, moderate, slacken, weaken

-OPPOSITES stir up, get stronger, get up

stilted ► adjective STRAINED, forced, contrived, constrained, laboured, stiff, self-conscious, awkward, unnatural, wooden.

-OPPOSITES natural, effortless, spontaneous

stimulant ► noun ① caffeine is a stimulant TONIC, restorative; antidepressant, *informal* pep pill, upper, pick-me-up, bracer, *Medicine* analeptic ② a stimulant to discussion: STIMULUS, incentive, encouragement, impetus, inducement, fil-

lip, boost, spur, prompt, *informal* shot in the arm

—OPPOSITES sedative, downer, deterrent

stimulate ▶ **verb** ENCOURAGE, act as a stimulus/incentive/impetus/fillip/spur to, prompt, prod, move, motivate, trigger, spark, spur on, galvanize, activate, kindle, fire, fire with enthusiasm, fuel, whet, nourish, inspire, incentivize, inspirit, rouse, excite, animate, electrify, *N Amer* light a fire under, spirit someone up

—OPPOSITES discourage

stimulating ▶ **adjective** ① a stimulating effect on the circulation RESTORATIVE, tonic, invigorating, bracing, energizing, reviving, refreshing, revitalizing, revivifying, *Medicine* analeptic ② a stimulating lecture THOUGHT-PROVOKING, interesting, fascinating, inspiring, inspirational, lively, sparkling, exciting, stirring, rousing, intriguing, giving one food for thought, refreshing, provocative, challenging

—OPPOSITES sedative, uninspiring, uninteresting, boring

stimulus ▶ **noun** SPUR, stimulant, encouragement, impetus, boost, prompt, prod, incentive, inducement, inspiration, fillip, motivation, impulse, *informal* shot in the arm

—OPPOSITES deterrent, discouragement

sting ▶ **noun** ① a bee sting PRICK, wound, injury, puncture ② this cream will take the sting away SMART, pricking, pain, soreness, hurt, irritation ③ the sting of his betrayal HEARTACHE, heartbreak, agony, torture, torment, hurt, pain, anguish ④ there was a sting in her words SHARPNESS, severity, bite, edge, pointedness, asperity, sarcasm, acrimony, malice, spite, venom ⑤ (*informal*) the victim of a sting SWINDLE, fraud, deception, trickery, sharp practice, *informal* rip-off, con, con trick, fiddle, *N Amer informal* bunco

▶ **verb** ① she was stung by a scorpion PRICK, wound, poison ② the smoke made her eyes sting SMART, burn hurt, be irritated, be sore ③ the criticism stung her UPSET, wound, cut to the quick, sear, grieve, hurt, pain, torment, mortify ④ he was stung into action PROVOKE, goad, incite, spur, prick, prod, rouse, drive, galvanize ⑤ (*informal*) they stung a bank for thousands SWINDLE, defraud, cheat, fleece, gull, *informal* rip off, screw, shaft, bilk, do, took, diddle, take for a ride, skin, *N Amer informal* chisel, gouge, *Brit informal*, dated rush

—OPPOSITES deter

stingy ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) MEAN, miserly, niggardly, close-fisted, parsimonious, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like, *informal* tight-fisted, tight, stingy, money-grubbing, *N Amer informal* cheap, *formal* penurious, archaic near, niggard

—OPPOSITES generous, liberal

stink ▶ **verb** ① his clothes stank of sweat REEK, smell (foul/bad/disgusting), stink/smell to high heaven. ② (*informal*) the whole idea stinks BE VERY UNPLEASANT, be abhorrent, be despicable, be contemptible, be disgusting, be vile, be foul, *N Amer informal* suck ③ (*informal*) the whole affair stinks of a set-up SMACK, reek, give the impression, have all the hallmarks, strongly suggest

▶ **noun** ① the stink of sweat STENCH, reek, foul/bad smell, malodour, *Brit informal* pong, niff, hum, *Scottish informal* guff; *N Amer informal* funk, poetic/literary miasma ② (*informal*) she kicked up a stink FUSS, commotion, rumpus, ruckus, trouble,

outcry, uproar, brouhaha, furore, *informal* song and dance, to-do, kerfuffle, hoo-ha, *Brit informal* row, carry-on

stinking ▶ **adjective** ① stinking rubbish FOUL-SMELLING, smelly, reeking, fetid, malodorous, rank, putrid, noxious, *informal* stinky, reeky, *Brit informal* niffing, niffy, pongy, whiffy, humming, *N Amer informal* funky, poetic/literary miasmic, noisome ② (*informal*) a stinking cold DREADFUL, awful, terrible, frightful, ghastly, nasty, foul, vile, *Brit informal* rotten, shocking

—OPPOSITES sweet-smelling, aromatic, mild, slight

stint ▶ **verb** we saved by stinting on food SKIMP, scrimp, be economical, economize, be sparing, hold back, be frugal, be mean, be parsimonious, limit, restrict, *informal* be stingy, be stingy, be tight

▶ **noun** a two-week stint in the office SPELL, stretch, turn, session, term, shift, tour of duty

stipulate ▶ **verb** SPECIFY, set down, set out, lay down, demand, require, insist on, make a condition of, prescribe, impose, *Law* provide

stipulation ▶ **noun** CONDITION, precondition, proviso, provision, prerequisite, specification, demand, requirement, rider, caveat, qualification

stir ▶ **verb** ① stir the mixture well MIX, blend, agitate, beat, whip, whisk, fold in, *N Amer* muddle ② Travis stirred in his sleep MOVE SLIGHTLY, change one's position, shift ③ a breeze stirred the leaves DISTURB, rustle, shake, move, flutter, agitate ④ he finally stirred at ten o'clock GET UP, get out of bed, rouse oneself, rise, WAKE (UP), awaken, *informal* rise and shine, surface, show signs of life, *formal* arise, poetic/literary waken ⑤ I never stirred from here MOVE, budge, make a move, shift, go away, leave ⑥ symbolism can stir the imagination AROUSE, rouse, fire, kindle, inspire, stimulate, excite, awaken, quicken, poetic/literary waken ⑦ the war stirred him to action SPUR, drive, rouse, prompt, propel, prod, motivate, encourage, urge, impel, provoke, goad, prick, sting, incite, *N Amer* light a fire under

—OPPOSITES go to bed, retire, go to sleep, stultify, stay, stay put

▶ **noun** the news caused a stir COMMOTION, disturbance, fuss, excitement, turmoil, sensation, *informal* to-do, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, flap, splash

■ stir something up WHIP UP, work up, foment, fan the flames of, trigger, spark off, precipitate, excite, provoke, incite

stirring ▶ **adjective** EXCITING, thrilling, rousing, stimulating, moving, inspiring, inspirational, passionate, impassioned, emotional, heady

—OPPOSITES boring, pedestrian

stitch ▶ **noun** ① a row of zigzag stitches See list at SEWING ② he was panting and had a stitch SHARP PAIN, stabbing pain, shooting pain, stab of pain, pang, twinge, spasm

▶ **verb** the seams are stitched by hand SEW, baste, tack, seam, hem, darn

■ stitch someone up (*Brit informal*) FALSELY INCRIMINATE, get someone into trouble, *informal* frame, set up, *Brit informal* fit someone up, drop someone in it

stock ▶ **noun** ① the shop carries little stock MERCHANDISE, goods, wares, items/articles for sale, inventory ② a stock of fuel STORE, supply,



stockpile, reserve, hoard, cache, bank, accumulation, quantity, collection ③ *farm stock* ANIMALS, livestock, beasts, flocks, herds ④ *blue-chip stocks* SHARES, securities, equities, bonds ⑤ *his stock is low with most voters* POPULARITY, favour, regard, estimation, standing, status, reputation, name, prestige ⑥ *his mother was of French stock* DESCENT, ancestry, origin(s), parentage, pedigree, lineage, line (of descent), heritage, birth, extraction, family, blood, bloodline ⑦ *chicken stock* BOUILLON, broth ⑧ *the stock of a weapon* HANDLE, butt, haft, grip, shaft, shank

► **adjective** ① *a stock size* STANDARD, regular, normal, established, set, common, readily/widely available, staple ② *the stock response* USUAL, routine, predictable, set, standard, staple, customary, familiar, conventional, traditional, stereotyped, clichéd, hackneyed, unoriginal, formulaic

—OPPOSITES non-standard, original, unusual

► **verb** ① *we do not stock GM food* SELL, carry, keep (in stock), offer, have (for sale), retail, supply ② *the fridge was well stocked with milk* SUPPLY, provide, furnish, provision, equip, fill, load

■ **in stock** FOR/ON SALE, (immediately) available, on the shelf

■ **stock up on/with** AMASS SUPPLIES OF, stockpile, hoard, cache, lay in, buy up/in, put away/by, put/set aside, collect, accumulate, save, *informal* squirrel away, salt away, stash away

■ **take stock of** REVIEW, assess, weigh up, appraise, evaluate, *informal* size up

stockings ► plural noun NYLONS, stay-ups, tights, hosiery, hose, *N Amer* pantyhose

stockpile ► noun *a stockpile of weapons* STOCK, store, supply, accumulation, collection, reserve, hoard, cache, *informal* stash

► **verb** *food had been stockpiled* STORE UP, amass, accumulate, store (up), stock up on, hoard, cache, collect, lay in, put away, put/set aside, put by, put away for a rainy day, stow away, save, *informal* salt away, stash away

stock-still ► adjective MOTIONLESS, completely still, unmoving, not moving a muscle, immobile, like a statue, as if turned to stone, rooted to the spot, transfixed, static, stationary
—OPPOSITES moving, active

stocky ► adjective THICKSET, sturdy, heavily built, chunky, burly, strapping, brawny, solid, heavy, hefty, beefy
—OPPOSITES slender, skinny

stodgy ► adjective ① *a stodgy pudding* SOLID, substantial, filling, hearty, heavy, starchy, indigestible ② *stodgy writing* BORING, dull, uninteresting, dreary, turgid, tedious, dry, heavy going, unimaginative, uninspired, unexciting, unoriginal, monotonous, humdrum, prosaic, staid; *informal* deady, square
—OPPOSITES light, interesting, lively

stoical ► adjective LONG-SUFFERING, uncomplaining, patient, forbearing, accepting, tolerant, resigned, phlegmatic, philosophical
—OPPOSITES complaining, intolerant

stoicism ► noun PATIENCE, forbearance, resignation, fortitude, endurance, acceptance, tolerance, philosophicalness, phlegm
—OPPOSITES intolerance

stoke ► verb ADD FUEL TO, mend, keep burning, tend.

stolid ► adjective IMPASSIVE, phlegmatic, unemotional, cool, calm, placid, unexcitable, dependable, unimaginative, dull

—OPPOSITES emotional, lively, imaginative

stomach ► noun ① *a stomach pain* ABDOMEN, belly, gut, middle, *informal* tummy, tum, breadbasket, insides ② *his fat stomach* PAUNCH, pot belly, beer belly, girth, *informal* beer gut, pot, tummy, spare tyre, middle-aged spread, *N Amer informal* bay window, *dated*, humorous corporation ③ *he had no stomach for it* APPETITE, taste, hunger, thirst, inclination, desire, relish, fancy

—RELATED TERMS GASTRIC

► **verb** ① *I can't stomach butter* DIGEST, keep down, manage to eat/consume, tolerate, take ② *they couldn't stomach the sight* TOLERATE, put up with, take, stand, endure, bear, *Scottish* thole, *informal* hack, abide, *Bnt informal* stick

stomach ache ► noun INDIGESTION, dyspepsia, colic, gripe, *informal* bellyache, tummy ache, gut ache, collywobbles

stone ► noun ① *someone threw a stone at me* ROCK, pebble, boulder See list at ROCK ② *a commemorative stone* TABLET, monument, monolith, obelisk, gravestone, headstone, tombstone ③ *paving stones* SLAB, flagstone, flag, sett ④ *a precious stone* GEM, gemstone, jewel, semiprecious stone, brilliant, *informal* rock, sparkler See lists at GEM, MINERAL ⑤ *a peach stone* KERNEL, seed, pip, pit

—RELATED TERMS lithic, lapidary

stony ► adjective ① *a stony path* ROCKY, pebbly, gravelly, shingly, rough, hard ② *a stony stare* UNFRIENDLY, hostile, cold, chilly, frosty, icy, hard, flinty, steely, stern, severe, fixed, expressionless, blank, poker-faced, deadpan, unfeeling, uncaring, unsympathetic, indifferent, cold-hearted, callous, heartless, hard-hearted, stony-hearted, merciless, pitiless
—OPPOSITES smooth, friendly, sympathetic

stooge ► noun ① *a government stooge* UNDERLING, minion, lackey, subordinate, henchman, PUPPET, pawn, cat's paw, *informal* sidekick, *Bnt informal* dogsbody, poodle ② *a comedian's stooge* BUTT, foil, straight man

stool ► noun. See list at CHAIR

stoop ► verb ① *she stooped to pick up the pen* BEND (OVER/DOWN), lean over/down, crouch (down) ② *he stooped his head* LOWER, bend, incline, bow, duck ③ *he stoops when he walks* HUNCH ONE'S SHOULDERS, walk with a stoop, be round-shouldered ④ *Davis would stoop to crime* LOWER ONESELF, sink, descend, resort, go as far as, sink as low as

► **noun** *a man with a stoop* HUNCH, round shoulders, curvature of the spine, *Medicine* kyphosis

stop ► verb ① *we can't stop the decline* PUT AN END/STOP/HALT TO, bring to an end/stop/halt/close/standstill, end, halt, finish, terminate, wind up, discontinue, cut short, interrupt nip in the bud, deactivate, shut down ② *he stopped running* CEASE, discontinue, desist from, break off, give up, abandon, abstain from, cut out; *informal* quit, leave off, knock off, pack in, lay off, give over, *Bnt informal* jack in ③ *the car stopped* PULL UP, draw up, come to a stop/halt, come to rest, pull in, pull over, park ④ *the music stopped*: COME TO AN END/STOP/STANDSTILL, cease, end, finish, draw to a close, be over, conclude, terminate, pause, break off; peter out, fade

away ⑤ divers stopped the flow of oil STEM, staunch, hold back, check, curb, block, dam, *N Amer* stanch, *archaic* stay ⑥ the police stopped her leaving PREVENT, hinder, obstruct, impede, block, bar, preclude, dissuade from ⑦ the council stopped the Kilmarnock scheme THWART, baulk, foil, frustrate, stand in the way of, scotch, derail, *informal* put paid to, put the kibosh on, do for, stymie, *Bnt informal* scupper ⑧ the firm stops your tax WITHHOLD, keep back, hold back, deduct, take away, refuse to pay ⑨ just stop the bottle with your thumb BLOCK (UP), plug, close (up), fill (up), seal, caulk, bung up, *technical* occlude

—OPPOSITES start, begin, continue, allow, encourage, expedite, pay, open

► **noun** ① all business came to a stop HALT, end, finish, close, standstill, cessation, conclusion, stoppage, discontinuation ② a brief stop in the town BREAK, stopover, stop-off, stay, visit, *formal* sojourn ③ the next stop is Oxford Street STOPPING PLACE, halt, station, stage ④ a full stop (FULL) POINT, *N Amer* period

—OPPOSITES start, beginning, continuation

■ **put a stop to.** See STOP verb senses 1, 7

■ **stop off/over** BREAK ONE'S JOURNEY, take a break, pause, stay, remain, put up, lodge, rest, *formal* sojourn

stopgap ► **noun** that old plane was merely a stopgap TEMPORARY SOLUTION, expedient, makeshift, substitute, stand-in

► **adjective** a stopgap measure TEMPORARY, provisional, interim, pro tem, short-term, working, makeshift, emergency, caretaker, acting, fill-in, stand-in

—OPPOSITES permanent

stopover ► **noun** BREAK, stop, stop-off, visit, stay, *formal* sojourn

stoppage ► **noun** ① the stoppage of production DISCONTINUATION, stopping, halting, cessation, termination, end, finish, interruption, suspension, breaking off ② a stoppage of the blood supply OBSTRUCTION, blocking, blockage, block, *Medicine* occlusion, stasis ③ a stoppage over pay STRIKE, walkout, industrial action ④ (*Bnt*) she was paid £3.40 an hour before stoppages DEDUCTION, subtraction

—OPPOSITES start, continuation

stopper ► **noun** BUNG, plug, cork, spigot, spile, seal, *N Amer* stopple

store ► **noun** ① a store of food STOCK, supply, stockpile, hoard, cache, reserve, bank, pool ② a grain store STOREROOM, storehouse, repository, depository, stockroom, depot, warehouse, magazine, *informal* lock-up ③ ship's stores SUPPLIES, provisions, stocks, necessities, food, rations, provender, materials, equipment, hardware, *Military* materiel, accoutrements, *Nautical* chandlery ④ a DIY store SHOP, (retail) outlet, boutique, department store, chain store, emporium, supermarket, hypermarket, superstore, megastore

► **verb** rabbits don't store food KEEP, keep in reserve, stockpile, lay in, put/set aside, put away/by, put away for a rainy day, save, collect, accumulate, hoard, cache, *informal* squirrel away, salt away, stash away

—OPPOSITES use, discard

■ **set (great) store by** VALUE, attach great importance to, put a high value on, put a pre-

mium on, THINK HIGHLY OF, hold in (high) regard, have a high opinion of, *informal* rate

storehouse ► **noun** WAREHOUSE, depository, repository, store, storeroom, depot

storey ► **noun** FLOOR, level, deck

storm ► **noun** ① battered by a storm TEMPEST, squall, gale, hurricane, tornado, cyclone, typhoon, thunderstorm, rainstorm, monsoon, hailstorm, snowstorm, blizzard, *N Amer* williwaw, windstorm ② a storm of bullets VOLLEY, salvo, fusillade, barrage, cannonade, shower, spray, hail, rain ③ there was a storm over his remarks UPROAR, outcry, fuss, furore, brouhaha, rumpus, trouble, hue and cry, controversy, *informal* to-do, hoo-ha, hullabaloo, ballyhoo, ructions, stink, *Bnt informal* row ④ a storm of protest OUTBURST, outbreak, explosion, eruption, outpouring, surge, blaze, flare-up, wave

► **verb** ① she stormed out STRIDE ANGRILY, stomp, march, stalk, flounce, stamp, fling ② his mother stormed at him RANT, rave, shout, bellow, roar, thunder, rage ③ police stormed the building AT TACK, charge, rush, assail, descend on, swoop on

stormy ► **adjective** ① stormy weather BLUSTERY, squally, windy, gusty, blowy, rainy, thundery, wild, tempestuous, turbulent, violent, rough, foul ② a stormy debate ANGRY, heated, fiery, fierce, furious, passionate, 'lively'

—OPPOSITES calm, fine, peaceful

story ► **noun** ① an adventure story TALE, narrative, account, anecdote, *informal* yarn, spiel See list ② the novel has a good story PLOT, storyline, scenario, *formal* diegesis ③ the story appeared in the papers NEWS ITEM, news report, article, feature, piece ④ there have been a lot of stories going round RUMOUR, piece of gossip, whisper, speculation, *Austral/NZ informal* furphy ⑤ Harper changed his story TESTIMONY, statement, report, account, version ⑥ Ellie never told stories See FALSEHOOD sense 1

Types of Story

See also NOVEL.

adventure story
allegory
bedtime story
black comedy
blockbuster
cliffhanger
comedy
conte
crime story
detective story
epic
exemplum
fable
fabliau
fairy story
fairy tale
fantasy
folk story
folk tale
ghost story
gothic novel

heartbreaker
historical novel
horror story
just-so story
legend
Märchen
mystery
myth
nancy story
parable
romance
saga
short story
spine-chiller
tearjerker
thriller
true story
urban myth
western
whodunnit

storyteller ► **noun** NARRATOR, teller of tales, raconteur, conteuse, fabulist, anecdotalist, *Austral informal* magsman.

stout ▶ **adjective** ① a short stout man **FAT**, plump, portly, rotund, dumpy, chunky, corpulent, stocky, burly, bulky, hefty, solidly built, thickset, *informal* tubby, pudgy, *Brit informal* podgy, fubby, *N Amer informal* zaftig, corn-fed, *archaic* pursy ② stout leather shoes **STRONG**, sturdy, solid, substantial, robust, tough, durable, hardwearing ③ stout resistance **DETERMINED**, vigorous, forceful, spirited, staunch, steadfast, stalwart, firm, resolute, unyielding, dogged, brave, bold, courageous, valiant, valorous, gallant, fearless, doughty, intrepid, *informal* gutsy, spunky

—**OPPOSITES** thin, flimsy, feeble

stout-hearted ▶ **adjective** **BRAVE**, determined, courageous, bold, plucky, spirited, valiant, valorous, gallant, fearless, doughty, intrepid, stalwart, *informal* gutsy, spunky

stove ▶ **noun** **OVEN**, range, cooker

stow ▶ **verb** Barney stowed her luggage in the boot **PACK**, load, store, place, put (away), deposit, stash

—**OPPOSITES** unload

■ **stow away** **HIDE**, conceal oneself, travel secretly

straddle ▶ **verb** ① she straddled the motorbike **SIT/STAND ASTRIDE**, bestride, mount, get on ② a mountain range straddling the border **LIE ON BOTH SIDES OF**, extend across, span ③ (*N Amer*) he straddled the issue of taxes **BE EQUIVOCAL ABOUT**, be undecided about, equivocate about, vacillate about, waver about, *informal* sit on the fence

strafe ▶ **verb** **BOMB**, shell, bombard, fire on, machine-gun, rake with gunfire, enfilade, *archaic* fusillade

straggle ▶ **verb** **TRAIL**, lag, dawdle, walk slowly, fall behind, bring up the rear

straggly ▶ **adjective** **UNTIDY**, messy, unkempt, straggling, dishevelled

straight ▶ **adjective** ① a long, straight road **UN SWERVING**, undeviating, linear, as straight as an arrow, uncurving, unbending ② that picture isn't straight **LEVEL**, even, in line, aligned, square, vertical, upright, perpendicular, horizontal ③ we must get the place straight **IN ORDER**, (neat and) tidy, neat, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), orderly, spick and span, organized, arranged, sorted out, straightened out ④ a straight answer **HONEST**, direct, frank, candid, truthful, sincere, forthright, straightforward, plain-spoken, blunt, straight from the shoulder, unequivocal, unambiguous, *informal* up-front ⑤ straight thinking **LOGICAL**, rational, clear, lucid, sound, coherent ⑥ three straight wins. **SUCCESSIVE**, in succession, consecutive, in a row, running, *informal* on the trot ⑦ straight brandy **UNDILUTED**, neat, pure, *N Amer informal* straight up ⑧ (*informal*) she's very straight **RESPECTABLE**, conventional, conservative, traditional, old-fashioned, strait-laced, *informal* stuffy, square, fuddy-duddy.

—**OPPOSITES** winding, crooked, untidy, evasive

▶ **adverb** ① he looked me straight in the eyes **RIGHT**, directly, squarely, full; *informal* smack, (slap) bang, *N Amer informal* spang, smack dab ② she drove straight home. **DIRECTLY**, right, by a direct route ③ I'll call you straight back. **RIGHT AWAY**, straight away, immediately, directly, at once; *archaic* straightway. ④ I told her straight: **FRANKLY**, directly, candidly, honestly, forthrightly, plain-

ly, point-blank, bluntly, flatly, straight from the shoulder, without beating about the bush, without mincing words, unequivocally, unambiguously, in plain English, to someone's face, *Brit informal* straight up ⑤ he can't think straight **LOGICALLY**, rationally, clearly, lucidly, coherently, cogently

■ **go straight** **REFORM**, mend one's ways, turn over a new leaf, get back on the straight and narrow

■ **straight away** **AT ONCE**, right away, (right) now, this/that (very) minute, this/that instant, immediately, instantly, directly, forthwith, without further/more ado, promptly, quickly, without delay, then and there, here and now, a s a p, as soon as possible, as quickly as possible, *N Amer* in short order, *informal* straight off, in double quick time, p d q, pretty damn quick, pronto, before you can say Jack Robinson, *N Amer informal* lickety-split, *archaic* straight, straightway

■ **straight from the shoulder**. See **STRAIGHT** adverb sense 4

straighten ▶ **verb** ① Rory straightened his tie **MAKE STRAIGHT**, adjust, arrange, rearrange, (make) tidy, spruce up ② we must straighten things out with Viola **PUT/SET RIGHT**, sort out, clear up, settle, resolve, put in order, regularize, rectify, remedy, *informal* patch up ③ he straightened up **STAND UP (STRAIGHT)**, stand upright

straightforward ▶ **adjective** ① the process was remarkably straightforward **UNCOMPLICATED**, simple, easy, effortless, painless, undemanding, plain sailing, child's play, *informal* as easy as falling off a log, as easy as pie, a piece of cake, a cinch, a snap, a doddle, a breeze, a cakewalk, *Brit informal* easy-peasy, a doss, *N Amer informal* duck soup, a snap, *Austral/NZ informal* a bludge, a snack ② a straightforward man **HONEST**, frank, candid, open, truthful, sincere, on the level, forthright, plain-speaking, direct, unambiguous, *informal* upfront, *N Amer informal* on the up and up

—**OPPOSITES** complicated

strain¹ ▶ **verb** ① take care that you don't strain yourself **OVERTAX**, overwork, overextend, overreach, drive too far, overdo it, exhaust, wear out, *informal* knacker, knock oneself out ② you have strained a muscle **INJURE**, damage, pull, wrench, twist, sprain ③ we strained to haul the guns up the slope **STRUGGLE**, labour, toil, make every effort, try very hard, break one's back, push/drive oneself to the limit, *informal* pull out all the stops, go all out, bust a gut, *Austral informal* go for the doctor ④ the flood of refugees is straining the relief services. **MAKE EXCESSIVE DEMANDS ON**, overtax, be too much for, test, tax, put a strain on ⑤ the bear strained at the chain **PULL**, tug, heave, haul, jerk, *informal* yank ⑥ (*archaic*) she strained the infant to her bosom **CLASP**, press, clutch, hold tight; embrace, hug, enfold, envelop ⑦ strain the mixture **SIEVE**, sift, filter, screen, riddle, rare filtrate

▶ **noun** ① the rope snapped under the strain: **TENSION**, tightness, tautness. ② muscle strain **INJURY**, sprain, wrench, twist ③ the strain of her job **PRESSURE**, demands, burdens; stress, *informal* hassle ④ Melissa was showing signs of strain: **STRESS**, (nervous) tension; exhaustion, fatigue, pressure of work, overwork. ⑤ the strains of Brahms's lullaby: **SOUND**, music, melody, tune.



strain² ▶ **noun** ① a different strain of flu VARIETY, kind, type, sort, breed, genus ② Hawthorne was of Puritan strain DESCENT, ancestry, origin(s), parentage, lineage, extraction, family, roots ③ there was a strain of insanity in the family TENDENCY, susceptibility, propensity, proneness, trait, disposition ④ a strain of solemnity ELEMENT, strand, vein, note, trace, touch, suggestion, hint

strained ▶ **adjective** ① relations between them were strained AWKWARD, tense, uneasy, uncomfortable, edgy, difficult, troubled ② Jean's strained face DRAWN, careworn, worn, pinched, tired, exhausted, drained, haggard ③ a strained smile FORCED, constrained, unnatural, artificial, insincere, false, affected, put-on
—OPPOSITES friendly

strainer ▶ **noun** SIEVE, colander, filter, sifter, riddle, screen, archaic griddle

strait ▶ **noun** ① a strait about six miles wide CHANNEL, sound, inlet, stretch of water ② the company is in desperate straits A BAD, DIFFICULT SITUATION, difficulty, trouble, crisis, a mess, a predicament, a plight, informal hot/deep water, a jam, a hole, a bind, a fix, a scrape

straitened ▶ **adjective** IMPOVERISHED, poverty-stricken, poor, destitute, penniless, on one's beam-ends, as poor as a church mouse, in penury, impecunious, unable to make ends meet, in reduced circumstances, Brit on the breadline, informal (flat) broke, strapped for cash, on one's uppers, Brit informal stony broke, skint, in Queer Street, N Amer informal stone broke, formal penurious

strait-laced ▶ **adjective** PRIM (AND PROPER), prudish, puritanical, prissy, minisy, mininy-piminy, conservative, old-fashioned, stuffy, staid, narrow-minded, informal starchy, square, fuddy-duddy
—OPPOSITES broad-minded

strand¹ ▶ **noun** ① strands of wool THREAD, filament, fibre, length, ply ② the various strands of the ecological movement ELEMENT, component, factor, ingredient, aspect, feature, strain

strand² ▶ **noun** (poetic/literary) a walk along the strand SEASHORE, shore, beach, sands, foreshore, shoreline, seaside, waterfront, front, waterside

stranded ▶ **adjective** ① a stranded ship BEACHED, grounded, run aground, high and dry, shipwrecked, wrecked, marooned ② she was stranded in a strange city HELPLESS, without resources, in difficulties, in the lurch, abandoned, deserted

strange ▶ **adjective** ① strange things have been happening UNUSUAL, odd, curious, peculiar, funny, bizarre, weird, uncanny, queer, unexpected, unfamiliar, atypical, anomalous, out of the ordinary, extraordinary, puzzling, mystifying, mysterious, perplexing, baffling, unaccountable, inexplicable, singular, freakish, suspicious, questionable, eerie, unnatural; informal fishy, creepy, spooky ② strange clothes WEIRD, eccentric, odd, peculiar, funny, bizarre, unusual, unconventional, outlandish, freakish, quirky, zany, informal wacky, way out, freaky, kooky, offbeat, off the wall, N Amer informal screwy, wacko ③ visiting a strange house. UNFAMILIAR, unknown, new ④ Jean was feeling strange. ILL, unwell, poorly, peaky, Brit off col-

our, informal under the weather, funny, peculiar, lousy, Brit informal off, ropy, grotty, Austral/NZ informal crook, dated queer ⑤ she felt strange with him ILL AT EASE, uneasy, uncomfortable, awkward, self-conscious ⑥ (archaic) I am strange to the work See A STRANGER to AT STRANGER
—OPPOSITES ordinary, familiar

strangeness ▶ **noun** ODDITY, eccentricity, peculiarity, curiousness, bizarreness, weirdness, queerness, unusualness, abnormality, unaccountability, inexplicability, incongruousness, outlandishness, singularity

stranger ▶ **noun** NEWCOMER, new arrival, visitor, outsider, Austral informal blow-in

■ a stranger to UNACCUSTOMED TO, unfamiliar with, unused to, new to, fresh to, inexperienced in, archaic strange to

strangle ▶ **verb** ① the victim was strangled with a scarf THROTTLE, choke, garrotte, informal strangulate ② she strangled a sob SUPPRESS, smother, stifle, repress, restrain, fight back, choke back ③ bureaucracy is strangling commercial activity HAMPER, hinder, impede, restrict, inhibit, curb, check, constrain, squash, crush, suppress, repress

strap ▶ **noun** thick leather straps THONG, tie, band, belt

▶ **verb** ① a bag was strapped to the bicycle FASTEN, secure, tie, bind, make fast, lash, truss ② his knee was strapped up BANDAGE, bind ③ his father strapped him See LASH verb sense 1

strapping ▶ **adjective** BIG, strong, well built, brawny, burly, broad-shouldered, muscular, rugged, informal hunky, beefy, dated stalwart
—OPPOSITES weedy

stratagem ▶ **noun** PLAN, scheme, tactic, manoeuvre, ploy, device, trick, ruse, plot, machination, dodge, subterfuge, artifice, Brit informal wheeze, Austral informal lurk, archaic shift

strategic ▶ **adjective** PLANNED, calculated, tactical, politic, judicious, prudent, shrewd

strategy ▶ **noun** ① the government's economic strategy MASTER PLAN, grand design, game plan, plan (of action), policy, programme, tactics ② military strategy THE ART OF WAR, (military) tactics

stratum ▶ **noun** ① a stratum of flint LAYER, vein, seam, lode, bed ② this stratum of society LEVEL, class, echelon, rank, grade, group, set, caste, dated station, estate

stray ▶ **verb** ① the gazelle had strayed from the herd WANDER OFF, go astray, get separated, get lost ② we strayed from our original topic DIGRESS, deviate, wander, get sidetracked, go off at a tangent, get off the subject ③ the young men were likely to stray BE UNFAITHFUL, have affairs, philander, informal play around, play the field ④ he strayed from the path of righteousness SIN, transgress, err, go astray, archaic trespass ⑤ (poetic/literary) straying about in a strange place ROAM, rove, wander, drift

▶ **adjective** ① a stray dog HOMELESS, lost, strayed, gone astray, abandoned. ② a stray bullet RANDOM, chance, freak, unexpected, isolated, lone, single

▶ **noun** wardens who deal with strays HOMELESS ANIMAL, stray dog/cat, waif

streak ▶ **noun** ① a streak of orange light BAND, line, strip, stripe, vein, slash, ray ② green streaks on her legs. MARK, smear, smudge, stain,



blotch, *informal* splotch ① *a streak of self-destructiveness* ELEMENT, vein, touch, strain, trait, characteristic ② *a winning streak* PERIOD, spell, stretch, run, *Brit informal* patch

► **verb** ① *the sky was streaked with red* STRIPE, band, fleck, *archaic* freak ② *overalls streaked with paint* MARK, daub, smear, *informal* splotch ③ *Miranda streaked across the road* See RUN verb sense 1

streaky ► **adjective** STRIPED, stripy, streaked, banded, veined, brindled

stream ► **noun** ① *a mountain stream* BROOK, rivulet, rill, runnel, streamlet, freshet, tributary, *Scottish & N English* burn, *N English* beck, *S English* bourn, *N Amer & Austral/NZ* creek, *Austral* billabong ② *a stream of boiling water* JET, flow, rush, gush, surge, torrent, flood, cascade, outpouring, outflow, *technical* efflux ③ *a steady stream of visitors* SUCCESSION, series, string

► **verb** ① *tears were streaming down her face* FLOW, pour, course, run, gush, surge, flood, cascade, spill ② *children streamed out of the classrooms* POUR, surge, flood, swarm, pile, crowd ③ *a flag streamed from the mast* FLUTTER, float, flap, fly, blow, waft, wave

streamer ► **noun** PENNANT, pennon, flag, banner, derole, banner

streamlined ► **adjective** ① *streamlined cars* AERODYNAMIC, smooth, sleek, elegant ② *a streamlined organization* EFFICIENT, smooth-running, well run, slick, time-saving, labour-saving

street ► **noun** *Amsterdam's narrow cobbled streets* ROAD, thoroughfare, avenue, drive, boulevard, parade, side street/road, lane, *N Amer* highway
 ■ *the man/woman in the street* AN ORDINARY PERSON, Mr/Mrs Average, *Brit informal* Joe Bloggs, Joe Public, the man on the Clapham omnibus, *N Amer informal* John Doe, Joe Sixpack
 ■ *on the streets* HOMELESS, sleeping rough, down and out

strength ► **noun** ① *enormous physical strength* POWER, brawn, muscle, muscularity, burliness, sturdiness, robustness, toughness, hardness, vigour, force, might, *informal* beef, *poetic/literary* thew ② *Oliver began to regain his strength* HEALTH, fitness, vigour, stamina ③ *her great inner strength* FORTITUDE, resilience, spirit, backbone, strength of character, courage, bravery, pluck, pluckiness, courageousness, grit, *informal* guts, spunk ④ *the strength of the retaining wall* ROBUSTNESS, sturdiness, firmness, toughness, soundness, solidity, durability ⑤ *Europe's military strength* POWER, influence, dominance, ascendancy, supremacy, *informal* clout, *poetic/literary* puissance ⑥ *the strength of feeling against the president* INTENSITY, vehemence, force, forcefulness, depth, ardour, fervour ⑦ *the strength of their argument* COGENCY, forcefulness, force, weight, power, potency, persuasiveness, soundness, validity ⑧ *what are your strengths?* STRONG POINT, advantage, asset, forte, aptitude, talent, skill, speciality ⑨ (*poetic/literary*) *my strength and shield* SUPPORT, mainstay, anchor ⑩ *the strength of the army* SIZE, extent, magnitude
 —OPPOSITES weakness
 ■ *on the strength of* BECAUSE OF, by virtue of, on the basis of

strengthen ► **verb** ① *calcium strengthens growing bones* MAKE STRONG/STRONGER, build up, give strength to ② *engineers strengthened the*

walls REINFORCE, make stronger, buttress, shore up, underpin ③ *strengthened glass* TOUGHEN, temper, anneal ④ *the wind had strengthened* BECOME STRONG/STRONGER, gain strength, intensify, pick up ⑤ *his insistence strengthened her determination* FORTIFY, bolster, make stronger, boost, reinforce, harden, stiffen, toughen, fuel ⑥ *they strengthened their efforts* STEP UP, increase, escalate, *informal* up, crank up, beef up ⑦ *the argument is strengthened by this evidence* REINFORCE, lend more weight to, support, back up, confirm, bear out, corroborate
 —OPPOSITES weaken

strenuous ► **adjective** ① *a strenuous climb* ARDUOUS, difficult, hard, tough, taxing, demanding, exacting, exhausting, tiring, gruelling, back-breaking, *informal* killing, *Brit informal* knacker, *archaic* toilsome ② *strenuous efforts* VIGOROUS, energetic, zealous, forceful, strong, spirited, intense, determined, resolute, tenacious, tireless, indefatigable, dogged, *formal* pertinacious
 —OPPOSITES easy, half-hearted

stress ► **noun** ① *he's under a lot of stress* STRAIN, pressure, (nervous) tension, worry, anxiety, trouble, difficulty, *informal* hassle ② *laying great stress on education* EMPHASIS, importance, weight ③ *the stress falls on the first syllable* EMPHASIS, accent, accentuation, beat, *Prosody* ictus ④ *the stress is uniform across the bar* PRESSURE, tension, strain

► **verb** ① *they stressed the need for reform* EMPHASIZE, draw attention to, underline, underscore, point up, place emphasis on, lay stress on, highlight, accentuate, press home ② *the last syllable is stressed* PLACE THE EMPHASIS ON, emphasize, place the accent on ③ *all the staff were stressed* OVERSTRETCH, overtax, push to the limit, pressurize, pressure, make tense, worry, harass, *informal* hassle
 —OPPOSITES play down

stressful ► **adjective** DEMANDING, trying, taxing, difficult, hard, tough, fraught, traumatic, pressured, tense, frustrating
 —OPPOSITES relaxing

stretch ► **verb** ① *this material stretches* BE ELASTIC, be stretchy, be tensile ② *he stretched the elastic* PULL (OUT), draw out, extend, lengthen, elongate, expand ③ *stretch your weekend into a vacation* PROLONG, lengthen, make longer, extend, spin out ④ *my budget won't stretch to a new car* BE SUFFICIENT FOR, be enough for, cover, afford, have the money for ⑤ *the court case stretched their finances* PUT A STRAIN ON, overtax, overextend, drain, sap ⑥ *stretching the truth* BEND, strain, distort, exaggerate, embellish ⑦ *she stretched out her hand to him* REACH OUT, hold out, extend, outstretch, proffer, *poetic/literary* outreach ⑧ *he stretched his arms* EXTEND, straighten (out) ⑨ *she stretched out on the sofa* LIE DOWN, recline, lean back, be recumbent, sprawl, lounge, loll ⑩ *the desert stretches for miles* EXTEND, spread, continue
 —OPPOSITES shorten

► **noun** ① *magnificent stretches of forest* EXPANSE, area, tract, belt, sweep, extent ② *a four-hour stretch* PERIOD, time, spell, run, stint, session, shift ③ (*informal*) *a ten-year stretch* (PRISON) SENTENCE; *N Amer informal* rap.

► **adjective** *stretch fabrics*: STRETCHY, stretchable, elastic



strew ▶ **verb** SCATTER, spread, disperse, litter, toss, poetic/literary bestrew

stricken ▶ **adjective** TROUBLED, (deeply) affected, afflicted, struck, hit

strict ▶ **adjective** ① a strict interpretation of the law PRECISE, exact, literal, faithful, accurate, careful, meticulous, rigorous ② strict controls on spending STRINGENT, rigorous, severe, harsh, hard, rigid, tough ③ strict parents STERN, severe, harsh, uncompromising, authoritarian, firm, austere ④ this will be treated in strict confidence ABSOLUTE, utter, complete, total ⑤ a strict Roman Catholic ORTHODOX, devout, conscientious
-OPPOSITES loose, liberal

strictness ▶ **noun** ① the strictness of the laws SEVERITY, harshness, rigidity, rigidness, stringency, rigorousness, sternness ② the provision has been interpreted with strictness PRECISION, preciseness, accuracy, exactness, faithfulness, meticulousness, scrupulousness
-OPPOSITES imprecision

stricture ▶ **noun** ① the constant strictures of the nuns CRITICISM, censure, condemnation reproach, reproach, admonishment ② the strictures on Victorian women CONSTRAINT, restriction, limitation, restraint, straitjacket, curb, impediment, barrier, obstacle ③ an intestinal stricture NARROWING, constriction
-OPPOSITES praise, freedom

stride ▶ **verb** she came striding down the path MARCH, pace, step

▶ **noun** long swinging strides (LONG LARGE) STEP, pace

■ take something in one's stride DEAL WITH EASILY, cope with easily, not bat an eyelid

strident ▶ **adjective** HARSH, raucous, rough, grating, rasping, jarring, loud, shrill, screeching, piercing, ear-piercing
-OPPOSITES soft

strife ▶ **noun** CONFLICT, friction, discord, disagreement, dissension, dispute, argument, quarrelling, wrangling, bickering, controversy, ill/bad feeling, falling-out, bad blood, hostility, animosity
-OPPOSITES peace

strike ▶ **verb** ① the teacher struck Mary HIT, slap, smack, beat, thrash, spank, thump, punch, cuff, cane, lash, whip, club; Austral/NZ informal quilt, informal clout, wallop, belt, whack, thwack, bash, clobber, bop, biff, poetic/literary smite ② he struck the gong BANG, beat, hit, informal bash, wallop ③ the car struck a tree CRASH INTO, collide with, hit, run into, bump into, smash into, N Amer impact ④ Jennifer struck the ball HIT, drive, propel, informal clout, wallop, swipe ⑤ he struck a match IGNITE, light ⑥ she was asleep when the killer struck ATTACK, set upon someone, fall on someone, assault someone ⑦ the disease is striking 3,000 people a year AFFECT, afflict, attack, hit ⑧ striking a balance ACHIEVE, reach, arrive at, find, attain, establish ⑨ we have struck a bargain AGREE (ON), come to an agreement on, settle on; informal clinch ⑩ he struck a heroic pose ASSUME, adopt, take on/up, affect, N Amer informal cop ⑪ they have struck oil DISCOVER, find, come upon ⑫ a thought struck her. OCCUR TO, come to (mind), dawn on one, hit, spring to mind, enter one's head ⑬ you strike me as intelligent SEEM TO, ap-

pear to, give the impression to ⑭ train drivers are striking TAKE INDUSTRIAL ACTION, go on strike, down tools, walk out ⑮ they struck the big tent TAKE DOWN, pull down ⑯ Lord Bridport struck his flag LOWER, take down, bring down ⑰ we should strike south GO, make one's way, head

▶ **noun** ① a 48-hour strike INDUSTRIAL ACTION, walk-out ② a military strike (AIR) ATTACK, assault, bombing ③ a gold strike FIND, discovery

■ strike something out DELETE, cross out, erase, rub out

■ strike something up ① the band struck up another tune BEGIN TO PLAY, start playing ② we struck up a friendship BEGIN, start, commence, embark on, establish

striking ▶ **adjective** ① Lizzie bears a striking resemblance to her sister NOTICEABLE, obvious, conspicuous, evident, marked, notable, unmistakable, strong, remarkable, extraordinary, incredible, amazing, astounding, astonishing, staggering ② Kenya's striking landscape IMPRESSIVE, imposing, grand, splendid, magnificent, spectacular, breathtaking, superb, marvellous, wonderful, stunning, staggering, sensational, dramatic ③ striking good looks STUNNING, attractive, good-looking, beautiful, glamorous, gorgeous, prepossessing, ravishing, handsome, pretty, informal knockout, archaic fair, comely
-OPPOSITES unremarkable

string ▶ **noun** ① a ball of string TWINE, cord, yarn, thread, strand ② a string of brewers CHAIN, group, firm, company ③ a string of convictions SERIES, succession, chain, sequence, run, streak ④ a string of wagons QUEUE, procession, line, file, column, convoy, train, cavalcade ⑤ a string of pearls STRAND, rope, necklace ⑥ a guaranteed loan with no strings CONDITIONS, qualifications, provisions, provisos, caveats, stipulations, riders, prerequisites, limitations, limits, constraints, restrictions, informal catches ⑦ (strings) an instrumental piece for horns and strings See list

▶ **verb** ① lights were strung across the promenade HANG, suspend, sling, stretch, run, thread, loop, festoon ② heads strung on a silver chain THREAD, loop, link

■ string along GO ALONG, come too, accompany, join (up with)

■ string someone along (informal) MISLEAD, deceive, take advantage of, dupe, hoax, fool, make a fool of, play with, toy with, dally with, tifle with, informal lead up the garden path, take for a ride

■ string something out ① stringing out a story SPIN OUT, drag out, lengthen ② airfields strung out along the Gulf SPREAD OUT, space out, distribute, scatter

■ string someone up (informal) HANG, lynch, gibbet

stringent ▶ **adjective** STRICT, firm, rigid, rigorous, severe, harsh, tough, tight, exacting, demanding, inflexible, hard and fast

stringy ▶ **adjective** ① stringy hair STRAGGLY, lank, thin ② a stringy brunette LANKY, gangling, gangly, rangy, wiry, bony, skinny, scrawny, thin, spare, gaunt ③ stringy meat FIBROUS, gristly, sinewy, chewy, tough, leathery

strip¹ ▶ **verb** ① he stripped and got into bed UN DRESS, strip off, take one's clothes off, undeclothe, disrobe, strip naked ② stripping off



Stringed Instruments

See also **KEYBOARD**.

acoustic guitar	koto
aeolian harp	lute
archlute	lyre
arpeggione	mandola
autoharp	mandolin
balalaika	orphanion
bandora/bandura	oud
banjo	pedal steel guitar
banjolele/banjulele	pipa
banjolin	psaltery
baryton	rebab
bass guitar	rebec
bass lute	requinto
bass viol	samisen
biwa	santoor
bouzouki	sarangi
cello	sarod
Celtic harp	saz
charango	sitar
chitarraone	steel/steel-string guitar
cimbalom	string bass
citole	tamboura
clittern	tamburza
clarsach	theorbo
classical guitar	trigon
contrabass	triple harp
cuatro	twelve-string guitar
dobro (trademark)	ukulele
double bass	veena
dulcimer	vihuela de arco
electric guitar	vihuela de mano
erhu	viol
fiddle	viola
gamba	viola bastarda
glittern	viola da gamba
guitar	viola d'amore
gusli	violetta
harp	violin
Hawaiian guitar	violoncello
hurdy-gurdy	violone
kanoon	Welsh harp
kantele	wind harp
kithara	zither
kora	

strip **PEEL**, remove, take off, scrape, rub, clean
 ③ they stripped him of his doctorate **TAKE AWAY FROM**, dispossess, deprive, confiscate, divest, relieve
 ④ they stripped down my engine **DISMANTLE**, disassemble, take to bits/pieces, take apart
 ⑤ the house had been stripped **EMPTY**, clear, clean out, plunder, rob, burgle, loot, pillage, ransack, despoil, sack, *archaic* spoil
 —**OPPOSITES** dress.

► **noun** the team's new strip **OUTFIT**, clothes, clothing, garments, dress, garb, *Brit* kit, *informal* gear, get-up, *Brit* *informal* rig-out

strip² ► **noun** a strip of paper (**NARROW**) **PIECE**, bit, band, belt, ribbon, slip, shred

stripe ► **noun** **LINE**, band, strip, belt, bar, streak, vein, flash, blaze, *technical* stria, striation

striped ► **adjective**. See **STRIPY**

stripling ► **noun** **YOUTH**, adolescent, youngster, boy, schoolboy, lad, teenager, juvenile, minor, young man; *Scottish* laddie, *informal* kid, young 'un, nipper, whippersnapper, shaver

stripy ► **adjective** **STRIPED**, barred, lined, banded, streaky, variegated, *technical* striated

strive ► **verb** ① I shall strive to be virtuous **TRY** (**HARD**), attempt, endeavour, aim, venture, make an effort, exert oneself, do one's best, do all one can, do one's utmost, labour, work, *informal* go all out, give it one's best shot, pull out all the stops, *formal* essay ② scholars must strive against bias **STRUGGLE**, fight, battle, combat, campaign, crusade

stroke ► **noun** ① five strokes of the axe **BLOW**, hit, thump, punch, slap, smack, cuff, knock, *informal* wallop, clout, whack, thwack, bash, biff, swipe, *archaic* smite ② cricket strokes **SHOT**, hit, strike ③ light upward strokes **MOVEMENT**, action, motion See list at **SWIMMING** ④ a stroke of genius **FEAT**, accomplishment, achievement, master stroke ⑤ broad brush strokes **MARK**, line ⑥ the budget was full of bold strokes **DETAIL**, touch, point ⑦ he suffered a stroke **THROMBOSIS**, seizure, *Medicine* **ictus**

► **verb** she stroked the cat **CARESS**, fondle, pat, pet, touch, rub, massage, soothe

stroll ► **verb** they strolled along the river **SAUNTER**, amble, wander, meander, ramble, promenade, walk, go for a walk, stretch one's legs, get some air, *informal* mosey, *formal* perambulate

► **noun** a stroll in the park **SAUNTER**, amble, wander, walk, turn, promenade, *informal* mosey, *dated* constitutional, *formal* perambulation

strong ► **adjective** ① a strong lad **POWERFUL**, muscular, brawny, powerfully built, strapping, sturdy, burly, meaty, robust, athletic, tough, rugged, lusty, strong as an ox/horse, *informal* beefy, hunky, husky, *dated* stalwart ② she isn't very strong **WELL**, healthy, in good health, (fighting) fit, robust, vigorous, blooming, thriving, hale and hearty, in fine fettle, *informal* in the pink ③ a strong character **FORCEFUL**, determined, spirited, self-assertive, tough, tenacious, formidable, redoubtable, strong-minded, *informal* gutsy, feisty ④ a strong fortress **SECURE**, well built, indestructible, well fortified, well protected, impregnable, solid ⑤ strong cotton bugs **DURABLE**, hard-wearing, heavy-duty, tough, sturdy, well made, long-lasting ⑥ the current is very strong **FORCEFUL**, powerful, vigorous, fierce, intense ⑦ a strong interest in literature **KEEN**, eager, passionate, fervent ⑧ strong feelings **INTENSE**, forceful, passionate, ardent, fervent, fervid, deep-seated, *poetic/literary* perfervid ⑨ a strong supporter **KEEN**, eager, enthusiastic, dedicated, staunch, loyal, steadfast ⑩ strong arguments **COMPELLING**, cogent, forceful, powerful, potent, weighty, convincing, sound, valid, well founded, persuasive, influential ⑪ a need for strong action **FIRM**, forceful, drastic, extreme ⑫ she bore a very strong resemblance to Vera **MARKED**, noticeable, pronounced, distinct, definite, unmistakable, notable ⑬ a strong voice **LOUD**, powerful, forceful, resonant, sonorous, rich, deep, booming ⑭ strong language **BAD**, foul, obscene, profane ⑮ a strong blue colour **INTENSE**, deep, rich, bright, brilliant, vivid ⑯ strong lights **BRIGHT**, brilliant, dazzling, glaring ⑰ strong black coffee **CONCENTRATED**, undiluted ⑱ strong cheese **HIGHLY FLAVOURED**, flavourful, flavoursome; piquant, tangy, spicy ⑲ strong drink **ALCOHOLIC**, intoxicating, hard, stiff, *formal* spirituous.

—**OPPOSITES** weak, gentle, mild

strong-arm ▶ adjective AGGRESSIVE, forceful, bullying, coercive, threatening, intimidatory, *informal* bully-boy

strongbox ▶ noun SAFE, safe-deposit box, cash/money box

stronghold ▶ noun ① the enemy stronghold FORTRESS, fort, castle, citadel, garrison ② a Tory stronghold BASTION, centre, hotbed

strong-minded ▶ adjective DETERMINED, firm, resolute, purposeful, strong-willed, uncompromising, unbending, forceful, persistent, tenacious, dogged, *informal* gutsy, spunky

strong point ▶ noun STRENGTH, strong suit, forte, speciality
-OPPOSITES weakness

strong-willed ▶ adjective DETERMINED, resolute, stubborn, obstinate, wilful, headstrong, strong-minded, self-willed, unbending, unyielding, intransigent, intractable, obdurate, recalcitrant, *formal* refractory

strop ▶ adjective (*Brit informal*) See BAD-TEMPERED

structure ▶ noun ① a vast Gothic structure BUILDING, construction, erection, pile, *formal* edifice ② the structure of local government CONSTRUCTION, form, formation, shape, composition, anatomy, make-up, constitution, organization, system, arrangement, design, framework, configuration, pattern

▶ verb the programme is structured around periods of residential study ARRANGE, organize, design, shape, construct, build, put together

struggle ▶ verb ① they struggled to do better STRIVE, try hard, endeavour, make every effort, do one's best/utmost, bend over backwards, put oneself out, *informal* go all out, give it one's best shot, *formal* essay ② James struggled with the raiders FIGHT, grapple, wrestle, scuffle, brawl, spar, *informal* scrap ③ the teams struggled to be first COMPETE, contend, vie, fight, battle, jockey ④ she struggled over the dunes SCRAMBLE, flounder, stumble, fight/battle one's way, labour

▶ noun ① the struggle for justice ENDEAVOUR, striving, effort, exertion, labour, campaign, battle, crusade, drive, push ② they were arrested without a struggle FIGHT, scuffle, brawl, tussle, wrestling bout, skirmish, fracas, melee, breach of the peace, *informal* scrap, dust-up, punch-up, *Brit informal* bust-up, ding-dong, *Law, dated* affray ③ many perished in the struggle CONFLICT, fight, battle, confrontation, clash, skirmish, hostilities, fighting, war, warfare, campaign ④ a struggle within the leadership CONTEST, competition, fight, clash, rivalry, friction, feuding, conflict ⑤ life has been a struggle for me EFFORT, trial, trouble, stress, strain, battle, *informal* grind, hassle

strumpet ▶ noun (*archaic*) See PROSTITUTE noun

strut ▶ verb SWAGGER, swank, parade, stride, sweep, *N Amer informal* sashay

stub ▶ noun ① a cigarette stub BUTT, (tail) end, *informal* dog-end ② a ticket stub COUNTERFOIL, ticket slip, tab ③ a stub of pencil STUMP, remnant, (tail) end

stubble ▶ noun ① a field of stubble STALKS, straw, ② grey stubble BRISTLES, whiskers, facial hair, *informal* five o'clock shadow

stubbly ▶ adjective BRISTLY, unshaven, whiskered, prickly, rough, coarse, scratchy

stubborn ▶ adjective ① you're too stubborn to admit it OBSTINATE, stubborn as a mule, headstrong, wilful, strong-willed, pig-headed, obdurate, difficult, contrary, perverse, recalcitrant, inflexible, iron-willed, uncompromising, unbending, *informal* stiff-necked, *Brit informal* bolshie, bloody-minded, *N Amer informal* balky, *formal* pertinacious, refractory, *archaic* contumacious, forward ② stubborn stains INDELIBLE, permanent, persistent, tenacious, resistant
-OPPOSITES compliant

stubby ▶ adjective DUMPY, stocky, chunky, chubby, squat, short, stumpy, dwarfish
-OPPOSITES slender, tall

stuck ▶ adjective ① a message was stuck to his screen FIXED, fastened, attached, glued, pinned ② the gate was stuck IMMOVABLE, stuck fast, jammed ③ if you get stuck, leave a blank BAF FLED, beaten, at a loss, at one's wits' end, *informal* stumped, bogged down, flummoxed, fazed, bamboozled

■ get stuck into (*informal*) GET DOWN TO, make a start on, commence, embark on, get to work at, tackle, throw oneself into

■ stuck on (*informal*) INFATUATED WITH, besotted with, smitten with, (head over heels) in love with, obsessed with, *informal* struck on, crazy about, mad about, wild about, carrying a torch for

■ stuck with LUMBERED WITH, left with, made responsible for

stuck-up ▶ adjective (*informal*) See CONCEITED

studded ▶ adjective DOTTED, scattered, sprinkled, covered, spangled, *poetic/literary* bespangled, bejewelled

student ▶ noun ① a university student UNDERGRADUATE, postgraduate, scholar, freshman, freshwoman, finalist, *N Amer* sophomore, *Brit informal* fresher ② a former student PUPIL, schoolchild, schoolboy, schoolgirl, scholar ③ a nursing student TRAINEE, apprentice, probationer, recruit, novice, *informal* rookie

studied ▶ adjective DELIBERATE, careful, considered, conscious, calculated, intentional, affected, forced, strained, artificial

studio ▶ noun WORKSHOP, workroom, atelier

studious ▶ adjective ① a studious nature SCHOLARLY, academic, bookish, intellectual, erudite, learned, donnish ② studious attention DILIGENT, careful, attentive, assiduous, painstaking, thorough, meticulous ③ his studious absence from public view DELIBERATE, wilful, conscious, intentional

study ▶ noun ① two years of study LEARNING, education, schooling, academic work, scholarship, tuition, research, *informal* swotting, cramming ② a study of global warming INVESTIGATION, enquiry, research, examination, analysis, review, survey ③ Father was in his study OFFICE, workroom, studio ④ a critical study ESSAY, article, work, review, paper, dissertation, disquisition

▶ verb ① Anne studied hard WORK, revise, *informal* swot, cram, mug up, *archaic* con ② he studied electronics LEARN, read, be taught ③ Thomas was studying child development INVESTIGATE, inquire into, research, look into, examine, analyse, explore, review, appraise, conduct a survey of ④ she studied her friend thoughtfully SCRUTINIZE, examine, inspect, consider, regard, look at,



eye, observe, watch, survey, *informal* check out, *N Amer informal* eyeball

■ **In a brown study** LOST IN THOUGHT, in a reverie, musing, ruminating, cogitating, dreaming, daydreaming, *informal* miles away

stuff ▶ **noun** ① *suede is tough stuff* MATERIAL, fabric, cloth, textile, matter, substance ② *first-aid stuff* ITEMS, articles, objects, goods, *informal* things, bits and pieces, odds and ends ③ *all my stuff is in the suitcase* BELONGINGS, (personal) possessions, effects, goods (and chattels), paraphernalia, *informal* gear, things, kit, *Brit informal* clobber, gubbins ④ *he knows his stuff* FACTS, information, data, subject, *informal* onions

▶ **verb** ① *stuffing pillows* FILL, pack, pad, upholster ② *Robyn stuffed her clothes into a bag* SHOVE, thrust, push, ram, cram, squeeze, force, jam, pack, pile, stick ③ *(informal) they stuffed themselves with chocolate* FILL, gorge, overindulge, gobble, devour, wolf, *informal* pig (out), make a pig of oneself ④ *my nose was stuffed up* BLOCK, bung, congest, obstruct ⑤ *(Brit informal) Scotland stuffed Chile* See TROUNCE

■ **stuff and nonsense** (*Brit informal*) See NON SENSE sense 1

stuffing ▶ **noun** ① *the stuffing is coming out of the armchair* PADDING, wadding, filling, upholstery, packing, filler ② *sage and onion stuffing* FILLING, forcemeat, salpicon, *N Amer* dressing

■ **knock the stuffing out of** (*informal*) DEVASTATE, shatter, crush, shock, *informal* knock sideways, *Brit informal* knock for six

stuffy ▶ **adjective** ① *a stuffy atmosphere* AIRLESS, close, musty, stale, *Brit* frowsty, *Brit informal* fuggy ② *a stuffy young man* STAID, sedate, sober, prim, priggish, strait-laced, conformist, conservative, old-fashioned, *informal* square, straight, starchy, fuddy-duddy ③ *a stuffy nose* BLOCKED, stuffed up, bunged up
—OPPOSITES airy, clear

stultify ▶ **verb** ① *the free market was stultified by the welfare state* HAMPER, impede, thwart, frustrate, foil, suppress, smother ② *he stultifies her, with too much gentleness* BORE, make bored, dull, numb, benumb, stupefy

stumble ▶ **verb** ① *he stumbled and fell heavily* TRIP (OVER/UP), lose one's balance, lose/miss one's footing, slip ② *he stumbled back home* STAGGER, totter, teeter, dodder, blunder, hobble, move clumsily ③ *he stumbled through his speech* STAMMER, stutter, hesitate, falter, speak haltingly, *informal* fluff one's lines

■ **stumble across/on** COME ACROSS/UPON, chance on, happen on, light on, discover, find, unearth, uncover, *informal* dig up

stumbling block ▶ **noun** OBSTACLE, hurdle, barrier, bar, hindrance, impediment, handicap, disadvantage, snag, fly in the ointment, hitch, catch, drawback, difficulty, problem, weakness, defect, pitfall, *informal* hiccup

stump ▶ **verb** ① *(informal) they were stumped by the question* BAFFLE, perplex, puzzle, confuse, confound, nonplus, defeat, put at a loss, *informal* flummox, fox, throw, floor, *N Amer informal* discombobulate ② *she stumped along the landing* STOMP, stamp, clomp, clump, lumber, thump, thud

■ **stump something up** (*Brit informal*) PAY (UP), dish out, contribute, *informal* fork out, shell out, lay out, cough up, chip in, *N Amer informal* ante up, pony up

stumpy ▶ **adjective** SHORT, stubby, squat, stocky, chunky
—OPPOSITES long, thin

stun ▶ **verb** ① *a glancing blow stunned Gary* DAZE, stupefy, knock unconscious, knock out, lay out ② *she was stunned by the news* ASTOUND, amaze, astonish, dumbfound, stupefy, stagger, shock, take aback, *informal* flabbergast, knock sideways, bowl over, *Brit informal* knock for six

stunner ▶ **noun** (*informal*) See BEAUTY sense 2

stunning ▶ **adjective** ① *a stunning win* REMARKABLE, extraordinary, staggering, incredible, outstanding, amazing, astonishing, marvellous, phenomenal, splendid, *informal* fabulous, fantastic, tremendous ② *she was looking stunning* See BEAUTIFUL

—OPPOSITES ordinary

stunt¹ ▶ **verb** a disease that stunts growth INHIBIT, impede, hamper, hinder, restrict, retard, slow, curb, check

—OPPOSITES encourage

stunt² ▶ **noun** acrobatic stunts FEAT, exploit, trick

stunted ▶ **adjective** SMALL, undersize(d), diminutive

stupefaction ▶ **noun** ① *alcoholic stupefaction* OBLIVION, obliviousness, unconsciousness, insensibility, stupor, daze ② *Don shook his head in stupefaction* BEWILDERMENT, confusion, perplexity, wonder, amazement, astonishment

stupefy ▶ **verb** ① *the blow had stupefied her* STUN, daze, knock unconscious, knock out, lay out ② *they were stupefied* DRUG, sedate, tranquilize, intoxicate, inebriate, *informal* dope ③ *the amount stupefied us* SHOCK, stun, astound, dumbfound, overwhelm, stagger, amaze, astonish, take aback, take someone's breath away, *informal* flabbergast, knock sideways, bowl over, floor, *Brit informal* knock for six

stupendous ▶ **adjective** ① *stupendous achievements* AMAZING, astounding, astonishing, extraordinary, remarkable, phenomenal, staggering, breathtaking, *informal* fantastic, mind-boggling, awesome, poetic/literary wondrous ② *a building of stupendous size* COLOSSAL, immense, vast, gigantic, massive, mammoth, huge, enormous
—OPPOSITES ordinary

stupid ▶ **adjective** ① *they're rather stupid* UNINTELLIGENT, ignorant, dense, foolish, dull-witted, slow, simple-minded, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, imbecilic, imbecile, obtuse, doltish, *informal* thick (as two short planks), dim, dumb, doxy, dozy, moronic, cretinous, pea-brained, half-witted, soft in the head, boneheaded, thick-headed, wooden-headed, muttonheaded, *Brit informal* barmy, daft, not the full shilling ② *a stupid mistake* FOOLISH, silly, unintelligent, idiotic, scatterbrained, nonsensical, senseless, unthinking, ill-advised, ill-considered, unwise, injudicious, inane, absurd, ludicrous, ridiculous, laughable, risible, fatuous, asinine, mad, insane, lunatic; *informal* crazy, dopey, cracked, half-baked, cock-eyed, hare-brained, nutty, dotty, batty, gormless, cuckoo, loony, loopy, off one's head, off one's trolley; *Brit informal* potty ③ *he drank himself stupid* INTO A STUPOR, into a daze, into oblivion; stupefied, dazed, unconscious
—OPPOSITES intelligent, sensible



stupidity ▶ **noun** ① *he cursed their stupidity* LACK OF INTELLIGENCE, foolishness, denseness, brainlessness, ignorance, dull-wittedness, slow-wittedness, doltishness, slowness, *informal* thick-ness, dimness, dopiness, doziness ② *she blushed at her stupidity* FOOLISHNESS, folly, silliness, idiocy, brainlessness, senselessness, injudiciousness, ineptitude, inanity, absurdity, ludicrousness, ridiculousness, fatuousness, madness, insanity, lunacy, *informal* craziness, *Brit informal* daftness

stupor ▶ **noun** DAZE, state of unconsciousness, torpor, insensibility, oblivion

sturdy ▶ **adjective** ① *a sturdy lad* STRAPPING, well built, muscular, athletic, strong, hefty, brawny, powerful, solid, burly, rugged, robust, tough, hardy, lusty, *informal* husky, beefy, meaty, *dated* stalwart, *poetic/literary* thewy, stark ② *sturdy boots* ROBUST, strong, strongly made, well built, solid, stout, tough, resilient, durable, long-lasting, hard-wearing ③ *sturdy resistance* VIGOROUS, strong, stalwart, firm, determined, resolute, staunch, steadfast
—OPPOSITES weak

stutter ▶ **verb** *he stuttered over a word* STAMMER, stumble, falter

▶ **noun** *a bad stutter* STAMMER, speech impediment, speech defect

Stygian ▶ **adjective** (*poetic/literary*) See DARK adjective sense 1

style ▶ **noun** ① *differing styles of management* MANNER, way, technique, method, methodology, approach, system, mode, form, modus operandi, *informal* MO ② *a non-directive style of counselling* TYPE, kind, variety, sort, genre, school, brand, pattern, model ③ *wearing clothes with style* FLAIR, stylishness, elegance, grace, gracefulness, poise, polish, suaveness, sophistication, urbanity, chic, dash, panache, elan, *informal* class, pizzazz ④ *Laura travelled in style* COMFORT, luxury, elegance, opulence, lavishness ⑤ *modern styles* FASHION, trend, vogue, mode

▶ **verb** ① *sportswear styled by Karl* DESIGN, fashion, tailor ② *men who were styled 'knight'* CALL, name, title, entitle, dub, designate, term, label, tag, nickname, *formal* denominate

stylish ▶ **adjective** FASHIONABLE, modish, voguish, modern, up to date, smart, sophisticated, elegant, chic, dapper, dashing, *informal* trendy, natty, classy, nifty, ritzy, snazzy, *N Amer informal* fly, kicky, tony, spiffy
—OPPOSITES unfashionable

stymie ▶ **verb** (*informal*) See HAMPER²

suave ▶ **adjective** CHARMING, sophisticated, debonair, urbane, polished, refined, poised, self-possessed, dignified, civilized, gentlemanly, gallant, smooth, polite, well-mannered, civil, courteous, affable, tactful, diplomatic
—OPPOSITES unsophisticated

suavity ▶ **noun** CHARM, sophistication, polish, urbanity, suaveness, refinement, poise, politeness, courtesy, courteousness, civility, tact

subconscious ▶ **adjective** subconscious desires UNCONSCIOUS, latent, suppressed, repressed, subliminal, dormant, underlying, innermost, *informal* bottled up

▶ **noun** *the creative powers of the subconscious* (UNCONSCIOUS) MIND, imagination, inner(most) self, psyche

subdue ▶ **verb** ① *he subdued all his enemies* CONQUER, defeat, vanquish, overcome, overwhelm, crush, quash, beat, trounce, subjugate, suppress, bring someone to their knees, *informal* lick, thrash, hammer ② *she could not subdue her longing* CURB, restrain, hold back, constrain, contain, repress, suppress, stifle, smother, keep in check, rein in, control, master, quell, *informal* keep a/the lid on

subdued ▶ **adjective** ① *Lewis's subdued air* SOMBRE, low-spirited, downcast, sad, dejected, depressed, gloomy, despondent, dispirited, disheartened, forlorn, woebegone, withdrawn, preoccupied, *informal* down in the mouth, down in the dumps, in the doldrums ② *subdued voices* HUSHED, muted, quiet, low, soft, faint, muffled, indistinct ③ *subdued light* DIM, muted, softened, soft, lowered, subtle
—OPPOSITES cheerful, bright

subject ▶ **noun** ① *the subject of this chapter* THEME, subject matter, topic, issue, question, concern, point, substance, essence, gist ② *popular university subjects* BRANCH OF STUDY, discipline, field ③ *six subjects did the trials* PARTICIPANT, volunteer, *informal* guinea pig ④ *British subjects* CITIZEN, national, taxpayer, voter ⑤ *a loyal subject* LIEGE, liegeman, vassal, henchman, follower

▶ **verb** *they were subjected to violence* PUT THROUGH, treat with, expose to

■ **subject to** ① *it is subject to budgetary approval* CONDITIONAL ON, contingent on, dependent on ② *horses are subject to coughs* SUSCEPTIBLE TO, liable to, prone to, vulnerable to, predisposed to, at risk of, *archaic* susceptible of ③ *we are all subject to the law* BOUND BY, constrained by, accountable to

subjection ▶ **noun** SUBJUGATION, domination, oppression, mastery, repression, suppression

subjective ▶ **adjective** PERSONAL, individual, emotional, instinctive, intuitive
—OPPOSITES objective

subjugate ▶ **verb** CONQUER, vanquish, defeat, crush, quash, bring someone to their knees, enslave, subdue, suppress
—OPPOSITES liberate

sublimate ▶ **verb** CHANNEL, control, divert, transfer, redirect, convert

sublime ▶ **adjective** ① *sublime music* EXALTED, elevated, noble, lofty, awe-inspiring, majestic, magnificent, glorious, superb, wonderful, marvellous, splendid, *informal* fantastic, fabulous, terrific, heavenly, divine, out of this world ② *the sublime confidence of youth* SUPREME, total, complete, utter, consummate

subliminal ▶ **adjective** SUBCONSCIOUS, hidden, concealed
—OPPOSITES explicit

submerge ▶ **verb** ① *the U-boat submerged* GO UNDER WATER, dive, sink ② *submerge the bowl in water* IMMERSE, plunge, sink ③ *the farmland was submerged* FLOOD, inundate, deluge, swamp ④ *she was submerged in work* OVERWHELM, inundate, deluge, swamp, bury, engulf, snow under
—OPPOSITES surface.

submission ▶ **noun** ① *submission to authority* YIELDING, capitulation, acceptance, consent, compliance ② *Tim raised his hands in submission* SURRENDER, capitulation, resignation, defeat ③ *he wanted her total submission* COMPLIANCE,

submissiveness, acquiescence, passivity, obedience, docility, deference, subservience, servility, subjection ④ a report for submission to the Board PRESENTATION, presenting, proffering, tendering, proposal, proposing ⑤ his original submission PROPOSAL, suggestion, proposition, recommendation ⑥ the judge rejected his submission ARGUMENT, assertion, contention, statement, claim, allegation

—OPPOSITES defiance, resistance

submissive ▶ adjective COMPLIANT, yielding, acquiescent, unassertive, passive, obedient, biddable, dutiful, docile, pliant, *informal* under someone's thumb

submit ▶ verb ① she submitted under duress GIVE IN/WAY, yield, back down, cave in, capitulate, surrender, knuckle under ② he refused to submit to their authority BE GOVERNED BY, abide by, be regulated by, comply with, accept, adhere to, be subject to, agree to, consent to, conform to ③ we submitted an unopposed bid PUT FORWARD, present, offer, proffer, tender, propose, suggest, put in, send in, register ④ they submitted that the judgement was inappropriate CONTEND, assert, argue, state, claim, posit, postulate

—OPPOSITES resist, withdraw

subnormal ▶ adjective ① subnormal trade activity BELOW AVERAGE, below normal, low, poor ② (dated) subnormal children HAVING LEARNING DIFFICULTIES, having special (educational) needs, of low intelligence, backward, dated ESN

subordinate ▶ adjective ① subordinate staff LOWER-RANKING, junior, lower, supporting ② a subordinate rule SECONDARY, lesser, minor, subsidiary, subservient, ancillary, auxiliary, peripheral, marginal, supplementary, accessory

—OPPOSITES senior

▶ noun the manager and his subordinates JUNIOR, assistant, second (in command), number two, right-hand man/woman, deputy, aide, underling, minion, *informal* sidekick

—OPPOSITES superior

subordination ▶ noun INFERIORITY, subjection, subservience, submission, servitude

sub rosa ▶ adverb (formal) IN SECRET, secretly, in private, privately, behind closed doors, in camera

—OPPOSITES openly

subscribe ▶ verb ① we subscribe to 'Punch' PAY A SUBSCRIPTION, take, buy regularly ② millions subscribe to the NSPCC DONATE, make a donation, make a subscription, give (money), contribute towards ③ I can't subscribe to that theory AGREE WITH, accept, believe in, endorse, back, support, champion, formal accede to ④ (formal) he subscribed the document SIGN, countersign, initial, autograph, witness

subscriber ▶ noun (REGULAR) READER, member, patron, supporter, backer, contributor

subscription ▶ noun ① the club's subscription MEMBERSHIP FEE, dues, annual payment, charge ② we put your subscription to good use. DONATION, contribution, gift, grant, formal benefaction ③ their subscription to capitalism AGREEMENT, belief, endorsement, backing, support ④ (formal) the subscription was witnessed SIGNATURE, initials, addition, appendix

subsequent ▶ adjective the subsequent months FOLLOWING, ensuing, succeeding, later, future, coming, to come, next

—OPPOSITES previous

■ **subsequent** to FOLLOWING, after, at the close/end of

subsequently ▶ adverb LATER (ON), at a later date, afterwards, in due course, following this/that, eventually, *informal* after a bit, *formal* thereafter

subservient ▶ adjective ① subservient women SUBMISSIVE, deferential, compliant, obedient, dutiful, biddable, docile, passive, unassertive, subdued, downtrodden, *informal* under someone's thumb ② individual rights are subservient to the interests of the state SUBORDINATE, secondary, subsidiary, peripheral, ancillary, auxiliary, less important

—OPPOSITES independent

subside ▶ verb ① wait until the storm subsides ABATE, let up, quieten down, calm, slacken (off), ease (up), relent, die down, recede, lessen, soften, diminish, decline, dwindle, weaken, fade, wane, ebb, archaic remit ② the flood has subsided RECEDE, ebb, fall, go down, get lower, abate ③ the volcano is gradually subsiding SINK, settle, cave in, collapse, crumple, give way ④ Sarah subsided into a chair SLUMP, flop, sink, collapse, *informal* slump, plonk oneself

—OPPOSITES intensify, rise

subsidiary ▶ adjective a subsidiary company SUBORDINATE, secondary, ancillary, auxiliary, subservient, supplementary, peripheral

—OPPOSITES principal

▶ noun two major subsidiaries SUBORDINATE COMPANY, branch, division, subdivision, derivative, offshoot

subsidize ▶ verb GIVE MONEY TO, pay a subsidy to, contribute to, invest in, sponsor, support, fund, finance, underwrite, *informal* shell out for, fork out for, cough up for. *N Amer informal* bank-roll

subsidy ▶ noun GRANT, allowance, endowment, contribution, donation, bursary, handout, backing, support, sponsorship, finance, funding, *formal* benefaction

subsist ▶ verb ① he subsists on his pension SURVIVE, live, stay alive, exist, eke out an existence, support oneself, manage, get along/by, make (both) ends meet ② the tenant's rights of occupation subsist CONTINUE, last, persist, endure, prevail, carry on, remain

subsistence ▶ noun ① they depend on fish for subsistence SURVIVAL, existence, living, life, sustenance, nourishment ② the money needed for his subsistence MAINTENANCE, keep, upkeep, livelihood, board (and lodging), nourishment, food

substance ▶ noun ① an organic substance MATERIAL, matter, stuff ② ghostly figures with no substance SOLIDITY, body, corporeality, density, mass, weight, shape, structure ③ none of the objections has any substance MEANINGFULNESS, significance, importance, import, validity, foundation, *formal* moment ④ the substance of the tale is very thin CONTENT, subject matter, theme, message, essence ⑤ Rangers are a team of substance CHARACTER, backbone, mettle ⑥ independent men of substance WEALTH, fortune, riches, affluence, prosperity, money, means

substandard ▶ adjective INFERIOR, second-rate, low-quality, poor, below par, imperfect, faulty, defective, shoddy, shabby, unsound, un-



satisfactory; *informal* tenth-rate, crummy, lousy, *Brit informal* duff, ropy, rubbish, chronic

substantial ▶ **adjective** ① *substantial beings*. REAL, true, actual; physical, solid, material, concrete, corporeal ② *substantial progress had been made* CONSIDERABLE, real, significant, important, notable, major, valuable, useful ③ *substantial damages* SIZEABLE, considerable, significant, large, ample, appreciable, goodly. ④ *substantial Victorian villas*. STURDY, solid, stout, strong, well built, durable, long-lasting, hardwearing ⑤ *substantial country gentlemen*. HEFTY, stout, sturdy, large, solid, bulky, burly, well built, portly ⑥ *substantial City companies* SUCCESSFUL, profitable, prosperous, wealthy, affluent, moneyed, well-to-do, rich, *informal* loaded, stinking rich. ⑦ *substantial agreement* FUNDAMENTAL, essential, basic.

substantially ▶ **adverb** ① *the cost has fallen substantially* CONSIDERABLY, significantly, to a great/large extent, greatly, markedly, appreciably ② *the draft was substantially accepted* LARGELY, for the most part, by and large, on the whole, in the main, mainly, in essence, basically, fundamentally, to all intents and purposes

—OPPOSITES slightly

substantiate ▶ **verb** PROVE, show to be true, give substance to, support, uphold, bear out, justify, vindicate, validate, corroborate, verify, authenticate, confirm, endorse, give credence to

—OPPOSITES disprove

substitute ▶ **noun** substitutes for permanent employees REPLACEMENT, deputy, relief, proxy, reserve, surrogate, cover, stand-in, locum (tens), understudy, *informal* sub

▶ **adjective** a substitute teacher ACTING, replacement, deputy, relief, reserve, surrogate, stand-in, temporary, caretaker, interim, provisional
—OPPOSITES permanent

▶ **verb** ① *curd cheese can be substituted for yogurt*: EXCHANGE, replace with, use instead of, use as an alternative to, use in place of, swap ② *the Senate was empowered to substitute for the President* DEPUTIZE, act as deputy, act as a substitute, stand in, cover, replace, relieve, take over from, *informal* sub, fill someone's boots/shoes

substitution ▶ **noun** EXCHANGE, change; replacement, replacing, swapping, switching.

subterfuge ▶ **noun** ① *the use of subterfuge by journalists*. TRICKERY, intrigue, deviousness, deceit, deception, dishonesty, cheating, duplicity, guile, cunning, craftiness, chicanery, pretence, fraud, fraudulence. ② *a disreputable subterfuge* TRICK, hoax, ruse, wile, ploy, stratagem, artifice, dodge, bluff, pretence, deception, fraud, blind, smokescreen; *informal* con, scam.

subtle ▶ **adjective** ① *subtle colours*: UNDERSTATED, muted, subdued, delicate, faint, pale, soft, indistinct. ② *subtle distinctions*: FINE, fine-drawn, nice, overnice, hair-splitting. ③ *a subtle mind*: ASTUTE, keen, quick, fine, acute, sharp, shrewd, perceptive, discerning, discriminating, penetrating, sagacious, wise, clever, intelligent. ④ *a subtle plan*: INGENUOUS, clever, cunning, crafty, wily, artful, devious.

subtlety ▶ **noun** ① *the subtlety of the flavour*: DELICACY, delicateness, subtleness; understatedness, mutedness, softness. ② *classification is*

fraught with subtlety: FINENESS, subtleness, niceness, nicety, nuance ③ *the subtlety of the human mind* ASTUTENESS, keenness, acuteness, sharpness, canniness, shrewdness, perceptiveness, discernment, discrimination, perspicience, perspicacity, wisdom, cleverness, intelligence ④ *the subtlety of their tactics* INGENUITY, cleverness, skulfulness, adroitness, cunning, guile, craftiness, winess, artfulness, deviousness

subtract ▶ **verb** TAKE AWAY/OFF, deduct, debit, dock, *informal* knock off, minus
—OPPOSITES add.

suburb ▶ **noun** RESIDENTIAL AREA, dormitory area, commuter belt, suburbia

suburban ▶ **adjective** ① *a suburban area*: RESIDENTIAL, commuter, dormitory ② *her drab suburban existence* DULL, boring, uninteresting, conventional, ordinary, commonplace, unremarkable, unexceptional, provincial, unsophisticated, parochial, bourgeois, middle-class

subversive ▶ **adjective** subversive activities DISRUPTIVE, troublemaking, inflammatory, insurrectionary, seditious, revolutionary, rebellious, rebel, renegade, dissident

▶ **noun** a dangerous subversive: TROUBLEMAKER, dissident, agitator, revolutionary, renegade, rebel

subvert ▶ **verb** ① *a plot to subvert the state*: DESTABILIZE, unsettle, overthrow, overturn, bring down, topple, depose, oust, disrupt, wreak havoc on, sabotage, ruin, undermine, weaken, damage ② *attempts to subvert Soviet youth*: CORRUPT, pervert, deprave, contaminate, poison, embitter

subway ▶ **noun** ① *he walked through the subway* UNDERPASS, (pedestrian) tunnel ② *Tokyo's subway* UNDERGROUND (RAILWAY), metro, *Brit informal* tube

succeed ▶ **verb** ① *Darwin succeeded where others had failed*: TRIUMPH, achieve success, be successful, do well, flourish, thrive, *informal* make it, make the grade, make a name for oneself ② *the plan succeeded*: BE SUCCESSFUL, turn out well, work (out), be effective, *informal* come off, pay off ③ *Rosebery succeeded Gladstone as Prime Minister* REPLACE, take the place of, take over from, follow, supersede, *informal* step into someone's shoes ④ *he succeeded to the throne*: INHERIT, assume, acquire, attain, *formal* accede to ⑤ *embarrassment was succeeded by fear*: FOLLOW, come after, follow after
—OPPOSITES fail, precede

succeeding ▶ **adjective** SUBSEQUENT, successive, following, ensuing, later, future, coming

success ▶ **noun** ① *the success of the scheme*: FAVORABLE OUTCOME, successfulness, successful result, triumph ② *the trappings of success*: PROSPERITY, prosperousness, affluence, wealth, riches, opulence ③ *a West End success*: TRIUMPH, best-seller, box-office success, sell-out; *informal* (smash) hit, winner ④ *an overnight success*: STAR, superstar, celebrity, big name, household name, *informal* celeb, megastar.
—OPPOSITES failure.

successful ▶ **adjective** ① *a successful campaign*: VICTORIOUS, triumphant; fortunate, lucky. ② *a successful designer*: PROSPEROUS, affluent, wealthy, rich, doing well, famous, eminent, top, *informal* on the up and up. ③ *successful companies*: FLOURISHING, thriving, booming, buoy-

ant, doing well, profitable, moneymaking, lucrative; *informal* on the up and up.

succession ▶ **noun** ① a succession of exciting events SEQUENCE, series, progression, chain, cycle, round, string, train, line, run, flow, stream ② his succession to the throne ACCESSION, elevation, assumption

■ **in succession** ONE AFTER THE OTHER, in a row, consecutively, successively, in sequence, running, *informal* on the trot

successive ▶ **adjective** CONSECUTIVE, in a row, straight, sequential, in succession, running, *informal* on the trot

successor ▶ **noun** HEIR (APPARENT), inheritor, next-in-line
-OPPOSITES predecessor

succinct ▶ **adjective** CONCISE, short (and sweet), brief, compact, condensed, crisp, laconic, terse, to the point, pithy, epigrammatic, synoptic, gnomic, *formal* compendious
-OPPOSITES verbose

succour ▶ **noun** providing succour in times of need AID, help, a helping hand, assistance, comfort, ease, relief, support

▶ **verb** the prisoners were succoured HELP, aid, bring aid to, give/render assistance to, assist, lend a (helping) hand to, minister to, care for, comfort, bring relief to, support, take care of, look after, attend to

succulent ▶ **adjective** JUICY, moist, luscious, soft, tender, choice, mouth-watering, appetizing, flavoursome, tasty, delicious, *informal* scrumptious, scrummy.
-OPPOSITES dry

succumb ▶ **verb** ① she succumbed to temptation YIELD, give in/way, submit, surrender, capitulate, cave in ② he succumbed to the disease DIE FROM/OF; catch, develop, contract, fall ill with, *informal* come/go down with
-OPPOSITES resist

suck ▶ **verb** ① they sucked orange juice through straws SIP, sup, siphon, slurp, draw, drink ② Fran sucked in a deep breath DRAW, pull, breathe, gasp, inhale, inspire ③ they got sucked into petty crime IMPLICATE IN, involve in, draw into, *informal* mix up in ④ (N Amer *informal*) the weather sucks BE VERY BAD, be awful, be terrible, be dreadful, be horrible, *informal* stink

■ **suck up** (*informal*) they suck up to him, hanging on to his every word. GROVEL, creep, toady, be obsequious, be sycophantic, kowtow, bow and scrape, truckle, fawn on, *informal* lick someone's boots, be all over

suckle ▶ **verb** BREASTFEED, feed, nurse

sudden ▶ **adjective** UNEXPECTED, unforeseen, unanticipated, unlooked-for; immediate, instantaneous, instant, precipitous, precipitate, abrupt, rapid, swift, quick

suddenly ▶ **adverb** IMMEDIATELY, instantaneously, instantly, straight away, all of a sudden, all at once, promptly, abruptly, swiftly; unexpectedly, without warning, without notice, out of the blue; *informal* straight off, in a flash, like a shot.
-OPPOSITES gradually

suds ▶ **plural noun** LATHER, foam, froth, bubbles, soap

sue ▶ **verb** ① he sued for negligence: TAKE LEGAL ACTION, take to court, bring an action/suit, pro-

ceed against, *informal* have the law on. ② suing for peace APPEAL, petition, ask, solicit, request, seek

suffer ▶ **verb** ① I hate to see him suffer: HURT, ache, be in pain, feel pain; be in distress, be upset, be miserable ② he suffers from asthma. BE AFFLICTED BY, be affected by, be troubled with, have ③ England suffered a humiliating defeat UNDERGO, experience, be subjected to, receive, endure, face ④ the school's reputation has suffered BE IMPAIRED, be damaged, deteriorate, decline ⑤ (archaic) he was obliged to suffer her intimate proximity: TOLERATE, put up with, bear, stand, abide, endure; *formal* brook ⑥ (archaic) my conscience would not suffer me to accept ALLOW, permit, let, give leave to, sanction

suffering ▶ **noun** HARDSHIP, distress, misery, wretchedness, adversity, tribulation, pain, agony, anguish, trauma, torment, torture, hurt, affliction, sadness, unhappiness, sorrow, grief, woe, angst, heartache, heartbreak, stress, poetic/literary *de*lour

suffice ▶ **verb** BE ENOUGH, be sufficient, be adequate, do, serve, meet requirements, fit/fill the bill, satisfy demands, answer/meet one's needs, answer/serve the purpose, *informal* hit the spot

sufficient ▶ **adjective & determiner** ENOUGH, adequate, plenty of, ample
-OPPOSITES inadequate

suffocate ▶ **verb** ① she suffocated her victim SMOTHER, asphyxiate, stifle, choke, strangle ② she was suffocating in the heat BE BREATHELESS, be short of air, struggle for air, be too hot, swelter, *informal* roast, bake, boil.

suffrage ▶ **noun** FRANCHISE, right to vote, the vote, enfranchisement, ballot

suffuse ▶ **verb** PERMEATE, spread over, spread throughout, cover, bathe, pervade, wash, saturate, imbue

sugar See list

-RELATED TERMS saccharine, glyco-

Biochemical Sugars

arabinose	lactulose	saccharose
deoxyribose	laevulose	sorbose
dextrose	maltose	sucrose
fructose	mannose	tetrose
galactose	raffinose	trihalose
glucose	rhamnose	triose
invert sugar	ribose	xylose
lactose	ribulose	

sugary ▶ **adjective** ① sugary snacks: SWEET, sugared, sickly ② sugary romance. SENTIMENTAL, mawkish, cloying, slushy, mushy, sloppy, sickly (sweet), saccharine, syrupy; *informal* soppy, schmaltzy, cutesy, corny.
-OPPOSITES sour.

suggest ▶ **verb** ① Ruth suggested a holiday: PROPOSE, put forward, recommend, advocate; advise, urge, encourage, counsel. ② evidence suggests that teenagers are responsive to price increases: INDICATE, lead to the belief, argue, demonstrate, show; *formal* evince ③ sources suggest that the Prime Minister will change his cabinet: HINT, insinuate, imply, intimate, indicate. ④ the seduction scenes suggest his guilt and her loneliness: CONVEY,

express, impart, imply, intimate, smack of, evoke, conjure up, *formal* evince

suggestion ▶ **noun** ① *some suggestions for tackling this problem* PROPOSAL, proposition, motion, submission, recommendation; advice, counsel, hint, tip, clue, idea. ② *the suggestion of a smirk* HINT, trace, touch, suspicion, dash, soupçon, ghost, semblance, shadow, glimmer, impression, whisper. ③ *there is no suggestion that he was party to a conspiracy* INSINUATION, hint, implication, intimation, innuendo, imputation

suggestive ▶ **adjective** ① *suggestive remarks* INDECENT, indelicate, improper, unseemly, sexual, sexy, smutty, dirty, ribald, bawdy, racy, risqué, lewd, vulgar, coarse, salacious. ② *an odour suggestive of a brewery* REDOLENT, evocative, reminiscent, characteristic, indicative, typical

sulcide ▶ **noun** SELF-DESTRUCTION, taking one's own life, self-murder, *informal* topping oneself

suit ▶ **noun** ① *a pinstriped suit* OUTFIT, set of clothes, ensemble. ② *(informal) suits in faraway boardrooms* BUSINESSMAN, BUSINESSWOMAN, executive, bureaucrat, administrator, manager. ③ *a medical malpractice suit* LEGAL ACTION, lawsuit, (court) case, action, (legal/judicial) proceedings, litigation. ④ *they spurned his suit* ENTREATY, request, plea, appeal, petition, supplication, application. ⑤ *his suit came to nothing* COURTSHIP, wooing, attentions. ⑥ *a suit of cards* See list

▶ **verb** ① *blue really suits you* LOOK ATTRACTIVE ON, enhance the appearance of, look good on, become, flatter. ② *savings schemes to suit all pockets* BE CONVENIENT FOR, be acceptable to, be suitable for, meet the requirements of, fit/fill the bill. ③ *recipes ideally suited to students* MAKE AP PROPRIATE TO/FOR, tailor, fashion, adjust, adapt, modify, fit, gear, design

Suits of Cards

STANDARD PACK

clubs
diamonds
hearts
spades

TAROT PACK

cups
pentacles/coins/discs
swords
trumps
wands/batons

suitable ▶ **adjective** ① *suitable employment opportunities* ACCEPTABLE, satisfactory, fitting, *informal* right up someone's street. ② *a drama suitable for all ages* APPROPRIATE, fitting, fit, acceptable, right. ③ *music suitable for a lively dinner party* AP PROPRIATE, suited, befitting, in keeping with, *informal* cut out for. ④ *they treated him with suitable respect* PROPER, seemly, decent, appropriate, fitting, befitting, correct, due. ⑤ *suitable candidates* WELL QUALIFIED, well suited, appropriate, fitting.

—OPPOSITES inappropriate

suitcase ▶ **noun** TRAVELLING BAG, travel bag, case, valise, overnight case, portmanteau, vanity case; (suitcases) luggage, baggage.

suite ▶ **noun** ① *a penthouse suite* APARTMENT, flat, (set of) rooms. ② *the Queen and her suite* RETINUE, entourage, train, escort, royal household, court; attendants, retainers, servants.

sulitor ▶ **noun** ADMIRER, wooer, boyfriend, sweetheart, lover; *poetic/literary* swain; *dated* beau.

sulk ▶ **verb** *Dad was sulking* MOPE, brood, be sullen, have a long face, be in a bad mood, be in a huff, be grumpy, be moody, *informal* be down in the dumps

▶ **noun** *he sank into a deep sulk* (BAD) MOOD, fit of ill humour, fit of pique, pet, huff, (bad) temper, the sulks, the blues, *informal* grump

sulky ▶ **adjective** *sulky faces* SULLEN, surly, moping, pouting, moody, sour, piqued, petulant, disgruntled, ill-humoured, in a bad mood, having a fit of the sulks, out of humour, put out, bad-tempered, grumpy, huffy, glum, gloomy, morose, *informal* grouchy, fed up
—OPPOSITES cheerful

sullen ▶ **adjective** SURLY, sulky, pouting, sour, morose, resentful, glum, moody, gloomy, grumpy, bad-tempered, ill-tempered, unresponsive, uncommunicative, uncivil, unfriendly
—OPPOSITES cheerful

sully ▶ **verb** TAINT, defile, soil, tarnish, stain, blemish, pollute, spoil, mar; *poetic/literary* besmirch, befoul

sultry ▶ **adjective** ① *a sultry day* HUMID, close, airless, stifling, oppressive, muggy, sticky, sweltering, tropical, heavy, hot, *informal* boiling, roasting. ② *a sultry film star* PASSIONATE, attractive, sensual, sexy, voluptuous, erotic, seductive
—OPPOSITES refreshing

sum ▶ **noun** ① *a large sum of money* AMOUNT, quantity, volume. ② *just a small sum* AMOUNT OF MONEY, price, charge, fee, cost. ③ *the sum of two numbers* (SUM) TOTAL, grand total, tally, aggregate, summation. ④ *the sum of his wisdom* ENTIRETY, totality, total, whole, aggregate, summation, beginning and end. ⑤ *we did sums at school* (ARITHMETICAL) PROBLEM, calculation, (sums) arithmetic, mathematics, computation, *Brit informal* maths, *N Amer informal* math
—OPPOSITES difference

■ **sum up** SUMMARIZE THE EVIDENCE, review the evidence, give a summing-up

■ **sum someone/something up** ① *one reviewer summed it up as 'compelling'* EVALUATE, assess, appraise, rate, weigh up, gauge, judge, deem, adjudge, estimate, form an opinion of. ② *he summed up his reasons* SUMMARIZE, make/give a summary of, precis, outline, give an outline of, recapitulate, review; *informal* recap

summarily ▶ **adverb** IMMEDIATELY, instantly, right away, straight away, at once, on the spot, promptly; speedily, swiftly, rapidly, without delay, arbitrarily, without formality, peremptorily, without due process

summarize ▶ **verb** SUM UP, abridge, condense, encapsulate, outline, give an outline of, put in a nutshell, recapitulate, give/make a summary of, give a synopsis of, precis, give a résumé of, give the gist of; *informal* recap, *archaic* epitomize

summary ▶ **noun** *a summary of the findings* SYNOPSIS, precis, résumé, abstract, digest, encapsulation, abbreviated version, outline, sketch, rundown, review, summing-up, overview, recapitulation, epitome, conspectus, *informal* recap

▶ **adjective** ① *a summary financial statement* ABRIDGED, abbreviated, shortened, condensed, concise, succinct, short, brief, pithy; *formal* compendious. ② *summary execution* IMMEDIATE, instant, instantaneous, on-the-spot; speedy, swift,

rapid, without delay, sudden, arbitrary, without formality, peremptory

summer

—RELATED TERMS *aestival*.

summer house ▶ noun GAZEBO, pavilion, belvedere, *poetic/literary* bower

summit ▶ noun ① the summit of Mont Blanc (MOUNTAIN) TOP, peak, crest, crown, apex, tip, cap, hilltop ② the summits of world literature ACME, peak, height, pinnacle, zenith, climax, high point/spot, highlight, crowning glory, best, finest, nonpareil ③ the next superpower summit MEETING, negotiation, conference, talk(s), discussion
—OPPOSITES base, nadir

summon ▶ verb ① he was summoned to the Embassy SEND FOR, call for, request the presence of, ask, invite ② they were summoned as witnesses SERVE WITH A SUMMONS, summons, subpoena, cite, serve with a citation ③ the chair summoned a meeting: CONVENE, assemble, order, call, announce, formal convoke ④ he summoned the courage to move closer MUSTER, gather, collect, rally, screw up ⑤ summoning up their memories of home CALL TO MIND, call up/forth, conjure up, evoke, recall, revive, arouse, kindle, awaken, spark (off) ⑥ they summoned spirits of the dead CONJURE UP, call up, invoke

summons ▶ noun ① the court issued a summons WRIT, subpoena, warrant, court order, law citation ② a summons to go to the boss's office ORDER, directive, command, instruction, demand, decree, injunction, edict, call, request

▶ verb he was summoned to appear in court: SERVE WITH A SUMMONS, summon, subpoena, cite, serve with a citation

sumptuous ▶ adjective LAVISH, luxurious, opulent, magnificent, resplendent, gorgeous, splendid, grand, lavishly appointed, palatial, rich, *informal* plush, ritzy, *Brit informal* swish
—OPPOSITES plain

sun ▶ noun SUNSHINE, sunlight, daylight, light, warmth, beams, rays

—RELATED TERMS solar, helio-

■ **sun oneself**. See SUNBATHE

sunbathe ▶ verb SUN ONESELF, bask, get a tan, tan oneself; *informal* catch some rays

sunburnt ▶ adjective ① his sunburnt shoulders BURNED, sunburned, red, scarlet ② a handsome sunburnt face TANNED, suntanned, brown, bronzed, bronze
—OPPOSITES pale

Sunday ▶ noun THE SABBATH
—RELATED TERMS dominical

sunder ▶ verb (*poetic/literary*) DIVIDE, split, cleave, separate, rend, sever, rive

sundry ▶ adjective VARIOUS, varied, miscellaneous, assorted, mixed, diverse, diversified, several, numerous, many, manifold, multifarious, multitudinous; *poetic/literary* divers

sunken ▶ adjective ① sunken eyes: HOLLOWED, hollow, depressed, deep-set, concave, indented ② a sunken garden: BELOW GROUND LEVEL, at a lower level, lowered.

sunless ▶ adjective ① a cold sunless day: DARK, overcast, cloudy, grey, gloomy, dismal, murky, dull. ② the sunless side of the house: SHADY, shadowy, dark, gloomy.

sunlight ▶ noun DAYLIGHT, sun, sunshine, sun's rays, (natural) light.

sunny ▶ adjective ① a sunny day: BRIGHT, shiny, sunlit, clear, fine, cloudless, without a cloud in the sky ② a sunny disposition: CHEERFUL, cheery, happy, light-hearted, bright, merry, joyful, bubbly, jolly, jovial, animated, buoyant, ebullient, upbeat, vivacious, *poetic/literary* blithe ③ look on the sunny side: OPTIMISTIC, rosy, bright, hopeful, auspicious, favourable
—OPPOSITES dull, miserable

sunrise ▶ noun (CRACK OF) DAWN, daybreak, break of day, first light, (early) morning, cock-crow; *N Amer* sunup, *poetic/literary* aurora, day-spring

sunset ▶ noun NIGHTFALL, close of day, twilight, dusk, evening, *N Amer* sundown, *poetic/literary* eventide, gloaming

sunshine ▶ noun ① relaxing in the sunshine. SUN LIGHT, sun, sun's rays, daylight, (natural) light ② his smile was all sunshine HAPPINESS, cheerfulness, cheer, gladness, laughter, gaiety, merriment, joy, joyfulness, joviality, jollity, *poetic/literary* blitheness ③ (*Brit informal*) hello, sunshine MY FRIEND; *informal* pal, chum; *Brit informal* mate, matey, squire, mush; *N Amer informal* bud, buddy, buster

super ▶ adjective (*informal*) EXCELLENT, superb, superlative, first-class, outstanding, marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, splendid, glorious; *informal* great, fantastic, fabulous, terrific, ace, divine, A1, wicked, cool, *Brit informal* smashing, brilliant, brill
—OPPOSITES rotten.

superannuated ▶ adjective ① a superannuated civil servant PENSIONED (OFF), retired, elderly, old ② superannuated computing equipment OLD, old-fashioned, antiquated, out of date, outmoded, broken-down, obsolete, disused, defunct, *informal* clapped out

superb ▶ adjective ① he scored a superb goal EXCELLENT, superlative, first-rate, first-class, outstanding, remarkable, marvellous, magnificent, wonderful, splendid, admirable, noteworthy, impressive, fine, exquisite, exceptional, glorious, *informal* great, fantastic, fabulous, terrific, super, awesome, ace, cool, A1; *Brit informal* brilliant, brill, smashing. ② a superb diamond necklace: MAGNIFICENT, majestic, splendid, grand, impressive, imposing, awe-inspiring, breathtaking; gorgeous
—OPPOSITES poor, inferior

supercilious ▶ adjective ARROGANT, haughty, conceited, disdainful, overbearing, pompous, condescending, superior, patronizing, imperious, proud, snobbish, snobby, smug, scornful, sneering; *informal* hoity-toity, high and mighty, uppity, snooty, stuck-up, snotty, jumped up, too big for one's boots.

superficial ▶ adjective ① superficial burns: SURFACE, exterior, external, outer, outside, slight. ② a superficial friendship: SHALLOW, surface, skin-deep, artificial; empty, hollow, meaningless. ③ a superficial investigation: CURSORY, perfunctory, casual, sketchy, desultory, token, slapdash, offhand, rushed, hasty, hurried. ④ a superficial resemblance: APPARENT, seeming, outward, ostensible, cosmetic, slight. ⑤ a superficial biography: TRIVIAL, lightweight. ⑥ a superfi-

cial person: FACILE, shallow, flippant, empty-headed, trivial, frivolous, silly, inane
-OPPOSITES deep, thorough

superficially ► *adverb* APPARENTLY, seemingly, ostensibly, outwardly, on the surface, on the face of it, to all intents and purposes, at first glance, to the casual eye.

superfluity ► *noun* SURPLUS, excess, overabundance, glut, surfeit, profusion, plethora
-OPPOSITES shortage

superfluous ► *adjective* ① *superfluous material* SURPLUS (TO REQUIREMENTS), redundant, unneeded, excess, extra, (to) spare, remaining, unused, left over, in excess, waste ② *words seemed superfluous* UNNECESSARY, unneeded, redundant, uncalled for, unwarranted
-OPPOSITES necessary

superhuman ► *adjective* ① *a superhuman effort* EXTRAORDINARY, phenomenal, prodigious, stupendous, exceptional, immense, heroic ② *superhuman power* DIVINE, holy, heavenly ③ *superhuman beings* SUPERNATURAL, preternatural, paranormal, other-worldly, unearthly, *rare* extramundane
-OPPOSITES mundane

superintend ► *verb* SUPERVISE, oversee, be in charge of, be in control of, preside over, direct, administer, manage, run, be responsible for

superintendent ► *noun* ① *the superintendent of the museum* MANAGER, director, administrator, supervisor, overseer, controller, chief, head, governor, *informal* boss ② *(N Amer) the building's superintendent*: CARETAKER, janitor, warden, porter

superior ► *adjective* ① *a superior officer*: HIGHER-RANKING, higher-level, senior, higher, higher-up ② *the superior candidate*: BETTER, more expert, more skilful, worthier, fitter, preferred. ③ *superior workmanship* FINER, better, higher-grade, of higher quality, greater, accomplished, expert. ④ *superior chocolate* GOOD-QUALITY, high-quality, first-class, first-rate, top-quality, choice, select, exclusive, prime, prize, fine, excellent, best, choicest, finest ⑤ *a superior hotel* HIGH-CLASS, upper-class, select, exclusive; *Brit* upmarket; *informal* classy, posh ⑥ *Jake regarded her with superior amusement*: CONDESCENDING, supercilious, patronizing, haughty, disdainful, pompous, snobbish, *informal* high and mighty, hoity-toity, snooty, stuck-up.
-OPPOSITES junior, inferior

► *noun* *my immediate superior*: MANAGER, chief, supervisor, senior, controller, foreman, *informal* boss

-OPPOSITES subordinate

superiority ► *noun* SUPREMACY, advantage, lead, dominance, primacy, ascendancy, eminence.

superlative ► *adjective* EXCELLENT, magnificent, wonderful, marvellous, supreme, consummate, outstanding, remarkable, fine choice, first-rate, first-class, premier, prime, unsurpassed, unequalled, unparalleled, unrivalled, pre-eminent; *informal* crack, ace, wicked, *Brit informal* brilliant.

-OPPOSITES mediocre.

supernatural ► *adjective* ① *supernatural powers*: PARANORMAL, psychic, magic, magical, occult, mystic, mystical, superhuman, supernatural; *rare* extramundane. ② *a supernatural*

being: GHOSTLY, phantom, spectral, other-worldly, unearthly, unnatural.

supersede ► *verb* REPLACE, take the place of, take over from, succeed, supplant, displace, oust, overthrow, remove, unseat; *informal* fill someone's shoes/boots

superstition ► *noun* ① *the old superstitions held by sailors* MYTH, belief, old wives' tale, legend, story ② *medicine was riddled with superstition*: UNFOUNDED BELIEF, credulity, fallacy, delusion, illusion; magic, sorcery

superstitious ► *adjective* ① *superstitious beliefs* MYTHICAL, irrational, illusory, groundless, unfounded, traditional. ② *he's incredibly superstitious* CREDULOUS, naive, gullible
-OPPOSITES factual, sceptical

supervise ► *verb* ① *he had to supervise the loading* SUPERINTEND, oversee, be in charge of, preside over, direct, manage, run, look after, be responsible for, govern, organize, handle ② *you may need to supervise the patient* WATCH, oversee, keep an eye on, observe, monitor, mind

supervision ► *noun* ① *the supervision of the banking system* ADMINISTRATION, management, control, charge, superintendence, regulation, government, governance ② *keep your children under supervision* OBSERVATION, guidance, custody, charge, safe keeping, care, guardianship, control

supervisor ► *noun* MANAGER, director, overseer, controller, superintendent, governor, chief, head, steward, foreman, *Brit* ganger, *informal* boss, *Brit informal* gaffer

supine ► *adjective* ① *she lay supine on the sand* FLAT ON ONE'S BACK, face upwards, flat, horizontal, recumbent, stretched out ② *a supine medi* WEAK, spineless, yielding, effete, docile, acquiescent, pliant, submissive, passive, inert, spiritless
-OPPOSITES prostrate, strong

supper ► *noun* DINNER, evening meal, main meal; snack, bite to eat, *Brit* tea, *formal* repast, *poetic/literary* refection

supplant ► *verb* ① *motorways supplanted the network of A-roads*. REPLACE, supersede, displace, take over from, substitute for, override ② *the man he supplanted as Prime Minister* OUST, usurp, overthrow, remove, topple, unseat, depose, dethrone, succeed, come after; *informal* fill someone's shoes/boots

supple ► *adjective* ① *her supple body* LITHE, limber, lissom(a), willowy, flexible, loose-limbed, agile, acrobatic, nubile, double-jointed ② *supple leather*: PLIANT, pliable, flexible, soft, bendable, workable, malleable, stretchy, elastic, springy, yielding, rubbery
-OPPOSITES stiff, rigid

supplement ► *noun* ① *a mouse is a keyboard supplement*: ADDITION, supplementation, supplementary, extra, add-on, accessory, adjunct, appendage; *Computing* peripheral. ② *a single room supplement*: SURCHARGE, addition, increase ③ *a supplement to the essay*. APPENDIX, addendum, end matter, tailpiece, codicil, postscript, addition, coda. ④ *a special supplement with today's paper* PULL-OUT, insert, extra section.

► *verb* *they supplemented their incomes by spinning*: AUGMENT, increase, add to, boost, swell, amplify, enlarge, top up.

supplementary ▶ **adjective** ① *supplementary income* ADDITIONAL, supplemental, extra, more, further, add-on, subsidiary, auxiliary, ancillary ② *a supplementary index* APPENDED, attached, added, extra, accompanying

suppliant ▶ **noun** *they were not mere suppliants* PETITIONER, supplicant, pleader, beggar, applicant

▶ **adjective** *those around her were suppliant* PLEADING, begging, imploring, entreating, supplicating, on bended knee

supplicate ▶ **verb** ENTREAT, beg, plead with, implore, petition, appeal to, call on, urge, enjoin, importune, sue, ask, request, *poetic/literary* beseech

supply ▶ **verb** ① *they supplied money to rebels* GIVE, contribute, provide, furnish, donate, bestow, grant, endow, impart, dispense, disburse, allocate, assign, *informal* fork out, shell out ② *the lake supplies the city with water* PROVIDE, furnish, endow, serve, confer, equip, arm ③ *windmills supply their power needs* SATISFY, meet, fulfil, cater for

▶ **noun** ① *a limited supply of food* STOCK, store, reserve, reservoir, stockpile, hoard, cache, storehouse, repository, fund, mine, bank ② *the supply of alcoholic liquor* PROVISION, dissemination, distribution, serving ③ *go to a supermarket for supplies* PROVISIONS, stores, stocks, rations, food, foodstuffs, eatables, produce, necessities, *informal* eats, *formal* comestibles

▶ **adjective** *a supply teacher* SUBSTITUTE, stand-in, fill-in, locum, temporary, stopgap

support ▶ **verb** ① *a roof supported by pillars* HOLD UP, bear, carry, prop up, keep up, brace, shore up, underpin, buttress, reinforce ② *he struggled to support his family* PROVIDE FOR, maintain, sustain, keep, take care of, look after ③ *she supported him to the end* COMFORT, encourage, sustain, buoy up, hearten, fortify, console, solace, reassure, *informal* buck up ④ *evidence to support the argument* SUBSTANTIATE, back up, bear out, corroborate, confirm, attest to, verify, prove, validate, authenticate, endorse, ratify ⑤ *the money supports charitable projects* HELP, aid, assist, contribute to, back, subsidize, fund, finance, *N Amer informal* bankroll ⑥ *an independent candidate supported by locals* BACK, champion, help, assist, aid, abet, favour, encourage, vote for, stand behind, defend; sponsor, second, promote, endorse, sanction, *informal* throw one's weight behind ⑦ *they support human rights* ADVOCATE, promote, champion, back, espouse, be in favour of, recommend, defend, subscribe to ⑧ *I could not support the grief* ENDURE, bear, tolerate, stand, put up with, abide, stomach, sustain, *formal* brook, *archaic* suffer.

—OPPOSITES neglect, contradict, oppose

▶ **noun** ① *bridge supports* PILLAR, post, prop, upright, crutch, plinth, brace, buttress, base, substructure, foundation, underpinning ② *he pays support for his wife* MAINTENANCE, keep, sustenance, subsistence. ③ *I was lucky to have their support* ENCOURAGEMENT, friendship, strength, consolation, solace, succour, relief. ④ *he was a great support* COMFORT, help, assistance, tower of strength, prop, mainstay. ⑤ *support for community services* CONTRIBUTIONS, backing, donations, money, subsidy, funding, funds, finance, capital ⑥ *they voiced their support for him*: BACKING, help, assistance, aid, endorsement, approval;

votes, patronage ⑦ *a surge in support for decentralization*. ADVOCACY, backing, promotion, championship, espousal, defence, recommendation

supporter ▶ **noun** ① *supporters of gun control* ADVOCATE, backer, adherent, promoter, champion, defender, upholder, crusader, proponent, campaigner, apologist ② *Labour supporters*. BACKER, helper, adherent, follower, ally, voter, disciple, member ③ *the charity relies on its supporters* CONTRIBUTOR, donor, benefactor, sponsor, backer, patron, subscriber, well-wisher ④ *the team's supporters* FAN, follower, enthusiast, devotee, admirer; *informal* buff, addict.

supportive ▶ **adjective** ① *a supportive teacher* ENCOURAGING, caring, sympathetic, reassuring, understanding, concerned, helpful, kind, kindly ② *we are supportive of the proposal* IN FAVOUR OF, favourable to, pro, on the side of, sympathetic to, well disposed to, receptive to

suppose ▶ **verb** ① *I suppose he's used to this*. AS SUME, presume, expect, dare say, take it (as read), believe, think, fancy, suspect, sense, trust, guess, surmise, reckon, conjecture, deduce, infer, gather, *formal* opine ② *suppose you had a spacecraft* ASSUME, imagine, (let's) say, hypothesize, theorize, speculate ③ *the theory supposes rational players* REQUIRE, presuppose, imply, assume; call for, need

supposed ▶ **adjective** ① *the supposed phenomena* APPARENT, ostensible, seeming, alleged, putative, reputed, rumoured, claimed, purported, professed, declared, assumed, presumed ② *I'm supposed to meet him at 8.30* MEANT, intended, expected, required, obliged

supposition ▶ **noun** BELIEF, surmise, idea, notion, suspicion, conjecture, speculation, inference, theory, hypothesis, postulation, guess, feeling, hunch, assumption, presumption

suppress ▶ **verb** ① *they could suppress the rebellion* SUBDUCE, repress, crush, quell, quash, squash, stamp out, defeat, conquer, overpower, put down, crack down on, end, stop, terminate, halt ② *she suppressed her irritation* CONCEAL, restrain, stifle, smother, bottle up, hold back, control, check, curb, contain, bridle, inhibit, keep a rein on, put a lid on ③ *the report was suppressed*. CENSOR, keep secret, conceal, hide, hush up, gag, withhold, cover up, stifle, ban, proscribe, outlaw, sweep under the carpet —OPPOSITES incite, reveal

suppurate ▶ **verb** FESTER, form pus, discharge, run, weep, become septic, *Medicine* mature

supremacy ▶ **noun** ASCENDANCY, predominance, primacy, dominion, hegemony, authority, mastery, control, power, rule, sovereignty, influence, dominance, superiority, advantage, the upper hand, the whip hand, the edge; distinction, greatness.

supreme ▶ **adjective** ① *the supreme commander*: HIGHEST RANKING, chief, head, top, foremost, principal, superior, premier, first, prime; greatest, dominant, predominant, pre-eminent. ② *a supreme achievement*: EXTRAORDINARY, remarkable, incredible, phenomenal, rare, exceptional, outstanding, great, incomparable, unparalleled, peerless. ③ *the supreme sacrifice*: ULTIMATE, final, last; utmost, extreme, greatest, highest. —OPPOSITES subordinate, insignificant.

sure ▶ **adjective** ① *I am sure that they didn't* CERTAIN, positive, convinced, confident, definite, assured, satisfied, persuaded; unhesitating, unwavering, unshakeable ② *someone was sure to be blamed* BOUND, likely, destined, fated ③ *a sure winner with the children* GUARANTEED, unfailing, infallible, unerring, assured, certain, inevitable, as sure as eggs is eggs; *informal* sure-fire ④ *he entered in the sure knowledge that he would win* UNQUESTIONABLE, indisputable, irrefutable, incontrovertible, undeniable, indubitable, undoubted, absolute, categorical, true, certain, obvious, evident, plain, clear, conclusive, definite ⑤ *a sure sign that he's worried* RELIABLE, dependable, trustworthy, unfailing, infallible, certain, unambiguous, true, foolproof, established, effective, *informal* sure-fire, *formal* efficacious ⑥ *the sure hand of the soloist* FIRM, steady, stable, secure, confident, steadfast, unfaltering, unwavering
-OPPOSITES uncertain, unlikely

▶ **exclamation** 'Can I come too?' 'Sure' YES, all right, of course, indeed, certainly, absolutely, agreed, *informal* OK, yeah, yep, uh-huh, you bet, I'll say, sure thing

■ **be sure to** REMEMBER TO, don't forget to, see that you, mind that you, take care to, be certain to

■ **for sure** (*informal*) DEFINITELY, surely, certainly, without doubt, without question, undoubtedly, indubitably, absolutely, undeniably, unmistakably

■ **make sure** CHECK, confirm, make certain, ensure, assure, verify, corroborate, substantiate

surely ▶ **adverb** ① *surely you remembered?* IT MUST BE THE CASE THAT, assuredly, without question ② *I will surely die* CERTAINLY, for sure, definitely, undoubtedly, without doubt, doubtless, indubitably, unquestionably, without fail, inevitably ③ *slowly but surely manipulating the public* FIRMLY, steadily, confidently, assuredly, unhesitatingly, unfalteringly, unswervingly, determinedly, doggedly

surety ▶ **noun** ① *she's a surety for her his obligations* GUARANTOR, sponsor ② *bail of £10,000 with a further £10,000 surety* PLEDGE, collateral, guaranty, guarantee, bond, assurance, insurance, deposit, security, indemnity, indemnification, earnest

surface ▶ **noun** ① *the surface of the door* OUTSIDE, exterior, top, side, finish, veneer ② *the surface of police culture* OUTWARD APPEARANCE, facade ③ *a floured surface* WORKTOP, top, work surface, counter, table

-OPPOSITES inside, interior

▶ **adjective** *surface appearances* SUPERFICIAL, external, exterior, outward, ostensible, apparent, cosmetic, skin deep

-OPPOSITES underlying

▶ **verb** ① *a submarine surfaced*: COME TO THE SURFACE, come up, rise. ② *the idea first surfaced in the sixties*: EMERGE, arise, appear, come to light, crop up, materialize, spring up. ③ (*informal*) *she eventually surfaces for breakfast*: GET UP, get out of bed, rise, wake, awaken, appear

-OPPOSITES dive

■ **on the surface** AT FIRST GLANCE, to the casual eye, outwardly, to all appearances, apparently, ostensibly, superficially, externally.

surfeit ▶ **noun** *a surfeit of apples*: EXCESS, surplus, abundance, oversupply, superabundance,

superfluity, glut, avalanche, deluge, overdose; too much; *informal* bellyful.

-OPPOSITES lack

▶ **verb** *we'll all be surfeited with food*: SATIATE, gorge, overfeed, overfill, glut, cram, stuff, overindulge, fill

surge ▶ **noun** ① *a surge of water*: GUSH, rush, outpouring, stream, flow ② *a surge in oil production* INCREASE, rise, growth, upswing, upsurge, escalation, leap. ③ *a sudden surge of anger* RUSH, storm, torrent, blaze, outburst, eruption ④ *the surge of sea* SWELL, heaving, rolling, roll, swirling, tide

▶ **verb** ① *the water surged into people's homes*: GUSH, rush, stream, flow, burst, pour, cascade, spill, overflow, sweep, roll ② *the Dow Jones index surged 47 63 points* INCREASE, rise, grow, escalate, leap ③ *the sea surged* SWELL, heave, rise, roll

surgeon ▶ **noun**. See list at DOCTOR

surgery ▶ **noun**. See lists at INSTRUMENT, OPERATION

surly ▶ **adjective** SULLEN, sulky, moody, sour, unfriendly, unpleasant, scowling, unsmiling, bad-tempered, grumpy, crotchety, prickly, cantankerous, irascible, testy, short-tempered, abrupt, brusque, curt, gruff, churlish, ill-humoured, crabby, uncivil, *informal* grouchy

-OPPOSITES pleasant

surmise ▶ **verb** GUESS, conjecture, suspect, deduce, infer, conclude, theorize, speculate, divine, assume, presume, suppose, understand, gather, feel, sense, think, believe, imagine, fancy, reckon, *formal* opine

surmount ▶ **verb** ① *his reputation surmounts language barriers* OVERCOME, conquer, prevail over, triumph over, beat, vanquish, clear, cross, pass over, resist, endure ② *they surmounted the ridge* CLIMB OVER, top, ascend, scale, mount ③ *the dome is surmounted by a statue* CAP, top, crown, finish

-OPPOSITES descend

surname ▶ **noun** FAMILY NAME, last name, patronymic

surpass ▶ **verb** EXCEL, exceed, transcend, outdo, outshine, outstrip, outclass, overshadow, eclipse, improve on, top, trump, cap, beat, better, outperform

surplus ▶ **noun** *a surplus of grain* EXCESS, surfeit, superabundance, superfluity, oversupply, glut, profusion, plethora, remainder, residue, remains, leftovers

-OPPOSITES dearth

▶ **adjective** *surplus adhesive*: EXCESS, leftover, unused, remaining, extra, additional, spare, superfluous, redundant, unwanted, unneeded, dispensable, expendable

-OPPOSITES insufficient

surprise ▶ **noun** ① *Kate looked at me in surprise* ASTONISHMENT, amazement, wonder, incredulity, bewilderment, stupefaction, disbelief. ② *the test came as a big surprise* SHOCK, bolt from the blue, bombshell, revelation, rude awakening; *informal* turn up for the books, eye-opener, shocker.

▶ **verb** ① *I was so surprised that I dropped it*: ASTONISH, amaze, startle, astound, stun, stagger, shock; leave open-mouthed, take someone's breath away, dumbfound, daze, take aback, shake up, *informal* bowl over, floor, flabbergast,



Bnt informal knock for six ② *she surprised a burglar* TAKE BY SURPRISE, catch unawares, catch off guard, catch red-handed, catch in the act, catch out, *Bnt informal* catch on the hop

surprised ▶ **adjective** ASTONISHED, amazed, astounded, startled, stunned, staggered, non-plussed, shocked, taken aback, stupefied, dumbfounded, dumbstruck, speechless, thunderstruck, confounded, shaken up, *informal* bowled over, flabbergasted, floored, flummoxed

surprising ▶ **adjective** UNEXPECTED, unforeseen, unpredictable, astonishing, amazing, startling, astounding, staggering, incredible, extraordinary, breathtaking, remarkable; *informal* mind-blowing

surrender ▶ **verb** ① *the army surrendered* CAPITULATE, give in, give (oneself) up, give way, yield, concede (defeat), submit, climb down, back down, cave in, relent, crumble, lay down one's arms, raise the white flag, throw in the towel/sponge ② *they surrendered power to the government* GIVE UP, relinquish, renounce, forgo, forswear, cede, abdicate, waive, forfeit, sacrifice, hand over, turn over, yield, resign, transfer, grant ③ *surrender all hope of changing things* ABANDON, give up, cast aside
—OPPOSITES resist, seize

▶ **noun** ① *the surrender of the hijackers* CAPITULATION, submission, yielding, succumbing, acquiescence, fall, defeat ② *a surrender of power to the shop floor* RELINQUISHMENT, renunciation, cession, abdication, resignation, transfer

surreptitious ▶ **adjective** SECRET, secretive, stealthy, clandestine, sneaky, sly, furtive, concealed, hidden, undercover, covert, veiled, cloak-and-dagger
—OPPOSITES blatant

surrogate ▶ **noun** SUBSTITUTE, proxy, replacement, deputy, representative, stand-in, standby, stopgap, relief, understudy

surround ▶ **verb** *we were surrounded by cops* EN CIRCLE, enclose, encompass, ring, fence in, hem in, confine, bound, circumscribe, cut off, besiege, trap

▶ **noun** *a fireplace with a wood surround* BORDER, edging, edge, perimeter, boundary, margin, skirting, fringe

surrounding ▶ **adjective** NEIGHBOURING, nearby, near, neighbourhood, local, adjoining, adjacent, bordering, abutting, encircling, encompassing

surroundings ▶ **plural noun** ENVIRONMENT, setting, milieu, background, backdrop, conditions, circumstances, situation, context, vicinity, locality, habitat.

surveillance ▶ **noun** OBSERVATION, scrutiny, watch, view, inspection, supervision, spying, espionage, infiltration, reconnaissance; *informal* bugging, wiretapping, recon

survey ▶ **verb** ① *he surveyed his work*: LOOK AT, look over, observe, view, contemplate, regard, gaze at, stare at, eye, scrutinize, examine, inspect, scan, study, consider, review, take stock of; *informal* size up; *poetic/literary* behold. ② *they surveyed 4000 drug users*: INTERVIEW, question, canvass, poll, cross-examine, investigate, research, study, probe, sample. ③ *he was asked to survey the house*: APPRAISE, assess, prospect; make a survey of, value

▶ **noun** ① *a survey of the current literature*: STUDY, review, consideration, overview, scrutiny, examination, inspection, appraisal. ② *a survey of sexual behaviour*: POLL, review, investigation, inquiry, study, probe, questionnaire, census, research. ③ *a thorough survey of the property*: APPRAISAL, assessment, valuation, estimate, estimation

survive ▶ **verb** ① *he survived by escaping through a hole* REMAIN ALIVE, live, sustain oneself, pull through, get through, hold on/out, make it, keep body and soul together ② *the theatre must survive* CONTINUE, remain, persist, endure, live on, persevere, abide, go on, carry on, be extant, exist ③ *he was survived by his sons* OUTLIVE, outlast; live longer than

susceptible ▶ **adjective** ① *susceptible children* IMPRESSIONABLE, credulous, gullible, innocent, ingenuous, naive, easily led, defenceless, vulnerable, persuadable, tractable, sensitive, responsive, thin-skinned ② *people susceptible to blackmail* OPEN TO, receptive to, vulnerable to, an easy target for ③ *he is susceptible to ulcers* 1. ABLE TO, prone to, subject to, inclined to, predisposed to, disposed to, given to, at risk of, *archaic* susceptible of ④ *the database will be susceptible of exploitation* OPEN TO, capable of, admitting of, receptive of, responsive to
—OPPOSITES sceptical, immune, resistant

suspect ▶ **verb** ① *I suspected she'd made a mistake*. HAVE A SUSPICION, have a feeling, feel, (be inclined to) think, fancy, reckon, guess, surmise, conjecture, conclude, have a hunch, suppose, presume, deduce, infer, sense, imagine, fear ② *he had no reason to suspect my honesty* DOUBT, distrust, mistrust, have misgivings about, be sceptical about, have qualms about, be suspicious of, be wary of, harbour reservations about; *informal* smell a rat

▶ **noun** *a murder suspect* SUSPECTED PERSON, accused, defendant

▶ **adjective** *a suspect package* SUSPICIOUS, dubious, doubtful, untrustworthy; odd, queer, *informal* fishy, funny, shady, *Bnt informal* dodgy.

suspend ▶ **verb** ① *the court case was suspended* ADJOURN, interrupt, break off, postpone, delay, defer, shelve, put off, intermit, prorogue, hold over, hold in abeyance; cut short, discontinue, dissolve, disband, terminate, *N Amer* table; *informal* put on ice, put on the back burner, mothball, *N. Amer informal* take a rain check on. ② *he was suspended from his duties*. EXCLUDE, debar, remove, eliminate, expel, eject. ③ *lights were suspended from the ceiling*: HANG, sling, string, swing, dangle

suspense ▶ **noun** *I can't bear the suspense*: TENSION, uncertainty, doubt, anticipation, expectation, expectancy, excitement, anxiety, apprehension, strain.

■ **In suspense** EAGERLY, agog, with bated breath, on tenterhooks; on edge, anxious, edgy, keyed up, uneasy; *informal* uptight, jumpy, jittery

suspension ▶ **noun** ① *the suspension of army operations*: ADJOURNMENT, interruption, postponement, delay, deferral, deferment, stay, prorogation; armistice; cessation, end, halt, stoppage, dissolution, disbandment, termination. ② *his suspension from school*: EXCLUSION, debarment, removal, elimination, expulsion, ejection; *Bnt* rustication.

suspicion ▶ **noun** ① *she had a suspicion that he didn't like her* INTUITION, feeling, impression, inkling, hunch, fancy, notion, supposition, belief, idea, theory, presentiment, premonition, informal gut feeling, sixth sense. ② *I confronted him with my suspicions.* MISGIVING, doubt, qualm, reservation, hesitation, question, scepticism, uncertainty, distrust, mistrust. ③ *wine with a suspicion of soda* TRACE, touch, suggestion, hint, soupçon, tinge, shade, whiff, bit, drop, dash, taste, jot, mite

suspicious ▶ **adjective** ① *she gave him a suspicious look.* DOUBTFUL, unsure, dubious, wary, chary, sceptical, distrustful, mistrustful, disbelieving, cynical. ② *a highly suspicious character* DISREPUTABLE, unsavoury, dubious, suspect, dishonest-looking, funny-looking, slippery, informal shifty, shady, *Brit* informal dodgy. ③ *she disappeared in suspicious circumstances* QUESTIONABLE, odd, strange, dubious, irregular, queer, funny, doubtful, mysterious, murky, informal fishy, *Brit* informal dodgy

—OPPOSITES trusting, honest, innocent

sustain ▶ **verb** ① *the balcony might not sustain the weight* BEAR, support, carry, stand, keep up, prop up, shore up, underpin. ② *her memories sustained her* COMFORT, help, assist, encourage, succour, support, give strength to, buoy up, carry, cheer up, hearten, informal buck up. ③ *they were unable to sustain a coalition* CONTINUE, carry on, keep up, keep alive, maintain, preserve, conserve, perpetuate, retain. ④ *she had bread and cheese to sustain her* NOURISH, feed, nurture, maintain, preserve, keep alive, keep going, provide for. ⑤ *she sustained slight injuries* UNDERGO, experience, suffer, endure. ⑥ *the allegation was not sustained* UPHOLD, validate, ratify, vindicate, confirm, endorse, verify, corroborate, substantiate, bear out, prove, authenticate, back up, evidence, justify

sustained ▶ **adjective** CONTINUOUS, ongoing, steady, continual, constant, prolonged, persistent, non-stop, perpetual, unabating, relentless, unrelieved, unbroken, never-ending, incessant, unceasing, ceaseless, round the clock

—OPPOSITES sporadic

sustenance ▶ **noun** ① *the creature needs sustenance:* NOURISHMENT, food, nutriment, nutrition, provisions, provender, rations, informal grub, chow, *Brit* informal scoff, formal comestibles, poetic/literary viands, dated victuals. ② *the sustenance of his family:* SUPPORT, maintenance, keep, living, livelihood, subsistence, income

swagger ▶ **verb** ① *we swaggered into the arena* STRUT, parade, stride, walk confidently; informal sashay. ② *he likes to swagger about his kindness* BOAST, brag, bluster, crow, gloat, strut, posture, blow one's own trumpet, lord it; informal show off, swank.

▶ **noun** ① *a slight swagger in his stride* STRUT; confidence, arrogance, ostentation. ② *he was full of swagger* BLUSTER, braggadocio, bumptiousness, vainglory; informal swank.

swallow ▶ **verb** ① *she couldn't swallow anything* EAT, gulp down, consume, devour, put away, ingest, assimilate; drink, guzzle, quaff, imbibe, sup, slug; informal polish off, swig, swill, down, *Brit* informal scoff. ② *I can't swallow any more of your insults:* TOLERATE, endure, stand, put up with, bear, abide, countenance, stomach, take, accept; informal hack; *Brit.* informal stick; formal

brook. ③ *he swallowed my story:* BELIEVE, credit, accept, trust, informal fall for, buy, go for, (swallow hook, line, and sinker). ④ *she swallowed her pride.* RESTRAIN, repress, suppress, hold back, fight back, overcome, check, control, curb, rein in, silence, muffle, stifle, smother, hide, bottle up, informal keep a/the lid on.

■ **swallow someone/something up** ① *the darkness swallowed them up* ENGULF, swamp, devour, overwhelm, overcome. ② *the colleges were swallowed up by universities* TAKE OVER, engulf, absorb, assimilate, incorporate

swamp ▶ **noun** *his horse got stuck in a swamp* MARSH, bog, quagmire, mire, morass, fen, quicksand, *N* *Am* bayou, archaic quag.

▶ **verb** ① *the rain was swamping the dry roads* FLOOD, inundate, deluge, immerse, soak, drench, saturate. ② *he was swamped by media attention* OVERWHELM, inundate, flood, deluge, engulf, snow under, overload, overpower, weigh down, besiege, beset

swampy ▶ **adjective** MARSHY, boggy, fenny, miry, soft, soggy, muddy, spongy, heavy, squelchy, waterlogged, sodden, wet archaic quaggy

swap ▶ **verb** ① *I swapped some toys for a set of dice* EXCHANGE, trade, barter, interchange, bargain, switch, change, replace. ② *we swapped jokes* BANDY, exchange, trade, reciprocate

▶ **noun** *a job swap* EXCHANGE, interchange, trade, switch, trade-off, substitution

swarm ▶ **noun** ① *a swarm of bees* HIVE, flock, collection. ② *a swarm of gendarmes* CROWD, multitude, horde, host, mob, gang, throng, mass, army, troop, herd, pack, poetic/literary myriad

▶ **verb** *reporters were swarming all over the place* FLOCK, crowd, throng, surge, stream

■ **be swarming with** BE CROWDED WITH, be thronged with, be overrun with, be full of, abound in, be teeming with, bristle with, be alive with, be crawling with, be infested with, overflow with, be prolific in, be abundant in, informal be thick with

swarthy ▶ **adjective** DARK-SKINNED, olive-skinned, dusky, tanned, saturnine, black, archaic swart.

—OPPOSITES pale

swashbuckling ▶ **adjective** DARING, heroic, daredevil, dashing, adventurous, bold, valiant, valorous, fearless, lionhearted, dauntless, devil-may-care, gallant, chivalrous, romantic

—OPPOSITES timid

swathe ▶ **verb** WRAP, envelop, bind, swaddle, bandage, cover, shroud, drape, wind, enfold, sheathe.

sway ▶ **verb** ① *the curtains swayed in the breeze* SWING, shake, oscillate, undulate, move to and fro, move back and forth. ② *she swayed on her feet:* STAGGER, wobble, rock, lurch, reel, roll, list, stumble, pitch. ③ *we are swayed by the media.* INFLUENCE, affect, bias, persuade, talk round, win over; manipulate, bend, mould. ④ *you must not be swayed by emotion* RULE, govern, dominate, control, guide

▶ **noun** ① *the sway of her hips:* SWING, roll, shake, oscillation, undulation. ② *a province under the sway of the Franks:* JURISDICTION, rule, government, sovereignty, dominion, control, com-

S

mand, power, authority, ascendancy, domination, mastery

■ **hold sway** HOLD POWER, wield power, exercise power, rule, be in control, predominate, have the upper hand, have the edge, have the whip hand, *informal* run the show, be in the driving seat, be in the saddle

swear ▶ **verb** ① they swore to marry each other PROMISE, vow, pledge, give one's word, take an oath, undertake, guarantee, *Law* depose, *formal* aver ② she swore she would never go back INSIST, avow, pronounce, declare, proclaim, assert, profess, maintain, contend, emphasize, stress, *formal* aver ③ Kate spilled wine and swore CURSE, blaspheme, utter profanities, utter oaths, use bad language, take the Lord's name in vain, *informal* cuss, eff and blind, *archaic* execrate

■ **swear by** (*informal*) EXPRESS CONFIDENCE IN, have faith in, trust, believe in, set store by, value, *informal* rate

■ **swear off** (*informal*) RENOUNCE, forswear, forgo, abstain from, go without, shun, avoid, eschew, steer clear of, give up, dispense with, stop, discontinue, drop, *informal* kick, quit, *Brit informal* jack in

swearing ▶ **noun** BAD LANGUAGE, strong language, cursing, blaspheming, blasphemy, profanities, obscenities, curses, oaths, expletives, swear words, *informal* cussing, effing and blinding, four-letter words, *formal* imprecation

sweat ▶ **noun** ① he was drenched with sweat PER SPIRATION, moisture, dampness, wetness, *Medicine* diaphoresis, hidrosis ② (*informal*) he got into such a sweat about that girl FLUSTER, panic, frenzy, fever, pothier, *informal* state, flap, tizzy, dither, stew, lather, *N Amer informal* twit ③ (*informal*) the sweat of the working classes LABOUR, hard work, toil(s), effort(s), exertion(s), industry, drudgery, slog, *informal* graft, grind, elbow grease

—RELATED TERMS sudatory

▶ **verb** ① she was sweating heavily PERSPIRE, swelter, glow, be damp, be wet, secrete ② I've sweated over this for six months WORK (HARD), work like a Trojan, labour, toil, slog, slave, work one's fingers to the bone, *informal* graft, plug away, *archaic* drudge ③ (*N Amer informal*) I sweated over my mistakes WORRY, agonize, fuss, panic, fret, dither, lose sleep, *informal* be on pins and needles, be in a state, be in a flap, be in a stew, torture oneself, torment oneself

sweaty ▶ **adjective** PERSPIRING, sweating, clammy, sticky, glowing, moist, damp

sweep ▶ **verb** ① she swept the floor BRUSH, clean, scrub, wipe, mop, dust, scour; *informal* do ② I swept the crumbs off REMOVE, brush, clean, clear, whisk ③ he was swept out to sea CARRY, pull, drag, tow ④ riots swept the country ENGULF, overwhelm, flood. ⑤ he swept down the stairs GLIDE, sail, breeze, drift, flit, flounce, stride, stroll, swagger ⑥ a limousine swept past GLIDE, sail, rush, race, streak, speed, fly, zoom, whizz, hurtle; *informal* tear, whip. ⑦ police swept the conference room: SEARCH, probe, check, explore, go through, scour, comb

▶ **noun** ① a great sweep of his hand: GESTURE, stroke, wave, movement ② a security sweep: SEARCH, hunt, exploration, probe. ③ a long sweep of golden sand: EXPANSE, tract, stretch, extent, plain. ④ the broad sweep of our interests

RANGE, span, scope, compass, reach, spread, ambit, remit, gamut, spectrum, extent

■ **sweep something aside** DISREGARD, ignore, take no notice of, dismiss, shrug off, forget about, brush aside

■ **sweep something under the carpet** HIDE, conceal, suppress, hush up, keep quiet about, censor, gag, withhold, cover up, stifle

sweeping ▶ **adjective** ① sweeping changes EXTENSIVE, wide-ranging, global, broad, comprehensive, all-inclusive, all-embracing, far-reaching across the board, thorough, radical, *informal* wall-to-wall ② a sweeping victory OVERWHELMING, decisive, thorough, complete, total, absolute, out-and-out, unqualified ③ sweeping statements WHOLESALÉ, blanket, generalized, all-inclusive, unqualified, indiscriminate, universal, oversimplified, imprecise ④ sweeping banks of heather BROAD, extensive, expansive, vast, spacious, boundless, panoramic —OPPOSITES limited, narrow, focused, small

sweet ▶ **adjective** ① sweet biscuits SUGARY, sweetened, saccharine, sugared, honeyed, candied, glacé, sickly, cloying ② the sweet scent of roses FRAGRANT, aromatic, perfumed, *poetic/literary* ambrosial ③ her sweet voice DULCET, melodious, lyrical, mellifluous, musical, tuneful, soft, harmonious, silvery, honeyed, mellow, rich, golden ④ life was still sweet PLEASANT, pleasing, agreeable, delightful, nice, satisfying, gratifying, good, acceptable, fine, *informal* lovely, great ⑤ the sweet March air PURE, wholesome, fresh, clean, clear ⑥ she has a sweet nature LIKEABLE, appealing, engaging, amiable, pleasant, agreeable, genial, friendly, nice, kind, thoughtful, considerate, charming, enchanting, captivating, delightful, lovely ⑦ she looks quite sweet CUTE, lovable, adorable, endearing, charming, attractive, dear ⑧ my sweet Lydia DEAR, dearest, darling, beloved, loved, cherished, precious, treasured

—OPPOSITES sour, savoury, harsh, disagreeable

▶ **noun** ① sweets for the children CONFECTIONERY, bonbon, *N Amer* candy, *informal* sweetie, *archaic* sweetmeat See list ② a delicious sweet for the guests DESSERT, pudding, second course, last course, *Brit informal* afters, pud ③ happy birthday my sweet! DEAR, darling, dearest, love, sweetheart, beloved, honey, pet, treasure, angel

■ **sweet on** (*informal*) FOND OF, taken with, attracted to, in love with, enamoured of, captivated by, infatuated with, keen on, devoted to, smitten with, *informal* gone on, mad about, bowled over by; *Brit informal* daft about

sweeten ▶ **verb** ① sweeten the milk with honey MAKE SWEET, add sugar to, sugar, sugar-coat ② he chewed gum to sweeten his breath FRESHEN, refresh, purify, deodorize, perfume. ③ try to sweeten the bad news. SOFTEN, ease, alleviate, mitigate, temper, cushion; embellish, embroider ④ (*informal*) a bigger dividend to sweeten shareholders MOLLIFY, placate, soothe, soften up, pacify, appease, win over

sweetheart ▶ **noun** ① you look lovely, sweetheart DARLING, dear, dearest, love, beloved, sweet; *informal* honey, sweetie, sugar, baby, babe, poppet. ② my high-school sweetheart: LOVER, love, girlfriend, boyfriend, beloved, significant other, lady-love, loved one, suitor, admirer;

Sweets and Confectionery

acid drop	jelly
aniseed ball	jelly baby
barley sugar	jelly bean
boiled sweet	julube
brittle	Kendal mint cake
bullseye	laddu
burfi	lemon sherbert
butterscotch	liquorice
candy cane	liquorice allsort
candyfloss	lollipop
caramel	lolly
chew	marshmallow
chewing gum	marzipan
chocolate	mint
chocolate drop	nougat
coconut ice	pastille
comfit	patty
cracknel	peardrop
crystallized fruit	peppermint
dragée	peppermint cream
fondant	Pontefract cake
fruit drop	praline
fruit gum	rasgulla
fruit pastille	rock
fudge	sherbert
gobstopper	sherbert dip
gulab jamun	sugared almond
gumdrop	toffee
halva	toffee apple
hazlenut whirl	truffle
humbug	Turkish delight
jalebi	wine gum

informal steady, flame, poetic/literary swain, dated beau, archaic paramour

swell ▶ **verb** ① *her lip swelled up* EXPAND, bulge, distend, inflate, dilate, bloat, puff up, balloon, fatten, fill out, tumefy, *rare* intumescere ② *the population swelled* GROW, enlarge, increase, expand, rise, escalate, multiply, proliferate, snowball, mushroom ③ *she swelled with pride* BE FILLED, be bursting, brim, overflow ④ *the graduate scheme swelled entry numbers* INCREASE, enlarge, augment, boost, top up, step up, multiply ⑤ *the music swelled to fill the house* GROW LOUD, grow louder, amplify, intensify, heighten

—OPPOSITES shrink, decrease, quieten

▶ **noun** ① *a brief swell in the volume* INCREASE, rise, escalation, surge, boost ② *a heavy swell on the sea* SURGE, wave, undulation, roll ③ (*informal, dated*) *he was an elegant swell* DANDY, fop, beau, poseur, *informal* trendsetter, *Brit informal* toff, *dated* popinjay; *archaic* coxcomb

—OPPOSITES decrease, dip

▶ **adjective** (*N Amer. informal, dated*) *a swell idea*. EXCELLENT, marvellous, wonderful, splendid, magnificent, superb, *informal* super, great, fantastic

—OPPOSITES bad.

swelling ▶ **noun** BUMP, lump, bulge, protuberance, enlargement, distension, prominence, protrusion, node, nodule, tumescence; boil, blister, bunion, carbuncle.

sweltering ▶ **adjective** HOT, stifling, humid, sultry, sticky, muggy, close, stuffy; tropical, torrid, searing, blistering; *informal* boiling (hot), baking, roasting, sizzling.

—OPPOSITES freezing.

swerve ▶ **verb** *a car swerved into her path* VEER, deviate, skew, diverge, sheer, weave, zigzag, change direction, *Sailing* tack

▶ **noun** *the bowler regulated his swerve* CURVE, curl, deviation, twist, *N Amer* English

swift ▶ **adjective** ① *a swift decision* PROMPT, rapid, sudden, immediate, instant, instantaneous, abrupt, hasty, hurried, precipitate, headlong ② *swift runners* FAST, rapid, quick, speedy, high-speed, brisk, lively, express, breakneck, fleet-footed, *informal* nippy, supersonic

—OPPOSITES slow, leisurely

swill ▶ **verb** ① (*informal*) *she was swilling pints* DRINK, quaff, swallow, down, gulp, drain, imbibe, sup, slurp, consume, slug, *informal* swig, knock back, toss off, put away, *Brit informal* bevvy, *N Amer informal* chug ② *he swilled out a glass* WASH, rinse, sluice, clean, flush

▶ **noun** ① (*informal*) *he took a swill of coffee* GULP, swallow, drink, draught, mouthful, slug, *informal* swig ② *swill for the pigs* PIGSWILL, mash, slops, scraps, refuse, scourings, leftovers, *archaic* hog-wash

swim ▶ **verb** ① *they swam in the pool* BATHE, take a dip, splash around, float, tread water ② *his food was swimming in gravy* BE SATURATED IN, be drenched in, be soaked in, be steeped in, be immersed in, be covered in, be full of

swimming ▶ **noun**. See list

Swimming Strokes, Kicks, and Dives

Australian crawl
backcrawl
backstroke
breaststroke
butterfly
crawl
doggy-paddle
dolphin kick
duck-dive
fishtail kick

frog kick
front crawl
jackknife
overarm stroke
recovery stroke
scissors kick
sidestroke
swallow dive
swan dive
trudgen

swimmingly ▶ **adverb** WELL, smoothly, easily, effortlessly, like clockwork, without a hitch, as planned, to plan, *informal* like a dream, like magic

swimming pool ▶ **noun** POOL, baths, lido, piscina, *Brit* swimming bath(s), *N Amer* natatorium.

swimsuit ▶ **noun** BATHING SUIT, bathing dress, (swimming) trunks, bikini; swimwear, *Brit* bathing costume, swimming costume, *informal* cossie; *Austral/NZ informal* bathers

swindle ▶ **verb** *I was swindled out of money* DE FRAUD, cheat, trick, dupe, deceive, fool, hoax, hoodwink, bamboozle, *informal* fleece, do, con, sting, diddle, swizzle, rip off, take for a ride, pull a fast one on, put one over on, take to the cleaners, gull; *N Amer informal* stiff, euchre, *poetic/literary* cozen, *archaic* sharp.

▶ **noun** *an insurance swindle*. FRAUD, trick, deception, deceit, cheat, sham, artifice, ruse, dodge, racket, wile, sharp practice; *informal* con, fiddle, diddle, rip-off, flumflam, swizzle, swizz, *N Amer informal* bunco

swindler ▶ **noun** FRAUDSTER, fraud, (confidence) trickster, cheat, rogue, mountebank,

charlatan, impostor, hoaxer, *informal* con man, con artist, shark, sharp, hustler, phoney, crook

swing ▶ **verb** ① the sign swung in the wind SWAY, oscillate, move back and forth, move to and fro, wave, wag, rock, flutter, flap ② Helen swung the bottle BRANDISH, wave, flourish, wield, shake, wag, twirl ③ this road swings off to the north CURVE, bend, veer, turn, bear, wind, twist, deviate, slew, skew, drift, head ④ the balance swung from one party to the other: CHANGE, fluctuate, shift, alter, oscillate, waver, alternate, see-saw, yo-yo, vary ⑤ (informal) their persistence finally swung it for him ACCOMPLISH, achieve, obtain, acquire, get, secure, net, win, attain, bag, hook, *informal* wangle, land, fix (up) ▶ **noun** ① a swing of the pendulum OSCILLATION, sway, wave, ② the swing to the Conservatives CHANGE, move, turnaround, turnabout, reversal, about-turn, about-face, volte-face, change of heart, U-turn, sea change ③ a swing towards plain food TREND, tendency, drift, movement ④ a mood swing FLUCTUATION, change, shift, variation, oscillation

swinging ▶ **adjective** (Brit) SEVERE, extreme, serious, substantial, drastic, harsh, punishing, excessive, heavy.
—OPPOSITES minor

swipe (informal) ▶ **verb** ① he swiped at her head SWING, lash out, strike, hit, slap, cuff, *informal* belt, wallop, sock, buff, clout ② they're always swiping sweets. STEAL, thief, take, pilfer, purloin, snatch, shoplift, *informal* filch, lift, snaffle, rob, nab, Brit *informal* nick, pinch, whip; N Amer *informal* glom

▶ **noun** she took a swipe at his face. SWING, stroke, strike, hit, slap, cuff, clip, *informal* belt, wallop

swirl ▶ **verb** WHIRL, eddy, billow, spiral, circulate, revolve, spin, twist, flow, stream, surge, seethe

switch ▶ **noun** ① the switch on top of the telephone BUTTON, lever, control, dial ② a switch from direct to indirect taxation CHANGE, move, shift, transition, transformation, reversal, turnaround, U-turn, changeover, transfer, conversion, substitution, exchange. ③ a switch of willow BRANCH, twig, stick, rod

▶ **verb** ① he switched sides. CHANGE, shift, reverse, Brit *informal* chop and change. ② he managed to switch envelopes EXCHANGE, swap, interchange, trade, substitute, replace, rotate

■ switch something on TURN ON, put on, activate, start, set going, set in motion, operate, initiate, actuate, initialize, energize

■ switch something off TURN OFF, shut off, stop, cut, halt, deactivate

swivel ▶ **verb** TURN, rotate, revolve, pivot, swing; spin, twirl, whirl, wheel, gyrate, pirouette

swollen ▶ **adjective** DISTENDED, expanded, enlarged, bulging, inflated, dilated, bloated, puffed up, puffy, tumescent; inflamed.

swoop ▶ **verb** ① pigeons swooped down after the grain: DIVE, descend, sweep, pounce, plunge, pitch, nosedive; rush, dart, speed, zoom. ② police swooped on the flat: RAID, search; pounce on, attack, assault, assail, charge; N. Amer. *informal* bust.

▶ **noun** an early morning swoop by police: RAID; attack, assault; N. Amer. *informal* bust, takedown.

sword ▶ **noun** a ceremonial sword BLADE, foil, épée, cutlass, rapier, sabre, scimitar; *poetic/literary* brand.

■ cross swords QUARREL, disagree, dispute, wrangle, bicker, be at odds, be at loggerheads, lock horns, fight, contend; *informal* scrap

■ put to the sword KILL, execute, put to death, murder, butcher, slaughter, massacre, cut down, *poetic/literary* slay

sybarite ▶ **noun** HEDONIST, sensualist, voluptuary, libertine, pleasure-seeker, epicure, bon vivant, bon viveur

—OPPOSITES puritan.

sybaritic ▶ **adjective** LUXURIOUS, extravagant, lavish, self-indulgent, pleasure-seeking, sensual, voluptuous, hedonistic, epicurean, lotus-eating, libertine, debauched, decadent
—OPPOSITES ascetic.

sycophant ▶ **noun** TOADY, creep, crawler, fawner, flatterer, truckler, groveller, doormat, lickspittle, kowtowner, Urah Heep, *informal* bootlicker, yes-man.

sycophantic ▶ **adjective** OBSEQUIOUS, servile, subservient, deferential, grovelling, toadying, fawning, flattering, ingratiating, cringing, unctuous, slavish; *informal* smarmy, bootlicking.

syllabus ▶ **noun** CURRICULUM, course (of study), programme of study, course outline; timetable, schedule

symbol ▶ **noun** ① the lotus is the symbol of purity EMBLEM, token, sign, representation, figure, image, metaphor, allegory ② the chemical symbol for helium SIGN, character, mark, letter, ideogram See lists ③ the Red Cross symbol LOGO, emblem, badge, stamp, trademark, crest, insignia, coat of arms, seal, device, monogram, hall-mark, flag, motif

Symbols

See also CHEMICAL, ZODIAC.

\$	dollar	®	registered trademark
£	pound	♯	treble clef
#	number	♭	bass clef
©	copyright	♯	sharp
&	and	♭	flat
@	at	♮	natural
∴	therefore	✓	tick
∵	because		
¶	paragraph		

Mathematical Symbols

<	less than	∞	infinity
>	greater than	±	plus or minus
=	equal to	≡	identical to
≠	not equal to	∝	proportional to
≡	identical to	∂	partial differential
≡	identical to	∫	integral
≡	identical to	°	degree
≡	identical to	′	minute
≡	identical to	″	second
≡	identical to	%	per cent
+	plus	π	pi
×	multiply	√	square root
		∑	summation

symbolic ▶ **adjective** ① *the Colosseum is symbolic of the Roman Empire* EMBLEMATIC, representative, typical, characteristic, symptomatic. ② *symbolic language* FIGURATIVE, representative, illustrative, emblematic, metaphorical, allegorical, parabolic, allusive, suggestive; meaningful, significant
-OPPOSITES literal.

symbolize ▶ **verb** REPRESENT, stand for, be a sign of, exemplify; denote, signify, mean, indicate, convey, express, imply, suggest, allude to, embody, epitomize, encapsulate, personify, typify, poetic/literary betoken

symmetrical ▶ **adjective** REGULAR, uniform, consistent; evenly shaped, aligned, equal, mirror-image, balanced, proportional, even

symmetry ▶ **noun** REGULARITY, evenness, uniformity, consistency, conformity, correspondence, equality, balance, proportions, formal concord

sympathetic ▶ **adjective** ① *a sympathetic listener* COMPASSIONATE, caring, concerned, solicitous, empathetic, understanding, sensitive, commiserative, pitying, consoling, comforting, supportive, encouraging; considerate, kind, tender-hearted. ② *the most sympathetic character in the book* LIKEABLE, pleasant, agreeable, congenial, friendly, genial. ③ *I was sympathetic to his cause* IN FAVOUR OF, in sympathy with, pro, on the side of, supportive of, encouraging of, well disposed to, favourably disposed to, receptive to

-OPPOSITES unfeeling, opposed

sympathize ▶ **verb** ① *he sympathized with his wife* PITY, feel sorry for, show compassion for, commiserate, offer condolences to, feel for, show concern, show interest, console, comfort, solace, soothe, support, encourage, empathize with, identify with, understand, relate to. ② *they sympathize with the critique*. AGREE WITH, support, be in favour of, go along with, favour, approve of, back, side with

sympathizer ▶ **noun** SUPPORTER, backer, well-wisher, advocate, ally, partisan, collaborator, fraternizer, conspirator, quisling

sympathy ▶ **noun** ① *he shows sympathy for the poor* COMPASSION, caring, concern, solicitude, empathy; commiseration, pity, condolence, comfort, solace, support, encouragement, consideration, kindness. ② *sympathy with a fellow journalist* RAPPORT, fellow feeling, affinity, empathy, harmony, accord, compatibility; fellowship, camaraderie. ③ *their sympathy with the Republicans* AGREEMENT, favour, approval, appro-

bation, support, encouragement, partiality; association, alignment, affiliation.

-OPPOSITES indifference, hostility.

symptom ▶ **noun** ① *the symptoms of the disease* MANIFESTATION, indication, indicator, sign, mark, feature, trait, *Medicine* prodrome. ② *a symptom of the country's present turmoil* EXPRESSION, sign, indication, mark, token, manifestation; portent, warning, clue, hint; testimony, evidence, proof

symptomatic ▶ **adjective** INDICATIVE, characteristic, suggestive, typical, representative, symbolic

synopsis ▶ **noun** SUMMARY, summarization, precis, abstract, outline, digest, rundown, round-up, abridgement

synthesis ▶ **noun** COMBINATION, union, amalgam, blend, mixture, compound, fusion, composite, alloy, unification, amalgamation, marrying

synthetic ▶ **adjective** ARTIFICIAL, fake, imitation, mock, simulated, ersatz, substitute, pseudo, so-called, man-made, manufactured, fabricated, informal phoney, pretend

-OPPOSITES natural

syrupy ▶ **adjective** ① *syrupy medicine*. OVER-SWEET, sweet, sugary, treacly, honeyed, saccharine; thick, sticky, gluey, viscid, glutinous, informal gooey. ② *syrupy romantic drive* SENTIMENTAL, mawkish, cloying, mushy, slushy, sloppy, sickly, saccharine, trite; informal soppy, schmaltzy, lovey-dovey, cheesy, corny

system ▶ **noun** ① *a system of canals* STRUCTURE, organization, arrangement, complex, network, informal set-up. ② *a system for regulating sales*. METHOD, methodology, technique, process, procedure, approach, practice, means, way, mode, framework, modus operandi, scheme, plan, policy, programme, regimen, formula, routine. ③ *there was no system in his work*. ORDER, method, orderliness, systematization, planning, logic, routine. ④ *youngsters have no faith in the system* THE ESTABLISHMENT, the administration, the authorities, the powers that be, bureaucracy, officialdom, the status quo

systematic ▶ **adjective** STRUCTURED, methodical, organized, orderly, planned, systematized, regular, routine, standardized, standard, logical, coherent, consistent, efficient, businesslike, practical

-OPPOSITES disorganized.

Tt

tab ▶ **noun** ① *his name is on the tab of his jacket* TAG, label, flap ② *(informal) the company will pick up the tab* BILL, invoice, account, charge, expense, cost, *N* Amer check

table ▶ **noun** ① *put the plates on the table* bench, buffet, stand, counter, work surface, worktop, desk, bar See list ② *he provides an excellent table* MEAL, food, fare, menu, nourishment; eatables, provisions; *informal* spread, grub, chow, eats, nosh, *poetic/literary* viands, *dated* victuals ③ *the report has numerous tables* CHART, diagram, figure, graph, plan, list, tabulation, index

▶ **verb** *she tabled a question in parliament* SUBMIT, put forward, propose, suggest, move, lodge, file, introduce, air, moot

Tables and Desks

bedside table
bonheur du jour
bureau
card table
coffee table
console table
credenza table
davenport
dresser
dressing table
drop-leaf table
duchesse
escritoire
gaming table
gateleg table
kneehole desk
lap desk
lectern
loo table

nightstand
night table
partners' desk
pedestal table
Pembroke table
piecrust table
pier table
refectory table
rent table
roll-top desk
secretaire
steam table
tabouret
teapoy
tea table
trestle table
trivet table
vanity table
writing desk

tableau ▶ **noun** ① *mythic tableaux* PICTURE, painting, representation, illustration, image ② *the first act consists of a series of tableaux* PAGEANT, tableau vivant, parade, diorama, scene ③ *a domestic tableau around the fireplace* SCENE, arrangement, grouping, group; picture, spectacle, image, vignette.

tablet ▶ **noun** ① *a carved tablet* SLAB, stone, panel, plaque, plate, sign ② *a headache tablet* PILL, capsule, lozenge, caplet, pastille, drop, pillule, *informal* tab ③ *a tablet of soap* BAR, cake, slab, brick, block, chunk, piece

taboo ▶ **noun** *the taboo against healing on the sabbath* PROHIBITION, proscription, veto, interdiction, interdict, ban, restriction

▶ **adjective** *taboo language* FORBIDDEN, prohibited, banned, proscribed, interdicted, non licet, outlawed, illegal, illicit, unlawful, restricted, off limits; unmentionable, unspeakable, unutterable, ineffable; rude, impolite, *Islam* haram, *NZ* tapu; *informal* no go
—OPPOSITES acceptable

tabulate ▶ **verb** CHART, arrange, order, organize, systematize, systemize, catalogue, list, index, classify, class, codify; compile, group, log, grade, rate.

tacit ▶ **adjective** IMPLICIT, understood, implied, inferred, hinted, suggested, unspoken, unstated, unsaid, unexpressed, unvoiced, taken for granted, taken as read.

—OPPOSITES explicit

tactum ▶ **adjective** UNTALKATIVE, uncommunicative, reticent, unforthcoming, quiet, secretive, tight-lipped, close-mouthed, silent, mute, dumb, inarticulate, reserved, withdrawn

—OPPOSITES talkative

tack ▶ **noun** ① *tacks held the carpet down* PIN, drawing pin, nail, staple, rivet, stud ② *the brig bowled past on the opposite tack* HEADING, bearing, course, track, path, line ③ *the defender changed his tack* APPROACH, way, method, policy, procedure, technique, tactic, plan, strategy, stratagem, path, line, angle, direction, course

▶ **verb** ① *a photo tacked to the wall* PIN, nail, staple, fix, fasten, attach, secure, affix ② *the dress was roughly tacked together* STITCH, baste, sew, bind ③ *the yachts tacked back and forth* CHANGE COURSE, change direction, swerve, zigzag, veer, *Nautical* go/come about, beat ④ *poems tacked on at the end of the book* ADD, append, join, tag

tackle ▶ **noun** ① *fishing tackle* GEAR, equipment, apparatus, kit, hardware, implements, instruments, accoutrements, paraphernalia, trappings, appurtenances, *informal* things, stuff, clobber, bits and pieces, *archaic* equipage ② *lifting tackle* PULLEYS, gear, hoist, crane, winch, davit, windlass, sheave ③ *a tackle by the scrum half* INTERCEPTION, challenge, block, attack

▶ **verb** ① *we must tackle environmental problems* GET TO GRIPS WITH, address, get to work on, set one's hand to, approach, take on, attend to, see to, try to sort out; deal with, take care of, handle, manage, *informal* get stuck into, have a crack at, have a go at ② *I tackled Nina about it* CONFRONT, speak to, interview, question, cross-examine; accost, waylay, remonstrate with ③ *he tackled a masked intruder* CONFRONT, face up to, take on, contend with, challenge; seize, grab, grapple with, intercept, block, stop, bring down, floor, fell; *informal* have a go at ④ *the winger got tackled* INTERCEPT, challenge, block, stop, attack.

tacky¹ ▶ **adjective** *the paint was still tacky* STICKY, wet, gluey, gummy, adhesive, viscous, viscid, treacly, *informal* gooey

tacky² ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) *a tacky game show* TAWDRY, tasteless, kitsch, vulgar, crude, garish, gaudy, showy, trashy, cheap, common, second-rate; *Brit informal* naff
—OPPOSITES tasteful

tact ▶ **noun** DIPLOMACY, tactfulness, sensitivity, understanding, thoughtfulness, consideration, delicacy, discretion, prudence, judiciousness, subtlety, savoir faire; *informal* savvy

tactful ▶ **adjective** DIPLOMATIC, discreet, considerate, sensitive, understanding, thoughtful, delicate, judicious, politic, perceptive, subtle; courteous, polite, decorous, respectful; *informal* savvy.

tactic ▶ **noun** ① a tax-saving tactic STRATEGY, scheme, stratagem, plan, manoeuvre, method, expedient, gambit, move, approach, tack; device, trick, ploy, dodge, ruse, machination, contrivance, informal wangle, archaic shift ② our fleet's superior tactics STRATEGY, policy, campaign, battle plans, game plans, manoeuvres, logistics, generalship, organization, planning, direction, orchestration

tactical ▶ **adjective** CALCULATED, planned, strategic, prudent, politic, diplomatic, judicious, shrewd, cunning, artful

tactless ▶ **adjective** INSENSITIVE, inconsiderate, thoughtless, indelicate, undiplomatic, impolitic, indiscreet, unsubtle, clumsy, heavy-handed, graceless, awkward, inept, gauche, blunt, frank, outspoken, abrupt, gruff, rough, crude, coarse, imprudent, injudicious, unwise, rude, impolite, uncouth, discourteous, crass, tasteless, disrespectful, boorish

tag ▶ **noun** ① a price tag LABEL, ticket, badge, mark, marker, tab, sticker, docket, stub, counterfoil, flag ② his jacket was hung up by its tag TAB, loop, label ③ he gained a 'bad boy' tag DESIGNATION, label, description, characterization, identity, nickname, name, epithet, title, sobriquet, informal handle, moniker, formal denomination, appellation ④ tags from Shakespeare QUOTATION, quote, phrase, platitude, cliché, excerpt, saying, proverb, maxim, adage, aphorism, motto, epigram, slogan, catchphrase

▶ **verb** ① bottles tagged with coloured stickers LABEL, mark, ticket, identify, flag, indicate ② he is tagged as a 'thinking' actor LABEL, class, categorize, characterize, designate, describe, identify, classify, mark, stamp, brand, pigeonhole, stereotype, typecast, compartmentalize, typify, name, call, title, entitle, dub, term, style ③ a poem tagged on as an afterthought ADD, tack, join, attach, append ④ he was tagging along behind her FOLLOW, trail, come after, go after, shadow, dog, accompany, attend, escort; informal tail

tail ▶ **noun** ① the dog's tail brush, scut, dock, tailpiece, tail feathers, hindquarters ② the tail of the queue REAR, end, back, extremity, bottom; Brit informal tag end ③ the tail of the hunting season CLOSE, end, conclusion, tail end ④ (informal) put a tail on that man! DETECTIVE, investigator, shadow, informal sleuth, private eye, tec, N Amer informal gumshoe

—RELATED TERMS caudal, cercal

—OPPOSITES head, front, start

▶ **verb** (informal) the paparazzi tailed them FOLLOW, shadow, stalk, trail, track, hunt, hound, dog, pursue, chase

■ on someone's tail CLOSE BEHIND, following closely, (hard) on someone's heels

■ tail off/away FADE, wane, ebb, dwindle, decrease, lessen, diminish, decline, subside, abate, drop off, peter out, taper off; let up, ease off, die away, die down, come to an end.

■ turn tail RUN AWAY, flee, bolt, make off, take to one's heels, cut and run, beat a (hasty) retreat, informal scam, scarper, skedaddle, vamoose

tailback ▶ **noun** TRAFFIC JAM, queue, line; congestion.

tailor ▶ **noun** OUTFITTER, dressmaker, couturier, (fashion) designer, clothier, costumier, seamstress; dated modiste.

—RELATED TERMS sartorial.

▶ **verb** services can be tailored to customer requirements CUSTOMIZE, adapt, adjust, modify, change, convert, alter, attune, mould, gear, fit, cut, shape, tune

taint ▶ **noun** the taint of corruption TRACE, touch, suggestion, hint, tinge; stain, blot, blemish, stigma, black mark, blot on one's escutcheon, discredit, dishonour, disgrace, shame

▶ **verb** ① the wilderness is tainted by pollution CONTAMINATE, pollute, adulterate, infect, blight, spoil, soil, ruin, destroy, poetic/literary befoul ② fraudulent firms taint our firm's reputation TARNISH, sully, blacken, stain, blot, blemish, stigmatize, mar, corrupt, defile, soil, muddy, damage, harm, hurt, drag through the mud, poetic/literary besmirch

—OPPOSITES clean, improve

take ▶ **verb** ① she took his hand LAY HOLD OF, get hold of, grasp, grip, clasp, clutch, grab ② he took an envelope from his pocket REMOVE, pull, draw, withdraw, extract, fish ③ a passage taken from my book EXTRACT, quote, cite, excerpt, derive, abstract, copy, cull ④ she took a little wine DRINK, imbibe, consume, swallow, eat, ingest ⑤ many prisoners were taken CAPTURE, seize, catch, arrest, apprehend, take into custody, carry off, abduct ⑥ someone's taken my car STEAL, remove, appropriate, make off with, pilfer, purloin, informal filch, swipe, snaffle, Brit informal pinch, nick ⑦ take four from the total SUBTRACT, deduct, remove, discount, informal knock off, minus ⑧ all the seats had been taken OCCUPY, use, utilize, fill, hold, reserve, engage, informal bag ⑨ I have taken a room nearby RENT, lease, hire, charter, reserve, book, engage ⑩ I took the job ACCEPT, undertake ⑪ I'd take this over the other option PICK, choose, select, prefer, favour, opt for, plump for, vote for ⑫ take, for instance, the English CONSIDER, contemplate, ponder, think about, weigh up, mull over, examine, study, meditate over, ruminate about ⑬ he takes 'The Observer' SUBSCRIBE TO, buy, read ⑭ she took his temperature ASCERTAIN, determine, establish, measure, find out, discover, calculate, compute, evaluate, rate, assess, appraise, gauge ⑮ he took notes WRITE, note (down), jot (down), scribble, scrawl, record, register, document, minute ⑯ I took it back to London BRING, carry, bear, transport, convey, move, transfer, shift, ferry, informal cart, tote ⑰ the priest took her home ESCORT, accompany, help, assist, show, lead, guide, see, usher, convey ⑱ he took the train TRAVEL ON/BY, journey on, go via, use. ⑲ the town takes its name from the lake DERIVE, get, obtain, come by, acquire, pick up ⑳ she took the prize for best speaker RECEIVE, obtain, gain, get, acquire, collect, accept, be awarded, secure, come by, win, earn, pick up, carry off; informal land, bag, net, scoop ㉑ I took the chance to postpone it. ACT ON, take advantage of, capitalize on, use, exploit, make the most of, leap at, jump at, pounce on, seize, grasp, grab, accept ㉒ he took great pleasure in painting: DERIVE, draw, acquire, obtain, get, gain, extract, procure; experience, undergo, feel. ㉓ Liz took the news badly: RECEIVE, respond to, react to, meet, greet; deal with, cope with ㉔ do you take me for a fool? REGARD AS, consider to be, view as, see as, believe to be, reckon to be, imagine to be, deem to be. ㉕ I take it that you are hungry ASSUME, presume,

suppose, imagine, expect, reckon, gather, dare say, trust, surmise, deduce, guess, conjecture, fancy, suspect ② *I take your point* UNDERSTAND, grasp, get, comprehend, apprehend, see, follow, accept, appreciate, acknowledge, sympathize with, agree with ③ *Shirley was rather taken with him* CAPTIVATE, enchant, charm, delight, attract, beguile, enthrall, entrance, infatuate, dazzle, amuse, divert, entertain, *informal* tickle someone's fancy ④ *I can't take much more* ENDURE, bear, tolerate, stand, put up with, abide, stomach, accept, allow, countenance, support, shoulder, *formal* brook, *archaic* suffer ⑤ *applicants must take a test*: CARRY OUT, do, complete, conduct, perform, execute, discharge, accomplish, fulfil ⑥ *I took English and French* STUDY, learn, have lessons in, take up, pursue, *Brit* read, *informal* do ⑦ *the journey took six hours* LAST, continue for, go on for, carry on for; require, call for, need, necessitate, entail, involve ⑧ *it would take an expert to know that* REQUIRE, need, necessitate, demand, call for, entail, involve ⑨ *I take size three shoes* WEAR, use, require, need ⑩ *the dye did not take* BE EFFECTIVE, take effect, hold, root, be productive, be effectual, be useful, work, operate, succeed, function, *formal* be efficacious

—OPPOSITES give, free, add, refuse, miss

► **noun** ① *the whalers' commercial take* CATCH, haul, bag, yield, net. ② *the state's tax take* REVENUE, income, gain, profit, takings, proceeds, returns, receipts, winnings, pickings, earnings, spoils, purse ③ *a clapperboard for the start of each take* SCENE, sequence, (film) clip ④ *a wry take on gender issues* VIEW OF, reading of, version of, interpretation of, understanding of, account of, analysis of, approach to

■ **take after** RESEMBLE, look like; remind one of, make one think of, recall, conjure up, suggest, evoke, *informal* favour, be a chip off the old block, be the spitting image of

■ **take against** TAKE A DISLIKE TO, feel hostile towards, view with disfavour, look askance at

■ **take something apart** ① *we took the machine apart*: DISMANTLE, pull to pieces, pull apart, disassemble, break up, tear down, demolish, destroy, wreck ② (*informal*) *the scene was taken apart by the director* See CRITICIZE.

■ **take someone back** ① *the dream took me back to Vienna*: EVOKE, remind one of, conjure up, summon up, echo, suggest. ② *I will never take that girl back*: BE RECONCILED TO, forgive, pardon, excuse, exonerate, absolve, let bygones be bygones, bury the hatchet.

■ **take something back** ① *I take back every word* RETRACT, withdraw, renounce, disclaim, unsay, disavow, recant, repudiate, *formal* abjure ② *I must take the keys back*: RETURN, bring back, give back, restore

■ **take something down** WRITE DOWN, note down, jot down, set down, record, commit to paper, register, draft, document, minute, pen.

■ **take someone in** ① *she took in paying guests*: ACCOMMODATE, board, house, feed, put up, admit, receive; harbour. ② *you were taken in by a hoax*: DECEIVE, delude, hoodwink, mislead, trick, dupe, fool, cheat, defraud, swindle, outwit, gull, hoax, bamboozle, *informal* con, put one over on.

■ **take something in** ① *she could hardly take in the news*: COMPREHEND, understand, grasp, follow, absorb; *informal* get. ② *this route takes in some*

great scenery: INCLUDE, encompass, embrace, contain, comprise, cover, incorporate, comprehend, hold.

■ **take someone in hand** CONTROL, be in charge of, dominate, master, reform, improve, correct, change, rehabilitate

■ **take something in hand** DEAL WITH, apply oneself to, get to grips with, set one's hand to, grapple with, take on, attend to, see to, sort out, take care of, handle, manage, *informal* get stuck into

■ **take it out of someone** EXHAUST, drain, enervate, tire, fatigue, wear out, weary, debilitate, *informal* knacker, poop

■ **take off** ① *the horse took off at great speed* RUN AWAY/OFF, flee, abscond, take flight, decamp, leave, go, depart, make off, bolt, take to one's heels, escape, *informal* split, clear off, skedaddle, vamoose ② *the plane took off* BECOME AIRBORNE, take to the air, take wing, lift off, blast off ③ *the idea really took off* SUCCEED, do well, become popular, catch on, prosper, flourish, thrive, boom

■ **take someone off** MIMIC, impersonate, imitate, ape, parody, mock, caricature, satirize, burlesque, lampoon, ridicule, *informal* spoof, send up

■ **take oneself off** WITHDRAW, retire, leave, exit, depart, go away, quit, *informal* clear off

■ **take on** (*Brit informal*) *don't take on so!* GET UPSET, make a fuss, get excited, overreact, *informal* lose one's cool

■ **take someone on** ① *there was no challenger to take him on* COMPETE AGAINST, oppose, challenge, confront, face, fight, vie with, contend with, stand up to ② *we took on extra staff* ENGAGE, hire, employ, enrol, enlist, sign up, *informal* take on board

■ **take something on** ① *he took on more responsibility*: UNDERTAKE, accept, assume, shoulder, acquire, carry, bear ② *the study took on political meaning*: ACQUIRE, assume, come to have

■ **take one's time** GO SLOWLY, dally, dawdle, delay, linger, drag one's feet, waste time, kill time, *informal* dilly-dally, *archaic* tarry

■ **take someone out** ① *he asked if he could take her out* GO OUT WITH, escort, partner, accompany, go with, romance, woo; *informal* date, see, go steady with; dated court. ② (*informal*) *the sniper took them all out* KILL, murder, assassinate, dispatch, execute, finish off, eliminate, exterminate, terminate, *informal* do in, do away with, bump off, rub out, mow down, top; *poetic/literary* slay

■ **take something over** ASSUME CONTROL OF, take charge of, take command of.

■ **take to** ① *he took to carrying his money in his sock*. MAKE A HABIT OF, resort to, turn to, have recourse to, start, commence. ② *Ruth took to him instantly*: LIKE, get on with, be friendly towards, *informal* take a shine to. ③ *the dog has really taken to racing*: BECOME GOOD AT, develop an ability for; like, enjoy.

■ **take something up** ① *he took up abstract painting*: ENGAGE IN, practise; begin, start, commence. ② *the meetings took up all her time*: CONSUME, fill, absorb, use, occupy; waste, squander ③ *her cousin took up the story*: RESUME, recommence, restart, carry on, continue, pick up, return to. ④ *he took up their offer of a job*: ACCEPT, say yes to, agree to, adopt; *formal* accede to.

⑤ *take the skirt up an inch* **SHORTEN**, turn up, raise, lift

■ **take up with** **BECOME FRIENDS WITH**, go around with, fall in with, string along with, get involved with, start seeing, *informal* knock around with, hang out with

take-off ▶ **noun** ① *the plane crashed on take-off* **DEPARTURE**, lift-off, launch, blast-off; ascent, flight ② (*informal*) *a take-off of a talent show* **PARODY**, pastiche, mockery, caricature, travesty, satire, lampoon, mimicry, imitation, impersonation, impression, *informal* send-up, spoof
-**OPPOSITES** touchdown

takeover ▶ **noun** **BUYOUT**, merger, amalgamation, purchase, acquisition

taking ▶ **adjective** (*dated*) See **WINNING** sense 2

takings ▶ **plural noun** **PROCEEDS**, returns, receipts, earnings, winnings, pickings, spoils, profit, gain, income, revenue, gate, purse

tale ▶ **noun** ① *a tale of witches* **STORY**, narrative, anecdote, report, account, history, legend, fable, myth, parable, allegory, saga, *informal* yarn ② *she told tales to her mother* **LIE**, fib, falsehood, story, untruth, fabrication, fiction; *informal* tall story, fairy story/tale, cock-and-bull story

talent ▶ **noun** **FLAIR**, aptitude, facility, gift, knack, technique, touch, bent, ability, expertise, capacity, faculty, strength, forte, genius, brilliance, dexterity, skill, artistry

talented ▶ **adjective** **GIFTED**, skilful, skilled, accomplished, brilliant, expert, consummate, masterly, adroit, dexterous, able, competent, capable, apt, deft, adept, proficient, *informal* crack, ace
-**OPPOSITES** inept

talisman ▶ **noun** (**LUCKY**) **CHARM**, fetish, amulet, mascot, totem, jujū

talk ▶ **verb** ① *I was talking to a friend* **SPEAK**, chat, chatter, gossip, prattle, babble, rattle on, blather, *informal* yak, gab, jaw, chew the fat, *Brit informal* natter, rabbit, witter, chunter, *N Amer informal* rap, *Austral/NZ informal* mag ② *you're talking rubbish* **UTTER**, speak, say, voice, express, articulate, pronounce, verbalize, vocalize ③ *they were able to talk in peace* **CONVERSE**, communicate, speak, confer, consult; negotiate, parley, *informal* have a confab, chew the fat/rag, rap; *formal* confabulate ④ *he talked of suicide* **MENTION**, refer to, speak about, discuss ⑤ *I was able to talk English* **SPEAK (IN)**, talk in, communicate in, converse in, express oneself in, use ⑥ *nothing would make her talk* **CONFESS**, speak out/up, reveal all, tell tales, give the game away, open one's mouth, *informal* come clean, blab, squeal, let the cat out of the bag, spill the beans, grass, sing, rat ⑦ *the others will talk* **Gossip**, pass comment, make remarks, criticize.

■ **noun** ① *he was bored with all this talk* **CHATTER**, gossip, prattle, jabbering, babbling, gabbling, *informal* yakking, gabbing, *Brit informal* nattering, rabbit ② *she needed a talk with Vi* **CONVERSATION**, chat, discussion, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart, dialogue, parley, powwow, consultation, conference, meeting; *informal* confab, jaw, chit-chat, gossip; *formal* colloquy, confabulation ③ *peace talks* **NEGOTIATIONS**, discussions; conference, summit, meeting, consultation, dialogue, symposium, seminar, conclave, parley; mediation, arbitration; *informal* powwow. ④ *she gave a talk on her travels* **LECTURE**, speech, address, dis-

course, oration, presentation, report, sermon; *informal* spiel ⑤ *there was talk of a takeover* **GOS- SIP**, rumour, hearsay, tittle-tattle, news, report ⑥ *baby talk* **SPEECH**, language, slang, idiom, idiolect; words, *informal* lingo.

■ **talk back** **ANSWER BACK**, be impertinent, be cheeky, be rude, contradict, argue with, disagree with

■ **talk big** (*informal*) See **BOAST** verb sense 1

■ **talk something down** **DENIGRATE**, deprecate, disparage, belittle, diminish, criticize; *informal* knock, put down

■ **talk down to** **CONDESCEND TO**, patronize, look down one's nose at, put down

■ **talk someone into something** **PERSUADE INTO**, argue into, cajole into, coax into, bring round to, inveigle into, wheedle into, prevail on someone to, *informal* sweet-talk into, hustle, fast-talk

talkative ▶ **adjective** **CHATTY**, loquacious, garrulous, voluble, conversational, communicative, gossipy, babbling, blathering, long-winded, wordy, verbose, *informal* gabby, mouthy
-**OPPOSITES** taciturn

talker ▶ **noun** **CONVERSATIONALIST**, speaker, communicator, chatterbox, gossip

talking-to ▶ **noun** (*informal*) See **REPRIMAND** noun

tall ▶ **adjective** ① *a tall man* **BIG**, large, huge, towering, colossal, gigantic, giant, monstrous, leggy, *informal* long ② *tall buildings* **HIGH**, big, lofty, towering, elevated, sky-high, multi-storey ③ *she's five feet tall* **IN HEIGHT**, high, from head to toe, from top to bottom ④ *a tall tale* **UNLIKE LY**, improbable, exaggerated, far-fetched, implausible, dubious, unbelievable, incredible, absurd, untrue, *informal* cock-and-bull ⑤ *a tall order* **DEMANDING**, exacting, difficult, unreasonable, impossible
-**OPPOSITES** short, low, wide, credible, easy

tally ▶ **noun** ① *he keeps a tally of the score* **RUNNING TOTAL**, count, record, reckoning, register, account, roll, census, poll ② *his tally of 1,816 wickets* **TOTAL**, score, count, sum

▶ **verb** ① *these statistics tally with government figures* **CORRESPOND**, agree, accord, concur, coincide, match, fit, be consistent, conform, equate, harmonize, be in tune, dovetail, correlate, parallel, *informal* square, *N Amer informal* jibe ② *votes were tallied with abacuses* **COUNT**, calculate, add up, total, compute, figure out, work out, reckon, measure, quantify, *Brit* tot up, *formal* enumerate
-**OPPOSITES** disagree

tame ▶ **adjective** ① *a tame elephant* **DOMESTICATED**, domestic, docile, tamed, broken, trained, gentle, mild, pet, *Brit* house-trained, *N Amer* housebroken ② (*informal*) *he has a tame lawyer* **AMENABLE**, biddable, cooperative, willing, obedient, tractable, acquiescent, docile, submissive, compliant, meek ③ *it was a pretty tame affair* **UNEXCITING**, uninteresting, uninspiring, dull, bland, flat, insipid, spiritless, pedestrian, colourless, run-of-the-mill, mediocre, ordinary, humdrum, boring; harmless, safe, inoffensive
-**OPPOSITES** wild, uncooperative, exciting

▶ **verb** ① *wild rabbits can be tamed* **DOMESTICATE**, break, train, master, subdue ② *she learned to tame her emotions* **SUBDUCE**, curb, control, calm, master, moderate, overcome, discipline, suppress, repress, mellow, temper, soften, bridle, get a grip on, *informal* lick.



tamper ▶ **verb** ① *she saw them tampering with her car* INTERFERE, monkey around, meddle, tinker, fiddle, fool around, play around, doctor, alter, change, adjust, damage, deface, vandalize, *informal* mess about/around, *Brit informal* muck about/around ② *the defendant tampered with the jury* INFLUENCE, get at, rig, manipulate, bribe, corrupt, bias, *informal* fix, *Brit informal* nobble

tan ▶ **adjective** a tan waistcoat YELLOWISH-BROWN, light brown, pale brown, tawny.

▶ **verb** ① *use a sunscreen to help you tan*. BECOME SUNTANNED, get a suntan, (go) brown, bronze ② (*informal*) *I'll tan his hide* See THRASH sense 1

tang ▶ **noun** FLAVOUR, taste, savour, sharpness, zest, bite, edge, smack, piquancy, spice, smell, odour, aroma, fragrance, perfume, redolence, *informal* kick, pep

tangible ▶ **adjective** TOUCHABLE, palpable, material, physical, real, substantial, corporeal, solid, concrete, visible, noticeable, actual, definite, clear, clear-cut, distinct, manifest, evident, unmistakable, perceptible, discernible
—OPPOSITES abstract

tangle ▶ **verb** ① *the wool got tangled up* ENTANGLE, snarl, catch, entwine, twist, ravel, knot, enmesh, coil, mat, jumble, muddle ② *he tangled with his old rival*. COME INTO CONFLICT, dispute, argue, quarrel, fight, wrangle, squabble, contend, cross swords, lock horns

▶ **noun** ① *a tangle of branches* SNARL, mass, knot, mesh, mishmash ② *the defence got into an awful tangle* MUDDLE, jumble, mix-up, confusion, shambles

tangled ▶ **adjective** ① *tangled hair* KNOTTED, knotty, ravelled, entangled, snarled (up), twisted, matted, tangly, messy, tousled, unkempt, ratty; *informal* mussed up ② *a tangled bureaucratic mess* CONFUSED, jumbled, mixed up, messy, chaotic, complicated, involved, complex, intricate, knotty, tortuous
—OPPOSITES simple

tangy ▶ **adjective** ZESTY, sharp, acid, acidic, tart, sour, bitter, piquant, spicy, tasty, flavoursome, pungent
—OPPOSITES bland

tank ▶ **noun** ① *a hot water tank* CONTAINER, receptacle, vat, cistern, repository, reservoir, basin ② *a tank full of fish* AQUARIUM, bowl ③ *the army's use of tanks* ARMoured VEHICLE, armoured car, combat vehicle, Panzer

tantalyze ▶ **verb** TEASE, torment, torture, bait, tempt, entice, lure, allure, beguile, excite, fascinate, titillate, intrigue

tantamount ▶ **adjective** this is tantamount to mutiny EQUIVALENT to, equal to, as good as, more or less, much the same as, comparable to, on a par with, commensurate with.

tantrum ▶ **noun** FIT OF TEMPER, fit of rage, fit, outburst, pet, paroxysm, frenzy, (bad) mood, huff, scene, *informal* paddy, wax, wobbly, *Brit informal*, dated bate; *N Amer informal* hissy fit.

tap¹ ▶ **noun** ① *she turned the tap on*: VALVE, stop-cock, cock, spout, *N Amer* faucet, spigot, spile ② *a phone tap in the embassy* LISTENING DEVICE, wiretap, wire, bug, bugging device, microphone, receiver

▶ **verb** ① *several barrels were tapped*: DRAIN, bleed, milk; broach, open ② *butlers were tapping ale*: POUR (out), draw off, siphon off, pump out, decant ③ *their telephones were tapped*: BUG,

wiretap, monitor, overhear, eavesdrop on, spy on ④ *the resources were to be tapped for our benefit* DRAW ON, exploit, milk, mine, use, utilize, turn to account

■ **on tap** ① *beers on tap* ON DRAUGHT, cask-conditioned, real-ale, from barrels ② (*informal*) *trained staff are on tap*: ON HAND, at hand, available, ready, handy, accessible, standing by

tap² ▶ **verb** ① *she tapped on the door* KNOCK, rap, strike, beat, drum ② *Dad tapped me on the knee* PAT, hit, strike, slap, jab, poke, dig

▶ **noun** ① *a sharp tap at the door* KNOCK, rap, drumming ② *a tap on the shoulder* PAT, blow, slap, jab, poke, dig

tape ▶ **noun** ① *a package tied with tape* BINDING, ribbon, string, braid ② *secure the bandage with tape* ADHESIVE TAPE, sticky tape, masking tape, trademark Sellotape ③ *they listened to tapes* (AUDIO) CASSETTE, (tape) recording, audio tape, reel, spool, video

▶ **verb** ① *a card was taped to the box* BIND, stick, fix, fasten, secure, attach, tie, strap ② *they taped off the area* CORDON, seal, close, shut, mark, fence, isolate, segregate ③ *police taped his confession* RECORD, tape-record, video

taper ▶ **verb** ① *the leaves taper at the tip* NARROW, thin (out), come to a point, attenuate ② *the meetings soon tapered off* DECREASE, lessen, dwindle, diminish, reduce, decline, die down, peter out, wane, ebb, slacken (off), fall off, let up, thin out

—OPPOSITES thicken, increase

▶ **noun** a lighted taper CANDLE, spill, scone, *historical* rushlight

tardy ▶ **adjective** LATE, unpunctual, behind schedule, running late, behind, overdue, belated, delayed, slow, dilatory
—OPPOSITES punctual

target ▶ **noun** ① *targets at a range of 200 yards* MARK, bullseye, goal ② *eagles can spot their targets from half a mile* PREY, quarry, game, kill ③ *their profit target* OBJECTIVE, goal, aim, end, plan, intention, intent, design, aspiration, ambition, ideal, desire, wish ④ *she was the target for a wave of abuse* VICTIM, butt, recipient, focus, object, subject

▶ **verb** ① *he was targeted by a gunman* PICK OUT, single out, earmark, fix on; attack, aim at, fire at ② *the product is targeted at a specific market* AIM, direct, level, intend, focus

■ **on target** ① *the striker was bang on target*. AC CURATE, precise, unerring, sure, on the mark, *Brit informal* spot on. ② *the project was on target* ON SCHEDULE, on track, on course, on time.

tariff ▶ **noun** TAX, duty, toll, excise, levy, charge, rate, fee; price list

tarnish ▶ **verb** ① *gold does not tarnish easily* DIS COLOUR, rust, oxidize, corrode, stain, dull, blacken ② *it tarnished his reputation* SULLY, blacken, stain, blemish, blot, taint, soil, ruin, disgrace, mar, damage, harm, hurt, undermine, dishonour, stigmatize; *poetic/literary* besmurch.
—OPPOSITES polish, enhance.

▶ **noun** ① *the tarnish on the candlesticks*. DISCOLORATION, oxidation, rust; film. ② *the tarnish on his reputation* SMEAR, stain, blemish, blot, taint, stigma.

tarry ▶ **verb** (archaic) LINGER, loiter, procrastinate, delay, wait, dawdle; *informal* hang around/round
—OPPOSITES hurry.



tart¹ ▶ noun a jam tart PASTRY, flan, tartlet, quiche, pie

tart² (informal) ▶ noun a tart on a street corner See PROSTITUTE noun

▶ verb ① she tarted herself up DRESS UP, make up, smarten up, preen oneself, beautify oneself, groom oneself, informal doll oneself up, titivate oneself ② we must tart this place up a bit DECORATE, renovate, refurbish, redecorate, smarten up, informal do up, fix up

tart³ ▶ adjective ① a tart apple SOUR, sharp, acid, acidic, zesty, tangy, piquant, lemony, acetic ② a tart reply ACERBIC, sharp, biting, cutting, astringent, caustic, trenchant, incisive, barbed, scathing, sarcastic, acrimonious, nasty, rude, vicious, spiteful, venomous
-OPPOSITES sweet, kind

task ▶ noun a daunting task JOB, duty, chore, charge, assignment, detail, mission, engagement, occupation, undertaking, exercise, business, responsibility, burden, endeavour, enterprise, venture

■ take someone to task REBUKE, reprimand, reprove, reproach, remonstrate with, upbraid, scold, berate, lecture, censure, criticize, admonish, chide, chasten, arraign, informal tell off, bawl out, give someone a dressing-down, *Brit* informal tuck off, carpet, formal castigate

taste ▶ noun ① a distinctive sharp taste FLAVOUR, savour, relish, tang, smack ② a taste of brandy MOUTHFUL, drop, bit, sip, nip, swallow, touch, soupçon, dash, modicum ③ it's too sweet for my taste PALATE, taste buds, appetite, stomach ④ a taste for adventure LIKING, love, fondness, fancy, desire, preference, penchant, predilection, inclination, partiality, hankering, appetite, hunger, thirst, relish ⑤ my first taste of prison EXPERIENCE, impression, exposure to, contact with, involvement with ⑥ the house was furnished with taste JUDGEMENT, discrimination, discernment, tastefulness, refinement, finesse, elegance, grace, style ⑦ the photo was rejected on grounds of taste DECORUM, propriety, etiquette, politeness, delicacy, nicety, sensitivity, discretion, tastefulness

-RELATED TERMS gustative, gustatory

-OPPOSITES dislike

▶ verb ① Adam tasted the wine SAMPLE, test, try, savour, sip, sup ② he could taste blood PERCEIVE, discern, make out, distinguish ③ a beer that tasted of cashews HAVE A FLAVOUR, savour, smack, be reminiscent, suggest ④ it'll be good to taste real coffee again CONSUME, drink, partake of, eat, devour ⑤ he tasted defeat: EXPERIENCE, encounter, come face to face with, come up against, undergo, know

tasteful ▶ adjective ① the decor is simple and tasteful. AESTHETICALLY PLEASING, in good taste, refined, cultured, elegant, stylish, smart, chic, attractive, exquisite ② this video is erotic but tasteful: DECOROUS, proper, seemly, respectable, appropriate, modest.

-OPPOSITES tasteless, improper

tasteless ▶ adjective ① the vegetables are tasteless: FLAVOURLESS, bland, insipid, unappetizing, savourless, watery, weak ② tasteless leather panelling: VULGAR, crude, tawdry, garish, gaudy, loud, trashy, showy, ostentatious, cheap, inelegant; informal flash, flashy, tacky, kitsch; *Brit* informal naff ③ a tasteless remark: CRUDE, vulgar, in-

delicate, uncouth, crass, tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet, inappropriate, offensive

-OPPOSITES tasty, tasteful, seemly

tasty ▶ adjective DELICIOUS, palatable, luscious, mouth-watering, delectable, ambrosial, toothsome, dainty, flavoursome, flavourful, appetizing, tempting, informal yummy, scrummy, scrumptious, finger-licking, moreish, dated flavorous

-OPPOSITES bland

tatters ▶ plural noun the satin had frayed to tatters RAGS, scraps, shreds, bits, pieces, ribbons

■ in tatters ① his clothes were in tatters: RAGGED, tattered, torn, ripped, frayed, in pieces, worn out, moth-eaten, falling to pieces, threadbare ② her marriage is in tatters IN RUINS, on the rocks, destroyed, finished, devastated

tattle ▶ verb ① we were tattling about him GOSIP, tittle-tattle, chatter, chat, prattle, babble, jabber, gabble, rattle on, jaw, yak, gab, *Brit* informal natter, chinwag, chit-chat ② I would tattle on her if I had evidence INFORM, report, talk, tell all, spill the beans, informal squeal, sing, let the cat out of the bag

▶ noun tabloid tattle GOSSIP, rumour, tittle-tattle, hearsay, scandal

taunt ▶ noun the taunts of his classmates: JEER, gibe, sneer, insult, barb, catcall, (taunts) teasing, provocation, goading, derision, mockery, informal dig, put-down

▶ verb she taunted him about his job JEER AT, sneer at, scoff at, poke fun at, make fun of, get at, insult, tease, chaff, torment, goad, ridicule, deride, mock, heckle, *N Amer* ride, informal rib, needle, rag, guy

taut ▶ adjective ① the rope was pulled taut TIGHT, stretched, rigid ② his muscles remained taut FLEXED, tense, hard, solid, firm, rigid, stiff ③ a taut expression FRAUGHT, strained, stressed, tense, informal uptight ④ a taut tale of gang life CONCISE, controlled, crisp, pithy, sharp, succinct, compact, terse ⑤ he ran a taut ship ORDERLY, tight, trim, neat, disciplined, tidy, spruce, smart, shipshape (and Bristol fashion)
-OPPOSITES slack, relaxed

tavern ▶ noun BAR, inn, hostelry, taphouse, *Brit* pub, public house, informal watering hole, *Brit* informal local, boozer, dated alehouse; *N Amer* historical saloon

tawdry ▶ adjective GAUDY, flashy, showy, garish, loud, tasteless, vulgar, trashy, junky, cheap (and nasty), cheapjack, shoddy, shabby, gimcrack; informal rubbishy, tacky, kitsch
-OPPOSITES tasteful.

tax ▶ noun ① they have to pay tax on the interest DUTY, excise, customs, dues, levy, tariff, toll, impost, tithe, charge, fee. See list ② a heavy tax on one's attention BURDEN, load, weight, demand, strain, pressure, stress, drain, imposition
-RELATED TERMS fiscal.

-OPPOSITES rebate

▶ verb ① they tax foreign companies more harshly CHARGE (DUTY ON), tithe, formal mulct. ② his whining taxed her patience STRAIN, stretch, overburden, overload, encumber, push too far, overwhelm, try, wear out, exhaust, sap, drain, weary, weaken

taxing ▶ adjective DEMANDING, exacting, challenging, burdensome, arduous, onerous, difficult, hard, tough, laborious, back-breaking, strenu-



ous, rigorous, punishing; tiring, exhausting, enervating, wearing, stressful, informal murderous

—OPPOSITES easy

tea ▶ noun. See list

Types of Tea

Assam	herbal tea	pekoe
black tea	hyson	peppermint tea
bohea	iced tea	post-and-rail tea
bush tea	Indian	pouchong
camomile tea	jasmine tea	rooibos tea
Ceylon	Keemun	rosehip tea
China	Labrador tea	Russian tea
congou	Lapsang	sage tea
Darjeeling	Souchong	souchong
Earl Grey	lemon tea	tilleul
fruit tea	maté	tisane
green tea	mint tea	yerba buena
gunpowder tea	oolong	yerba maté
	orange pekoe	

teach ▶ verb ① *she teaches small children*: EDUCATE, instruct, school, tutor, coach, train, enlighten, illuminate, verse, indoctrinate, drill, discipline; formal edify ② *I taught English*: GIVE LESSONS IN, lecture in, be a teacher of ③ *teach your teenager how to negotiate*: TRAIN, show, guide, instruct, demonstrate, instil, inculcate —RELATED TERMS didactic, pedagogic

teacher ▶ noun EDUCATOR, tutor, instructor, master, mistress, schoolmarm, governess, educationist, preceptor; coach, trainer; lecturer, professor, don, guide, mentor, guru, counselor, informal teach, *Brit* informal beak; *Austral/NZ* informal chalkie, schoolie, formal pedagogue, historical schoolman

team ▶ noun ① *the sales team*: GROUP, squad, company, party, crew, troupe, band, side, line-up, informal bunch, gang, posse. See list ② *a team of horses*: PAIR, span, yoke, duo, set, tandem

▶ verb ① *the horses are teamed in pairs*: HARNESS, yoke, hitch, couple ② *team a T-shirt with matching shorts*: MATCH, coordinate, complement, pair up. ③ *team up with another artist for an exhibition*: JOIN (FORCES), collaborate, get together, work together, unite, combine, cooperate, link, ally, associate, club together.

tear ▶ verb ① *I tore up the letter*: RIP UP, rip in two, pull to pieces, shred ② *his flesh was torn*: LACERATE, cut (open), gash, slash, scratch, hack, pierce, stab, injure, wound. ③ *the traumas tore her family apart*: DIVIDE, split, sever, break up, disunite, rupture, poetic/literary rend, sunder, cleave ④ *Gina tore the book from his hands*: SNATCH, grab, seize, rip, wrench, wrest, pull, pluck; informal yank ⑤ (informal) *Jack tore down the street*: SPRINT, race, run, dart, rush, dash, hasten, hurry, hare, bolt, fly, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, speed, whizz, zoom, go like lightning, go like the wind, informal pelt, scoot, hotfoot it, leg it, belt, zip, whip; *Brit* informal go like the clappers, bomb, bucket; *N Amer* informal hightail it.

—OPPOSITES unite.

▶ noun a tear in her dress RIP, hole, split, slash, slit; ladder, snag.

■ **tear something down**: DEMOLISH, knock down, raze (to the ground), flatten, level, bulldoze; dismantle, disassemble.

Size of Sports Teams

American football	11
Australian Rules football	18
baseball	9
basketball	5 men or 6 women
beach volleyball	2
Canadian football	12
cricket	11
curling	4
field hockey	11
Gaelic football	15
goalball	3
hurling	15
ice hockey	6
kabaddi	7
korfbal	12 (6 men + 6 women)
lacrosse	10 men or 12 women
netball	7
polo	4
rounders	9
rugby league	13
rugby union	15
shinty	12
soccer	11
team handball	4
volleyball	6
water polo	7

tear ▶ noun tears in her eyes. TEARDROP

—RELATED TERMS lachrymal, lachrymose

■ **in tears**: CRYING, weeping, sobbing, wailing, howling, bawling, whimpering, tearful, upset, informal weepy, teary, blubbing, blubbering

tearaway ▶ noun HOOLIGAN, hoodlum, ruffian, lout, rowdy, roughneck, *Austral* larrikin; informal yahoo, *Brit* informal yob, yobbo, *Scottish* informal ned, *Austral/NZ* informal roughie

tearful ▶ adjective ① *Georgina was tearful*: CLOSE TO TEARS, emotional, upset, distressed, sad, unhappy, in tears, crying, weeping, sobbing, snivelling, informal weepy, teary; formal lachrymose ② *a tearful farewell*: EMOTIONAL, upsetting, distressing, sad, heartbreaking, sorrowful, poignant, moving, touching, tear-jerking, poetic/literary dolorous —OPPOSITES cheerful.

tease ▶ verb MAKE FUN OF, poke fun at, chaff, laugh at, guy, make a monkey (out) of, taunt, bait, goad, pick on; deride, mock, ridicule; informal take the mick out of, rag, send up, rib, josh, have on, pull someone's leg; *Brit* informal wind up; *N Amer* informal pull someone's chain, razz; *Austral/NZ* informal poke mullock at; dated twit

technical ▶ adjective ① *an important technical achievement*: practical, scientific, technological, high-tech. ② *this might seem very technical*: SPECIALIST, specialized, scientific; complex, complicated, esoteric. ③ *a technical fault*: MECHANICAL.

technique ▶ noun ① *different techniques for solving the problem*: METHOD, approach, procedure, system, modus operandi, MO, way; means, strategy, tack, tactic, line; routine, practice. ② *I was impressed with his technique*: SKILL, ability, proficiency, expertise, mastery, talent, genius, artistry, craftsmanship; aptitude, adroitness, deftness, dexterity, facility, competence; performance, delivery; informal know-how

tedious ▶ **adjective** BORING, dull, monotonous, repetitive, unrelieved, unvaried, uneventful, characterless, colourless, lifeless, insipid, uninteresting, unexciting, uninspiring, flat, bland, dry, stale, tired, lacklustre, stodgy, dreary, humdrum, mundane, mind-numbing, soul-destroying, wearisome, tiring, tiresome, irksome, trying, frustrating, *informal* deadly, not up to much, *Brit informal* samey, *N Amer informal* dullsville

—OPPOSITES exciting

tedium ▶ **noun** MONOTONY, boredom, ennui, uniformity, routine, dreariness, dryness, banality, vapidness, insipidity

—OPPOSITES variety

teem¹ ▶ **verb** *the pond was teeming with fish* BE FULL OF, be filled with, be alive with, be brimming with, abound in, be swarming with, be packed with, be crawling with, be overrun by, bristle with, seethe with, be thick with; *informal* be jam-packed with, be chock-a-block with, be chock-full with

teem² ▶ **verb** *the rain was teeming down* POUR, pelt, tip, beat, lash, sheet, come down in torrents, rain cats and dogs, *informal* be chucking it down, *Brit informal* bucket down

teenage ▶ **adjective** ADOLESCENT, teenaged, youthful, young, juvenile, *informal* teen

teenager ▶ **noun** ADOLESCENT, youth, young person, minor, juvenile, *informal* teen, teenybopper

teeny ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) See TINY

teeter ▶ **verb** ① *Daisy teetered towards them* TOTTER, wobble, toddle, sway, stagger, stumble, reel, lurch, pitch ② *the situation teetered between tragedy and farce* SEE-SAW, veer, fluctuate, oscillate, swing, alternate, waver

teetotal ▶ **adjective** ABSTINENT, abstemious, sober, dry, *informal* on the wagon

—OPPOSITES alcoholic

telegram ▶ **noun** TELEMESSAGE, telex, *informal* wire, *dated* radiogram, *historical* cable, cablegram

telepathic ▶ **adjective** PSYCHIC, clairvoyant

telepathy ▶ **noun** MIND-READING, thought transference; extrasensory perception, ESP; clairvoyance, sixth sense; psychometry

telephone ▶ **noun** *Sophie picked up the telephone* PHONE, handset, receiver, *informal* blower, *N Amer informal* horn.

▶ **verb** *he telephoned me last night* PHONE, call, dial, get, reach; *Brit* ring (up), *informal* call up, give someone a buzz, get on the blower to; *Brit informal* give someone a bell, give someone a tinkle, *N Amer informal* get someone on the horn.

telescope ▶ **noun** SPYGLASS, *informal* scope See list.

▶ **verb** ① *the front of the car was telescoped*: CONCERTINA, compact, compress, crush, squash. ② *his experience can be telescoped into a paragraph*. CONDENSE, shorten, reduce, abbreviate, abridge, summarize, precis, abstract, shrink, consolidate; truncate, curtail.

televisé ▶ **verb** BROADCAST, screen, air, telecast; transmit, relay.

television ▶ **noun** TV; *informal* the small screen; *Brit informal* telly, the box; *N Amer informal* the tube

Types of Telescope

almucantar	Maksutov telescope
altazimuth telescope	meridian circle
astronomical telescope	monocular
Cassegrain telescope	Newtonian telescope
catheometer	radio telescope
collimator	reflecting telescope
coudé telescope	refracting telescope
Dobsonian telescope	Schmidt telescope
equatorial telescope	Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope
finder	space telescope
Galilean telescope	telescopic sight
Gregorian telescope	terrestrial telescope
heliometer	

tell ▶ **verb** ① *why didn't you tell me before?* INFORM, notify, apprise, let know, make aware, acquaint with, advise, put in the picture, brief, fill in, alert, warn, *informal* clue in/up ② *she told the story slowly* RELATE, recount, narrate, unfold, report, recite, describe, sketch, weave, spin, utter, voice, state, declare, communicate, impart, divulge ③ *she told him to leave* INSTRUCT, order, command, direct, charge, enjoin, call on, require, *poetic/literary* bid ④ *I tell you, I did nothing wrong* ASSURE, promise, give one's word, swear, guarantee ⑤ *the figures tell a different story* REVEAL, show, indicate, be evidence of, disclose, convey, signify ⑥ *promise you won't tell?* GIVE THE GAME AWAY, talk, tell tales, tattle, *informal* spill the beans, let the cat out of the bag, blab, *Brit informal* blow the gaff ⑦ *she was bound to tell on him* INFORM ON, tell tales on, give away, denounce, sell out, *informal* split on, blow the whistle on, rat on, peach on, squeal on, *Brit informal* grass on, sneak on, shop, *N Amer informal* finger, *Austral/NZ informal* dob on ⑧ *it was hard to tell what he said* ASCERTAIN, determine, work out, make out, deduce, discern, perceive, see, identify, recognize, understand, comprehend, *informal* figure out, *Brit informal* suss out ⑨ *he couldn't tell one from the other* DISTINGUISH, differentiate, discriminate. ⑩ *the strain began to tell on him* TAKE ITS TOLL, leave its mark, affect

■ **tell someone off** (*informal*) See REPRIMAND verb

teller ▶ **noun** ① *a bank teller* CASHIER, clerk ② *a teller of tales* NARRATOR, raconteur, storyteller, anecdotalist

telling ▶ **adjective** REVEALING, significant, weighty, important, meaningful, influential, striking, potent, powerful, compelling.

—OPPOSITES insignificant

telling-off ▶ **noun** (*informal*). See REPRIMAND noun

telltale ▶ **adjective** *the telltale blush on her face* REVEALING, revelatory, suggestive, meaningful, significant, meaning, *informal* giveaway

▶ **noun** *'Sue did it,' said a telltale* INFORMER, whistle-blower, *N Amer* tattletale, *informal* snitch, squealer; *Brit informal* sneak; *Scottish informal* clype, *dated* talebearer.

temerity ▶ **noun** AUDACITY, nerve, effrontery, impudence, impertinence, cheek, gall, presumption, daring; *informal* face, front, (brass) neck, chutzpah.

temper ▶ **noun** ① *he walked out in a temper*: (FIT OF) RAGE, fury, fit of pique, tantrum, (bad) mood, pet, sulk, huff; *informal* grump, snit; *Brit informal* strop, paddy; *Brit informal, dated* bate, wax,

N Amer informal hissy fit. ② a display of temper ANGER, fury, rage, annoyance, vexation, irritation, irritability, ill humour, spleen, pique, petulance, testiness, tetchiness, crabbiness, *Brit informal* stroppiness, *poetic/literary* ire, choler ③ she struggled to keep her temper COMPOSURE, equanimity, self-control, self-possession, sangfroid, calm, good humour, *informal* cool

► **verb** ① the steel is tempered by heat. HARDEN, strengthen, toughen, fortify, anneal ② their idealism is tempered with realism MODERATE, modify, modulate, mitigate, alleviate, reduce, weaken, lighten, soften

■ **lose one's temper** GET ANGRY, fly into a rage, erupt, lose control, go berserk, breathe fire, flare up, boil over, *informal* go mad, go crazy, go bananas, have a fit, see red, fly off the handle, blow one's top, do one's nut, hit the roof, go off the deep end, go ape, flip, lose one's rag, freak out, *Brit informal* go spare, go crackers, throw a wobbly

temperament ► **noun** DISPOSITION, nature, character, personality, make-up, constitution, mind, spirit, stamp, mettle, mould, mood, frame of mind, attitude, outlook, humour

temperamental ► **adjective** ① a temperamental chef VOLATILE, excitable, emotional, mercurial, capricious, erratic, unpredictable, changeable, inconsistent, hot-headed, fiery, quick-tempered, irritable, irascible, impatient, touchy, moody, sensitive, oversensitive, highly strung, neurotic, melodramatic ② a temperamental dislike of conflict INHERENT, innate, natural, inborn, constitutional, deep-rooted, ingrained, congenital
-OPPOSITES placid

temperance ► **noun** TEETOTALISM, abstinence, abstention, sobriety, self-restraint, prohibition
-OPPOSITES alcoholism

temperate ► **adjective** ① temperate climates MILD, clement, benign, gentle, balmy ② he was temperate in his consumption SELF-RESTRAINED, restrained, moderate, self-controlled, disciplined, abstemious, self-denying, austere, ascetic, teetotal, abstinent
-OPPOSITES extreme

tempest ► **noun** STORM, gale, hurricane, tornado, whirlwind, cyclone, typhoon

tempestuous ► **adjective** ① the day was tempestuous STORMY, blustery, squally, wild, turbulent, windy, gusty, blowy, rainy, foul, nasty, inclement ② the tempestuous political environment TURBULENT, stormy, tumultuous, wild, lively, heated, explosive, feverish, frenetic, frenzied ③ a tempestuous woman EMOTIONAL, passionate, impassioned, fiery, intense, temperamental, volatile, excitable, mercurial, capricious, unpredictable, quick-tempered.
-OPPOSITES calm, peaceful, placid

temple ► **noun** HOUSE OF GOD, shrine, sanctuary; church, cathedral, mosque, synagogue, shul, *archaic* fane.

tempo ► **noun** ① the tempo of the music. CADENCE, speed, rhythm, beat, time, pulse; measure, metre. ② the tempo of life in Western society: PACE, rate, speed, velocity

temporal ► **adjective** SECULAR, non-spiritual, worldly, profane, material, mundane, earthly, terrestrial; non-religious, lay.
-OPPOSITES spiritual.

temporarily ► **adverb** ① the girl was temporarily placed with a foster family FOR THE TIME BEING, for the moment, for now, for the present, in the interim, for the nonce, in/for the meantime, in the meanwhile, provisionally, pro tem, *informal* for the minute. ② he was temporarily blinded by the light. BRIEFLY, for a short time, momentarily, fleetingly
-OPPOSITES permanently

temporary ► **adjective** ① temporary accommodation | the temporary captain NON-PERMANENT, short-term, interim, provisional, pro tem, makeshift, stopgap, acting, fill-in, stand-in, caretaker ② a temporary loss of self-control BRIEF, short-lived, momentary, fleeting, passing
-OPPOSITES permanent, lasting

temporize ► **verb** EQUIVOCATE, procrastinate, play for time, play a waiting game, stall, use delaying tactics, delay, hang back, prevaricate, *Brit* hum and haw, *rare* tergiversate

tempt ► **verb** ① the manager tried to tempt him to stay ENTICE, persuade, convince, inveigle, induce, cajole, coax, woo, *informal* sweet-talk ② more customers are being tempted by credit AL LURE, attract, appeal to, whet the appetite of, lure, seduce, beguile, tantalize, draw
-OPPOSITES discourage, deter

temptation ► **noun** ① Mary resisted the temptation to answer back DESIRE, urge, itch, impulse, inclination ② the temptations of London LURE, allure, enticement, seduction, attraction, draw, pull, siren song ③ the temptation of travel to exotic locations ALLURE, appeal, attraction, fascination

tempting ► **adjective** ① the tempting shops of the Via Nazionale ENTICING, alluring, attractive, appealing, inviting, captivating, seductive, beguiling, fascinating, tantalizing, irresistible ② a plate of tempting cakes APPETIZING, mouth-watering, delicious, toothsome, *informal* scrumptious, scrummy, yummy
-OPPOSITES off-putting, uninviting

temptress ► **noun** SEDUCTRESS, siren, femme fatale, Mata Hari, *informal* vamp

ten ► **cardinal number** DECADE
-RELATED TERMS decimal, deca-, deci-

tenable ► **adjective** DEFENSIBLE, justifiable, supportable, sustainable, arguable, able to hold water, reasonable, rational, sound, viable, plausible, credible, believable, conceivable
-OPPOSITES indefensible

tenacious ► **adjective** ① his tenacious grip FIRM, tight, fast, clinging, strong, forceful, powerful, unshakeable, immovable, iron ② a tenacious man. PERSEVERING, persistent, determined, dogged, strong-willed, tireless, indefatigable, resolute, patient, purposeful, unflagging, staunch, steadfast, untiring, unwavering, unswerving, unshakeable, unyielding, insistent; stubborn, intransigent, obstinate, obdurate, stiff-necked, *N Amer* rock-ribbed; *formal* pertinacious.
-OPPOSITES weak, irresolute

tenacity ► **noun** PERSISTENCE, determination, perseverance, doggedness, strength of purpose, bulldog spirit, tirelessness, indefatigability, resolution, resoluteness, resolve, firmness, patience, purposefulness, staunchness, steadfastness, staying power, application; stubbornness, intransigence, obstinacy, obduracy; *formal* pertinacity

tenancy ▶ **noun** OCCUPANCY, occupation, period of occupancy/occupation, residence, habitation, holding, possession, tenure, lease, rental, leasehold

tenant ▶ **noun** OCCUPANT, resident, inhabitant, leaseholder, lessee, renter; *Brit* occupier, sitting tenant

—OPPOSITES owner, freeholder

tend¹ ▶ **verb** ① *I tend to get very involved in my work* BE INCLINED, be apt, be disposed, be prone, be liable, have a tendency, have a propensity ② *younger voters tended towards the tabloid press* INCLINE, lean, gravitate, move, prefer, favour, *N Amer* trend

tend² ▶ **verb** *she tended her cattle* LOOK AFTER, take care of, care for, minister to, attend to, see to, wait on, watch over, keep an eye on, mind, protect, watch, guard, nurse, nurture, cherish

—OPPOSITES neglect

tendency ▶ **noun** ① *his tendency to take the law into his own hands* PROPENSITY, proclivity, proneness, aptness, likelihood, inclination, disposition, predisposition, bent, leaning, penchant, predilection, susceptibility, liability, readiness, habit ② *this tendency towards cohabitation* TREND, movement, drift, swing, gravitation, direction, course, orientation, bias

tender¹ ▶ **adjective** ① *a gentle, tender man* CARING, kind, kindly, kind-hearted, soft-hearted, tender-hearted, compassionate, sympathetic, warm, warm-hearted, fatherly, motherly, maternal, gentle, mild, benevolent, generous, giving, humane ② *a tender kiss* AFFECTIONATE, fond, loving, emotional, warm, gentle, soft, amorous, adoring, *informal* lovey-dovey ③ *tender love songs* ROMANTIC, sentimental, emotional, emotive, touching, moving, poignant, *Brit informal* soppy ④ *simmer until the meat is tender* EASILY CHEWED, chewable, soft, succulent, juicy, tenderized ⑤ *tender plants* DELICATE, easily damaged, fragile ⑥ *her ankle was swollen and tender* SORE, painful, sensitive, inflamed, raw, red, chafed, bruised, hurting, aching, throbbing, smarting ⑦ *the tender age of fifteen* YOUNG, youthful, impressionable, inexperienced, immature, unsophisticated, unseasoned, juvenile, callow, green, raw, *informal* wet behind the ears ⑧ *the issue of conscription was a particularly tender one* DIFFICULT, delicate, tricky, awkward, problematic, troublesome, ticklish, controversial, emotive, *informal* sticky

—OPPOSITES hard-hearted, callous, tough

tender² ▶ **verb** ① *she tendered her resignation* OFFER, proffer, present, put forward, propose, suggest, advance, submit, extend, give, render, hand in. ② *firms of interior decorators tendered for the work* PUT IN A BID, bid, quote, give an estimate

▶ **noun** *six contractors were invited to submit tenders*. BID, offer, quotation, quote, estimate, price, proposal, submission

tender-hearted ▶ **adjective**. See TENDER¹ sense 1

tenderness ▶ **noun** ① *I felt an enormous tenderness for her*: AFFECTION, fondness, love, devotion, loving kindness, emotion, sentiment. ② *with unexpected tenderness, he told her what had happened*: KINDNESS, kindness, kind-heartedness, tender-heartedness, compassion, care, concern,

sympathy, warmth, fatherliness, motherliness, gentleness, benevolence, generosity. ③ *abdominal tenderness* SORENESS, pain, inflammation, bruising, ache, aching, smarting, throbbing

tenet ▶ **noun** PRINCIPLE, belief, doctrine, precept, creed, credo, article of faith, dogma, canon, theory, thesis, conviction, idea, view, opinion, position, hypothesis, postulation, (tenets) ideology, code of belief, teaching(s)

tennis ▶ **noun** See list

Tennis Strokes

ace	forehand	serve
backhand	groundstroke	slice
cross-court	half-volley	smash
dink	lob	stop volley
drive	overhead	volley
drop shot	passing shot	

tenor ▶ **noun** ① *the general tenor of his speech* SENSE, meaning, theme, drift, thread, import, purport, intent, intention, burden, thrust, significance, message, gist, essence, substance, spirit ② *the even tenor of life in the village* COURSE, direction, movement, drift, current, trend

tense ▶ **adjective** ① *the tense muscles of his neck* TAUT, tight, rigid, stretched, strained, stiff ② *Loretta was feeling tense and irritable* ANXIOUS, nervous, on edge, edgy, strained, stressed, under pressure, agitated, ill at ease, uneasy, nervy, restless, worked up, keyed up, overwrought, on tenterhooks, with one's stomach in knots, worried, apprehensive, panicky, *informal* a bundle of nerves, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, uptight, stressed out, *N Amer informal* spooky, squirrely ③ *a tense moment* NERVE-RACKING, stressful, anxious, worrying, fraught, charged, strained, nail-biting, difficult, uneasy, uncomfortable, exciting, cliffhanging, knife-edge

—OPPOSITES slack, calm

▶ **verb** *Hebden tensed his muscles* TIGHTEN, tauten, tense up, flex, contract, brace, stiffen, screw up, knot, strain, stretch, *N Amer* squinch up

—OPPOSITES relax

tension ▶ **noun** ① *the tension of the rope* TIGHTNESS, tautness, rigidity; pull, traction ② *the tension was unbearable*: STRAIN, stress, anxiety, pressure, worry, apprehensiveness, apprehension, agitation, nerves, nervousness, jumpiness, edginess, restlessness, suspense, uncertainty, anticipation, excitement, *informal* butterflies (in one's stomach), collywobbles ③ *months of tension between the military and the government* STRAINED RELATIONS, strain, ill feeling, friction, antagonism, antipathy, hostility, enmity

tentative ▶ **adjective** ① *tentative arrangements* | *a tentative conclusion* PROVISIONAL, unconfirmed, pencilled in, preliminary, to be confirmed, TBC, subject to confirmation, speculative, conjectural, untried, unproven, exploratory, experimental, trial, test, pilot ② *he took a few tentative steps* HESITANT, uncertain, cautious, timid, hesitating, faltering, shaky, unsteady, halting, wavering, unsure

—OPPOSITES definite, confident.

tenterhooks

■ **on tenterhooks** IN SUSPENSE, waiting with bated breath; anxious, nervous, nervy, appre-



hensive, worried, worried sick, on edge, edgy, tense, strained, stressed, agitated, restless, worked up, keyed up, with one's stomach in knots, with one's heart in one's mouth, like a cat on a hot tin roof, *informal* with butterflies in one's stomach, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, in a state, uptight, *N Amer informal* spooky, squirrely

tenuous ▶ **adjective** ① a tenuous connection SLIGHT, insubstantial, flimsy, weak, doubtful, dubious, questionable, suspect, vague, nebulous, hazy ② a tenuous thread FINE, thin, slender, delicate, gossamer, fragile
-OPPOSITES convincing, strong

tenure ▶ **noun** ① residents should have security of tenure TENANCY, occupancy, holding, occupation, residence, possession, title, ownership ② his tenure as Secretary of State for Industry IN CUMBENCY, term (of office), period (of/in office), time (in office)

tepid ▶ **adjective** ① tepid water LUKEWARM, warmish, slightly warm, at room temperature ② a tepid response UNENTHUSIASTIC, apathetic, half-hearted, indifferent, cool, lukewarm, uninterested, *informal* unenthused
-OPPOSITES hot, cold, enthusiastic

term ▶ **noun** ① scientific and technical terms WORD, expression, phrase, turn of phrase, idiom, locution, name, title, designation, label; formal appellation, denomination ② a protest in the strongest terms LANGUAGE, mode of expression, manner of speaking, phraseology, terminology, words, phrases, expressions ③ the terms of the contract CONDITIONS, stipulations, specifications, provisions, provisos, restrictions, qualifications, particulars, details, points ④ a policy offering more favourable terms RATES, prices, charges, costs, fees; tariff ⑤ the President is elected for a four-year term PERIOD, period of time, time, length of time, spell, stint, duration, stretch, run, period of office, incumbency ⑥ (archaic) the whole term of your natural life DURATION, length, span ⑦ the summer term SESSION, *N Amer* semester, trimester, quarter

▶ **verb** he has been termed the father of modern theology CALL, name, entitle, title, style, designate, describe as, dub, label, tag, nickname, formal denominate

■ **come to terms** ① the two sides came to terms REACH AN AGREEMENT/UNDERSTANDING, make a deal, reach a compromise, meet each other halfway ② she eventually came to terms with her situation ACCEPT, come to accept, reconcile oneself to, learn to live with, become resigned to, make the best of; face up to

terminal ▶ **adjective** ① a terminal illness INCURABLE, untreatable, inoperable; fatal, mortal, deadly ② terminal patients DYING, near death, incurable ③ a terminal bonus may be payable when a policy matures, FINAL, last, concluding, closing, end ④ (informal) you're making a terminal ass of yourself COMPLETE, utter, absolute, total, real, thorough, out-and-out, downright, perfect, *Brit informal* right, proper, *Austral/NZ informal* fair

▶ **noun** ① a railway terminal STATION, last stop, end of the line; depot; *Brit* terminus. ② a computer terminal. WORKSTATION, VDU, visual display unit

terminate ▶ **verb** ① treatment was terminated: BRING TO AN END, end, bring to a close/conclusion, close, conclude, finish, stop, put an

end to, wind up, discontinue, cease, cut short, abort, axe, *informal* pull the plug on. ② the train will terminate in Stratford END ITS JOURNEY, finish up, stop ③ the pregnancy was terminated ABORT, end

-OPPOSITES begin, start, continue

termination ▶ **noun** ① the termination of a contract ENDING, end, closing, close, conclusion, finish, stopping, winding up, discontinuance, discontinuation, cancellation, dissolution, *informal* wind-up ② she had a termination ABORTION, rare feticide

-OPPOSITES start, beginning

terminology ▶ **noun** PHRASEOLOGY, terms, expressions, words, language, parlance, vocabulary, nomenclature, usage, idiom, jargon, cant, argot, *informal* lingo, -speak, -ese

terminus ▶ **noun** (*Brit*) the bus terminus STATION, last stop, end of the line, terminal, depot, garage

terrain ▶ **noun** LAND, ground, territory, topography, landscape, countryside, country

terrestrial ▶ **adjective** EARTHLY, worldly, mundane, earthbound, *poetic/literary* sublunary

terrible ▶ **adjective** ① a terrible crime | terrible injuries DREADFUL, awful, appalling, horrific, horrifying, horrible, horrendous, atrocious, abominable, abhorrent, frightful, shocking, hideous, ghastly, grim, dire, unspeakable, gruesome, monstrous, sickening, heinous, vile, serious, grave, acute, formal grievous ② a terrible smell NASTY, disgusting, awful, dreadful, ghastly, horrid, horrible, vile, foul, abominable, frightful, loathsome, revolting, repulsive, odious, nauseating, repellent, horrendous, hideous, appalling, offensive, objectionable, obnoxious, *informal* gruesome, putrid, diabolical, yucky, sick-making, God-awful, gross, *Brit informal* beastly, *archaic* disgusting ③ he was in terrible pain SEVERE, extreme, intense, excruciating, agonizing, unbearable, intolerable, unendurable ④ that's a terrible thing to say UNKIND, nasty, unpleasant, foul, obnoxious, vile, contemptible, despicable, wretched, shabby; spiteful, mean, malicious, poisonous, mean-spirited, cruel, hateful, hurtful, unfair, uncharitable, uncalled for, below the belt, unwarranted; *Brit informal* beastly ⑤ the film was terrible VERY BAD, dreadful, awful, frightful, atrocious, hopeless, poor, *informal* pathetic, pitiful, useless, lousy, appalling, abysmal, dire, *Brit informal* duff, chronic, poxy, rubbish, a load of pants ⑥ (informal) you're a terrible flirt INCORRIGIBLE, outrageous, real, awful, dreadful, frightful, shocking, *informal* impossible, fearful; *Brit informal* right, proper. ⑦ I feel terrible—I've been in bed all day ILL, poorly, sick, queasy, nauseous, nauseated, green about the gills; faint, dizzy, *informal* rough, lousy, awful, dreadful; *Brit informal* grotty, ropy ⑧ he still feels terrible about what he did to John GUILTY, conscience-stricken, remorseful, guilt-ridden, ashamed, chastened, contrite, sorry.
-OPPOSITES minor, slight, pleasant, wonderful

terribly ▶ **adverb** ① (informal) she's terribly upset VERY, extremely, really, terrifically, tremendously, immensely, thoroughly, dreadfully, exceptionally, remarkably, extraordinarily, exceedingly; *N English* right; *informal* awfully, devilishly, seriously, majorly; *Brit informal* jolly, ever so, dead, well; *N Amer informal* real, mighty, awful; *informal, dated* frightfully; *archaic* exceeding

② he played terribly VERY BADLY, atrociously, awfully, dreadfully, appallingly, execrably, informal abysmally, pitifully, diabolically. ③ (informal) I shall miss you terribly VERY MUCH, greatly, a great deal, a lot, informal loads

terrific ▶ adjective ① a terrific bang TREMENDOUS, huge, massive, gigantic, colossal, mighty, great, prodigious, formidable, sizeable, considerable, intense, extreme, extraordinary, informal mega, whopping great, humongous, *Brit informal* whacking great, ginormous ② (informal) a terrific game of top-quality football MARVELLOUS, wonderful, sensational, outstanding, superb, excellent, first-rate, first-class, dazzling, out of this world, breathtaking, informal great, fantastic, fabulous, fab, mega, super, ace, magic, cracking, cool, wicked, awesome, *Brit informal* brilliant, brill, smashing, *Austral/NZ informal* bonzer, *Brit informal* dazed spiffing ③ (archaic) terrific scenes of slaughter and destruction DREADFUL, terrible, appalling, awful, horrific, horrible, horrendous, horrifying, hideous, grim, ghastly, gruesome, frightful, fearful

terrified ▶ adjective PETRIFIED, frightened, scared, scared/frightened to death, scared stiff, scared/frightened out of one's wits, scared witless, horrified, with one's heart in one's mouth, shaking in one's shoes

terrify ▶ verb PETRIFY, horrify, frighten, scare, scare/frighten to death, scare/frighten the living daylights out of, scare/frighten someone out of their wits, scare witless, strike terror into, put the fear of God into; paralyse, transfix, informal scare the pants off, *Irish informal* scare the bejesus out of

territory ▶ noun ① British overseas territories AREA OF LAND, area, region, enclave, country, state, land, dependency, colony, dominion, protectorate, fief, possession, holding ② mountainous territory TERRAIN, land, ground, countryside ③ the territory of biblical scholarship DOMAIN, area of concern/interest/knowledge, province, department, field, preserve, sphere, arena, realm, world ④ Sheffield was his territory SPHERE OF OPERATIONS, area, section, informal turf, *Brit informal* patch, manor

terror ▶ noun ① she screamed in terror EXTREME FEAR, dread, horror, fear and trembling, fright, alarm, panic, shock ② the terrors of her own mind DEMON, fiend, devil, monster, horror, nightmare ③ (informal) he turned out to be a right little terror RASCAL, devil, imp, monkey, scallywag, mischief-maker, informal scamp, horror, *Brit informal* perisher, *N English informal* scally, *N Amer informal* varmint

terrorist ▶ noun bomber, arsonist, incendiary, gunman, assassin, hijacker, revolutionary, radical, guerrilla, urban guerrilla, anarchist, freedom fighter.

terrorize ▶ verb PERSECUTE, victimize, torment, tyrannize, intimidate, menace, threaten, bully, browbeat, scare, frighten, terrify, petrify, *Brit informal* put the frighteners on

terse ▶ adjective BRIEF, short, to the point, concise, succinct, crisp, pithy, incisive, short and sweet, laconic, elliptical, BRUSQUE, abrupt, curt, clipped, blunt, ungracious.
-OPPOSITES long-winded, polite

test ▶ noun ① a series of scientific tests: TRIAL, experiment, pilot study, try-out, check, examin-

ation, assessment, evaluation, appraisal, investigation, inspection, analysis, scrutiny, study, probe, exploration, screening; technical assay ② candidates may be required to take a test. EXAM, examination, *N Amer* quiz ③ the test of a good sparkling wine CRITERION, proof, indication, yardstick, touchstone, standard, measure, litmus test, acid test

▶ verb ① a small-scale prototype was tested TRY OUT, trial, put to the test, put through its paces, experiment with, pilot, check, examine, assess, evaluate, appraise, investigate, analyse, scrutinize, study, probe, explore, sample, screen; technical assay ② such behaviour would test any marriage PUT A STRAIN ON, strain, tax, try, make demands on, stretch, challenge

testament ▶ noun an achievement which is a testament to his professionalism and dedication TESTIMONY, witness, evidence, proof, attestation, demonstration, indication, exemplification, monument, tribute

testify ▶ verb ① you may be required to testify in court GIVE EVIDENCE, bear witness, be a witness, give one's testimony, attest, *Law* make a deposition ② he testified that he had been threatened by a fellow officer ATTEST, swear, state on oath, state, declare, assert, affirm, allege, submit, claim, *Law* depose ③ the exhibits testify to the talents of the local sculptors BE EVIDENCE/PROOF OF, attest to, confirm, prove, corroborate, substantiate, bear out, show, demonstrate, bear witness to, indicate, reveal, bespeak

testimonial ▶ noun REFERENCE, character reference, letter of recommendation, commendation

testimony ▶ noun ① Smith was in court to hear her testimony EVIDENCE, sworn statement, attestation, affidavit, statement, declaration, assertion, affirmation, allegation, submission, claim, *Law* deposition ② the work is a testimony to his professional commitment TESTAMENT, proof, evidence, attestation, witness, confirmation, corroboration, demonstration, indication

testing ▶ adjective DIFFICULT, challenging, tough, hard, demanding, taxing, stressful
-OPPOSITES easy

testy ▶ adjective. See TETCHY

tetchy ▶ adjective IRRITABLE, cantankerous, irascible, bad-tempered, grumpy, grouchy, crotchety, crabby, testy, crusty, curmudgeonly, ill-tempered, ill-humoured, peevish, cross, fractious, pettish, crabbed, prickly, waspish, informal snappish, snappy, chippy; *Brit informal* shirty, stroppy, narky, ratty, *N Amer informal* cranky, ornery
-OPPOSITES good-humoured

tête-à-tête ▶ noun CONVERSATION, chat, talk, heart-to-heart, one-on-one, one-to-one, informal confab, *Brit informal* natter, chinwag, formal confabulation

tether ▶ verb the horse had been tethered to a post TIE (UP), hitch, rope, chain; fasten, secure
-OPPOSITES unleash

▶ noun a dog on a tether ROPE, chain, cord, lead, leash; restraint; halter

■ at the end of one's tether AT ONE'S WITS' END, desperate, not knowing which way to turn, unable to cope; *N Amer* at the end of one's rope

text ► **noun** ① a text which explores pain and grief
BOOK, work, written/printed work ② the pictures are clear and relate well to the text WORDS, wording, content, body, main body ③ academic texts TEXTBOOK, book, set book ④ a text from the First Book of Samuel PASSAGE, extract, quotation, verse, line, reading ⑤ he took as his text the fact that Australia is a paradise THEME, subject, topic, motif, thesis, argument

textiles ► **plural noun** FABRICS, cloths, materials See list at FABRIC

texture ► **noun** FEEL, touch, appearance, finish, surface, grain, quality, consistency, weave, nap

thank ► **verb** EXPRESS (ONE'S) GRATITUDE TO, express one's thanks to, offer/extend thanks to, say thank you to, show one's appreciation to

thankful ► **adjective** GRATEFUL, filled with gratitude, relieved, pleased, glad

thankless ► **adjective** ① a thankless task UNENVIABLE, difficult, unpleasant, unrewarding, unappreciated, unrecognized, unacknowledged ② her thankless children UNGRATEFUL, unappreciative, unthankful
—OPPOSITES rewarding, grateful

thanks ► **plural noun** they expressed their thanks and wished her well GRATITUDE, appreciation, acknowledgement, recognition, credit

► **exclamation** thanks for being so helpful THANK YOU, many thanks, thanks very much, thanks a lot, thank you kindly, much obliged, much appreciated, bless you, informal cheers, thanks a million, Brt informal ta

■ **thanks to** AS A RESULT OF, owing to, due to, because of, through, as a consequence of, on account of, by virtue of, by dint of, formal by reason of

thaw ► **verb** MELT, unfreeze, soften, liquefy, dissolve; defrost, N Amer unthaw
—OPPOSITES freeze

theatre ► **noun** ① the local theatre PLAYHOUSE, auditorium, amphitheatre See list ② what made you want to go into the theatre? ACTING, performing, the stage, drama, the dramatic arts, dramaturgy, the thespian art, show business, informal the boards, show biz See list ③ the lecture theatre HALL, room, auditorium ④ the theatre of war SCENE, arena, field/sphere/place of action

theatrical ► **adjective** ① a theatrical career STAGE, dramatic, thespian, dramaturgical, show-business, informal showbiz, formal histrionic ② Henry looked over his shoulder with theatrical caution EXAGGERATED, ostentatious, actressy, stagy, showy, melodramatic, overacted, overdone, histrionic, affected, mannered, informal hammy, ham, camp

theft ► **noun** ROBBERY, stealing, thieving, larceny, thievery, shoplifting, burglary, misappropriation, embezzlement, raid, hold-up, informal smash and grab, N Amer informal heist, stick-up, formal peculation
—RELATED TERMS kleptomania.

theme ► **noun** ① the theme of her speech SUBJECT, topic, subject matter, matter, thesis, argument, text, burden, thrust, thread, motif, keynote ② the first violin takes up the theme MELODY, tune, air; motif, leitmotif.

then ► **adverb** ① I was living in Cairo then. AT THAT TIME, in those days; at that point (in time), at that moment, on that occasion ② she won the

Parts of a Theatre

acting area	footlights	proscenium
aisle	forestage	arch
apron (stage)	foyer	proscenium
auditorium	front of	stage
backstage	house	revolve
balcony	gallery	revolving
the boards	the gods	stage
box	green room	safety
box office	gridiron	curtain
bridge	house lights	scene dock
catwalk	iron	set
circle	lighting	skene
coulisse	gallery	stage
curtain	loge	stage door
cut drop	mezzanine	stalls
cyclorama	orchestra pit	tableau
dais	orchestra	curtains
dress circle	stalls	tabs
dressing	parquet	thrust stage
room	parterre	trap
drop curtain	pass door	upper circle
fire curtain	picture-frame	upstage
the flies	stage	velarium
floats	pit	vomitorium
fly gallery	prompt box	vomitory
fly tower	proscenium	wings

Theatrical Movements

See also PLAY.

Chicana	Sturm und Drang
documentary drama	Symbolism
epic theatre	Theatre of Cruelty
expressionism	Theatre of Fact
Little Theatre	Theatre of Silence
naturalism	Theatre of the Absurd
physical theatre	total theatre
realism	Verfremdung
ritual drama	(alienation)
Shingeki	Verismo

first and then the second game NEXT, after that, afterwards, subsequently ③ and then there's an other problem IN ADDITION, also, besides, as well, additionally, on top of that, over and above that, moreover, furthermore, what's more, to boot, too ④ well, if that's what he wants, then he should leave IN THAT CASE, that being so, it follows that

theological ► **adjective** RELIGIOUS, scriptural, ecclesiastical, doctrinal, divine, holy

theoretical ► **adjective** HYPOTHETICAL, conjectural, academic, suppositional, speculative, notional, postulatory, assumed, presumed, untested, unproven, unsubstantiated.
—OPPOSITES actual, real

theorize ► **verb** SPECULATE, conjecture, hypothesize, postulate, propose, posit, suppose

theory ► **noun** ① I reckon that confirms my theory HYPOTHESIS, thesis, conjecture, supposition, speculation, postulation, postulate, proposition, premise, surmise, assumption, presupposition; opinion, view, belief, contention. ② modern economic theory: PRINCIPLES, ideas, concepts, philosophy, ideology, system of ideas, science.

■ **in theory** IN PRINCIPLE, on paper, in the abstract, all things being equal, in an ideal world, hypothetically

therapeutic ► **adjective** HEALING, curative, remedial, medicinal, restorative, health-giving, tonic, reparative, corrective, beneficial, good, salutary, *archaic* sanative
—**OPPOSITES** harmful

therapist ► **noun** PSYCHOLOGIST, psychotherapist, analyst, psychoanalyst, psychiatrist, *informal* shrink, *Brit* humorous trick cyclist

therapy ► **noun** ① a wide range of complementary therapies TREATMENT, remedy, cure See list ② he's currently in therapy PSYCHOTHERAPY, psychoanalysis, analysis

thereabouts ► **adverb** ① the land thereabouts NEAR THERE, around there ② they sold it for five million or thereabouts APPROXIMATELY, or so, give or take a bit, plus or minus a bit, in round numbers, not far off, *Brit* getting on for, *N Amer* informal in the ballpark of

thereafter ► **adverb** AFTER THAT, following that, afterwards, subsequently, then, next

therefore ► **adverb** CONSEQUENTLY, so, as a result, hence, thus, accordingly, for that reason, ergo, that being the case, on that account, *formal* whence, *archaic* wherefore

thesis ► **noun** ① the central thesis of his lecture THEORY, contention, argument, line of argument, proposal, proposition, premise, assumption, hypothesis, postulation, surmise, supposition ② a doctoral thesis DISSERTATION, essay, paper, treatise, disquisition, composition, monograph, study, *N Amer* theme

thick ► **adjective** ① the walls are five feet thick IN EXTENT/DIAMETER, across, wide, broad, deep ② his short, thick legs STOCKY, sturdy, chunky, hefty, thickset, beefy, meaty, big, solid, fat, stout, plump ③ a thick Aran sweater CHUNKY, bulky, heavy, cable-knit, woollen, woolly ④ the station was thick with people CROWDED, full, filled, packed, teeming, seething, swarming, crawling, crammed, thronged, bursting at the seams, solid, overflowing, choked, jammed, congested, *informal* jam-packed, chock-a-block, stuffed, *Austral/NZ* *informal* chocker ⑤ the thick summer vegetation PLENTIFUL, abundant, profuse, luxuriant, bushy, rich, riotous, exuberant; rank, rampant, dense, close-packed, impenetrable, impassable, serried, *informal* jungly ⑥ a thick paste SEMI-SOLID, firm, stiff, stiffened, heavy, clotted, coagulated, viscid, viscous, gelatinous, concentrated ⑦ thick fog DENSE, heavy, opaque, impenetrable, soupy, murky ⑧ (*informal*) he's a bit thick See STUPID sense 1 ⑨ Guy's voice was thick with desire: HUSKY, hoarse, throaty, guttural, gravelly, rough. ⑩ a thick Scottish accent: OBVIOUS, pronounced, marked, broad, strong, rich, decided, distinct ⑪ she's very thick with him FRIENDLY, intimate, familiar, on the best of terms, hand in glove, close to, devoted to, inseparable from, *informal* pally, chummy, matey, buddy-buddy, as thick as thieves, well in —**OPPOSITES** thin, slender, sparse

► **noun** in the thick of the crisis. MIDST, centre, hub, middle, core, heart

■ a bit thick (*Brit* *informal*) UNREASONABLE, unfair, unjust, unjustified, uncalled for, unwarranted, unnecessary, excessive; *informal* below the belt, a bit much; *Brit* *informal* out of order.

Physical and Psychological Therapies

See also MEDICINE.

acupressure
acupuncture
Alexander technique
allopathy
aromatherapy
art therapy
autogenic training
aversion therapy
Ayurveda
balneotherapy
Bates method
behaviour therapy
behavioural therapy
bibliotherapy
bioenergetics
biofeedback
bodywork
bush medicine
chemotherapy
chiropractic
co-counselling
cognitive therapy
cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT)
colour therapy
combination therapy
confrontation therapy
counter-conditioning
craniosacral therapy
cryotherapy
crystal healing/therapy
detoxification
drama therapy
electro-acupuncture
electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)
electroplexy
electroshock therapy
electrotherapy
eurhythmics
family therapy
faith healing
gene therapy
Gerson therapy
gestalt therapy
group therapy
heat treatment
heliotherapy
herbalism
homoeopathy
hormone replacement therapy (HRT)
humanistic therapy
hydropathy
hydrotherapy
hypnotherapy
immunotherapy
insulin shock therapy
irradiation
McTimoney
chiropractic
mechanotherapy
megavitamin therapy
metrazol shock therapy
moxibustion
music therapy
narcotherapy
nature cure
naturopathy
neurolinguistic programming
occupational therapy (OT)
organotherapy
osteopathy
pharmacotherapy
phototherapy
physical therapy
physiotherapy
play therapy
polarity therapy
primal therapy
psychoanalysis
psychotherapy
radiation therapy
radionics
radiotherapy
rational-emotive therapy
rebirthing
recreational therapy
reflexology
regression therapy
reiki
relaxation therapy
release therapy
Rogerian therapy
Rolfing
sex therapy
shiatsu
shock therapy
shock treatment
sleep therapy
sound therapy
speech therapy
spiritual healing
supportive therapy
thalassotherapy
zone therapy

thicken ► **verb** BECOME THICK/THICKER, stiffen, condense, solidify, set, gel, congeal, clot, coagulate, cake, inspissate.

thicket ► **noun** COPSE, coppice, grove, brake, covert, clump, wood, *Brit* spinney, *archaic* hurst

thickhead ► **noun** (*informal*). See FOOL noun sense 1.

thickness ► **noun** ① the gateway is several feet in thickness WIDTH, breadth, depth, diameter.



② several thicknesses of limestone LAYER, stratum, stratification, seam, vein; sheet, lamina

thickset ▶ **adjective** STOCKY, sturdy, heavily built, well built, chunky, burly, strapping, brawny, solid, heavy, hefty, beefy, meaty, *Physiology* pyknic
—OPPOSITES slight

thick-skinned ▶ **adjective** INSENSITIVE, unfeeling, tough, impervious, hardened, case-hardened, *informal* hard-boiled
—OPPOSITES sensitive

thief ▶ **noun** ROBBER, burglar, housebreaker, cat burglar, shoplifter, pickpocket, sneak thief, mugger, embezzler, swindler, criminal, villain, kleptomaniac, bandit, pirate, highwayman, *informal* crook, cracksman, *Brit* rhyming slang tea leaf; *poetic/literary* brigand

thieve ▶ **verb** STEAL, take, purloin, help oneself to, snatch, pilfer, embezzle, misappropriate, have one's fingers/hand in the till, *informal* rob, swipe, nab, rip off, lift, 'liberate', 'borrow', filch, snaffle, *Brit* *informal* nick, pinch, half-inch, whip, knock off, nubble, *N Amer* *informal* heist, *formal* peculate.

thievery ▶ **noun**. See THIEVING

thieving ▶ **noun** THEFT, stealing, thievery, robbery, larceny, pilfering, burglary, shoplifting, embezzlement, *formal* peculation

thin ▶ **adjective** ① a thin white line NARROW, fine, attenuated ② a thin cotton nightdress LIGHT WEIGHT, light, fine, delicate, floaty, flimsy, diaphanous, gossamer, insubstantial, sheer, gauzy, filmy, chiffony, transparent, see-through ③ a tall, thin woman SLIM, lean, slender, rangy, willowy, svelte, sylphlike, spare, slight, SKINNY, underweight, scrawny, scraggy, bony, angular, raw-boned, hollow-cheeked, gaunt, as thin as a rake/reed, stick-like, skin and bone, emaciated, skeletal, wasted, pinched, undernourished, underfed, lanky, spindly, gangly, gangling, weedy, *informal* anorexic, like a bag of bones; *dated* spindle-shanked, *archaic* starveling ④ his thin grey hair SPARSE, scanty, wispy, thinning ⑤ a bowl of thin soup WATERY, weak, dilute, diluted, runny, sloppy. ⑥ her thin voice WEAK, faint, feeble, small, soft; reedy, high-pitched. ⑦ the plot is very thin INSUBSTANTIAL, flimsy, slight, feeble, lame, poor, weak, tenuous, inadequate, insufficient, unconvincing, unbelievable, implausible
—OPPOSITES thick, broad, fat, abundant

▶ **verb** ① some paint must be thinned down before use DILUTE, water down, weaken ② the crowds were beginning to thin out. DISPERSE, dissipate, scatter, become less dense/numerous, decrease, diminish, dwindle.

thing ▶ **noun** ① the room was full of strange things OBJECT, article, item, artefact, commodity, device, gadget, instrument, utensil, tool, implement; entity, body, *informal* doodah, whatsit, whatchamacallit, thingummy, thingy, thingamabob, thingamajig; *Brit* *informal* gubbins; *N Amer* *informal* doodad, dingus ② I'll come back tomorrow to collect my things: BELONGINGS, possessions, stuff, property, worldly goods, (personal) effects, paraphernalia, bits and pieces, bits and bobs, luggage, baggage, bags, Law goods and chattels, *informal* gear, junk; *Brit* *informal* clobber. ③ his gardening things: EQUIPMENT, apparatus, gear, kit, tackle, stuff; implements, tools, uten-

sils; accoutrements ④ I've got several things to do today ACTIVITY, act, action, deed, undertaking, exploit, feat, task, job, chore ⑤ I've got other things on my mind just now THOUGHT, notion, idea, concern, matter, worry, preoccupation ⑥ I keep remembering things he said. REMARK, statement, comment, utterance, observation, declaration, pronouncement ⑦ quite a few odd things happened. INCIDENT, episode, event, happening, occurrence, phenomenon ⑧ how are things with you? MATTERS, affairs, circumstances, conditions, relations, state of affairs, situation, life ⑨ one of the things I like about you is your optimism. CHARACTERISTIC, quality, attribute, property, trait, feature, point, aspect, facet ⑩ there's another thing you should know FACT, piece of information, point, detail, particular, factor ⑪ the thing is, I'm not sure if it's what I want FACT OF THE MATTER, fact, point, issue, problem ⑫ you lucky thing! PERSON, soul, creature, wretch, *informal* devil, beggar, bastard ⑬ Dora developed a thing about noise PHOBIA, fear, dislike, aversion, obsession, fixation, complex, neurosis, *informal* hang-up, bee in one's bonnet ⑭ she had a thing about men who wore glasses PENCHANT, preference, taste, inclination, partiality, predilection, soft spot, weakness, fancy, fondness, liking, love, fetish, obsession, fixation ⑮ books aren't really my thing WHAT ONE LIKES, what interests one, *informal* one's cup of tea, one's bag, what turns one on ⑯ it's the latest thing FASHIONABLE, in fashion, popular, all the rage, *informal* trendy, cool, big, hip, happening

think ▶ **verb** ① I think he's gone home BELIEVE, be of the opinion, be of the view, be under the impression, expect, imagine, anticipate, surmise, suppose, conjecture, guess, fancy, conclude, determine, reason, *informal* reckon, figure, *formal* opine, *archaic* ween. ② his family was thought to be enormously rich DEEM, judge, hold, reckon, consider, presume, estimate, regard as, view as. ③ Jack thought for a moment PONDER, reflect, deliberate, consider, meditate, contemplate, muse, ruminate, be lost in thought, be in a brown study, brood, concentrate, rack one's brains, *informal* put on one's thinking cap, sleep on it, *formal* cogitate ④ she thought of all the visits she had made to her father: RECALL, remember, recollect, call to mind, think back to ⑤ she forced herself to think of how he must be feeling IMAGINE, picture, visualize, envisage, dream about, fantasize about

■ **think better of** HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT, think twice about, think again about, change one's mind about; reconsider, decide against; *informal* get cold feet about.

■ **think something over** CONSIDER, contemplate, deliberate about, weigh up, consider the pros and cons of, mull over, ponder, reflect on, muse on, ruminate on.

■ **think something up** DEVISE, dream up, come up with, invent, create, concoct, make up; hit on

thinker ▶ **noun** THEORIST, ideologist, philosopher, scholar, savant, sage, intellectual, intellect, mind; *informal* brain.

thinking ▶ **adjective** he seemed a thinking man: INTELLIGENT, sensible, reasonable, rational; logical, analytical; thoughtful, reflective, meditative, contemplative, pensive, philosophical.

—OPPOSITES stupid, irrational.

► **noun** the thinking behind the campaign. REASONING, idea(s), theory, thoughts, line of thought, philosophy, beliefs, opinion(s), view(s), position, judgement, assessment, evaluation.

thin-skinned ► **adjective** SENSITIVE, oversensitive, hypersensitive, easily upset/offended/hurt, touchy, defensive

—OPPOSITES insensitive

third-rate ► **adjective** SUBSTANDARD, bad, inferior, poor, poor-quality, low-grade, inadequate, unsatisfactory, unacceptable, appalling, abysmal, atrocious, awful, terrible, dreadful, execrable, frightful, miserable, wretched, pitiful, jerry-built, shoddy, tinny, trashy, *N Amer* cheapjack, *informal* lousy, diabolical, rotten, dire, bum, crummy, rubbishy, *Brit informal* ropy, duff
—OPPOSITES excellent

thirst ► **noun** ① I need a drink—I'm dying of thirst THIRSTINESS, dryness, dehydration, *Medicine* polydipsia, *archaic* drought ② his thirst for knowledge CRAVING, desire, longing, yearning, hunger, hankering, keenness, eagerness, lust, appetite, *informal* yen, itch, *archaic* appetency

► **verb** she thirsted for power CRAVE, want, covet, desire, hunger for, lust after, hanker after, have one's heart set on, wish, long

thirsty ► **adjective** ① the boys were hot and thirsty LONGING FOR A DRINK, dry, dehydrated, *informal* parched, gasping, *Brit informal* spitting feathers, *Austral/NZ informal* spitting chips ② the thirsty soil DRY, arid, dried up/out, as dry as a bone, parched, baked, desiccated ③ she was thirsty for power EAGER, hungry, greedy, thirsting, craving, longing, yearning, lusting, burning, desirous, hankering, *informal* itching, dying

thorn ► **noun** PRICKLE, spike, barb, spine

thorny ► **adjective** ① dense thorny undergrowth PRICKLY, spiky, barbed, spiny, sharp, *technical* spinose, spinous ② the thorny subject of confidentiality PROBLEMATIC, tricky, ticklish, delicate, controversial, awkward, difficult, knotty, tough, taxing, trying, troublesome, complicated, complex, involved, intricate, vexed, *informal* sticky

thorough ► **adjective** ① a thorough investigation RIGOROUS, in-depth, exhaustive, thoroughgoing, minute, detailed, close, meticulous, methodical, careful, complete, comprehensive, full, extensive, widespread, sweeping, all-embracing, all-inclusive ② he is slow but thorough METICULOUS, scrupulous, assiduous, conscientious, painstaking, punctilious, methodical, careful, diligent, industrious, hard-working. ③ the child is being a thorough nuisance. UTTER, downright, thoroughgoing, absolute, complete, total, out-and-out, arrant, real, perfect, proper, sheer, unqualified, unmitigated; *Brit informal* right, *Austral/NZ informal* fair.

—OPPOSITES superficial, cursory, careless.

thoroughbred ► **adjective** PURE-BRED, pedigree, pure, pure-blooded.

thoroughfare ► **noun** ① the park is being used as a thoroughfare. THROUGH ROUTE, access route, *Brit informal* rat run. ② the teeming thoroughfares of central London. STREET, road, roadway, avenue, boulevard, main road, high road, A road, B road; *N Amer* highway, freeway, thoroughway

thoroughly ► **adverb** ① we will investigate all complaints thoroughly. RIGOROUSLY, in depth, ex-

haustively, from top to bottom, minutely, closely, in detail, meticulously, scrupulously, assiduously, conscientiously, painstakingly, methodically, carefully, comprehensively, fully ② she is thoroughly spoilt UTTERLY, downright, absolutely, completely, totally, entirely, really, perfectly, positively, in every respect, through and through, *informal* plain, clean

though ► **conjunction** though she smiled bravely, she looked pale and tired ALTHOUGH, even though/if, in spite of the fact that, despite the fact that, notwithstanding (the fact) that, for all that

► **adverb** You can't always do that You can try, though NEVERTHELESS, nonetheless, even so, however, be that as it may, for all that, despite that, having said that, *informal* still and all

thought ► **noun** ① what are your thoughts on the matter? IDEA, notion, opinion, view, impression, feeling, theory, judgement, assessment, conclusion ② he gave up any thought of taking a degree HOPE, aspiration, ambition, dream; intention, idea, plan, design, aim ③ it only took a moment's thought THINKING, contemplation, musing, pondering, consideration, reflection, introspection, deliberation, rumination, meditation, brooding, reverie, brown study, concentration, *formal* cogitation ④ have you no thought for others? COMPASSION, sympathy, care, concern, regard, solicitude, empathy, consideration, understanding, sensitivity, thoughtfulness, charity

thoughtful ► **adjective** ① a thoughtful expression PENSIVE, reflective, contemplative, musing, meditative, introspective, philosophical, ruminative, absorbed, engrossed, rapt, preoccupied, deep/lost in thought, in a brown study, brooding, *formal* cogitative ② how very thoughtful of you! CONSIDERATE, caring, attentive, understanding, sympathetic, solicitous, concerned, helpful, friendly, obliging, accommodating, neighbourly, unselfish, kind, compassionate, charitable

—OPPOSITES vacant, inconsiderate

thoughtless ► **adjective** ① I'm so sorry—how thoughtless of me INCONSIDERATE, uncaring, insensitive, uncharitable, unkind, tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet, careless ② a few minutes of thoughtless pleasure UNTHINKING, heedless, careless, unmindful, absent-minded, injudicious, ill-advised, ill-considered, imprudent, unwise, foolish, silly, stupid, reckless, rash, precipitate, negligent, neglectful, remiss

—OPPOSITES considerate, careful

thousand ► **cardinal number** *informal* K, thou

—RELATED TERMS millenary, kilo-, milli-

thrall ► **noun** POWER, clutches, hands, control, grip, yoke, enslavement, subjection, subjugation, tyranny

thrash ► **verb** ① she thrashed him across the head and shoulders HIT, beat, strike, batter, thump, hammer, pound, rain blows on, assault, attack, cudgel, club, burch, *informal* wallop, belt, bash, whack, thwack, clout, clobber, slug, tan, biff, bop, sock, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a good hiding. ② (*informal*) Newcastle were thrashed 8-1. See TROUNCE ③ he was thrashing around in pain FLAIL, writhe, thresh, jerk, toss, twist, twitch.

■ **thrash something out** ① it's better if we can thrash out our difficulties first. RESOLVE, settle, sort out, straighten out, iron out, clear up; talk

through, discuss, debate, air, ventilate ② *they tried to thrash out an agreement* WORK OUT, negotiate, agree on, bring about, hammer out, produce, effect

thread ▶ **noun** ① *a needle and thread* COTTON, yarn, filament, fibre ② (*poetic/literary*) *the Thames was a thread of silver below them* STREAK, strand, stripe, line, strip, seam, vein ③ *she lost the thread of the conversation* TRAIN OF THOUGHT, drift, direction, theme, motif, tenor, storyline, plot

▶ **verb** ① *he threaded the rope through a pulley* PASS, string, work, ease, push, poke ② *she threaded her way through the tables* WEAVE ONE'S WAY, inch one's way, wind one's way, squeeze one's way, make one's way

threadbare ▶ **adjective** WORN, well worn, old, thin, worn out, holey, moth-eaten, mangy, ragged, frayed, tattered, battered, decrepit, shabby, scruffy, unkempt, having seen better days, falling apart at the seams, falling to pieces, informal tatty, ratty, the worse for wear, *N Amer informal* raggedy

threat ▶ **noun** ① *Maggie ignored his threats* THREATENING REMARK, warning, ultimatum ② *a possible threat to aircraft* DANGER, peril, hazard, menace, risk ③ *the company faces the threat of liquidation proceedings* POSSIBILITY, chance, probability, likelihood, risk

threaten ▶ **verb** ① *how dare you threaten me?* MENACE, intimidate, browbeat, bully, terrorize, make/issue threats to ② *these events could threaten the stability of Europe* ENDANGER, be a danger/threat to, jeopardize, imperil, put at risk, put in jeopardy ③ *the grey skies threatened snow* HERALD, bode, warn of, presage, augur, portend, foreshadow, be a harbinger of, indicate, point to, be a sign of, signal, spell, *poetic/literary* foretoken ④ *as rain threatened, the party moved indoors* SEEM LIKELY, seem imminent, be on the horizon, be brewing, be gathering, be looming, be on the way, be impending, hang over someone

threatening ▶ **adjective** ① *a threatening letter* MENACING, intimidating, bullying, frightening, hostile, *formal* minatory ② *banks of threatening clouds* OMINOUS, sinister, menacing, dark, black, thunderous

three ▶ **cardinal number** TRIO, threesome, triple, triad, trinity, troika, triumvirate, trilogy, triptych, trefoil, three-piece, triplets
-RELATED TERMS triple, treble, ter-, tri-

threesome ▶ **noun** TRIO, triumvirate, triad, trinity, troika, triplets

threnody ▶ **noun** LAMENT, dirge, requiem, elegy, monody, *Insh* keen, *Insh & Scottish* coronnach.

threshold ▶ **noun** ① *the threshold of the church* DOORSTEP, doorway, entrance, entry, door, gate, gateway, portal ② *the threshold of a new era* START, beginning, commencement, brink, verge, dawn, inception, day one, opening, debut, *informal* kick-off. ③ *the human threshold of pain*: LOWER LIMIT, minimum, *Psychology* limen.
-RELATED TERMS liminal.

thrift ▶ **noun** FRUGALITY, economy, economizing, thriftiness, providence, prudence, good management/husbandry, saving, scrimping and saving, abstemiousness, parsimony, penny-pinching
-OPPOSITES extravagance.

thrifless ▶ **adjective** EXTRAVAGANT, profligate, spendthrift, wasteful, improvident, imprudent, free-spending, prodigal, lavish, immoderate, excessive, reckless, irresponsible.

thrifty ▶ **adjective** FRUGAL, economical, sparing, careful with money, provident, prudent, abstemious, parsimonious, penny-pinching, *N Amer* forehanded

-OPPOSITES extravagant

thrill ▶ **noun** ① *the thrill of jumping out of an aeroplane* (FEELING OF) EXCITEMENT, stimulation, pleasure, tingle, fun, enjoyment, amusement, delight, joy; *informal* buzz, kick, *N Amer informal* charge ② *a thrill of excitement ran through her* WAVE, rush, surge, flash, blaze, stab, dart, throb, tremor, quiver, flutter, shudder

▶ **verb** ① *his words thrilled her* EXCITE, stimulate, arouse, rouse, inspire, delight, exhilarate, intoxicate, stir, electrify, galvanize, move, fire (with enthusiasm), fire someone's imagination, *informal* give someone a buzz, give someone a kick, *N Amer informal* give someone a charge ② *he thrilled at the sound of her voice* BE/FEEL EXCITED, tingle, *informal* get a buzz out of, get a kick out of, *N Amer informal* get a charge out of ③ *shivers of anticipation thrilled through her* RUSH, race, surge, course, flood, flow, wash, sweep, flash, blaze
-OPPOSITES bore

thrilling ▶ **adjective** EXCITING, stirring, action-packed, rip-roaring, gripping, riveting, fascinating, dramatic, hair-raising, rousing, stimulating, moving, inspiring, inspirational, electrifying, heady, soul-stirring
-OPPOSITES boring

thrive ▶ **verb** FLOURISH, prosper, burgeon, bloom, blossom, do well, advance, make strides, succeed, boom
-OPPOSITES decline, wither

thriving ▶ **adjective** FLOURISHING, prosperous, prospering, growing, developing, burgeoning, blooming, healthy, successful, booming, profitable, expanding, *informal* going strong
-OPPOSITES moribund

throat ▶ **noun** GULLET, oesophagus, windpipe, trachea, maw, *informal, dated* the red lane, *archaic* throttle, gorge
-RELATED TERMS guttural, jugular

throaty ▶ **adjective** GRAVELLY, husky, rough, guttural, deep, thick, gruff, growly, growling, hoarse, croaky, croaking, rasping, raspy
-OPPOSITES high-pitched.

throb ▶ **verb** *her arms and legs throbbed with tiredness*: PULSATE, beat, pulse, palpitate, pound, thud, thump, drum, thrum, vibrate, pitter-patter, go pit-a-pat, quiver

▶ **noun** *the throb of the ship's engines* PULSATION, beat, beating, pulse, palpitation, pounding, thudding, thumping, drumming, thrumming, pit-a-pat, pitter-patter.

throes ▶ **plural noun** *the throes of childbirth* AGONY, pain, pangs, suffering, torture; *poetic/literary* travail.

■ **in the throes of** IN THE MIDDLE OF, in the process of, in the midst of, busy with, occupied with, taken up with/by, involved in; struggling with, wrestling with, grappling with.

thrombosis ▶ **noun** BLOOD CLOT, embolism, embolus, thrombus, infarction.

throne ▶ **noun** ① a golden throne seat of state, royal seat ② the tsar risked losing his throne SOVEREIGN POWER, sovereignty, rule, dominion

throng ▶ **noun** throngs of people blocked her way CROWD, horde, mass, multitude, host, army, herd, flock, drove, swarm, sea, troupe, pack, press, crush, collection, company, gathering, assembly, assemblage, congregation, informal gaggle, bunch, gang, archaic rout

▶ **verb** ① the pavements were thronged with tourists FILL, crowd, pack, cram, jam ② people thronged to see the play FLOCK, stream, swarm, troop ③ visitors thronged round him CROWD, cluster, mill, swarm, congregate, gather.

throttle ▶ **verb** ① he tried to throttle her CHOKE, strangle, strangulate, garrotte ② attempts to throttle the criminal supply of drugs SUPPRESS, inhibit, stifle, control, restrain, check, contain, put a/the lid on, stop, put an end to, end, stamp out

through ▶ **preposition** ① we drove through the tunnel INTO AND OUT OF, to the other/far side of, from one side to the other of ② he got the job through an advertisement BY MEANS OF, by way of, by dint of, via, using, thanks to, by virtue of, as a result of, as a consequence of, on account of, owing to, because of ③ he worked through the night THROUGHOUT, all through, for the duration of, until/to the end of

▶ **adverb** ① as soon as we opened the gate they came streaming through FROM ONE SIDE TO THE OTHER, from one end to another, in and out the other side ② I woke up, but Anthony slept through THE WHOLE TIME, all the time, from start to finish, without a break, without an interruption, non-stop, continuously, throughout

▶ **adjective** a through train DIRECT, non-stop
■ **through and through** IN EVERY RESPECT, to the core, thoroughly, utterly, absolutely, completely, totally, wholly, fully, entirely, unconditionally, unreservedly, altogether, out-and-out

throughout ▶ **preposition** ① it had repercussions throughout Europe ALL OVER, in every part of, everywhere in, all through, right through, all round ② Rose had generally been very fit throughout her life ALL THROUGH, all, for the duration of, for the whole of, until the end of

throw ▶ **verb** ① she threw the ball back HURL, toss, fling, pitch, cast, lob, launch, catapult, project, propel, bowl, informal chuck, heave, sling, bung, N Amer informal peg, Austral informal hoy; NZ informal bish, dated shy ② he threw the door open PUSH, thrust, fling, bang, force ③ a chandelier threw its light over the walls CAST, send, give off, emit, radiate, project ④ he threw another punch. DELIVER, give, land ⑤ she threw a withering glance at him DIRECT, cast, send, dart, shoot. ⑥ the horse threw his rider UNSEAT, dislodge ⑦ his question threw me DISCONCERT, unnerve, fluster, ruffle, agitate, discomfit, put off, throw off balance, discountenance, unsettle, confuse; informal rattle, faze, N Amer informal discombobulate ⑧ the pots were thrown on a wheel SHAPE, form, mould, fashion. ⑨ he threw a farewell party for them GIVE, host, hold, have, provide, put on, lay on, arrange, organize.

▶ **noun** ① we were allowed two throws each. LOB, pitch; go; bowl, ball. ② (informal) drinks are only £1 a throw: EACH, apiece, per item.

■ **throw something away** ① she hated throwing old clothes away DISCARD, throw out, dispose of,

get rid of, do away with, toss out, scrap, throw on the scrap heap, clear out, dump, jettison, informal chuck (away/out), ditch, bin, junk, get shut of; Bnt informal get shot of ② Cambridge threw away a 15-0 lead SQUANDER, waste, fritter away, fail to exploit, lose, let slip, informal blow, throw something down the drain

■ **throw someone off** SHAKE OFF, get away from, escape, elude, give someone the slip, throw off the scent, dodge, lose

■ **throw someone out** EXPEL, eject, evict, drive out, force out, oust, remove, get rid of, depose, topple, unseat, overthrow, bring down, overturn, dislodge, displace, supplant, show someone the door, banish, deport, exile, informal boot out, kick out, give someone the boot, Bnt informal turf out

■ **throw something out** ① throw out food that's past its sell-by date See THROW SOMETHING AWAY sense 1 ② his case was thrown out by the magistrate REJECT, dismiss, turn down, refuse, disallow, veto, informal give the thumbs down to ③ a thermal light bulb throws out a lot of heat RADIATE, emit, give off, send out, diffuse

■ **throw someone over** ABANDON, leave, desert, discard, turn one's back on, cast aside/off, jilt, break up with, finish with, leave in the lurch, leave high and dry, informal dump, ditch, chuck, drop, walk out on, run out on, leave flat, give someone the push/elbow, give someone the big E, poetic/literary forsake

■ **throw up** (informal) See VOMIT verb sense 1

■ **throw something up** GIVE UP, abandon, relinquish, resign (from), leave, informal quit, chuck, pack in, Bnt informal jack in:

throwaway ▶ **adjective** ① throwaway packaging DISPOSABLE, non-returnable, biodegradable, photodegradable ② throwaway remarks CASUAL, passing, careless, unthinking, unstudied, unconsidered, offhand

thrust ▶ **verb** ① she thrust her hands into her pockets SHOVE, push, force, plunge, stick, drive, propel, ram, poke ② fame had been thrust on him FORCE, foist, impose, inflict ③ he thrust his way past her PUSH, shove, force, elbow, shoulder, barge

▶ **noun** ① a hard thrust SHOVE, push, lunge, poke ② a thrust by the Third Army ADVANCE, push, drive, attack, assault, onslaught, offensive, charge, sortie, foray, raid, sally, invasion, incursion ③ only one engine is producing thrust FORCE, propulsive force, propulsion, power, impetus, momentum ④ the thrust of the speech GIST, substance, drift, burden, meaning, significance, signification, sense, theme, message, import, tenor

thrusting ▶ **adjective** AMBITIOUS, pushy, forceful, aggressive, assertive, self-assertive, full of oneself, determined, power-hungry
-OPPOSITES meek

thud ▶ **noun & verb** THUMP, clunk, clonk, crash, smack, bang, stomp, stamp, clump, clomp, informal wham

thug ▶ **noun** RUFFIAN, lout, hooligan, bully boy, vandal, hoodlum, gangster, villain, criminal, informal tough, bruiser, heavy, hired gun; Bnt informal rough, bovver boy; N Amer informal hood, goon.

thumb ▶ **noun** technical pollex, opposable digit

▶ **verb** ① he thumbed through his notebook: LEAF, flick, flip, riffle, skim, browse, look ② his dic-



tionaries were thumbed and ink-stained SOIL, mark, make dog-eared ② he was thumbing his way across France HITCH-HIKE, informal hitch, hitch/ thumb a lift

■ **all thumbs** (Brit informal) CLUMSY, awkward, maladroit, inept, unskilful, heavy-handed, inept, informal butterfingered, cack-handed, ham-fisted, having two left feet, Brit informal all fingers and thumbs, N Amer informal klutzy

■ **thumbs down** (informal) REJECTION, refusal, veto, no, negation, rebuff, informal red light, knock-back.

■ **thumbs up** (informal) APPROVAL, seal of approval, endorsement, permission, authorization, consent, yes, leave, authority, sanction, ratification, licence, dispensation, nod, assent, blessing, rubber stamp, clearance, informal go-ahead, OK, green light, say-so.

thumbnail ► **adjective** CONCISE, short, brief, succinct, to the point, compact, crisp, short and sweet, quick, rapid, potted

thump ► **verb** ① the two men kicked and thumped him HIT, strike, smack, cuff, punch, beat, thrash, batter, belabour, pound, pummel, box someone's ears, informal whack, wallop, bash, biff, bop, lam, clout, clobber, sock, swipe, crown, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, tan, lay into, let someone have it, Brit informal stick one on, slosh, N Amer informal slug, boff, poetic/literary smite ② her heart thumped with fright THROB, pound, thud, hammer, pulsate, pulse, pump, palpitate, race, beat heavily

► **noun** ① a well-aimed thump on the jaw BLOW, punch, box, cuff, smack, thrashing, hiding, informal whack, thwack, wallop, bash, belt, biff, clout, swipe, Brit informal slosh, N Amer informal boff, slug ② she put the box down with a thump THUD, clunk, clonk, crash, smack, bang

thumping ► **adjective** ① the thumping beat of her heart THUDDING, pounding, throbbing, pulsating, banging, hammering, drumming ② (informal) a thumping 64 per cent majority | a thumping victory ENORMOUS, huge, massive, vast, tremendous, substantial, prodigious, gigantic, giant, terrific, fantastic, colossal, immense, mammoth, monumental, stupendous; emphatic, decisive, conclusive, striking, impressive, outstanding, notable, memorable, remarkable, extraordinary, resounding, phenomenal, informal whoopping, thundering; Brit informal whacking

► **adverb** (informal) a thumping good read See VERY adverb

thunder ► **noun** ① thunder and lightning THUNDERCLAP, roll/rumble of thunder, crack/crash of thunder, poetic/literary thunderbolt ② the ceaseless thunder of the traffic RUMBLE, rumbling, boom, booming, roar, roaring, pounding, thud, thudding, crash, crashing, reverberation

► **verb** ① below me the surf thrashed and thundered RUMBLE, boom, roar, pound, thud, thump, bang, resound, reverberate, beat ② he thundered against the evils of the age RAIL, fulminate, inveigh, rage, condemn, denounce. ③ 'Answer me!' he thundered ROAR, bellow, bark, yell, shout, bawl, informal holler

thundering ► **adjective** a thundering noise See THUNDEROUS.

► **adverb** a thundering good read. See VERY adverb.

thunderous ► **adjective** VERY LOUD, tumultuous, booming, roaring, resounding, reverberat-

ing, reverberant, ringing, deafening, ear-splitting, noisy

thunderstruck ► **adjective** ASTONISHED, amazed, astounded, staggered, surprised, startled, stunned, shocked, aghast, taken aback, dumbfounded, dumbstruck, stupefied, dazed, speechless, informal flabbergasted; Brit informal gobsmacked, knocked for six

thus ► **adverb** ① the studio handled production, thus cutting its costs CONSEQUENTLY, as a consequence, in consequence, so, that being so, therefore, ergo, accordingly, hence, as a result, for that reason, because of that, on that account ② legislation forbids such data being held thus LIKE THAT, in that way, so, like so.

■ **thus far** SO FAR, (up) until now, up to now, up to this point, hitherto

thwack ► **verb** (informal) HIT, strike, slap, smack, cuff, punch, thump, beat, thrash, batter, belabour, pound, pummel, box someone's ears, whip, flog, cane, informal whack, wallop, bash, biff, bop, lam, clout, clobber, sock, swipe, crown, beat the living daylights out of, give someone a (good) hiding, belt, tan, lay into, let someone have it, deck, floor, Brit informal stick one on, slosh, N Amer informal slug, boff, poetic/literary smute

thwart ► **verb** FOIL, frustrate, balk, stand in the way of, forestall, derail, dash; stop, check, block, prevent, defeat, impede, obstruct, snooker, hinder, hamper, spike someone's guns, informal put paid to, put the kibosh on, do for, stymie, Brit informal scupper, queer someone's pitch

—OPPOSITES facilitate

tic ► **noun** TWITCH, spasm, jerk, tremor

tick ► **noun** ① put a tick against the item of your choice mark, stroke, N Amer check, check mark. ② the tick of his watch. TICKING, tick-tock, click, clicking, tap, tapping ③ (Brit informal) I won't be a tick MOMENT, second, minute, bit, little while, instant, informal sec, jiffy, Brit informal mo, two ticks

► **verb** ① tick the appropriate box PUT A TICK IN/ AGAINST, mark, check off, indicate; N Amer check ② I could hear the clock ticking TICK-TOCK, click, tap

■ **in a tick** (Brit informal) (VERY) SOON, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, in a flash, shortly, any second, any minute, in no time (at all), N Amer momentarily, informal in a sec, in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, Brit informal in two ticks, in a mo; N Amer informal in a snap, dated directly

■ **tick someone off** (Brit informal). See REPRIMAND verb

ticket ► **noun** ① can I see your ticket? PASS, authorization, permit; token, coupon, voucher ② a price ticket LABEL, tag, sticker, tab, marker, docket

tickle ► **verb** ① he tried to tickle her under the chin. STROKE, pet, chuck. ② he found something that tickled his imagination: STIMULATE, interest, appeal to, arouse, excite. ③ the idea tickled Lewis AMUSE, entertain, divert, please, delight; informal tickle someone pink.

ticklish ► **adjective** DIFFICULT, problematic, tricky, delicate, sensitive, awkward, prickly, thorny, tough; vexed; informal sticky.

tide ▶ **noun** ① ships come up the river with the tide TIDAL FLOW, ebb and flow, tidewater, ebb, current ② the tide of history COURSE, movement, direction, trend, current, drift, run, turn, tendency, tenor

■ **tide someone over** SUSTAIN, keep someone going, keep someone's head above water, see someone through, keep the wolf from the door; help out, assist, aid

tidings ▶ **plural noun** (poetic/literary) NEWS, information, intelligence, word, reports, notification, communication, the latest, informal info, the low down

tidy ▶ **adjective** ① a tidy room NEAT, neat and tidy, as neat as a new pin, orderly, well ordered, in (good) order, well kept, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order, immaculate, spick and span, uncluttered, straight, trim, spruce ② he's a very tidy person NEAT, trim, spruce, dapper, well groomed, well turned out, organized, well organized, methodical, meticulous, fastidious, informal natty ③ (informal) a tidy sum LARGE, sizeable, considerable, substantial, generous, significant, appreciable, handsome, respectable, decent, goodly, informal not to be sneezed at

—OPPOSITES messy

▶ **verb** ① I'd better tidy up the living room PUT IN ORDER, clear up, sort out, straighten (up), clean up, spruce up ② she tidied herself up in the bath-room GROOM ONESELF, spruce oneself up, freshen oneself up, smarten oneself up, informal titivate oneself

tie ▶ **verb** ① they tied Max to a chair BIND, tie up, tether, hitch, strap, truss, fetter, rope, chain, make fast, moor, lash, attach, fasten, fix, secure, join, connect, link, couple ② he bent to tie his shoelaces DO UP, lace, knot ③ women can feel tied by childcare responsibilities RESTRICT, restrain, limit, tie down, constrain, trammel, confine, cramp, hamper, handicap, hamstring, encumber, shackle, inhibit, cramp someone's style ④ a pay deal tied to a productivity agreement LINK, connect, couple, relate, join, marry, make conditional on, bind up with ⑤ they tied for second place DRAW, be equal, be even, be neck and neck

▶ **noun** ① he tightened the ties of his robe LACE, string, cord, fastening, fastener ② a collar and tie NECKTIE, bow tie, string tie, Brit bootlace tie ③ family ties. BOND, connection, link, relationship, attachment, affiliation, allegiance, friendship, kinship, interdependence ④ pets can be a tremendous tie RESTRICTION, constraint, curb, limitation, restraint, hindrance, encumbrance, handicap, obligation, commitment ⑤ there was a tie for first place DRAW, dead heat, deadlock ⑥ (Brit) Turkey's World Cup tie against Holland MATCH, game, contest, fixture, event

■ **tie someone down** she was afraid of being tied down. See TIE verb sense 3

■ **tie in** BE CONSISTENT, tally, agree, be in agreement, accord, concur, fit in, harmonize, be in tune, dovetail, correspond, match, informal square; N Amer informal jibe

■ **tie someone/something up** ① robbers tied her up and ransacked her home BIND, bind hand and foot, fasten together, truss (up), fetter, chain up. ② he is tied up in meetings all morning OCCUPY, engage, keep busy ③ they were anxious to tie up the contract: FINALIZE, conclude, com-

plete, finish off, seal, set the seal on, settle, secure, clinch, informal wrap up

tie-in ▶ **noun** CONNECTION, link, association, correlation, tie-up, interrelation, relationship, relation, interconnection, parallel, similarity

tier ▶ **noun** ① tiers of empty seats ROW, rank, bank, line, layer, level ② the most senior tier of management GRADE, gradation, echelon, rung on the ladder

tiff ▶ **noun** (informal) QUARREL, squabble, argument, disagreement, fight, falling-out, difference of opinion, dispute, wrangle, altercation, contretemps, disputation, shouting match, informal slanging match, run-in, spat, set-to, Brit informal barney, row, bust-up

tight ▶ **adjective** ① a tight grip FIRM, fast, secure, fixed, clenched ② the rope was pulled tight TAUT, rigid, stiff, tense, stretched, strained ③ tight jeans TIGHT-FITTING, close-fitting, narrow, figure-hugging, skintight, informal sprayed on ④ a tight mass of fibres COMPACT, compacted, compressed, dense, solid ⑤ a tight space SMALL, tiny, narrow, limited, restricted, confined, cramped, constricted, uncomfortable ⑥ the joint will be perfectly tight against petrol leaks IMPERVIOUS, impenetrable, sealed, sound, hermetic, watertight, airtight ⑦ tight limits on the use of pesticides STRICT, rigorous, stringent, tough, rigid, firm, uncompromising ⑧ he's in a tight spot DIFFICULT, tricky, delicate, awkward, problematic, worrying, precarious, informal sticky, Brit informal dodgy ⑨ a tight piece of writing SUCCINCT, concise, pithy, incisive, crisp, condensed, well structured, to the point ⑩ a tight race CLOSE, even, evenly matched, well matched, hard-fought, neck and neck ⑪ money is a bit tight just now LIMITED, restricted, in short supply, scarce, depleted, diminished, low, inadequate, insufficient ⑫ (informal) he's tight with his money MEAN, miserly, parsimonious, niggardly, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like, close, informal stingy, tight-fisted, N Amer informal cheap, formal penurious, archaic near ⑬ (informal) he came home tight from the pub See DRUNK adjective

—OPPOSITES slack, loose, generous

tighten ▶ **verb** ① I tightened up the screws MAKE TIGHTER, make fast, screw up ② he tightened his grip STRENGTHEN, make stronger, harden ③ she tightened the rope TAUTEN, make/draw taut, make/draw tight, stretch, strain, stiffen, tense ④ he tightened his lips NARROW, constrict, contract, compress, screw up, pucker, purse, N Amer squinch ⑤ security in the area has been tightened up INCREASE, make stricter, toughen up, heighten, scale up

—OPPOSITES loosen, slacken, relax

tight-fisted ▶ **adjective** (informal) MEAN, miserly, parsimonious, niggardly, close-fisted, penny-pinching, cheese-paring, Scrooge-like, close, informal stingy, tight, N Amer informal cheap, formal penurious, archaic near.

—OPPOSITES generous

tight-lipped ▶ **adjective** RETICENT, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, playing one's cards close to one's chest, close-mouthed, silent, taciturn; informal mum.

—OPPOSITES forthcoming

till 1 ▶ **preposition & conjunction** he stayed till 7 | I'll stay here till you get back. See UNTIL senses 1, 2

till¹ ► **noun** *she counted the money in the till* CASH REGISTER, cash box, cash drawer, strongbox, checkout, cash desk

till² ► **verb** *he went back to tilling the land* CULTIVATE, work, farm, plough, dig, turn over, prepare

tilt ► **verb** ① *the ground seemed to tilt* SLOPE, tip, lean, list, bank, slant, incline, pitch, cant, carreen, angle ② *(historical) he tilts at his prey* CHARGE, rush, run, lunge, thrust, jab. ③ *(historical) knights tilting at a tournament* JOUST, tourney, enter the lists, contend, spar, fight

► **noun** ① *a tilt of some 45°* SLOPE, list, camber, gradient, bank, slant, incline, pitch, cant, bevel, angle ② *(historical) knights would take part in a tilt* JOUST, tournament, tourney, lists, combat, contest, fight, duel ③ *another tilt at the European Cup* ATTEMPT, bid, informal go, crack, shot

■ **(at) full tilt** ① *they charged full tilt down the side of the hill* (AT) FULL SPEED, (at) full pelt, as fast as one's legs can carry one, at a gallop, helter-skelter, headlong, pell-mell, at breakneck speed, informal hell for leather, at the double, a mile a minute, like the wind, like a bat out of hell, like a scalded cat, like (greased) lightning, *Brit informal* like the clappers, at a rate of knots, like billy-o, *N Amer informal* lickety-split, poetic/literary apace ② *the marketing blitz has raged at full tilt for some time now* WITH GREAT FORCE, with full force, full blast, with all the stops out, all out, with a vengeance, informal like crazy, like mad

timber ► **noun** ① *houses built of timber* WOOD, *N Amer* lumber ② *the timbers of wrecked ships* BEAM, spar, plank, batten, lath, board, joist, rafter

timbre ► **noun** TONE, sound, sound quality, voice, voice quality, colour, tone colour, tonality, resonance

time ► **noun** ① *what time is it?* HOUR, dated o'clock ② *late at night was the best time to leave* MOMENT, point (in time), occasion, hour, minute, second, instant, juncture, stage ③ *he worked there for a time* WHILE, spell, stretch, stint, span, season, interval, period (of time), length of time, duration, run, space, phase, stage, term, *Brit informal* patch ④ *the time of the dinosaurs* ERA, age, epoch, period, years, days, generation, date ⑤ *I've known a lot of women in my time* LIFETIME, life, life span, days, time on earth, existence, threescore years and ten. ⑥ *he had been a professional actor in his time* HEYDAY, day, best days/years, prime ⑦ *times are hard at the moment* CONDITIONS, circumstances, life, state of affairs, experiences ⑧ *tunes in waltz time* RHYTHM, tempo, beat; metre, measure, cadence, pattern

—RELATED TERMS chronological, temporal.

► **verb** *the meeting was timed for three o'clock*: SCHEDULE, set, set up, arrange, organize, fix, fix up, book, line up, slot in, pre-arrange, timetable, plan, *N Amer* slate

■ **ahead of time** EARLY, in good time, with time to spare, in advance

■ **ahead of one's/its time** REVOLUTIONARY, avant-garde, futuristic, innovative, innovative, trailblazing, pioneering, ground-breaking, advanced.

■ **all the time** CONSTANTLY, the entire time, around the clock, day and night, night and

day, {morning, noon, and night}, {day in, day out}, at all times, always, without a break, ceaselessly, endlessly, incessantly, perpetually, permanently, interminably, continuously, continually, eternally, unremittently, remorselessly, relentlessly, *N Amer* without surcease, informal 24-7

■ **at one time** FORMERLY, previously, once, in the past, at one point, once upon a time, time was when, in days/times gone by, in times past, in the (good) old days, long ago; poetic/literary in days/times of yore; archaic erstwhile, whilom

■ **at the same time** ① *they arrived at the same time* SIMULTANEOUSLY, at the same instant/moment, together, all together, as a group, at once, at one and the same time, in unison, in concert, in chorus, as one ② *I can't really explain it, but at the same time I'm not convinced* NONETHELESS, even so, however, but, still, yet, though, in spite of that, despite that, be that as it may, for all that, that said, notwithstanding, regardless, anyway, anyhow, informal still and all

■ **at times** OCCASIONALLY, sometimes, from time to time, now and then, every so often, once in a while, on occasion, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically

■ **behind time** LATE, behind, behind schedule, behindhand, running late, overdue

■ **behind the times** OLD-FASHIONED, out of date, outmoded, outdated, dated, old, passé, informal square, not with it, out of the ark, *N Amer informal* horse-and-buggy, clunky

■ **for the time being** FOR NOW, for the moment, for the present, in the interim, for the nonce, in/for the meantime, in the meanwhile, for a short time, briefly, temporarily, provisionally, pro tem, informal for the minute

■ **from time to time** OCCASIONALLY, sometimes, now and then, every so often, once in a while, on occasion, off and on, at intervals, periodically, sporadically

■ **in no time** (VERY) SOON, in a second, in a minute, in a moment, in a trice, in a flash, shortly, any second, any minute (now), *N Amer* momentarily, informal in a sec, in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, *Brit informal* in a tick, in two ticks, in a mo, *N Amer informal* in a snap, dated directly.

■ **in good time** PUNCTUALLY, on time, early, with time to spare, ahead of time/schedule

■ **in time** ① *I came back in time for the party* EARLY ENOUGH, in good time, punctually, on time, not too late, with time to spare, on schedule. ② *in time, she forgot about it* EVENTUALLY, in the end, in due course, by and by, finally, one day, some day, sometime, sooner or later

■ **many a time** FREQUENTLY, regularly, often, very often, all the time, habitually, customarily, routinely; again and again, time and again, over and over again, repeatedly, recurrently, continually; *N Amer* oftentimes; poetic/literary oft, oft-times

■ **on time** PUNCTUALLY, in good time, to/on schedule, when expected; informal on the dot, bang on time

■ **time after time** REPEATEDLY, frequently, often, again and again, over and over (again), time and (time) again, many times, many a

time, persistently, recurrently, constantly, continually; *N Amer* oftentimes, *poetic/literary* oft, oft-times.

time-honoured ▶ *adjective* TRADITIONAL, established, long-established, long-standing, long-lived, age-old, enduring, lasting, tried and tested

timeless ▶ *adjective* LASTING, enduring, classic, ageless, permanent, perennial, abiding, unailing, unchanging, unvarying, never-changing, changeless, unfading, unending, undying, deathless, immortal, eternal, everlasting, immutable

—OPPOSITES ephemeral

timely ▶ *adjective* OPPORTUNE, well timed, at the right time, convenient, appropriate, expedient, seasonable, felicitous

—OPPOSITES ill-timed

timetable ▶ *noun* a bus timetable | *I have a very full timetable* SCHEDULE, programme, agenda, calendar, list, itinerary

▶ *verb* *German lessons were timetabled on Wednesday* SCHEDULE, set, arrange, organize, fix, time, line up, *N Amer* slate

time-worn ▶ *adjective* ① the carpet was old and time-worn WORN OUT, worn, well worn, old, tattered, battered, dog-eared, shabby, having seen better days, *informal* tatty ② time-worn faces OLD, aged, weathered, lined, wrinkled, hoary ③ a time-worn aphorism HACKNEYED, trite, banal, platitudinous, clichéd, stock, conventional, unoriginal, overused, overworked, tired, stale, *informal* old hat

—OPPOSITES new, fresh

timid ▶ *adjective* EASILY FRIGHTENED, fearful, afraid, faint-hearted, timorous, nervous, scared, frightened, cowardly, pusillanimous, lily-livered, spineless, shy, diffident, self-effacing, *informal* wimpish, wumpy, chicken, gutless

—OPPOSITES bold

timorous ▶ *adjective*. See TIMID

tincture ▶ *noun* ① tincture of iodine SOLUTION, suspension, infusion, elixir ② a tincture of bitterness TRACE, note, tinge, touch, suggestion, hint, bit, element, suspicion, soupçon

tinge ▶ *verb* ① a mass of white blossom tinged with pink TINT, colour, stain, shade, wash ② his optimism is tinged with realism INFLUENCE, affect, touch, flavour, colour, modify

▶ *noun* ① the light had a blue tinge to it TINT, colour, shade, tone, hue ② a tinge of cynicism TRACE, note, touch, suggestion, hint, bit, scintilla, savour, flavour, element, streak, vein, suspicion, soupçon, tincture

tingle ▶ *verb* her flesh still tingled from the shock PRICKLE, sting, tremble, quiver, shiver.

▶ *noun* she felt a tingle of anticipation PRICKLING, tingling, pricking, sting, stinging; tremor, thrill, quiver, shiver, goose pimples, *N Amer* goose-bumps

tinker ▶ *verb* a workman was tinkering with the engine: FIDDLE WITH, adjust, try to mend, play about with; tamper with, interfere with, mess about with, meddle with, *informal* rearrange the deckchairs on the Titanic, *Brit informal* muck about with.

tinkle ▶ *verb* ① the bell tinkled. RING, jangle, chime, peal, ding, ping ② cool water tinkled in the stone fountain SPLASH, purl, babble, bur-

ble; *poetic/literary* plash

▶ *noun* ① the tinkle of the doorbell RING, chime, peal, ding, ping, jingle, jangle, tinninnabulation ② the faint tinkle of water. SPLASH, purl, babble, burble, *poetic/literary* plash ③ (*Brit informal*) I'll give them a tinkle TELEPHONE CALL, phone call, call, *informal* buzz, *Brit informal* ring, bell.

tinny ▶ *adjective* ① tinny music JANGLY, jangling, jingling, jingly ② a tinny little car CHEAP, cheapjack, poor-quality, inferior, low-grade, gimcrack, shoddy, jerry-built, *informal* tacky, tatty, rubbishy

tinsel ▶ *noun* the tinsel of Hollywood OSTENTATION, showiness, show, glitter, flamboyance, gaudiness, attractiveness, glamour, *informal* flashiness, glitz, glitziness, razzle-dazzle, razzmatazz

▶ *adjective* tinsel stardom OSTENTATIOUS, showy, glittering, flamboyant, gaudy, *informal* flash, flashy, over the top, OTT, glitzy, ritzy, *N Amer informal* superfly

tint ▶ *noun* ① the sky was taking on an apricot tint SHADE, colour, tone, hue, tinge, cast, tincture, flush, blush ② a hair tint DYE, colourant, colouring, wash, highlights, lowlights

tiny ▶ *adjective* MINUTE, minuscule, microscopic, very small, little, mini, diminutive, miniature, scaled down, baby, toy, dwarf, pygmy, Lilliputian, Scottish wee, *informal* teeny, teeny-weeny, teensy, teensy-weensy, itsy-bitsy, eensy, eensy-weensy, tiddly, pint-sized, *Brit informal* titchy, *N Amer informal* little-bitty

—OPPOSITES huge

tip¹ ▶ *noun* ① the tip of the spear POINT, end, extremity, head, sharp end, spike, prong, tine, nib ② the tips of the mountains PEAK, point, top, summit, apex, crown, crest, pinnacle ③ the sticks have tips fitted to protect them CAP, cover, ferrule

▶ *verb* mountains tipped with snow CAP, top, crown

tip² ▶ *verb* ① the boat tipped over OVERTURN, turn over, topple (over), fall (over), keel over, capsize, turn turtle, *Nautical* pitchpole ② a whale could tip over a small boat UPSET, overturn, topple over, turn over, knock over, push over, upend, capsize, *informal* roll, *archaic* overset ③ the car tipped to one side LEAN, tilt, list, slope, bank, slant, incline, pitch, cant, heel, careen ④ she tipped the water into the trough. POUR, empty, drain, unload, dump, discharge, decant

▶ *noun* (*Brit*) rubbish must be taken to the tip DUMP, rubbish dump, *Canadian* nuisance grounds

tip³ ▶ *noun* ① a generous tip GRATUITY, baksheesh, present, gift, reward; *Brit informal* dropsey ② useful tips PIECE OF ADVICE, suggestion, word of advice, pointer, recommendation, clue, hint, *informal* wrinkle, tip-off

tip-off ▶ *noun* (*informal*) PIECE OF INFORMATION, warning, lead, forewarning, hint, clue, advice, information, notification.

tipple ▶ *verb* boys discovered tippling were punished: DRINK ALCOHOL, drink, *informal* booze, wet one's whistle, hit the bottle, take to the bottle, *Brit informal* bevvy, *N Amer informal* bend one's elbow, *archaic* tope

▶ *noun* (*informal*) their favourite tipple was claret ALCOHOLIC DRINK, drink, liquor; *informal* booze, poison.

tippler ▶ *noun* DRINKER, imbiber; alcoholic, drunk, drunkard, dipsomaniac, inebriate, sot,



informal boozier, alky, lush, barfly, sponge, dipso, wino, soak, *Austral/NZ informal* hophead; *archaic* toper

—OPPOSITES teetotaler

tipsy ▶ *adjective* MERRY, mellow, slightly drunk, *Brit informal* tiddly, squiffy
—OPPOSITES sober

tirade ▶ *noun* DIATRIBE, harangue, rant, onslaught, attack, polemic, denunciation, broadside, fulmination, condemnation, censure, criticism, tongue-lashing; *informal* blast, *poetic/literary* philippic

tire ▶ *verb* ① *the ascent grew steeper and he began to tire* GET TIRED, weaken, grow weak, flag, droop ② *the journey had tired him* FATIGUE, tire out, exhaust, wear out, drain, weary, wash out, overtire, enervate, *informal* knock out, take it out of, do in, flag out, wear to a frazzle, *Brit informal* knacker ③ *they tired of his difficult behaviour* WEARY, get tired, get sick, get bored, *informal* get fed up, have had something up to here

tired ▶ *adjective* ① *you're just tired from travelling* EXHAUSTED, worn out, weary, fatigued, dog-tired, bone-tired, ready to drop, drained, enervated, jaded, *informal* done in, all in, dead beat, shattered, bushed, knocked out, wiped out, bushwhacked, *Brit informal* knackered, whacked (out), jiggered, *N Amer informal* pooped, tuckered out, *Austral/NZ informal* stonkered ② *are you tired of having him here?* BORED WITH/BY, weary of, sick (and tired) of, *informal* fed up with, up to here with ③ *tired jokes* HACKNEYED, overused, overworked, worn out, stale, clichéd, hoary, stock, stereotyped, predictable, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninspired, dull, boring, routine, *informal* old hat, corny, played out
—OPPOSITES energetic, lively, fresh

tiredness ▶ *noun* FATIGUE, weariness, exhaustion, enervation, inertia, sleepiness, drowsiness, somnolence
—OPPOSITES energy

tireless ▶ *adjective* VIGOROUS, energetic, industrious, determined, enthusiastic, keen, zealous, spirited, dynamic, dogged, tenacious, persevering, stout, untiring, unwearied, indefatigable, unflagging
—OPPOSITES lazy

tiresome ▶ *adjective* BORING, dull, tedious, wearisome, wearing, uninteresting, uneventful, humdrum, annoying, irritating, trying, irksome, vexatious, troublesome; *informal* aggravating, pesky.
—OPPOSITES interesting, pleasant

tiring ▶ *adjective* EXHAUSTING, wearying, taxing, fatiguing, wearing, enervating, draining; hard, heavy, arduous, strenuous, onerous, uphill, demanding, gruelling, *informal* killing, murderous, *Brit informal* knackered

tissue ▶ *noun* ① *living tissue*: MATTER, material, substance, flesh. ② *a box of tissues*. PAPER HANDKERCHIEF, paper towel, trademark Kleenex. ③ *a tissue of lies* WEB, network, nexus, complex, mass, set, series, chain

titanic ▶ *adjective* HUGE, great, enormous, gigantic, massive, colossal, monumental, mammoth, immense, tremendous, terrific, mighty, stupendous, prodigious, gargantuan, Herculean; *informal* humongous, whopping, thumping, mega; *Brit informal* whacking, ginormous

titbit ▶ *noun* ① *tasty titbits* DELICACY, tasty morsel, dainty, bonne bouche, treat; snack, nibble, savoury, appetizer, *informal* goody, *N Amer* tidbit ② *a fascinating titbit* PIECE OF GOSSIP, bit of scandal, piece of information.

tit for tat ▶ *noun* RETALIATION, reprisal, counter-attack, counterstroke, comeback, revenge, vengeance, retribution, an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, as good as one gets, payback, *informal* a taste of someone's own medicine

titillate ▶ *verb* AROUSE, excite, tantalize, stimulate, stir, thrill, interest, attract, fascinate, *informal* turn on
—OPPOSITES bore

titillating ▶ *adjective* AROUSING, exciting, stimulating, sexy, thrilling, provocative, tantalizing, interesting, fascinating, suggestive, salacious, lurid; *Brit informal* saucy
—OPPOSITES boring

titivate ▶ *verb (informal)* she titivated herself in front of the hall mirror GROOM, smarten (up), spruce up, freshen up, preen, primp, prink, tidy, arrange, *informal* doll up, tart up, *N Amer informal* gussy up

title ▶ *noun* ① *the title of the book* NAME ② *the cartoon title* CAPTION, legend, inscription, label, heading, sub-heading, credit ③ *the company publishes 400 titles a year* PUBLICATION, work, book, newspaper, paper, magazine, periodical ④ *the title of Duke of Marlborough* DESIGNATION, name, form of address, epithet, style, rank, office, position, *informal* moniker, handle, *formal* appellation, denomination See list at RULER ⑤ *an Olympic title* CHAMPIONSHIP, crown, first place, laurels, bays, palm. ⑥ *the vendor is obliged to prove his title to the land* OWNERSHIP, proprietorship, possession, holding, freehold, entitlement, right, claim

▶ *verb* a policy paper titled 'Law and Order' CALL, entitle, name, dub, designate, style, term, *formal* denominate

titter ▶ *verb & noun* GIGGLE, snigger, snicker, tee-hee, chuckle, laugh, *informal* chortle

title ▶ *noun*. See IOTA

title-tattle ▶ *noun* she would never listen to title-tattle GOSSIP, rumour(s), idle talk, hearsay, whispers, titbits, scandal, *informal* dirt, buzz, *Brit informal* goss, *N Amer informal* scuttlebutt

▶ *verb* he was title-tattling all over the village. GOSSIP, spread rumours, spread gossip, tattle, talk, whisper, tell tales

titular ▶ *adjective* ① *the titular head of a university*. NOMINAL, in title/name only, ceremonial, token, puppet. ② *the work's titular song* EPONYMOUS, identifying.

toad ▶ *noun*. See list at AMPHIBIAN.

toadstool ▶ *noun*. See list at FUNGUS

toady ▶ *noun* a conniving little toady SYCOPHANT, fawner, flatterer, creep, crawler, lickspittle, *informal* bootlicker, yes-man; *archaic* toad-eater.

▶ *verb* she imagined him toadying to his rich clients. GROVEL to, ingratiate oneself with, be obsequious to, kowtow to, pander to, crawl to, truckle to, bow and scrape to, dance attendance on, curry favour with, make up to, fawn on/over; *informal* suck up to, lick someone's boots, butter up.

toast ▶ **noun** ① he raised his glass in a toast **TRIBUTE**, salute, salutation, *archaic* pledge ② he was the toast of the West End **DARLING**, favourite, pet, heroine, hero, talk, *Brit informal* blue-eyed boy/girl, *N Amer informal* fair-haired boy/girl

▶ **verb** ① she toasted her hands in front of the fire **WARM (UP)**, heat, heat (up) ② we toasted the couple with champagne **DRINK (TO) THE HEALTH OF**, drink to, salute, honour, pay tribute to, *archaic* pledge

today ▶ **adverb** ① the work must be finished today **THIS (VERY) DAY**, this morning, this afternoon, this evening ② the complex tasks demanded of computers today **NOWADAYS**, these days, at the present time, in these times, in this day and age, now, currently, at the moment, at present, at this moment in time, in the present climate, *N Amer* presently

toddle ▶ **verb** ① the child toddled towards him **TOTTER**, teeter, wobble, falter, waddle, stumble ② (informal) I toddled down to the quay **AMBLE**, potter, wander, meander, stroll, saunter, *informal* mosey, tootle, *N Amer informal* putter

to-do ▶ **noun** (informal) **COMMOTION**, fuss, ado, excitement, agitation, bother, stir, palaver, confusion, disturbance, brouhaha, uproar, furore, storm in a teacup, much ado about nothing, *informal* hoo-ha, ballyhoo, kerfuffle, song and dance, performance, pantomime, *Brit informal* carry-on, *N Amer informal* fuss and feathers

together ▶ **adverb** ① friends who work together **WITH EACH OTHER**, in conjunction, jointly, in cooperation, in collaboration, in partnership, in combination, in league, side by side, hand in hand, shoulder to shoulder, cheek by jowl, in collusion, hand in glove, *informal* in cahoots ② they both spoke together **SIMULTANEOUSLY**, at the same time, at one and the same time, at once, all together, as a group, in unison, in concert, in chorus, as one, with one accord ③ I was not able to get up for days together **IN SUCCESSION**, in a row, at a time, successively, consecutively, running, straight, on end, one after the other, continuously, without a break, without interruption, *informal* on the trot
-**OPPOSITES** separately

▶ **adjective** (informal) a very together young woman **See LEVEL-HEADED**

toll ▶ **verb** ① she toiled all night **WORK HARD**, labour, exert oneself, slave (away), grind away, strive, work one's fingers to the bone, work like a Trojan/slave, keep one's nose to the grindstone, *informal* slog away, plug away, peg away, beaver away, work one's guts out, work one's socks off, sweat blood, *Brit informal* graft, *poetic/literary* travail, *archaic* toil ② she began to toll up the cliff path **STRUGGLE**, trudge, tramp, traipse, slog, plod, trek, footslog, drag oneself, *Brit informal* yomp, *N Amer informal* schlep.
-**OPPOSITES** rest, relax.

▶ **noun** a life of toll **HARD WORK**, labour, exertion, slaving, drudgery, effort, industry, (blood, sweat, and tears); *informal* slog, elbow grease, *Brit informal* graft; *poetic/literary* travail; *archaic* toil

toilet ▶ **noun** ① he had to go to the toilet. **LAVATORY**, WC, water closet, (public) convenience, cloakroom, powder room, urinal, privy, latrine, jakes; *N Amer* washroom, bathroom, rest room, men's/ladies' room, commode, comfort station; *Nautical* head; *informal* little girls'/boys' room, smallest room; *Brit informal* loo, bog, the Ladies,

the Gents, khazi, lav, *N Amer informal* can, john, *Austral/NZ informal* dunny; *archaic* closet, garderobe ② she had always taken a long time over her toilet **WASHING**, bathing, showering, grooming, dressing, make-up, formal or humorous ablutions, dated toilette

tolls ▶ **plural noun** (poetic/literary) **TRAP**, net, snare

token ▶ **noun** ① a token of our appreciation **SYMBOL**, sign, emblem, badge, representation, indication, mark, manifestation, expression, pledge, demonstration, recognition, evidence, proof ② he kept the menu as a token of their golden wedding **MEMENTO**, souvenir, keepsake, reminder, remembrance, memorial ③ a book token **VOUCHER**, coupon ④ a telephone token **COUNTER**, disc, jetton, chip, piece, man

▶ **adjective** ① a one-day token strike **SYMBOLIC**, emblematic, indicative, peppercorn ② the practice now meets only token resistance **PERFUNCTORY**, slight, nominal, minimal, minor, mild, superficial, inconsequential

tolerable ▶ **adjective** ① a tolerable noise level **BEARABLE**, endurable, supportable, acceptable ② he had a tolerable voice **FAIRLY GOOD**, passable, adequate, all right, acceptable, satisfactory, not (too) bad, average, fair, mediocre, middling, ordinary, indifferent, unremarkable, unexceptional, *informal* OK, so-so, nothing to write home about, no great shakes
-**OPPOSITES** unacceptable

tolerance ▶ **noun** ① an attitude of tolerance towards other people **ACCEPTANCE**, toleration, open-mindedness, broad-mindedness, forbearance, liberality, liberalism, patience, charity, indulgence, understanding ② the plant's tolerance of pollution **ENDURANCE**, resilience, resistance, immunity ③ a 1% maximum tolerance in measurement **DEVIATION**, variation, play, inaccuracy, imprecision

tolerant ▶ **adjective** **OPEN-MINDED**, forbearing, broad-minded, liberal, unprejudiced, unbiased, patient, long-suffering, understanding, charitable, lenient, indulgent, permissive, free and easy, easy-going, lax
-**OPPOSITES** intolerant

tolerate ▶ **verb** ① a regime unwilling to tolerate serious dissent **ALLOW**, permit, condone, accept, swallow, countenance, *formal* brook, *archaic* suffer ② he couldn't tolerate her moods any longer **ENDURE**, put up with, bear, take, stand, support, stomach, *informal* hack, abide, *Brit informal* stick, wear, be doing with

toleration ▶ **noun** **ACCEPTANCE**, tolerance, endurance, forbearance, liberality, open-mindedness, broad-mindedness, liberalism, patience, charity, indulgence, understanding

toll¹ ▶ **noun** ① a motorway toll **CHARGE**, fee, payment, levy, tariff, tax ② the toll of dead and injured **NUMBER**, count, tally, total, sum total, grand total, sum, record, list, listing ③ the toll on the environment has been high **ADVERSE EFFECT(s)**, detriment, harm, damage, injury, hurt, cost, price, loss, disadvantage, suffering, penalty

toll² ▶ **verb** I heard the bell toll **RING (OUT)**, chime, strike, peal, sound, clang, resound, reverberate, *poetic/literary* knell

tomb ▶ **noun** **BURIAL CHAMBER**, sepulchre, mausoleum, vault, crypt, undercroft, catacomb;

last/final resting place, grave, barrow, burial mound, *historical* charnel house
 —RELATED TERMS sepulchral

tombstone ► noun GRAVESTONE, headstone, stone, memorial, monument

tone ► noun VOLUME, book, work, opus, publication, title

tomfoolery ► noun SILLINESS, fooling around, clowning, capers, antics, pranks, tricks, buffoonery, skylarking, nonsense, horseplay, mischief, foolishness, foolery, *informal* larks, shenanigans

tone ► noun ① the tone of the tuba TIMBRE, sound, sound quality, voice, voice quality, colour, tone colour, tonality ② his friendly tone INTONATION, tone of voice, modulation, accentuation ③ the somewhat impatient tone of his letter MOOD, air, feel, flavour, note, attitude, character, temper, tenor, vein, drift, gist ④ a dialling tone NOTE, signal, beep, bleep ⑤ tones of primrose, lavender, and rose SHADE, colour, hue, tint, tinge

► verb the caramel shirt toned well with her cream skirt HARMONIZE, go, blend, coordinate, team, match, suit, complement

■ tone something down ① the colour needs to be toned down a bit SOFTEN, lighten, mute, subdue ② the papers refused to tone down their criticism MODERATE, modify, modulate, mitigate, temper, dampen, soften, subdue

tongue ► noun ① a foreign tongue LANGUAGE, dialect, patois, vernacular, mother tongue, native tongue, *informal* lingo ② her sharp tongue WAY/MANNER OF SPEAKING, speech, parlance

tongue-tied ► adjective LOST FOR WORDS, speechless, unable to get a word out, struck dumb, dumbstruck, mute, dumb, silent, *informal* mum
 —OPPOSITES loquacious

tonic ► noun ① ginseng can be used as a natural tonic STIMULANT, restorative, refresher, *informal* pick-me-up, bracer, *Medicine* analeptic ② we found the change of scene a tonic STIMULANT, boost, fillip, *informal* shot in the arm, pick-me-up

tonic sol-fa ► noun. See list

The Musical Scale In Tonic Sol-Fa

doh ray mi fah soh lah te

too ► adverb ① invasion would be too risky EXCESSIVELY, overly, over, unduly, immoderately, inordinately, unreasonably, extremely, very; *informal* too-too ② he was unhappy, too, you know ALSO, as well, in addition, additionally, into the bargain, besides, furthermore, moreover, on top of that, to boot

tool ► noun ① garden tools IMPLEMENT, utensil, instrument, device, apparatus, gadget, appliance, machine, contrivance, contraption, *informal* gizmo See list. ② the beautiful Estella is Miss Havisham's tool PUPPET, pawn, creature, cat's paw, minion, lackey; *informal* stooge.

► verb red leather, tooled in gold: ORNAMENT, embellish, decorate, work, cut, chase

Tools

See also KNIFE, SAW.

adze	former	punch
Allen key	froe	rake
(trademark)	fuller	ram
auger	gavel	rasp
awl	G-clamp	reamer
axe	G-cramp	riddle
bastard file	gimlet	riffler
beetle	glass cutter	ripper
bevel	graver	roller
(square)	grinder	roulette
billhook	grouter	router
biscuit	grozing iron	rule
jointer	hack	sander
blowlamp	hammer	sandpaper
blowtorch	hammer drill	sash cramp
bodkin	hand-axe	saw
borer	handspike	scarifier
brace (and bit)	hatchet	scraper
bradawl	hedge	screwdriver
burin	clipper/trimmer	screw tap
burnisher	hex key	scribe (awl)
burr	hob	scythe
capstan	hoe	secateurs
lathe	(hot-)air gun	shave
centre bit	jack	shavehook
centre punch	Jemmy	shears
chisel	jointer	shovel
chopper	knife	sickle
clamp	lap	slasher
claw	lathe	sledgehammer
hammer	lawnmower	sley
cleaver	lever	snarling iron
copper bit	loppers	socket wrench
cramp	mallet	soldering iron
crowbar	marlinspike	spade
croze	mattock	spanner
cultivator	mitre	spokeshave
cutter	nailer	square
dibber	nail punch	staple gun
dibble	needle	strickle
diestock	nibbler	swage
drill	nippers	swingle
drill press	paint gun	tinsnips
dovetailer	panga	torque wrench
edge tool	perforator	trowel
edging	pestle	tweezers
shears	pick	vice
edging tool	pickaxe	wedge
file	pincers	wheel brace
flail	pitchfork	wire cutter
float	plane	wire stripper
fly cutter	pliers	woodcarver
fork	pruning hook	wrecking bar
		wrench

tooth ► noun FANG, tusk; Zoology denticle; *informal* gnasher, *Brit informal* pearly white See lists
 —RELATED TERMS dental.

Human Teeth

bicuspid	milk tooth	primary tooth
canine	molar	tricuspid
cuspid	permanent tooth	wisdom tooth
eye tooth	tooth	
incisor	premolar	

Parts of a Human Tooth

apex	enamel	pulp horn
cingulum	neck	pulp cavity
crown	nerve	pulp vein
cusp	pulp	root
dentine	pulp artery	root canal

toothsome ► **adjective** TASTY, delicious, luscious, mouth-watering, delectable, succulent, tempting, appetizing, inviting, *informal* scrumptious, yummy, scrummy, finger-licking, *Brit informal* moreish

top ► **noun** ① the top of the cliff SUMMIT, peak, pinnacle, crest, crown, brow, head, tip, apex, vertex ② the top of the table UPPER PART, upper surface, upper layer ③ the carrots' green tops LEAVES, shoots, stem, stalk ④ the top of the coffee jar LID, cap, cover, stopper, cork ⑤ a short-sleeved top SWEATER, jumper, jersey, sweat shirt, T-shirt, shirt, blouse ⑥ by 1981 he was at the top of his profession HIGH POINT, height, peak, pinnacle, zenith, acme, culmination, climax, crowning point, prime
—OPPOSITES bottom, base

► **adjective** ① the top floor HIGHEST, topmost, uppermost, upmost ② the world's top scientists FOREMOST, leading, principal, pre-eminent, greatest, best, finest, elite, *informal* top-notch ③ the organization's top management CHIEF, principal, main, leading, highest, highest-ranking, ruling, commanding, most powerful, most important ④ a top Paris hotel PRIME, excellent, superb, superior, choice, select, top-quality, top-grade, first-rate, first-class, grade A, best, finest, premier, superlative, second to none, *informal* A1, top-notch ⑤ they are travelling at top speed MAXIMUM, maximal, greatest, utmost
—OPPOSITES bottom, lowest, minimum

► **verb** ① sales are expected to top £13 billion EXCEED, surpass, go beyond, better, best, beat, outstrip, outdo, outshine, eclipse, go one better than ② their debut CD is currently topping the charts LEAD, head, be at the top of ③ they topped the rise of a mist-shrouded valley REACH THE TOP OF, crest, climb, scale, ascend, mount ④ chocolate mousse topped with cream COVER, cap, coat, smother, finish, garnish

■ **over the top** (*informal*) EXCESSIVE, immoderate, inordinate, extreme, exaggerated, extravagant, overblown, too much, unreasonable, disproportionate, undue, unwarranted, uncalled for, unnecessary, going too far, *informal* a bit much, OTT

■ **top something up** FILL, refill, refresh, freshen, replenish, recharge, resupply, supplement, add to, augment.

topcoat ► **noun**. See list at COAT

topic ► **noun** SUBJECT, subject matter, theme, issue, matter, point, talking point, question, concern, argument, thesis, text, keynote

topical ► **adjective** CURRENT, up to date, up to the minute, contemporary, recent, relevant, newsworthy, in the news.
—OPPOSITES out of date.

topmost ► **adjective** ① the tree's topmost branches HIGHEST, top, uppermost, upmost ② the topmost authority on the subject FOREMOST, leading, principal, premier, prime, top, greatest, best, supreme, pre-eminent, outstanding,

most important, main, chief, *N Amer* ranking, *informal* number-one

top-notch ► **adjective** (*informal*) FIRST-CLASS, first-rate, top-quality, five-star, superior, prime, premier, premium, grade A, superlative, best, finest, select, exclusive, excellent, superb, outstanding, splendid; *informal* tip-top, A1

topple ► **verb** ① she toppled over FALL, tumble, overbalance, overturn, tip, keel, lose one's balance ② protesters toppled a huge statue KNOCK OVER, upset, push over, tip over, upend ③ a plot to topple the government OVERTHROW, oust, unseat, overturn, bring down, defeat, get rid of, dislodge, eject

topsy-turvy ► **adjective** ① a topsy-turvy flag UPSIDE DOWN, the wrong way/side up, inverted ② everything in the flat was topsy-turvy IN DISARRAY, in a mess, in a muddle, in disorder, disordered, in chaos, chaotic, disorganized, awry, upside down, at sixes and sevens, *informal* every which way, higgledy-piggledy
—OPPOSITES neat

torch ► **noun** ① an electric torch LAMP, light, flashlight ② (*historical*) a flaming torch FIREBRAND, brand, *historical* cresset, flambeau

► **verb** (*informal*) one of the shops had been torched BURN, set fire to, set on fire, set light to, set alight, incinerate, put/set a match to

torment ► **noun** ① months of mental and emotional torment AGONY, suffering, torture, pain, anguish, misery, distress, affliction, trauma, wretchedness, hell, purgatory ② it was a torment to see him like that ORDEAL, affliction, scourge, curse, plague, bane, thorn in someone's side/flesh, cross to bear, sorrow, tribulation, trouble

► **verb** ① she was tormented by shame. TORTURE, afflict, rack, harrow, plague, haunt, distress, agonize ② she began to torment the two younger boys TEASE, taunt, bait, harass, provoke, goad, plague, bother, trouble, persecute, *informal* needle

torn ► **adjective** ① a torn shirt RIPPED, rent, cut, slit, ragged, tattered, in tatters, in ribbons ② she was torn between the two options WAVERING, vacillating, irresolute, dithering, uncertain, unsure, undecided, in two minds

tornado ► **noun** WHIRLWIND, windstorm, cyclone, typhoon, storm, hurricane, *N Amer informal* twister

torpid ► **adjective** LETHARGIC, sluggish, inert, inactive, slow, lifeless, languid, listless, lazy, idle, indolent, slothful, supine, passive, apathetic, somnolent, sleepy, weary, tired
—OPPOSITES energetic

torpor ► **noun** LETHARGY, sluggishness, inertia, inactivity, lifelessness, listlessness, languor, lassitude, laziness, idleness, indolence, sloth, accidia, passivity, somnolence, weariness, sleepiness.

torrent ► **noun** ① a torrent of water FLOOD, deluge, inundation, spate, cascade, rush, stream, current, flow, overflow, tide ② a torrent of abuse OUTBURST, outpouring, stream, flood, volley, barrage, tide, spate
—OPPOSITES trickle

torrential ► **adjective** COPIOUS, heavy, teeming, severe, relentless, violent.



torrid ▶ **adjective** ① a torrid summer HOT, dry, scorching, searing, blazing, blistering, sweltering, burning, *informal* boiling (hot), baking (hot), sizzling ② a torrid affair PASSIONATE, ardent, lustful, amorous, *informal* steamy, sizzling, hot
-OPPOSITES cold

tortuous ▶ **adjective** ① a tortuous route TWISTING, twisty, twisting and turning, winding, windy, zigzag, sinuous, snaky, meandering, serpentine ② a tortuous argument CONVOLUTED, complicated, complex, labyrinthine, involved, confusing, difficult to follow, lengthy, overlong
-OPPOSITES straight, straightforward

torture ▶ **noun** ① the torture of political prisoners INFLECTION OF PAIN, abuse, ill-treatment, maltreatment, persecution ② the torture of losing a loved one TORMENT, agony, suffering, pain, anguish, misery, distress, heartbreak, affliction, trauma, wretchedness, hell, purgatory

▶ **verb** ① the security forces routinely tortured suspects INFLECT PAIN ON, ill-treat, abuse, mistreat, maltreat, persecute, *informal* work over, give someone the works ② he was tortured by grief TORMENT, rack, afflict, harrow, plague, agonize, crucify

toss ▶ **verb** ① he tossed his tools into the boat THROW, hurl, fling, sling, cast, pitch, lob, propel, project, launch, *informal* heave, chuck, bung, dated shy ② he tossed a coin and it landed heads up FLIP, flick, spin ③ the ship tossed about on the waves PITCH, lurch, rock, roll, plunge, reel, list, keel, sway, wallow, make heavy weather ④ toss the salad ingredients together SHAKE, stir, turn, mix, combine

tot' ▶ **noun** ① the tot looks just like her mum IN FANT, baby, toddler, tiny tot, child, little one, mite, Scottish bairn, wean ② a tot of rum DRAM, drink, nip, drop, slug, *informal* shot, finger, snifter

tot' ▶ **verb** ① he totted up some figures ADD, total, count, calculate, compute, reckon, tally ② we've totted up 89 victories ACCUMULATE, build up, amass, accrue

total ▶ **adjective** ① the total cost ENTIRE, complete, whole, full, comprehensive, combined, aggregate, gross, overall ② a total disaster COMPLETE, utter, absolute, thorough, perfect, downright, out-and-out, outright, thoroughgoing, all-out, sheer, arrant, positive, prize, rank, unmitigated, unqualified, *Brit informal* right, proper
-OPPOSITES partial

▶ **noun** a total of £160,000 SUM, sum total, grand total, aggregate, whole, entirety, totality

▶ **verb** ① the prize money totalled £33,050 ADD UP TO, amount to, come to, run to, make, work out as ② he totalled up his score ADD (UP), count, reckon, tot up, compute, work out

totalitarian ▶ **adjective** AUTOCRATIC, undemocratic, one-party, dictatorial, tyrannical, despotic, fascist, oppressive, repressive, illiberal, authoritarian, autarchic, absolute, absolutist; dystopian
-OPPOSITES democratic

totality ▶ **noun** ENTIRETY, whole, total, aggregate, sum, sum total, all, everything

totally ▶ **adverb** COMPLETELY, entirely, wholly, thoroughly, fully, utterly, absolutely, perfectly, unreservedly, unconditionally, quite, altogether, downright, in every way, in every re-

spect, one hundred per cent, every inch, to the hilt, *informal* dead, deadily.

-OPPOSITES partly

totter ▶ **verb** ① he tottered off down the road TEE TER, walk unsteadily, stagger, wobble, stumble, shuffle, shamble, toddle, reel, sway, roll, lurch ② the foundations began to heave and totter SHAKE, sway, tremble, quiver, teeter, shudder, judder, rock, quake

touch ▶ **verb** ① his shoes were touching the end of the bed. BE IN CONTACT WITH, come into contact with, meet, join, connect with, converge with, be contiguous with, be against ② he touched her cheek PRESS LIGHTLY, tap, pat, feel, stroke, fondle, caress, pet, brush, graze ③ sales touched twenty grand last year REACH, attain, come to, make, rise to, soar to, sink to, plummet to, *informal* hit ④ nobody can touch him when he's on form COMPARE WITH, be on a par with, equal, match, be a match for, be in the same class/league as, parallel, rival, come/get close to, measure up to, better, beat, *informal* hold a candle to ⑤ you're not supposed to touch the computer HANDLE, hold, pick up, move, meddle with, play about with, fiddle with, interfere with, tamper with, disturb, lay a finger on, use, employ, make use of ⑥ state companies which have been touched by privatization AFFECT, have an effect/impact on, make a difference to ⑦ Lisa felt touched by her kindness AFFECT, move, tug at someone's heartstrings, leave an impression on, have an effect on

▶ **noun** ① her touch on his shoulder TAP, pat, stroke, caress, brush, graze ② his political touch SKILL, skilfulness, expertise, dexterity, deftness, adroitness, adeptness, ability, talent, flair, facility, proficiency, knack, technique, approach, style ③ there was a touch of bitterness in her voice | add a touch of vinegar TRACE, bit, suggestion, suspicion, hint, scintilla, tinge, overtone, undertone, dash, taste, spot, drop, dab, pinch, speck, soupçon ④ the gas lights are a nice touch DETAIL, feature, point, addition, accessory ⑤ have you been in touch with him? CONTACT, communication, correspondence, connection, association

-RELATED TERMS tactile

■ **touch down** LAND, alight, come down, put down, arrive.

■ **touch something off** ① he touched off two of the bombs DETONATE, set off, trigger, explode ② the plan touched off a major political storm CAUSE, spark off, trigger (off), start, set in motion, ignite, stir up, provoke, give rise to, lead to, generate

■ **touch on/upon** ① many television programmes have touched on the subject. REFER TO, mention, comment on, remark on, bring up, raise, broach, allude to, cover, deal with ② a self-confident manner touching on the arrogant COME CLOSE TO, verge on, border on, approach.

■ **touch someone up** (*Brit informal*) FONDLE, molest, feel up; *informal* grope, paw, maul, goose; *N Amer informal* cop a feel.

■ **touch something up** ① these paints are handy for touching up small areas: REPAINT, retouch, patch up, fix up; renovate, refurbish, revamp, *informal* do up. ② touch up your CV and improve your interview skills: IMPROVE, enhance, make better, refine; *informal* tweak.

touch-and-go ► **adjective** UNCERTAIN, precarious, risky, hazardous, dangerous, critical, suspenseful, cliffhanging, hanging by a thread
—OPPOSITES certain

touched ► **adjective** ① he was visibly touched by their plight AFFECTED, moved ② (informal) her mother was a bit touched See MAD sense 1

touching ► **adjective** MOVING, affecting, heart-warming, emotional, emotive, tender, sentimental, poignant, sad, tear-jerking

touchstone ► **noun** CRITERION, standard, yardstick, benchmark, barometer, litmus test, measure, point of reference, norm, gauge, test, guide, exemplar, model, pattern

touchy ► **adjective** ① she can be so touchy SENSITIVE, oversensitive, hypersensitive, easily offended, thin-skinned, highly strung, tense, irritable, tetchy, testy, crotchety, peevish, querulous, bad-tempered, petulant, pettish, informal snappy, ratty, N Amer informal cranky ② a touchy subject DELICATE, sensitive, tricky, ticklish, embarrassing, awkward, difficult, contentious, controversial
—OPPOSITES affable

tough ► **adjective** ① tough leather gloves DURABLE, strong, resilient, sturdy, rugged, solid, stout, hard-wearing, long-lasting, heavy-duty, well built, made to last ② the steak was tough CHEWY, leathery, gristly, stringy, fibrous ③ he'll survive—he's pretty tough ROBUST, resilient, strong, hardy, rugged, fit, informal hard, (as) tough as old boots, dated stalwart ④ tough sentencing for persistent offenders STRICT, stern, severe, stringent, rigorous, hard, firm, hard-hitting, uncompromising, unsentimental, unsympathetic ⑤ the training was pretty tough ARDUOUS, onerous, strenuous, gruelling, exacting, difficult, demanding, hard, heavy, taxing, tiring, exhausting, punishing, laborious, stressful, Herculean, archaic toilsome ⑥ these are tough questions for American policy-makers DIFFICULT, hard, knotty, thorny, tricky
—OPPOSITES soft, weak, easy

► **noun** (informal) a gang of loughs RUFFIAN, thug, hoodlum, hooligan, bully boy, Bnt rough, informal roughneck, heavy, bruiser, gorilla, yahoo, Bnt informal yob, yobbo

toughen ► **verb** ① the process toughens the wood fibres STRENGTHEN, fortify, reinforce, harden, temper, anneal ② measures to toughen up prison discipline MAKE STRICTER, make more severe, stiffen, tighten up, informal beef up

tour ► **noun** ① a three-day walking tour TRIP, excursion, journey, expedition, jaunt, outing, trek, safari, archaic peregrination ② a tour of the factory visit, inspection, guided tour, walk-about ③ his tour of duty in Ulster STINT, stretch, spell, turn, assignment, period of service

► **verb** ① this hotel is well placed for touring Somerset TRAVEL ROUND, explore, holiday in, informal do ② the prince toured a local factory visit, go round, walk round, inspect.

tourist ► **noun** HOLIDAYMAKER, traveller, sight-seer, visitor, backpacker, globetrotter, day tripper, tripper, N Amer vacationer, vacationist, out-of-towner, Bnt informal grockle.
—OPPOSITES local.

tournament ► **noun** ① a golf tournament. COMPETITION, contest, championship, meeting, meet, event, match, fixture ② (historical) a knight

preparing for a tournament JOUST, tourney, tilt, the lists

tousled ► **adjective** UNTIDY, dishevelled, wind-blown, messy, disordered, disarranged, messed up, rumpled, uncombed, ungroomed, tangled, wild, unkempt, informal mussed up
—OPPOSITES neat, tidy

tout ► **verb** ① street merchants were touting their wares PEDDLE, sell, hawk, offer for sale, informal flog ② minicab drivers were touting for business SOLICIT, seek, drum up, ask, petition, appeal, canvas ③ he's being touted as the next Scotland manager RECOMMEND, speak of, talk of, predict, Bnt tip

tow ► **verb** the car was towed back to the garage PULL, haul, drag, draw, tug, lug

■ In tow he arrived with his new girlfriend in tow IN ATTENDANCE, by one's side, in one's charge, accompanying, following

towards ► **preposition** ① they were driving towards her flat IN THE DIRECTION OF, to, on the way to, on the road to, en route for ② towards evening dark clouds gathered JUST BEFORE, shortly before, near, nearing, around, approaching, close to, coming to, getting on for ③ her attitude towards politics WITH REGARD TO, as regards, regarding, in/with regard to, respecting, in relation to, concerning, about, apropos ④ a grant towards the cost of new buses AS A CONTRIBUTION TO, for, to help with

tower ► **noun** a church tower STEEPLE, spire, minaret, turret, bell tower, belfry, campanile See list

► **verb** ① snow-capped peaks towered over the valley SOAR, rise, rear, overshadow, overhang, hang over, dominate ② he towered over most other theologians of his generation DOMINATE, overshadow, outshine, outclass, eclipse, be head and shoulders above, put someone/something in the shade

Types of Tower

barbican	demi-bastion	nuragh
bastion	donjon	pagoda
belfry	gate tower	peel/pele (tower)
bell tower	high-rise	shot tower
belvedere	building	silos
broch	keep	skyscraper
campanile	lighthouse	spire
church	lookout	stair tower
tower	tower	steeple
clock tower	• Martello tower	tower block
column	tower	turret
control	mast	watchtower
tower	minar	water tower
cooling tower	minaret	ziggurat
	mirador	

towering ► **adjective** ① a towering skyscraper HIGH, tall, lofty, soaring, sky-high, sky-scraping, multi-storey, giant, gigantic, enormous, huge, massive, informal ginormous ② a towering intellect OUTSTANDING, pre-eminent, leading, foremost, finest, top, surpassing, supreme, great, incomparable, unrivalled, unsurpassed, peerless. ③ a towering rage EXTREME, fierce, terrible, intense, overpowering, mighty, violent, vengeful, passionate



town ► **noun** URBAN AREA, conurbation, municipality, city, metropolis, megalopolis, *Brit* borough, *Scottish* burgh

—RELATED TERMS municipal, urban.

—OPPOSITES country

toxic ► **adjective** POISONOUS, virulent, noxious, dangerous, harmful, injurious, pernicious

—OPPOSITES harmless

toy ► **noun** ① a cuddly toy PLAYTHING, game ② an executive toy GADGET, device, trinket, knick-knack, *informal* gizmo

► **adjective** ① a toy gun MODEL, imitation, replica, miniature ② a toy poodle MINIATURE, small, tiny, diminutive, dwarf, midget, pygmy

■ **toy with** ① I was toying with the idea of writing a book THINK ABOUT, consider, flirt with, entertain the possibility of, *informal* kick around ② Adam toyed with his glasses FIDDLE WITH, play with, fidget with, twiddle, finger ③ she toyed with her food NIBBLE, pick at, peck at, eat listlessly, eat like a bird

trace ► **verb** ① police hope to trace the owner of the jewellery TRACK DOWN, find, discover, detect, unearth, turn up, hunt down, ferret out, run to ground ② she traced a pattern in the sand with her toe DRAW, outline, mark ③ the analysis traces out the consequences of such beliefs OUTLINE, map out, sketch out, delineate, depict, show, indicate

► **noun** ① no trace had been found of the missing plane VESTIGE, sign, mark, indication, evidence, clue, remains, remnant, relic, survival ② a trace of bitterness crept into her voice BIT, touch, hint, suggestion, suspicion, shadow, whiff, drop, dash, tinge, speck, shred, jot, iota, *informal* smidgen, tad ③ the ground was hard and they left no traces TRAIL, tracks, marks, prints, footprints, spoor

track ► **noun** ① a gravel track PATH, pathway, footpath, lane, trail, route, way, course ② the final lap of the track COURSE, racecourse, race-track, velodrome, *Brit* circuit ③ he found the tracks of a grey fox TRACES, marks, prints, footprints, trail, spoor ④ Orkney lies on the track of the Atlantic winds COURSE, path, line, route, way, trajectory ⑤ commuters had to walk along the tracks RAIL, line, railway line ⑥ the album's title track. SONG, recording, number, piece

► **verb** he tracked a bear for 40 km FOLLOW, trail, trace, pursue, shadow, stalk, keep an eye on, keep in sight, *informal* tail

■ **keep track of** MONITOR, follow, keep up with, keep an eye on, keep in touch with, keep up to date with, *informal* keep tabs on

■ **track someone/something down** DISCOVER, find, detect, hunt down/out, unearth, uncover, turn up, dig up, ferret out, bring to light, run to earth, run to ground

tract¹ ► **noun** large tracts of land AREA, region, expanse, sweep, stretch, extent, belt, swathe, zone

tract² ► **noun** a political tract. TREATISE, essay, article, paper, work, monograph, disquisition, dissertation, thesis, homily, pamphlet, booklet, leaflet

tractable ► **adjective** MALLEABLE, manageable, amenable, pliable, governable, yielding, complaisant, compliant, persuadable, accommodating, docile, biddable, obedient, submissive, meek

—OPPOSITES recalcitrant

traction ► **noun** GRIP, purchase, friction, adhesion

trade ► **noun** ① the illicit trade in stolen cattle COMMERCE, buying and selling, dealing, traffic, trafficking, business, marketing, merchandising, dealings, transactions ② the glazier's trade CRAFT, occupation, job, career, profession, business, line (of work), métier, vocation, calling, walk of life, field, work, employment

—RELATED TERMS mercantile.

► **verb** ① he made his fortune trading in beaver pelts DEAL, buy and sell, traffic, market, merchandise peddle, *informal* hawk, flog ② the business is trading at a loss OPERATE, run, do business ③ I traded the old machine for a newer model SWAP, exchange, switch, barter

■ **trade on** EXPLOIT, take advantage of, capitalize on, profit from, use, make use of, milk, *informal* cash in on

trademark ► **noun** ① the company's trademark LOGO, emblem, sign, mark, stamp, symbol, device, badge, crest, monogram, colophon, trade name, brand name, proprietary name ② it had all the trademarks of a Mafia hit CHARACTERISTIC, hallmark, telltale sign, sign, trait, quality, attribute, feature, peculiarity, idiosyncrasy

trader ► **noun** DEALER, merchant, buyer, seller, buyer and seller, marketeer, merchandiser, broker, agent, distributor, vendor, purveyor, supplier, trafficker, shopkeeper, retailer, wholesaler

tradesman, tradeswoman ► **noun** ① tradesmen standing nonchalantly outside their stores SHOPKEEPER, retailer, vendor, wholesaler, *N Amer* storekeeper ② a qualified tradesman CRAFTSMAN, workman, artisan

tradition ► **noun** ① during a maiden speech, by tradition, everyone keeps absolutely silent HISTORICAL CONVENTION, unwritten law, oral history, lore, folklore ② an age-old tradition CUSTOM, practice, convention, ritual, observance, way, usage, habit, institution, *formal* praxis

traditional ► **adjective** ① traditional Christmas fure LONG-ESTABLISHED, customary, time-honoured, established, classic, accustomed, standard, regular, normal, conventional, usual, orthodox, habitual, set, fixed, routine, ritual, old, age-old; poetic/literary wanted ② traditional beliefs HANDED-DOWN, folk, unwritten, oral

traduce ► **verb** DEFAME, slander, speak ill of, misrepresent, malign, vilify, denigrate, disparage, slur, impugn, smear, besmurch, run down, blacken the name of, cast aspersions on, *informal* bad-mouth; *formal* calumniate

traffic ► **noun** ① the bridge is not open to traffic VEHICLES, cars, lorries, trucks ② they might be stuck in traffic TRAFFIC JAMS, congestion, grid-lock, tailbacks, hold-ups, queues, *informal* snarl-ups ③ the increased use of railways for goods traffic. TRANSPORT, transportation, freight, conveying, shipping ④ the illegal traffic in stolen art TRADE, trading, trafficking, dealing, commerce, business, buying and selling; smuggling, bootlegging, black market; dealings, transactions ⑤ (archaic) he has little traffic with his neighbours CONTACT, communication, intercourse, dealings, relations.

► **verb** he confessed to trafficking in gold and ivory: TRADE, deal, do business, buy and sell, smuggle, bootleg, *informal* run.

tragedy ► **noun** DISASTER, calamity, catastrophe, cataclysm, misfortune, reverse, vicissitude, trial, tribulation, affliction, adversity.

tragic ► **adjective** ① *a tragic accident* DISASTROUS, calamitous, catastrophic, cataclysmic, devastating, terrible, dreadful, awful, appalling, horrendous, fatal, deadly, mortal, lethal ② *a tragic tale* SAD, unhappy, pathetic, moving, distressing, painful, harrowing, heart-rending, pitious, wretched, sorry, melancholy, doleful, mournful ③ *a tragic waste of talent* DREADFUL, terrible, awful, deplorable, lamentable, regrettable, formal grievous
-OPPOSITES fortunate, happy

trail ► **noun** ① *he left a trail of clues* | *a trail of devastation* SERIES, string, chain, succession, sequence, aftermath ② *wolves on the trail of their prey* TRACK, spoor, path, scent, traces, marks, signs, prints, footprints ③ *the plane's vapour trail* WAKE, tail, stream ④ *a trail of ants* LINE, column, train, file, procession, string, chain, convoy, queue ⑤ *country parks with nature trails* PATH, pathway, way, footpath, track, course, route

► **verb** ① *her robe trailed along the ground* DRAG, sweep, be drawn, dangle, hang (down), droop ② *the roses grew wild, their stems trailing over the banks* HANG, droop, fall, spill, cascade ③ *Sharpe suspected that they were trailing him* FOLLOW, pursue, track, shadow, stalk, hunt (down), run to earth, run to ground, informal tail ④ *the defending champions were trailing 10-5 at half time* LOSE, be down, be behind, lag behind ⑤ *I hate trailing round the shops* TRUDGE, plod, drag oneself, traipse, trek, *N Amer informal* schlep ⑥ *her voice trailed off* FADE, tail off/away, grow faint, die away, dwindle, subside, peter out, fizzle out

train ► **verb** ① *an engineer trained in remote-sensing techniques* INSTRUCT, teach, coach, tutor, school, educate, prime, drill, ground, inculcate, indoctrinate ② *she's training to be a hairdresser* STUDY, learn, prepare, take instruction ③ *with the Olympics in mind, athletes are training hard* EXERCISE, do exercises, work out, get into shape, practise ④ *she trained the gun on his chest* AIM, point, direct, level, focus, take aim, zero in on

► **noun** ① *the train for London* railway train, baby talk choo choo See list ② *a minister and his train of attendants* RETINUE, entourage, cortège, following, staff, household, court, suite, attendants, retainers, followers, bodyguards ③ *a train of elephants* PROCESSION, line, file, column, convoy, cavalcade, caravan, queue, string, succession ④ *a bizarre train of events* CHAIN, string, series, sequence, succession, set, course, cycle, concatenation

trainer ► **noun** COACH, instructor, teacher, tutor, handler

training ► **noun** ① *in-house training for staff* INSTRUCTION, teaching, coaching, tuition, tutoring, schooling, education; indoctrination, inculcation ② *four months' hard training before the match* EXERCISE, exercises, working out, practice, preparation

traipse ► **verb** TRUDGE, trek, tramp, trail, plod, drag oneself, slog, *Brit informal* trog; *N Amer informal* schlep.

trait ► **noun** CHARACTERISTIC, attribute, feature, (essential) quality, property, habit, custom, mannerism, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, quirk, oddity, foible.

Trains and Rolling Stock

aerotrain	mail train
baggage car	metro
bi-level carriage	Metroliner
boat train	milk train
brake van	monorail
buffet car	motor coach
bullet train	non-smoker
caboose	non-stop
car	observation car
carriage	palace car
chair car	parlor car
club car	passenger train
coach	Pullman
couchette	railcar
day coach/car	restaurant car
diesel-electric	saloon car
diesel locomotive	Shinkansen
dining car	shunter
double-header	sleeper
drive-on train	sleeping car/carriage
electric train	slip carriage
express	slow train
freight car	smoker
freight train	Sprinter
goods train	stateroom
goods wagon	steam locomotive
guard's van	steam train
high-speed train (HST)	stopping train
hospital train	subway train
hovertrain	traction unit
jerkwater train	the tube
light engine	turbotrain
luggage van	underground train
maglev	unit train
mail coach	

traitor ► **noun** BETRAYER, back-stabber, double-crosser, double-dealer, renegade, Judas, quisling, fifth columnist, turncoat, defector, deserter, collaborator, informer, double agent, informal snake in the grass, two-timer

traitorous ► **adjective** TREACHEROUS, disloyal, treasonous, back-stabbing, double-crossing, double-dealing, faithless, unfaithful, two-faced, false-hearted, duplicitous, deceitful, false, informal two-timing, poetic/literary perfidious
-OPPOSITES loyal

trajectory ► **noun** COURSE, path, route, track, line, orbit

trammel (poetic/literary) ► **noun** the trammels of tradition RESTRAINT, constraint, curb, check, impediment, obstacle, barrier, handicap, bar, hindrance, encumbrance, disadvantage, drawback, snag, stumbling block, straitjacket, shackles, fetters, bonds

► **verb** those less trammelled by convention than himself RESTRICT, restrain, constrain, hamper, confine, hinder, handicap, obstruct, impede, hold back, hamstring, shackle, fetter

tramp ► **verb** ① *men were tramping through the shrubbery* TRUDGE, plod, stamp, trample, lumber, clump, clomp, stomp, stomp; informal traipse, galumph ② *he spent ten days tramping through the jungle* TREK, slog, footslog, trudge, drag oneself, walk, hike, march, informal traipse, *Brit informal* yomp, *N Amer informal* schlep

► **noun** ① *a dirty old tramp* VAGRANT, vagabond, homeless person, down-and-out; traveller, drift-



er, beachcomber, beggar, mendicant, *N Amer* hobo, *Austral/NZ* bagman; *informal* bag lady; *N Amer informal* bum ② the regular tramp of the sentry's boots: FOOTSTEP, step, footfall, tread, stamp, stomp ③ a tramp round Norwich TREK, slog, trudge, hike, march, walk, *Brit informal* yomp, *N Amer informal* schlep

trample ▶ **verb** ① someone had trampled on the tulips TREAD, tramp, stamp, stomp, walk over, squash, crush, flatten ② we do nothing but trample over their feelings TREAT WITH CONTEMPT, ride roughshod over, disregard, set at naught, show no consideration for, abuse, encroach on, infringe

trance ▶ **noun** DAZE, stupor, hypnotic state, half-conscious state, dream, *Scottish* dwam

tranquil ▶ **adjective** ① a wonderfully tranquil village PEACEFUL, calm, restful, quiet, still, relaxing, undisturbed ② Martha smiled, perfectly tranquil CALM, serene, relaxed, unruffled, unperturbed, unflustered, untroubled, composed, (cool, calm, and collected), equable, even-tempered, placid, phlegmatic, *informal* unflappable —OPPOSITES busy, excitable

tranquillity ▶ **noun** ① the tranquillity of the Norfolk countryside PEACE, peacefulness, restfulness, repose, calm, calmness, quiet, quietness, stillness ② the incident jolted her out of her tranquillity COMPOSURE, calmness, serenity, equanimity, equability, placidity, *informal* cool, unflappability

tranquillize ▶ **verb** SEDATE, put under sedation, narcotize, drug

tranquillizer ▶ **noun** SEDATIVE, barbiturate, calmative, sleeping pill, narcotic, opiate, *informal* trunk, downer —OPPOSITES stimulant

transact ▶ **verb** CONDUCT, carry out, negotiate, do, perform, execute, take care of, settle, conclude, finish, clinch, accomplish

transaction ▶ **noun** ① property transactions DEAL, business deal, undertaking, arrangement, bargain, negotiation, agreement, settlement, proceedings ② the transactions of the Historical Society PROCEEDINGS, report, record(s), minutes, account, archives ③ the transaction of government business CONDUCT, carrying out, negotiation, performance, execution

transcend ▶ **verb** ① an issue that transcended party politics GO BEYOND, rise above, cut across ② his military exploits far transcended those of his predecessors: SURPASS, exceed, beat, top, cap, outdo, outclass, outstrip, leave behind, outshine, eclipse, overshadow, throw into the shade, upstage.

transcendence ▶ **noun** EXCELLENCE, supremacy, incomparability, matchlessness, peerlessness, magnificence

transcendent ▶ **adjective** ① the search for a transcendent level of knowledge: MYSTICAL, mystic, transcendental, spiritual; metaphysical. ② a transcendent genius INCOMPARABLE, matchless, peerless, unrivalled, inimitable, beyond compare/comparison, unparalleled, unequalled, without equal, second to none, unsurpassed, unsurpassable, nonpareil; exceptional, consummate, unique, perfect, rare, surpassing, magnificent; *formal* unexampled

transcendental ▶ **adjective**. See TRANSCENDENT sense 1

transcribe ▶ **verb** ① each interview was taped and transcribed WRITE OUT, copy out, put in writing, put on paper ② a person who can take and transcribe shorthand TRANSLITERATE, interpret, translate

transcript ▶ **noun** WRITTEN VERSION, printed version, text, transliteration, record, reproduction

transfer ▶ **verb** ① the hostages were transferred to a safe house MOVE, convey, take, bring, shift, remove, carry, transport, transplant, relocate, resettle ② the property was transferred to his wife HAND OVER, pass on, make over, turn over, sign over, consign, devolve, assign, delegate

▶ **noun** he died shortly after his transfer to hospital MOVE, conveyance, transferral, transference, relocation, removal, transplantation

transfigure ▶ **verb** TRANSFORM, transmute, change, alter, metamorphose, *humorous* transmogrify

transfix ▶ **verb** ① he was transfixed by the images on the screen MESMERIZE, hypnotize, spellbind, bewitch, captivate, entrance, enthral, fascinate, enrapture, grip, rivet, root to the spot, paralyse ② a field mouse is transfixed by the owl's curved talons IMPALE, stab, spear, pierce, spike, skewer, gore, stick, run through, *poetic/literary* transperce

transform ▶ **verb** CHANGE, alter, convert, metamorphose, transfigure, transmute, revolutionize, overhaul, remodel, reshape, remould, redo, reconstruct, rebuild, reorganize, rearrange, rework, renew, revamp, remake, *humorous* transmogrify

transformation ▶ **noun** CHANGE, alteration, conversion, metamorphosis, transfiguration, transmutation, sea change, revolution, overhaul, remodeling, reshaping, remoulding, redoing, reconstruction, rebuilding, reorganization, rearrangement, reworking, renewal, revamp, remaking, *humorous* transmogrification

transgress ▶ **verb** ① if they transgress the punishment is harsh MISBEHAVE, behave badly, break the law, err, fall from grace, stray from the straight and narrow, sin, do wrong, go astray, *archaic* trespass ② she had transgressed an unwritten social law INFRINGE, breach, contravene, disobey, defy, violate, break, flout

transgression ▶ **noun** ① a punishment for past transgressions OFFENCE, crime, sin, wrong, wrongdoing, misdemeanour, misdeed, law-breaking; error, lapse, fault, *archaic* trespass ② Adam's transgression of God's law INFRINGEMENT, breach, contravention, violation, defiance, disobedience, non-observance

transgressor ▶ **noun** WRONGDOER, offender, miscreant, lawbreaker, criminal, villain, felon, malefactor, guilty party, culprit; sinner, evildoer, *archaic* trespasser.

transient ▶ **adjective** TRANSITORY, temporary, short-lived, short-term, ephemeral, impermanent, brief, short, momentary, fleeting, passing, fugitive, here today and gone tomorrow; *poetic/literary* evanescent.

—OPPOSITES permanent

transit ▶ **noun** the transit of goods between states: TRANSPORT, transportation, movement, convey-



ance, shipment, haulage, freightage, carriage, transfer

■ **In transit** *EN ROUTE*, on the journey, on the way, along/on the road, during transport

transition ► *noun* CHANGE, passage, move, transformation, conversion, metamorphosis, alteration, changeover, shift, switch, jump, leap, progression, progress, development, evolution

transitional ► *adjective* ① *a transitional period* INTERMEDIATE, interim, changeover, changing, fluid, unsettled ② *the transitional government* IN TERIM, temporary, provisional, pro tem, acting, caretaker

transitory ► *adjective* TRANSIENT, temporary, brief, short, short-lived, short-term, impermanent, ephemeral, momentary, fleeting, passing, fugitive, here today and gone tomorrow, *poetic/literary* evanescent
—OPPOSITES permanent

translate ► *verb* ① *the German original had been translated into English* RENDER, put, express, convert, change, transcribe, transliterate ② *he prepared to translate the jargon into normal English* RENDER, paraphrase, reword, rephrase, convert, decipher, decode, gloss, explain ③ *interesting ideas cannot always be translated into effective movies* CHANGE, convert, transform, alter, adapt, turn, transmute, *humorous* transmogrify ④ *in 1228 the bishop was translated from Salisbury to Durham* RELOCATE, transfer, move, remove, shift, transplant

translation ► *noun* ① *the translation of the Bible into English* RENDITION, rendering, conversion, transcription, transliteration ② *the translation of these policies into practice* CONVERSION, change, transformation, alteration, adaptation, transmutation, *humorous* transmogrification

translucent ► *adjective* SEMI-TRANSPARENT, pellucid, limpid, clear, diaphanous, gossamer, sheer
—OPPOSITES opaque

transmission ► *noun* ① *the transmission of knowledge and culture* TRANSFERENCE, transferral, communication, conveyance, dissemination, spreading, circulation ② *the transmission of the film* BROADCASTING, relaying, airing, televising ③ *a live transmission* BROADCAST, programme, show

transmit ► *verb* ① *the use of computers to transmit information* TRANSFER, pass on, hand on, communicate, convey, impart, channel, carry, relay, dispatch, disseminate, spread, circulate ② *the programme will be transmitted on Sunday* BROADCAST, relay, send out, air, televise

transmute ► *verb* CHANGE, alter, adapt, transform, convert, metamorphose, translate; *humorous* transmogrify

transparency ► *noun* ① *the transparency of the glass* TRANSLUCENCY, limpidity, glassiness, clearness, clarity ② *colour transparencies* SLIDE, diapositive.

transparent ► *adjective* ① *transparent blue water* CLEAR, crystal clear, see-through, translucent, pellucid, limpid, glassy ② *fine transparent fabrics* SEE-THROUGH, sheer, filmy, gauzy, diaphanous. ③ *the symbolism of this myth is transparent* OBVIOUS, unambiguous, unequivocal, clear, crystal clear, plain, (as) plain as the nose on your face, apparent, unmistakable, manifest,

conspicuous, patent, palpable, indisputable, evident, self-evident, undisguised, unconcealed
—OPPOSITES opaque, obscure

transpire ► *verb* ① *it transpired that her family had moved away* BECOME KNOWN, emerge, come to light, be revealed, turn out, come out, be discovered, prove to be the case ② *I'm going to find out exactly what transpired* HAPPEN, occur, take place, arise, come about, turn up, chance, befall, *poetic/literary* come to pass

transplant ► *verb* ① *it was proposed to transplant the club to the vacant site* TRANSFER, move, remove, shift, relocate, take ② *the seedlings should be transplanted in larger pots* REPLANT, repot, relocate ③ *kidneys must be transplanted within 48 hours of removal* TRANSFER, implant

transport ► *verb* ① *the concrete blocks were transported by lorry* CONVEY, carry, take, transfer, move, shift, send, deliver, bear, ship, ferry, informal cart ② *he was convicted of theft and transported* BANISH, exile, deport, expatriate, extradite ③ *she was completely transported by the excitement* THRILL, delight, carry away, enrapture, entrance, enchant, enthrall, electrify, captivate, bewitch, fascinate, spellbind, charm, informal send, *poetic/literary* ravish

► *noun* ① *alternative forms of transport* CONVEYANCE, transportation. See lists at CAR, CARRIAGE, TRAIN, VEHICLE ② *the transport of crude oil* TRANSPORTATION, conveyance, carriage, freight, freightage, shipment, shipping, haulage, transit ③ *transports of delight* RAPTURE, ecstasy, elation, exaltation, exhilaration, euphoria, bliss, seventh heaven, heaven, paradise, high, passion, strong feeling/emotion, informal cloud nine

transpose ► *verb* ① *the blue and black plates were transposed* INTERCHANGE, exchange, switch, swap (round), reverse, invert ② *the themes are transposed from the sphere of love to that of work* TRANSFER, shift, relocate, transplant, move, displace

transverse ► *adjective* CROSSWISE, crossways, cross, horizontal, diagonal, oblique

trap ► *noun* ① *an animal caught in a trap* SNARE, net, mesh, gin, springe, *N Amer* deadfall ② *the question was set as a trap* TRICK, ploy, ruse, deception, subterfuge, booby trap, informal set-up ③ (informal) *shut your trap!* See MOUTH *noun* sense 1

► *verb* ① *police trapped the two men, who admitted blackmail* SNARE, entrap, ensnare, lay a trap for; capture, catch, corner, ambush; *archaic* ambuscade ② *a rat trapped in a barn* CONFINED, cut off, corner, shut in, pen in, hem in, imprison, hold captive ③ *I hoped to trap him into an admission*: TRICK, dupe, deceive, lure, inveigle, beguile, fool, hoodwink; catch out, trip up.

trappings ► *plural noun* ACCESSORIES, accoutrements, appurtenances, trimmings, frills, accompaniments, extras, ornamentation, adornment, decoration, regalia, panoply, paraphernalia, apparatus, finery, equipment, gear, effects, things

trash ► *noun* ① (*N Amer*) *the subway entrance was blocked with trash* RUBBISH, refuse, waste, litter, junk, detritus; *N Amer* garbage ② (informal) *if they read at all, they read trash*: RUBBISH, nonsense, trivia, pulp (fiction), pap, *N Amer* garbage, informal drivel, dreck. ③ (informal) *they're just*



trash SCUM, vermin, the dregs of society, the scum of the earth, the lowest of the low; *informal* dirt

► **verb** (*N Amer informal*) ① the apartment had been totally trashed WRECK, ruin, destroy, wreak havoc on, devastate, vandalize, *informal* total ② his play was trashed by the critics See LAMBASTE

trauma ► **noun** ① the trauma of divorce SHOCK, upheaval, distress, stress, strain, pain, anguish, suffering, upset, agony, misery, sorrow, grief, heartache, heartbreak, torture, ordeal, trial, tribulation, trouble, worry, anxiety, nightmare ② the trauma to the liver INJURY, damage, wound, cut, laceration, lesion, abrasion, contusion

traumatic ► **adjective** DISTURBING, shocking, distressing, upsetting, heartbreaking, painful, agonizing, hurtful, stressful, damaging, injurious, harmful, awful, terrible, devastating, harrowing

travail (*poetic/literary*) ► **noun** ① years of bitter travail ORDEALS, trials, tribulations, trials and tribulations, trouble, hardship, privation, stress, drudgery, toil, slog, effort, exertion, labour, work, endeavour, sweat, struggle ② a woman in travail LABOUR, childbirth, contractions, labour pains, *archaic* childbirth

travel ► **verb** ① he spent much of his time travelling abroad JOURNEY, tour, take a trip, voyage, go sightseeing, globetrot, backpack, *informal* gallivant, *archaic* peregrinate ② we travelled the length and breadth of the island JOURNEY THROUGH, cross, traverse, cover, roam, rove, range, trek ③ light travels faster than sound MOVE, be transmitted

► **noun** he amassed great wealth during his travels JOURNEYS, expeditions, trips, tours, excursions, voyages, treks, safaris, explorations, wanderings, odysseys, pilgrimages, jaunts, travelling, touring, sightseeing, backpacking, globetrotting, *informal* gallivanting, *archaic* peregrinations

traveller ► **noun** ① thousands of travellers were left stranded TOURIST, tripper, holidaymaker, sightseer, visitor, globetrotter, backpacker, pilgrim, passenger, commuter, fare, *N Amer* vacationer, vacationist ② a travellers' site GYPSY, Romany, tzigane, nomad, migrant, wanderer, itinerant, drifter, tramp, vagrant, *dialect* didicoi, *Brit* derogatory tinker

travelling ► **adjective** ① the travelling population NOMADIC, itinerant, peripatetic, wandering, roaming, roving, wayfaring, migrant, vagrant, of no fixed address/abode, gypsy, Romany ② a little travelling clock PORTABLE, easily carried, easy to carry, lightweight, compact

traverse ► **verb** ① he traversed the deserts of Persia: TRAVEL OVER/ACROSS, cross, journey over/across, pass over; cover, ply; wander, roam, range ② a ditch traversed by a wooden bridge CROSS, bridge, span, extend across, lie across, stretch across

travesty ► **noun** a travesty of justice. MISREPRESENTATION, distortion, perversion, corruption, poor imitation, poor substitute, mockery, parody, caricature; farce, charade, pantomime, sham, *informal* apology for, excuse for.

treacherous ► **adjective** ① her treacherous brother betrayed her TRAITOROUS, disloyal, faithless, unfaithful, duplicitous, false-hearted, deceitful, false, back-stabbing, double-crossing,

double-dealing, two-faced, untrustworthy, unreliable, apostate, renegade, *informal* two-timing, *poetic/literary* perfidious ② treacherous driving conditions DANGEROUS, hazardous, perilous, unsafe, precarious, risky, deceptive, unreliable, *informal* dicey, hairy

—OPPOSITES loyal, faithful, reliable

treachery ► **noun** BETRAYAL, disloyalty, faithlessness, unfaithfulness, infidelity, breach of trust, duplicity, deceit, deception, stab in the back, back-stabbing, double-dealing, untrustworthiness, treason, *informal* two-timing, *poetic/literary* perfidy

tread ► **verb** ① he trod purposefully down the hall WALK, step, stride, pace, go, march, tramp, plod, stomp, trudge ② the snow had been trodden down by the horses CRUSH, flatten, press down, squash, trample on, tramp on, stamp on, stomp on

► **noun** we heard his heavy tread on the stairs STEP, footstep, footfall, tramp

treason ► **noun** TREACHERY, lese-majesty, disloyalty, betrayal, faithlessness, sedition, subversion, mutiny, rebellion, high treason, *poetic/literary* perfidy

—OPPOSITES allegiance, loyalty

treasonable ► **adjective** TRAITOROUS, treacherous, disloyal, seditious, subversive, mutinous, rebellious, *poetic/literary* perfidious

—OPPOSITES loyal

treasure ► **noun** ① a casket of treasure RICHES, valuables, jewels, gems, gold, silver, precious metals, money, cash, wealth, fortune, *Brit* treasure trove ② art treasures VALUABLE OBJECT, valuable, work of art, objet of vertu, masterpiece ③ (*informal*) she's a real treasure PARAGON, gem, angel, nonpareil, find, prize, *informal* star, one of a kind, one in a million, the tops

► **verb** I treasure the photographs I took of Jack CHERISH, hold dear, prize, set great store by, value greatly, adore, dote on, love dearly, be devoted to, worship

treasury ► **noun** ① the national treasury EXCHEQUER, purse, bank, coffers, revenues, finances, funds, moneys ② the area is a treasury of early fossils RICH SOURCE, repository, storehouse, treasure house, fund, mine, bank ③ a treasury of stories ANTHOLOGY, collection, miscellany, compilation, compendium

treat ► **verb** ① Charlotte treated him very badly BEHAVE TOWARDS, act towards, use, deal with, handle. ② police are treating the fires as arson REGARD, consider, view, look on; put down as ③ the book treats its subject with insight and responsibility. DEAL WITH, tackle, handle, discuss, explore, investigate, consider, study, analyse ④ she was treated at Addenbrooke's Hospital. GIVE MEDICAL CARE TO, nurse, tend, attend to, medicate ⑤ the plants may prove useful in treating cancer CURE, heal, remedy ⑥ he treated her to a slap-up lunch. BUY, take out for, stand, give; pay for, entertain, wine and dine, *informal* foot the bill for ⑦ delegates were treated to authentic Indonesian dance performances: REGALE WITH, entertain with/by, fête with, amuse with, divert with ⑧ (formal) propagandists claimed that he was treating with the enemy NEGOTIATE, discuss terms, have talks, consult, parley, talk, confer

► **noun** ① a birthday treat CELEBRATION, entertainment, amusement; surprise; party, excursion, outing. ② I bought you some chocolate as a treat:



PRESENT, gift, titbit, delicacy, luxury, indulgence, extravagance, *informal* goodie ③ it was a real treat to see them PLEASURE, delight, thrill, joy

treatise ► **noun** DISQUISITION, essay, paper, work, exposition, discourse, dissertation, thesis, monograph, study, critique, tract, pamphlet

treatment ► **noun** ① the company's treatment of its workers BEHAVIOUR TOWARDS, conduct towards, handling of, dealings with ② she's responding well to treatment MEDICAL CARE, therapy, nursing, medication, drugs, medicaments, cure, remedy See list at THERAPY ③ her treatment of the topic DISCUSSION, handling, investigation, exploration, consideration, study, analysis, critique

treaty ► **noun** AGREEMENT, settlement, pact, deal, entente, concordat, accord, protocol, compact, convention, contract, covenant, bargain, pledge, *formal* concord

tree ► **noun** sapling, conifer, evergreen See list
-RELATED TERMS arboreal

trek ► **noun** a three-day trek across the desert JOURNEY, trip, expedition, safari, odyssey, hike, march, slog, footslog, tramp, walk, long haul, *Brit informal* yomp, trog

► **verb** we trekked through the jungle HIKE, tramp, march, slog, footslog, trudge, traipse, walk, travel, journey, *Brit informal* yomp, trog

trellis ► **noun** LATTICE, framework, espalier, network, mesh, tracery, grille, grid, grating, latticework, trelliswork, *technical* reticulation

tremble ► **verb** ① Joe's hands were trembling SHAKE, shake like a leaf, quiver, twitch, quaver, waver ② the entire building trembled SHAKE, shudder, judder, wobble, rock, vibrate, move, sway, totter, teeter ③ she trembled at the thought of what he had in store for her BE AFRAID, be frightened, be apprehensive, worry, shake in one's shoes, quail, shrink, blench, *informal* be in a blue funk, be all of a tremble
► **noun** the slight tremble in her hands TREMOR, shake, shakiness, trembling, quiver, twitch
-OPPOSITES steadiness

tremendous ► **adjective** ① tremendous sums of money HUGE, enormous, immense, colossal, massive, prodigious, stupendous, monumental, mammoth, vast, gigantic, giant, mighty, epic, titanic, towering, king-size(d), gargantuan, Herculean, substantial, considerable, *informal* whopping, thumping, astronomical, humongous, *Brit informal* whacking, ginormous ② a tremendous explosion VERY LOUD, deafening, ear-splitting, booming, thundering, thunderous, resounding ③ (informal) I've seen him play and he's tremendous EXCELLENT, splendid, wonderful, marvellous, magnificent, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful, too good to be true, *informal* super, great, amazing, fantastic, terrific, sensational, heavenly, divine, gorgeous, grand, fabulous, fab, awesome, to die for, magic, ace, wicked, mind-blowing, far out, out of this world, *Brit informal* smashing, brilliant, brill, *N Amer. informal* boss, *Austral/NZ informal* beaut, bonzer; *Brit informal*, dated champion, wizard, corking, ripping, spiffing, top-hole, *N Amer informal*, dated swell
-OPPOSITES tiny, small, poor.

tremor ► **noun** ① the sudden tremor of her hands TREMBLING, shaking, shakiness, tremble, shake,

quivering, quiver, twitching, twitch, tic, quavering, quaver ② a tremor of fear ran through her FRISON, shiver, spasm, thrill, tingle, stab, dart, shaft, wave, surge, rush, ripple ③ the epicentre of the tremor EARTHQUAKE, earth tremor, shock, *informal* quake, *N Amer informal* tremblor

tremulous ► **adjective** ① a tremulous voice SHAKY, trembling, shaking, unsteady, quavering, wavering, quivering, quivery, quaking, weak, *informal* trembly, all of a tremble ② a tremulous smile TIMID, diffident, shy, hesitant, uncertain, nervous, timorous, fearful, frightened, scared, anxious, apprehensive
-OPPOSITES steady, confident

trench ► **noun** DITCH, channel, trough, excavation, furrow, rut, conduit, cut, drain, waterway, watercourse, earthwork, entrenchment, moat, *Archaeology* fosse See list

Deepest Ocean Trenches

TRENCH	OCEAN
Bonin	Pacific
Izu	Pacific
Java	Indian
Kermadec	Pacific
Kuril	Pacific
Mariana	Pacific
New Britain	Pacific
Philippine	Pacific
Puerto Rico	Atlantic
South Sandwich	Atlantic
Tonga	Pacific

trenchant ► **adjective** INCISIVE, penetrating, sharp, keen, acute, shrewd, razor-sharp, rapier-like, piercing, vigorous, forceful, strong, telling, emphatic, forthright, mordant, cutting, biting, pungent
-OPPOSITES vague

trend ► **noun** ① an upward trend in unemployment TENDENCY, movement, drift, swing, shift, course, current, direction, inclination, leaning, bias, bent ② the latest trend in dance music FASHION, vogue, style, mode, craze, mania, rage, *informal* fad, thing

► **verb** interest rates are trending up MOVE, go, head, drift, gravitate, swing, shift, turn, incline, tend, lean, veer

trendy ► **adjective** (informal) FASHIONABLE, in fashion, in vogue, popular, (bang) up to date, up to the minute, modern, all the rage, modish, à la mode, trendsetting, stylish, chic, designer, *informal* cool, funky, in, the in thing, hot, big, hip, happening, sharp, groovy, snazzy, with it, *N Amer informal* tony, kicky.
-OPPOSITES unfashionable

trepidation ► **noun** FEAR, apprehension, dread, fearfulness, agitation, anxiety, worry, nervousness, tension, misgivings, unease, uneasiness, foreboding, disquiet, dismay, consternation, alarm, panic; *informal* butterflies, jitteriness, the jitters, a cold sweat, a blue funk, the heebie-jeebies, the willies, the shakes, the jumbies, collywobbles, cold feet, *Brit informal* the (screaming) abdabs/habdabs
-OPPOSITES equanimity, composure.



Trees and Shrubs

See also FLOWER.

acacia	cypress	kaffirboom	olive	snowball tree
afara	deodar	kahikatea	osier	soapbark
alder	dhak	kalmia	pagoda tree	sorb
alerce	divi-divi	kapok	palm	sorrel tree
almond	dogwood	kapur	palmyra	sourwood
apple	Douglas fir	karri	paloverde	spindle
apricot	dragon tree	kauri (pine)	paperbark	spruce
araucaria	eaglewood	kawa-kawa	paulownia	stinkwood
arbutus	ebony	keaki	pawpaw	strawberry tree
ash	elder	kiaat	pea tree	styrax/storax
aspen	elm	koa	peepul	sumac/sumach
assegai	eucalyptus	kowhai	pepper tree	sweet chestnut
avocado	eunymus	kurrajong	pine	sweet gum
azalea	false acacia	laburnum	plane	sycamore
balsa	fatsia	lacquer tree	podocarp	tacamahac
bamboo	fever tree	lantana	pohutukawa	tallow tree
banksia	fir	larch	ponderosa (pine)	tallow wood
banyan	firethorn	laurel	poplar	tamarack
baobab	flame tree	lemonwood	pride of India	tamarind
basswood	fringe tree	leylandii	primavera	tamarisk
bay tree	fuchsia	lightwood	privet	tambotie
bebeeru	fustic	lilac	puriri	tawa
beech	Gaboon	lilly-pilly	pussy willow	teak
beefwood	gean	lime	pyinkado	tea tree
belah	genip/genipap tree	linden	quassia	terebinth
birch	gidgee	logwood	quebracho	thorn tree
blackthorn	ginkgo	macadamia	rain tree	thuja
bo tree	gomuti	macrocarpa	ramin	toothache tree
bottlebrush	gorse	madroño	rata	toquilla
bottle tree	greengage	magnolia	rauli	totara
box	gualacum	mahogany	redbud	tree of heaven
broom	guayule	mahua	redwood	tulip tree
buckthorn	gum tree	maidenhair tree	rewarewa	tupelo
butternut	gurjun	mako	rhododendron	turpentine tree
cacao	hackberry	mango	ribbonwood	ulmo
cajuput	handkerchief tree	mangrove	robinia	umbrella tree
calabash	hawthorn	manna ash	roseapple	varnish tree
camellia	hazel	maple	rosewood	viburnum
camphor tree	hemlock fir/spruce	marri	rowan	wahoo (elm)
camwood	hickory	matal	royal palm	walnut
candlenut	holly	maté	rubber plant	wattle
carob tree	honey locust	may	sal	wayfaring tree
cassia	honeysuckle	merbau	sandalwood	wellingtonia
cedar	hornbeam	mesquite	sandbox tree	whitebeam
ceiba	horse chestnut	miro	sapele	wig tree
champak	hydrangea	monkey puzzle	sapodilla	wilga
cherry	Indian bean tree	mopane/mopani	sappanwood	willow
cherry plum	iroko	mountain ash	saskatoon	wine palm
chestnut	ironwood	mulberry	sassafras	winter sweet
chinaberry	ivorywood	mulga	savin	witch hazel
chinar	jacaranda	myrtle	sea grape	yarran
cinnamon	jamun	ngaio	sequoia	yaupon (holly)
citron	japonica	Nigerian pearwood	service tree	yew
coco-de-mer	jarrah	nipa (palm)	shagbark hickory	ylang-ylang
coconut palm	jasmine	Norway spruce	shea	yucca
coffee tree	jelutong	nutmeg	silk-cotton tree	zebrawood
coolabah	jojoba	nux vomica	silk tassel bush	
coral tree	joshua tree	oak	simaruba	
corkwood	judas tree	ocotillo	snake tree	
cornel	juniper	oleaster	sneezewood	

trespass ► verb ① *there is no excuse for trespassing on railway property*: INTRUDE ON, encroach on, enter without permission, invade ② *I must not trespass on your good nature*. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, impose on, play on, exploit, abuse; encroach on, infringe ③ (archaic) *he would be the last among us to trespass*: SIN, transgress, offend, do

wrong, err, go astray, fall from grace, stray from the straight and narrow

► noun ① *his alleged trespass on council land*: UNLAWFUL ENTRY, intrusion, encroachment, invasion. ② (archaic) *he asked forgiveness for his trespasses*: SIN, wrong, wrongdoing, transgression, crime, offence, misdeed, misdemeanour, error, lapse.

fall from grace

trespasser ▶ **noun** ① a high stone wall discouraged would-be trespassers **INTRUDER**, interloper, unwelcome visitor, encroacher. ② (archaic) trespassers asking for forgiveness **SINNER**, transgressor, wrongdoer, evil-doer, malefactor, offender, criminal

tresses ▶ **plural noun** **HAIR**, head of hair, mane, mop of hair, shock of hair; locks, curls, ringlets

trial ▶ **noun** ① the trial is expected to last several weeks **COURT CASE**, case, lawsuit, suit, hearing, inquiry, tribunal, litigation, (legal/judicial) proceedings, legal action; court martial, appeal, retrial ② the drug is undergoing clinical trials **TEST**, try-out, experiment, pilot study, examination, check, assessment, evaluation, appraisal, trial/test period, trial/test run, dummy run, informal dry run ③ she could be a bit of a trial at times **NUISANCE**, pest, bother, irritant, problem, inconvenience, plague, thorn in one's flesh, the bane of one's life, one's cross to bear, bore, informal pain, pain in the neck/backside, headache, drag, nightmare, Scottish informal skelf, *N Amer* informal pain in the butt, nudnik, burr under/in someone's saddle ④ a long account of her trials and tribulations **TROUBLE**, anxiety, worry, burden, affliction, ordeal, tribulation, adversity, hardship, tragedy, trauma, reverse, setback, difficulty, problem, misfortune, bad luck, mishap, misadventure, informal hassle, poetic/literary travails

▶ **adjective** a three-month trial period **TEST**, experimental, pilot, exploratory, probationary, provisional

▶ **verb** the electronic cash card has been trialled by several banks **TEST**, try out, put to the test, put through its paces, pilot

triangle ▶ **noun**. See list

Triangles

acute-angled	right
circular	right-angled
congruent triangles	scalene
equilateral	similar triangles
isosceles	spherical
obtuse-angled	

tribe ▶ **noun** ① the nomadic tribes of the Sahara **ETHNIC GROUP**, people, family, dynasty, house, clan, sept See lists at **ISRAEL**, **PEOPLE** ② a tribe of children trailed after her **GROUP**, crowd, gang, company, body, band, host, bevy, party, pack, army, herd, flock, drove, horde, informal bunch, crew, gaggle, posse

tribulation ▶ **noun** ① the tribulations of her personal life: **TROUBLE**, difficulty, problem, worry, anxiety, burden, cross to bear, ordeal, trial, adversity, hardship, tragedy, trauma, affliction, reverse, setback, blow; informal hassle. ② his time of tribulation was just beginning: **SUFFERING**, distress, trouble, misery, wretchedness, unhappiness, sadness, heartache, woe, grief, pain, anguish, agony; poetic/literary travail.

tribunal ▶ **noun** ① a rent tribunal: **ARBITRATION BOARD/PANEL**, board, panel, committee ② an international war-crimes tribunal: **COURT**, court of justice, court of law, law court; court of inquiry; *N Amer.* forum.

tributary ▶ **noun** **HEADWATER**, branch, feeder, side stream, influent, *N Amer* & *Austral/NZ* creek.

tribute ▶ **noun** ① tributes flooded in from friends and colleagues **ACCOLADE**, praise, commendation, salute, testimonial, homage, eulogy, paean, panegyric, congratulations, compliments, plaudits, bouquet, gift, present, offering, formal laudation, encomium ② it is a tribute to his determination that he ever played again **TESTIMONY**, indication, manifestation, evidence, proof, attestation ③ the Vikings demanded tributes in silver **PAYMENT**, contribution, dues, levy, tax, duty, impost

—**OPPOSITES** criticism, condemnation

■ **pay tribute to** **PRAISE**, sing the praises of, speak highly of, commend, acclaim, take one's hat off to, applaud, salute, honour, show appreciation of, recognize, acknowledge, pay homage to, extol, formal laud

trice

■ **in a trice** **VERY SOON**, in a moment/second/instant, shortly, any minute (now), in a short time, in (less than) no time, in the twinkling of an eye, in a flash, before you know it, before long, *N Amer* momentarily, informal anon, in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), before you can say Jack Robinson, *Brit* informal in a tick, in a mo, in two ticks, *N Amer* informal in a snap, dated directly

trick ▶ **noun** ① he's capable of any mean trick **STRATAGEM**, ploy, ruse, scheme, device, manoeuvre, contrivance, machination, artifice, wile, dodge, deceit, deception, trickery, subterfuge, chicanery, sharp practice, swindle, hoax, fraud, confidence trick, informal con (trick), set-up, game, scam, sting, flimflam, *Brit* informal wheeze, *N Amer* informal bunco, archaic shift ② I think he's playing a trick on us **PRACTICAL JOKE**, joke, prank, jape, informal leg-pull, spoof, put-on, *Brit* informal cod ③ conjuring tricks **FEAT**, stunt, (tricks) **SLEIGHT OF HAND**, legerdemain, prestidigitation, magic ④ it was probably a trick of the light **ILLUSION**, optical illusion, figment of the imagination, mirage ⑤ the tricks of the trade **KNACK**, art, skill, technique, secret ⑥ he sat biting his fingernails, a trick of his when he was excited **MANNERISM**, habit, quirk, idiosyncrasy, peculiarity, foible, way; characteristic, trait

▶ **verb** many people have been tricked by villains with false identity cards **DECEIVE**, delude, hoodwink, mislead, take in, dupe, fool, double-cross, cheat, defraud, swindle, catch out, gull, hoax, bamboozle; informal con, diddle, rook, put one over on, pull a fast one on, pull the wool over someone's eyes, take for a ride, lead up the garden path, shaft, do, flimflam; *N Amer* informal sucker, snooker, gold-brick, *Austral* informal pull a swifty on; poetic/literary cozen

■ **do the trick** (informal) **BE EFFECTIVE**, work, solve the problem, fill/fit the bill, *N Amer* turn the trick, informal do the necessary.

■ **trick someone/something out** **DRESS (UP)**, attire, array, rig out, garb, get up; adorn, decorate, deck (out), bedeck, embellish, ornament, festoon, poetic/literary bedizen, caparison, archaic apparel

trickery ▶ **noun** **DECEPTION**, deceit, dishonesty, cheating, duplicity, double-dealing, legerdemain, sleight of hand, guile, craftiness, deviousness, subterfuge, skulduggery, chicanery, fraud, fraudulence, swindling, sharp practice,

informal monkey business, funny business, jiggery-pokery

—OPPOSITES honesty

trickle ▶ **verb** blood was trickling from two cuts in his lip DRIP, dribble, ooze, leak, seep, spill.

—OPPOSITES pour, gush.

▶ **noun** trickles of water: DRIBBLE, drip, thin stream, rivulet.

trickster ▶ **noun** SWINDLER, cheat, fraud, fraudster, charlatan, mountebank, quack, impostor, sham, hoaxer, rogue, villain, scoundrel, informal con man, sharp, flimflammer, *Brit* informal twister, *N Amer* informal grifter, bunco artist, *Austral* informal illywhacker, magsman; dated confidence man

tricky ▶ **adjective** ① a tricky situation DIFFICULT, awkward, problematic, delicate, ticklish, sensitive, embarrassing, touchy, risky, uncertain, precarious, touch-and-go, thorny, knotty; informal sticky, dicey, *N Amer* informal gnarly ② a tricky and unscrupulous politician. CUNNING, crafty, wily, guileful, artful, devious, sly, scheming, calculating, designing, sharp, shrewd, astute, canny, duplicitous, dishonest, deceitful, informal foxy

—OPPOSITES straightforward, honest

tried and trusted ▶ **adjective** RELIABLE, dependable, trustworthy, trusted, certain, sure, proven, proved, tested, tried and tested, put to the test, established, fail-safe, reputable

trifle ▶ **noun** ① we needn't bother the headmaster over such trifles UNIMPORTANT THING, trivial thing, triviality, thing of no importance/consequence, bagatelle, inessential, nothing; technicality, (trifles) trivia, minutiae ② he bought it for a trifle NEXT TO NOTHING, very small amount; pitance, informal peanuts; *N Amer* informal chump change ③ he went to buy a few trifles for Christmas BAUBLE, trinket, knick-knack, gimcrack, gewgaw, toy

■ a trifle A LITTLE, a bit, somewhat, a touch, a spot, a mite, a whit, informal a tad

■ trifle with PLAY WITH, amuse oneself with, toy with, dally with, flirt with, play fast and loose with, informal mess about with, dated sport with

trifling ▶ **adjective** TRIVIAL, unimportant, insignificant, inconsequential, petty, minor, of little/no account, of little/no consequence, footling, pettifoggish, incidental, silly, idle, superficial, small, tiny, inconsiderable, nominal, negligible, nugatory, informal piffling, piddling, fiddling; formal exiguous.

—OPPOSITES important.

trigger ▶ **verb** ① the incident triggered an acrimonious debate PRECIPITATE, prompt, trigger off, set off, spark (off), touch off, provoke, stir up; cause, give rise to, lead to, set in motion, occasion, bring about, generate, engender, begin, start, initiate; poetic/literary enkindle. ② burglars triggered the alarm: ACTIVATE, set off, set going, trip.

trill ▶ **verb** WARBLE, sing, chirp, chirrup, tweet, twitter, cheep, peep.

trim ▶ **verb** ① his hair had been washed and trimmed. cut, barber, crop, bob, shorten, clip, snip, shear; neaten, shape, tidy up. ② trim off the lower leaves using a sharp knife: CUT OFF, remove, take off, chop off, lop off; prune, pollard. ③ production costs need to be trimmed: RE-

DUCE, decrease, cut down, cut back on, scale down, prune, slim down, pare down, dock. ④ the story was severely trimmed for the film version SHORTEN, abridge, condense, abbreviate, telescope, truncate ⑤ a pair of black leather gloves trimmed with fake fur DECORATE, adorn, ornament, embellish, edge, pipe, border, hem, fringe.

▶ **noun** ① white curtains with a blue trim DECORATION, trimming, ornamentation, adornment, embellishment, border, edging, piping, rickrack, hem, fringe, frill, archaic purple ② an unruly mop in desperate need of a trim: HAIRCUT, cut, barbering, clip, snip, pruning, tidy-up

▶ **adjective** ① a cropped, fitted jacket looks trim with a long-line skirt: SMART, stylish, chic, spruce, dapper, elegant, crisp, *N Amer* trig; informal natty, sharp, *N Amer* informal spiffy ② a trim little villa NEAT, tidy, neat and tidy, as neat as a new pin, orderly, in (good) order, uncluttered, well kept, well maintained, shipshape (and Bristol fashion), in apple-pie order, immaculate, spick and span ③ her trim figure SLIM, slender, lean, clean-limbed, sleek, willowy, lissom, sylphlike, svelte; streamlined.

—OPPOSITES untidy, messy

■ in trim FIT, fighting fit, as fit as a fiddle, in good health, in fine fettle, slim, in shape

trimming ▶ **noun** ① a black party dress with lace trimming DECORATION, trim, ornamentation, adornment, passementerie, embroidery, border, edging, piping, rickrack, fringes, fringing, frills, archaic purples ② roast turkey with all the trimmings ACCOMPANIMENTS, extras, frills, accessories, accoutrements, trappings, paraphernalia, garnishing, garnish ③ hedge trimmings CUTTINGS, clippings, parings, shavings.

trinket ▶ **noun** KNICK-KNACK, bauble, ornament, bibelot, curio, trifle, toy, novelty, gimcrack, gewgaw, *N Amer* kickshaw, *N Amer* informal tchotchke, archaic whim-wham, bijou, gaud

trio ▶ **noun** THREESOME, three, triumvirate, triad, troika, trinity; trilogy, triptych; triplets

trip ▶ **verb** ① he tripped on the loose stones. STUMBLE, lose one's footing, catch one's foot, slip, lose one's balance, fall (down), tumble, topple, take a spill ② taxpayers often trip up by not declaring taxable income: MAKE A MISTAKE, miscalculate, make a blunder, blunder, go wrong, make an error, err; informal slip up, screw up, make a boo-boo; *Brit* informal boob; *N Amer* informal goof up. ③ the question was intended to trip him up CATCH OUT, trick, outwit, outsmart; throw off balance, disconcert, unsettle, discountenance, discomfit; informal throw, wrong-foot; *Brit* informal catch on the hop ④ they tripped up the terrace steps: SKIP, run, dance, prance, bound, spring, scamper. ⑤ Hoffman tripped the alarm: SET OFF, activate, trigger; turn on, switch on, throw

▶ **noun** ① a trip to Paris EXCURSION, outing, jaunt, HOLIDAY, visit, tour, journey, expedition, voyage; drive, run, day out, day trip; informal junket, spin. ② trips and falls cause nearly half such accidents: STUMBLE, slip, misstep, false step; fall, tumble, spill.

tripe ▶ **noun** (informal). See NONSENSE sense 1.

triple ▶ **adjective** ① a triple alliance: THREE-WAY, tripartite; threefold. ② they paid him triple the going rate: THREE TIMES, treble.

tripper ▶ **noun** (*Brit. informal*) TOURIST, holiday-maker, sightseer, day tripper, visitor, traveller;

N Amer vacationer, vacationist, out-of-towner, *Brit* informal grockle

trite ▶ **adjective** BANAL, hackneyed, clichéd, platitudinous, vapid, commonplace, stock, conventional, stereotyped, overused, overdone, overworked, stale, worn out, time-worn, tired, hoary, hack, unimaginative, unoriginal, uninteresting, dull; *informal* old hat, corny, played out, *N Amer* *informal* cornball

—OPPOSITES original, imaginative

triumph ▶ **noun** ① *Napoleon's many triumphs* VICTORY, win, conquest, success, achievement ② *his eyes shone with triumph* JUBILATION, exultation, elation, delight, joy, happiness, glee, pride, satisfaction ③ *a triumph of Victorian engineering* TOUR DE FORCE, masterpiece, crowning example, coup, wonder, sensation, master stroke

—OPPOSITES defeat, disappointment

▶ **verb** ① *he triumphed in the British Grand Prix* WIN, succeed, come first, be victorious, carry the day, carry all before one, prevail, take the honours, come out on top ② *they had no chance of triumphing over the Nationalists* DEFEAT, beat, conquer, trounce, vanquish, worst, overcome, overpower, overwhelm, get the better of, bring someone to their knees, prevail against, subdue, subjugate, *informal* lick, best ③ *'You can't touch me,' she triumphed* CROW, gloat, rejoice, exult

—OPPOSITES lose

triumphant ▶ **adjective** ① *the triumphant British team* VICTORIOUS, successful, winning, conquering, undefeated, unbeaten ② *a triumphant expression* JUBILANT, exultant, elated, rejoicing, joyful, joyous, delighted, gleeful, proud, cock-a-hoop, gloating

—OPPOSITES unsuccessful, despondent

trivia ▶ **plural noun** (PETTY) DETAILS, minutiae, niceties, technicalities, trivialities, trifles, non-essentials

trivial ▶ **adjective** ① *trivial problems* UNIMPORTANT, insignificant, inconsequential, minor, of no account, of no consequence, of no importance, incidental, inessential, non-essential, petty, trifling, pettifogging, footling, small, slight, little, inconsiderable, negligible, paltry, nugatory, *informal* piddling, piffling, fiddling, penny-ante ② *I used to be quite a trivial person* FRIVOLOUS, superficial, shallow, unthinking, empty-headed, feather-brained, lightweight, foolish, silly

—OPPOSITES important, significant, serious

triviality ▶ **noun** ① *the triviality of the subject matter* UNIMPORTANCE, insignificance, inconsequence, inconsequentiality, pettiness. ② *he need not concern himself with such trivialities* MINOR DETAIL, petty detail, thing of no importance/consequence, trifle, non-essential, nothing, technicality; (trivialities) trivia, minutiae

trivialize ▶ **verb** TREAT AS UNIMPORTANT, minimize, play down, underestimate, underplay, make light of, treat lightly, dismiss; *informal* pooh-poo.

troop ▶ **noun** ① *a troop of tourists* GROUP, party, band, gang, bevy, body, company, troupe, crowd, throng, horde, pack, drove, flock, swarm, multitude, host, army; *informal* bunch, gaggle, crew, posse. ② *British troops were stationed here* SOLDIERS, armed forces, service

men/women, the services, the army, the military, soldiery

▶ **verb** ① *we trooped out of the hall* WALK, march, file, flock, crowd, throng, stream, swarm, surge, spill ② *Caroline trooped wearily home* TRUDGE, plod, traipse, trail, drag oneself, tramp, *N Amer* *informal* schlep

trophy ▶ **noun** ① *a swimming trophy* CUP, medal, prize, award ② *a cabinet full of trophies from his travels* SOUVENIR, memento, keepsake, spoils, booty

tropical ▶ **adjective** tropical weather VERY HOT, sweltering, humid, sultry, steamy, sticky, oppressive, stifling, suffocating, heavy; *informal* boiling

—OPPOSITES cold, arctic

trot ▶ **verb** *Doyle trotted across the patio* RUN, jog, jogtrot, dogtrot, scuttle, scurry, bustle, scamper

■ **on the trot** (*Brit* *informal*) IN SUCCESSION, one after the other, in a row, consecutively, successively; running, straight

■ **trot something out** (*informal*) RECITE, repeat, regurgitate, churn out, come out with, produce

troubadour ▶ **noun** (*historical*) MINSTREL, singer, balladeer, poet, *historical* jongleur, trouvère

trouble ▶ **noun** ① *you've caused enough trouble already* PROBLEMS, difficulty, bother, inconvenience, worry, anxiety, distress, stress, agitation, harassment, unpleasantness, *informal* hassle ② *she poured out all her troubles* PROBLEM, misfortune, difficulty, trial, tribulation, trauma, burden, pain, woe, grief, heartache, misery, affliction, suffering ③ *he's gone to a lot of trouble to help you* BOTHER, inconvenience, fuss, effort, exertion, work, labour, pains, care, attention, thought ④ *I wouldn't want to be a trouble to her* NUISANCE, bother, inconvenience, irritation, irritant, problem, trial, pest, thorn in someone's flesh/side, *informal* headache, pain, pain in the neck/backside, drag, *N Amer* *informal* pain in the butt, burt in/under someone's saddle, nudnik ⑤ *you're too gullible, that's your trouble*: SHORT COMING, weakness, weak point, failing, fault, imperfection, defect, blemish, problem, difficulty ⑥ *he had a history of heart trouble* DISEASE, illness, sickness, ailments, complaints, problems, disorder, disability ⑦ *the crash was due to engine trouble* MALFUNCTION, dysfunction, failure, breakdown ⑧ *a match marred by serious crowd trouble*: DISTURBANCE, disorder, unrest, fighting, ructions, fracas, breach of the peace; *Law*, dated affray

▶ **verb** ① *this matter had been troubling her for some time* WORRY, bother, concern, disturb, upset, agitate, distress, perturb, annoy, irritate, vex, irk, nag, nuzzle, prey on someone's mind, weigh down, burden, *informal* bug. ② *he was troubled by bouts of ill health*: AFFLICT, burden; suffer from, be cursed with; *informal* be a martyr to ③ *there is nothing you need trouble about*: WORRY, upset oneself, fret, be anxious, be concerned, concern oneself ④ *don't trouble to see me out*: BOTHER, take the trouble, go to the trouble, exert oneself, go out of one's way ⑤ *I'm sorry to trouble you*: INCONVENIENCE, bother, impose on, disturb, put out, disoblige; *informal* hassle; *formal* discommode.

■ **in trouble** IN DIFFICULTY, in difficulties, in a mess, in a bad way, in a predicament; *informal* in

a tight corner/spot, in a fix, in a hole, in hot water, in a pickle, in the soup, up against it, *Bnt* informal up a gum tree

troubled ► **adjective** ① Joanna looked troubled ANXIOUS, worried, concerned, perturbed, disturbed, bothered, ill at ease, uneasy, unsettled, agitated, distressed, upset, dismayed ② we live in troubled times DIFFICULT, problematic, full of problems, unsettled, hard, tough, stressful, dark

troublemaker ► **noun** MISCHIEF-MAKER, agitator, rabble-rouser, firebrand, agent provocateur, ringleader, incendiary, demagogue, scandalmonger, gossipmonger, meddler, *informal* stirrer

troublesome ► **adjective** ① a troublesome problem ANNOYING, irritating, exasperating, maddening, infuriating, irksome, vexatious, vexing, bothersome, tiresome, worrying, worrisome, disturbing, upsetting, niggling, nagging, difficult, awkward, problematic, taxing, *informal* aggravating, *N Amer informal* pesky ② a troublesome child DIFFICULT, awkward, trying, demanding, uncooperative, rebellious, unmanageable, unruly, obstreperous, disruptive, badly behaved, disobedient, naughty, recalcitrant, *formal* refractory
-OPPOSITES simple, cooperative

trough ► **noun** ① a large feeding trough MANGER, feedbox, feeder, fodder rack, crib ② a thirty-yard trough CHANNEL, conduit, trench, ditch, gully, drain, culvert, cut, flume, gutter

trounce ► **verb** DEFEAT UTTERLY, beat hollow, rout, crush, overwhelm, *informal* hammer, clobber, thrash, drub, pulverize, massacre, crucify, demolish, destroy, annihilate, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, murder, *Bnt informal* stuff, *N Amer informal* shellac, cream, skunk

troupe ► **noun** GROUP, company, band, ensemble, set, cast

trousers ► **plural noun** SLACKS, chinos, jeans, *N Amer* pants, *Bnt informal* trews, strides, kecks, breeches, *Austral informal* daks See list

truant ► **noun** ABSENTEE, *Bnt informal* skiver, *Austral/NZ informal* wag

► **verb** pupils who truant See PLAY TRUANT

► **play truant** stay away from school, truant, *Bnt informal* skive (off), bunk off, *Ins* *informal* mitch (off), *N Amer informal* play hookey, goof off, *Austral/NZ informal* play the wag

truce ► **noun** CEASEFIRE, armistice, suspension of hostilities, peace, respite, lull, *informal* let-up

truck¹ ► **noun** a heavily laden truck LORRY, heavy goods vehicle, juggernaut, van, pickup (truck); *Bnt*, HGV; *dated* pantechucon

truck² ► **noun** we are to have no truck with him DEALINGS, association, contact, communication, connection, relations, business, trade.

truckle ► **verb** an ambitious woman who truckled to no man. KOWTOW, submit, defer, yield, bow and scrape, be obsequious, pander, toady, prostrate oneself, grovel; fawn on, dance attendance on, curry favour with, ingratiate oneself with; *informal* suck up, crawl, lick someone's boots; *Austral/NZ informal* smoodge.

truculent ► **adjective** DEFIANT, aggressive, antagonistic, belligerent, pugnacious, confrontational, ready for a fight, obstreperous, argumentative, quarrelsome, uncooperative; bad-

Trousers

baggies
bags
bell-bottoms
Bermuda shorts
bloomers
breeches
breeks
buckskins
capri pants
cargo pants
carpenter jeans
chaparrals/chaps
chinos
churidars
cigarette pants
clamdiggers
combat trousers
cords/corduroys
culottes
cut-offs
cycling shorts
denims
dhoti
drabs
drainpipes
drawstring trousers
ducks
dungarees
flannels
flares
galligaskins
gharara
gym pants
hakama
harem pants
hip-huggers
hipsters
hot pants

jeans
jodhpurs
joggers
jogging pants
khakis
knee breeches
knickerbockers
kuccha
lederhosen
leggings
loons
moleskins
nankeens
overtrousers
Oxford bags
palazzo pants
pantaloons
pedal pushers
pegtops
plus fours
pyjama
riding breeches
salopettes
salwar/shalwar
sharara
shorts
short trousers
ski pants
slacks
slim jims
slops
stirrup pants
sweatpants
toreador pants
Turkish trousers
velveteens
zoaves

tempered, short-tempered, cross, snappish; *informal* feisty, spoiling for a fight, *Bnt informal* stropky, bolshie.

-OPPOSITES cooperative, amiable

trudge ► **verb** PLOD, tramp, drag oneself, walk heavily/slowly, plough, slog, footslog, toil, trek, *informal* traipse, galumph; *Bnt informal* trog

true ► **adjective** ① you'll see that what I say is true: CORRECT, accurate, right, verifiable, in accordance with the facts, what actually/really happened, the case, so; faithful, literal, factual, unelaborated, unvarnished. ② people are still willing to pay for true craftsmanship: GENUINE, authentic, real, actual, bona fide, proper; *informal* honest-to-goodness, kosher, pukka, legit, the real McCoy; *Austral/NZ informal* dinkum. ③ the true owner of the goods: RIGHTFUL, legitimate, legal, lawful, authorized, bona fide, de jure. ④ the necessity for true repentance: SINCERE, genuine, real, unfeigned, heartfelt, from the heart. ⑤ a true friend: LOYAL, faithful, constant, devoted, staunch, steadfast, unswerving, unwavering; trustworthy, trusty, reliable, dependable. ⑥ a true reflection of life in the 50s: ACCURATE, true to life, faithful, telling it like it is, fact-based, realistic, close, lifelike.
-OPPOSITES untrue, false, disloyal, inaccurate.

true-blue ► **adjective** STAUNCH, loyal, faithful, stalwart, committed, card-carrying, confirmed,



died-in-the-wool, devoted, dedicated, firm, steadfast, unswerving, unwavering, unfaltering, informal deep-dyed

truism ▶ noun PLATITUDE, commonplace, cliché, stock phrase, banality, old chestnut, old saw, bromide

truly ▶ adverb ① tell me truly what you want TRUTHFULLY, honestly, frankly, candidly, openly, to someone's face, laying one's cards on the table, informal pulling no punches ② I'm truly grateful to them SINCERELY, genuinely, really, indeed, from the bottom of one's heart, heartily, profoundly, very, extremely, dreadfully, immensely, tremendously, incredibly, most, informal awfully, terribly, terrifically, fearfully, *Brit* informal jolly, ever so; informal, dated frightfully ③ a truly dreadful song REALLY, absolutely, simply, utterly, totally, perfectly, thoroughly, positively, completely ④ this is truly a miracle WITH OUT (A) DOUBT, unquestionably, undoubtedly, certainly, surely, definitely, beyond doubt/question, indubitably, undeniably, beyond the shadow of a doubt, in truth, really, in reality, actually, in fact, archaic forsooth, in sooth, verily ⑤ the streaming system does not truly reflect children's ability ACCURATELY, correctly, exactly, precisely, faithfully

trump ▶ verb by wearing the simplest of dresses, she had trumped them all OUTSHINE, outclass, upstage, put in the shade, eclipse, surpass, outdo, outperform, beat, better, top, cap, informal be a cut above, be head and shoulders above, leave standing, *Brit* informal knock spots off; archaic out-rival

■ **trump something up** INVENT, make up, fabricate, concoct, contrive, manufacture, devise, hatch, fake, falsify, informal cook up

trumped up ▶ adjective BOGUS, spurious, specious, false, fabricated, invented, manufactured, contrived, made-up, fake, factitious, informal phoney
—OPPOSITES genuine

trumpetry ▶ noun (archaic) TRINKETS, baubles, knick-knacks, ornaments, bibelots, gewgaws, gimcracks

trumpet ▶ verb ① 'come on!' he trumpeted shout, bellow, roar, yell, cry out, call out, informal holler ② companies trumpeted their enthusiasm for the multimedia revolution PROCLAIM, announce, declare, noise abroad, shout from the rooftops

■ **blow one's own trumpet** BOAST, brag, sing one's own praises, show off, swank, congratulate oneself, *N Amer* informal blow/toot one's own horn, *Austral/NZ* informal skate

truncate ▶ verb SHORTEN, cut, cut short, curtail, bring to an untimely end, abbreviate, condense, reduce.
—OPPOSITES lengthen, extend

truncheon ▶ noun (*Brit*) CLUB, baton, cudgel, bludgeon; stick, staff; *Brit* life preserver, *N Amer* billy, blackjack, nightstick; *Brit* informal cosh.

trunk ▶ noun ① the trunk of a tree. MAIN STEM, bole, stock. ② his powerful trunk: TORSO, body ③ an elephant's trunk: PROBOSCIS, nose, snout ④ an enormous tin trunk: CHEST, box, crate, coffer; case, portmanteau. ⑤ (*N. Amer*) the trunk of his car: LUGGAGE COMPARTMENT; *Brit* boot.

truss ▶ noun ① the bridge is supported by three steel trusses. SUPPORT, buttress, joist, brace,

prop, strut, stay, stanchion, pier ② a hernia truss SURGICAL APPLIANCE, support, pad

▶ verb they trussed us up with ropes and chains TIE UP, bind, chain up, pinion, fetter, tether, secure

trust ▶ noun ① good relationships are built on trust CONFIDENCE, belief, faith, certainty, assurance, conviction, credence, reliance ② a position of trust RESPONSIBILITY, duty, obligation ③ the money is to be held in trust for his son SAFE KEEPING, keeping, protection, charge, care, custody, trusteeship, guardianship

—OPPOSITES distrust, mistrust, doubt

▶ verb ① I should never have trusted her PUT ONE'S TRUST IN, have faith in, have (every) confidence in, believe in, pin one's hopes/faith on ② he can be trusted to carry out an impartial investigation RELY ON, depend on, bank on, count on, be sure of ③ I trust we shall meet again HOPE, expect, take it, assume, presume ④ they don't like to trust their money to anyone outside the family ENTRUST, consign, commit, give, hand over, turn over, assign, formal commend
—OPPOSITES distrust, mistrust, doubt

trustee ▶ noun ADMINISTRATOR, agent, custodian, keeper, steward, depositary, executor, executrix, Law fiduciary, foffeee

trustful ▶ adjective See TRUSTING

trusting ▶ adjective TRUSTFUL, unsuspecting, unquestioning, unguarded, unwary, naive, innocent, childlike, ingenuous, wide-eyed, credulous, gullible, easily taken in
—OPPOSITES distrustful, suspicious

trustworthy ▶ adjective RELIABLE, dependable, honest, honourable, upright, principled, true, truthful, as good as one's word, ethical, virtuous, incorruptible, unimpeachable, above suspicion, responsible, sensible, level-headed, loyal, faithful, staunch, steadfast, trusty, safe, sound, reputable, informal on the level, *N Amer* informal straight-up
—OPPOSITES unreliable

trusty ▶ adjective RELIABLE, dependable, trustworthy, never-failing, unfailing, trusted, loyal, faithful, true, staunch, steadfast, constant, unswerving, unwavering
—OPPOSITES unreliable

truth ▶ noun ① he doubted the truth of her statement VERACITY, truthfulness, verity, sincerity, candour, honesty, accuracy, correctness, validity, factuality, authenticity ② it's the truth, I swear it WHAT ACTUALLY HAPPENED, the case, so, gospel (truth), the honest truth ③ truth is stranger than fiction. FACT(S), reality, real life, actuality ④ scientific truths FACT, verity, certainty, certitude, law, principle
—OPPOSITES lies, fiction, falsehood

■ **in truth** IN (ACTUAL) FACT, in point of fact, in reality, really, actually, to tell the truth, if truth be told

truthful ▶ adjective ① a truthful answer HONEST, sincere, trustworthy, genuine, candid, frank, open, forthright, straight, informal upfront, on the level, *N Amer* informal on the up and up. ② a truthful account. TRUE, accurate, correct, factual, faithful, reliable; unvarnished, unembellished, formal veracious, veridical.
—OPPOSITES deceitful, untrue.

try ▶ verb ① try to help him ATTEMPT, endeavour, make an effort, exert oneself, strive, do one's



best, do one's utmost, move heaven and earth, undertake, aim, take it on oneself, *informal* have a go, give it one's best shot, bend over backwards, bust a gut, do one's damndest, pull out all the stops, go all out, knock oneself out; *formal* essay, *archaic* assay. ② try it and see what you think TEST, put to the test, sample, taste, inspect, investigate, examine, appraise, evaluate, assess, *informal* check out, give something a whirl ③ Mary tried everyone's patience. TAX, strain, test, stretch, sap, drain, exhaust, wear out ④ the case is to be tried by a jury ADJUDICATE, consider, hear, adjudge, examine

► **noun** I'll have one last try ATTEMPT, effort, endeavour, *informal* go, shot, crack, stab, bash, whack, *formal* essay

■ **try something out** TEST, trial, experiment with, pilot, put through its paces, assess, evaluate

trying ► **adjective** ① a trying day STRESSFUL, taxing, demanding, difficult, tough, hard, pressured, frustrating, fraught, arduous, gruelling, tiring, exhausting, *informal* hellish ② Steve was very trying ANNOYING, irritating, exasperating, maddening, infuriating, tiresome, irksome, troublesome, bothersome, *informal* aggravating
-OPPOSITES easy, accommodating

tub ► **noun** ① a wooden tub CONTAINER, butt, barrel, cask, drum, keg ② a tub of yogurt POT, carton ③ a soak in the tub BATH, bathtub, hot tub

tubby ► **adjective** (*informal*) CHUBBY, plump, stout, dumpy, chunky, portly, rotund, round, fat, overweight, fleshy, paunchy, pot-bellied, corpulent, *informal* pudgy, beefy, porky, roly-poly, blubbery, *Brit informal* podgy, *N Amer informal* corn-fed
-OPPOSITES skinny

tuck ► **verb** ① he tucked his shirt into his trousers PUSH, insert, slip, thrust, stuff, stick, cram, *informal* pop ② the dress was tucked all over PLEAT, gather, fold, ruffle ③ he tucked the knife behind his seat HIDE, conceal, secrete, store, stow, *informal* stash

► **noun** ① a dress with tucks PLEAT, gather, fold, ruffle ② (*Brit informal*) they pinched his tuck FOOD, *informal* eats, grub, nosh, chow, *Brit informal* scoff, *N Amer informal* chuck, *poetic/literary* viands, dated victuals

■ **tuck someone in/up** MAKE COMFORTABLE, settle down, cover up, put to bed

■ **tuck in/into** (*informal*) EAT HEARTILY, devour, consume, gobble up, wolf down, *informal* get stuck into, dispose of, polish off, get outside of, put away, scoff (down), *Brit informal* shift, *N Amer informal* scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up)

tuft ► **noun** CLUMP, bunch, knot, cluster, tussock, tuft, lock, wisp, crest, topknot, tassel

tug ► **verb** ① Ben tugged at her sleeve. PULL, pluck, tweak, twitch, jerk, wrench, catch hold of, *informal* yank ② she tugged him towards the door DRAG, pull, lug, draw, haul, heave, tow, trail.

► **noun** one good tug would loosen it PULL, jerk, wrench, heave, *informal* yank

tuition ► **noun** INSTRUCTION, teaching, coaching, tutoring, tutelage, lessons, education, schooling, training, drill, preparation, guidance.

tumble ► **verb** ① he tumbled over FALL (OVER/DOWN), topple over, lose one's balance, keel over, take a spill, go headlong, go head over heels, trip (up), stumble, *informal* come a crop-

per ② they all tumbled from the room: HURRY, rush, scramble, scurry, bound, pile, bundle ③ a brook tumbled over the rocks CASCADE, fall, flow, pour, spill, stream. ④ oil prices tumbled. PLUMMET, plunge, fall, dive, nosedive, drop, slump, slide, decrease, decline; *informal* crash ⑤ (*informal*) I tumbled to what was happening SEE REALIZE sense 1

-OPPOSITES rise

► **noun** ① I took a tumble in the nettles FALL, trip, spill, *informal* nosedive, header, cropper ② a tumble in share prices DROP, fall, plunge, dive, nosedive, slump, decline, collapse; *informal* crash

-OPPOSITES rise

tumbledown ► **adjective** DILAPIDATED, ramshackle, decrepit, neglected, run down, gone to rack and ruin, falling to pieces, decaying, derelict, crumbling, rickety, shaky; *N Amer informal* shabby

tumbler ► **noun** (DRINKING) GLASS, beaker, high-ball glass

tumid ► **adjective** ① her tumid belly SWOLLEN, distended, tumescent, engorged, enlarged, bloated, bulging, protuberant, bulbous ② tumid oratory BOMBASTIC, pompous, turgid, overblown, inflated, high-flown, pretentious, grandiose, florid, flowery, magniloquent, grandiloquent, orotund, *informal* highfalutin, purple, windy
-OPPOSITES shrunken, simple

tummy ► **noun** (*informal*) STOMACH, abdomen, belly, gut, middle, *informal* tum, insides, *Austral informal* bingy

tumour ► **noun** CANCEROUS GROWTH, malignant growth, cancer, malignancy, lump, growth, swelling, *Medicine* carcinoma, sarcoma

-RELATED TERMS ONCO-, oma

tumult ► **noun** ① she added her voice to the tumult CLAMOUR, din, noise, racket, uproar, commotion, ruckus, rumpus, hubbub, pandemonium, babel, bedlam, brouhaha, furore, fracas, melee, frenzy; *Scottish & N English* stramash, *informal* hullabaloo, *Brit informal* row ② years of political tumult TURMOIL, confusion, disorder, disarray, unrest, chaos, turbulence, mayhem, havoc, upheaval, ferment, agitation, trouble.
-OPPOSITES tranquility

tumultuous ► **adjective** ① tumultuous applause LOUD, deafening, thunderous, uproarious, noisy, clamorous, vociferous ② a tumultuous crowd DISORDERLY, unruly, rowdy, turbulent, boisterous, excited, agitated, restless, wild, riotous, frenzied, *informal* rumbustious
-OPPOSITES soft, orderly

tune ► **noun** she hummed a cheerful tune MELODY, air, strain, theme, song, jingle, ditty

► **verb** ① they tuned their guitars ADJUST, fine-tune ② a body clock tuned to the tides ATTUNE, adapt, adjust, fine-tune; regulate, modulate

■ **change one's tune** CHANGE ONE'S MIND, do a U-turn, have a change of heart; *Brit* do an about-turn.

■ **in tune** IN ACCORD, in keeping, in accordance, in agreement, in harmony, in step, in line, in sympathy.

tuneful ► **adjective** MELODIOUS, melodic, musical, mellifluous, dulcet, euphonious, harmonious, lyrical, lilting, sweet.

-OPPOSITES discordant.



tuneless ► **adjective** DISCORDANT, unmelodious, dissonant, harsh, cacophonous
—OPPOSITES melodious

tunnel ► **noun** a tunnel under the hills UNDER GROUND PASSAGE, underpass, subway; shaft, burrow, hole, *historical* mine, sap.

► **verb** he tunnelled under the fence DIG, burrow, mine, bore, drill.

turbid ► **adjective** MURKY, opaque, cloudy, muddy, thick, *N Amer* roily
—OPPOSITES clear

turbulent ► **adjective** ① the country's turbulent past TEMPESTUOUS, stormy, unstable, unsettled, tumultuous, chaotic, violent, anarchic, lawless ② turbulent seas' ROUGH, stormy, tempestuous, storm-tossed, heavy, violent, wild, seething, choppy, agitated, boisterous
—OPPOSITES peaceful, calm

turf ► **noun** ① they walked across the turf GRASS, lawn, sod, *poetic/literary* sward, greensward ② devotees of the turf HORSE RACING, racecourses, racetracks ③ (informal) he was keen to protect his turf TERRITORY, domain, province, preserve, sphere of influence, stamping ground, *informal* bailiwick, *Brit informal* patch, manor

► **verb** the lawns have been turfed GRASS (OVER)
■ turf someone/something out (informal) See EJECT sense 3

turgid ► **adjective** ① his turgid prose BOMBASTIC, pompous, overblown, inflated, tumid, high-flown, affected, pretentious, grandiose, florid, ornate, magniloquent, grandiloquent, orotund, *informal* highfalutin, purple, windy ② the tissues become turgid SWOLLEN, distended, tumescent, engorged, bloated
—OPPOSITES simple

turkey ► **noun**. See lists at BIRD, FOWL

turmoli ► **noun** political turmoil. CONFUSION, upheaval, turbulence, tumult, disorder, disturbance, agitation, ferment, unrest, trouble, disruption, chaos, mayhem, uncertainty, *N Amer informal* tohubohu
—OPPOSITES peace

■ in turmoil CONFUSED, in a whirl, at sixes and sevens, reeling, disorientated, *informal* all over the place

turn ► **verb** ① the wheels were still turning GO ROUND, revolve, rotate, spin, roll, circle, wheel, whirl, gyrate, swivel, pivot ② I turned and headed back. CHANGE DIRECTION, change course, make a U-turn, turn about/round, wheel round ③ the car turned the corner GO ROUND, round, negotiate, take ④ the path turned to right and left. BEND, curve, wind, twist, meander, snake, zigzag. ⑤ he turned his pistol on Liam: AIM AT, point at, level at, direct at, train on ⑥ he turned his ankle SPRAIN, twist, wrench, hurt ⑦ their honeymoon turned into a nightmare' BECOME, develop into, turn out to be; be transformed into, metamorphose into ⑧ Emma turned red BECOME, go, grow, get. ⑨ he turned the house into flats. CONVERT, change, transform, make; adapt, modify, rebuild, reconstruct. ⑩ I've just turned forty. REACH, get to, become; *informal* hit. ⑪ the milk had turned (go) SOUR, go off, curdle, become rancid, go bad, spoil. ⑫ he turned to politics: TAKE UP, become involved in, go in for, enter, undertake. ⑬ we can now turn to another topic MOVE ON TO, go on to, consider, attend to, address; take up. ⑭ she turned a somersault: PER-

FORM, execute, do, carry out ⑮ an object turned on a lathe. FASHION, make, shape, form.

► **noun** ① a turn of the wheel ROTATION, revolution, spin, whirl, gyration, swivel. ② a turn to the left CHANGE OF DIRECTION, veer, divergence ③ we're approaching the turn BEND, corner, dog-leg; turning, junction, crossroads, *N Amer* turnout; *Brit* hairpin bend ④ you'll get your turn in a minute OPPORTUNITY, chance, say; stint, time; try, *informal* go, shot, stab, crack. ⑤ a comic turn' ACT, routine, performance, number, piece ⑥ a turn around the garden. STROLL, walk, saunter, amble, wander, airing, promenade, outing, excursion, jaunt, *informal* mosey, tootle, spin; *Brit informal* pootle. ⑦ you gave me quite a turn! SHOCK, start, surprise, jolt; fright, scare ⑧ she did me some good turns SERVICE, deed, act, favour, kindness, disservice, wrong

■ at every turn REPEATEDLY, recurrently, all the time, always, constantly, again and again

■ in turn ONE AFTER THE OTHER, one by one, one at a time, in succession, successively, sequentially

■ take a turn for the better IMPROVE, pick up, look up, perk up, rally, turn the corner, recover, revive

■ take a turn for the worse DETERIORATE, worsen, decline, go downhill

■ to a turn PERFECTLY, just right, to perfection, *informal* to a T

■ turn of events DEVELOPMENT, incident, occurrence, happening, circumstance

■ turn against someone BECOME HOSTILE TO, take a dislike to

■ turn someone away SEND AWAY, reject, rebuff, repel, cold-shoulder, *informal* send packing

■ turn back RETRACE ONE'S STEPS, go back, return, retreat

■ turn someone/something down ① his novel was turned down: REJECT, spurn, rebuff, refuse, decline, *Brit informal* knock back ② Pete turned the sound down REDUCE, lower, decrease, lessen, muffle, mute

■ turn in (informal) GO TO BED, retire, call it a day, *informal* hit the hay, hit the sack

■ turn someone in BETRAY, inform on, denounce, sell out, stab someone in the back, *informal* split on, blow the whistle on, rat on, peach on, squeal on, *Brit informal* grass on, shop, *N Amer informal* finger, *Austral/NZ informal* dob on

■ turn something in ① your documents must be turned in HAND IN/OVER, give in, submit, surrender, give up, deliver, return ② he turned in a score of 199. ACHIEVE, attain, reach, make, notch up, chalk up, rack up, record

■ turn of mind DISPOSITION, inclination, tendency, propensity, bias, bent

■ turn off they turned off the road. LEAVE, branch off; *informal* take a left/right, *N Amer informal* hang a left/right

■ turn someone off (informal) PUT OFF, leave cold, repel, disgust, revolt, offend, disenchant, alienate; bore, *N Amer informal* gross out

■ turn something off SWITCH OFF, shut off, put off, extinguish, deactivate; *informal* kill, cut.

■ turn on the decision turned on the law DEPEND ON, rest on, hinge on, be contingent on, be decided by

■ turn someone on (informal). See AROUSE sense 3

■ turn something on SWITCH ON, put on, start up, activate, trip.



■ **turn on someone** ATTACK, set on, fall on, let fly at, lash out at, hit out at, round on, *informal* lay into, tear into, let someone have it, bite someone's head off, jump down someone's throat, *Brit informal* have a go at, *N Amer informal* light into

■ **turn out** ① a huge crowd turned out COME, be present, attend, appear, turn up, arrive, assemble, gather, *informal* show up. ② it turned out that she had been abroad TRANSPIRE, emerge, come to light, become apparent ③ things didn't turn out as I'd intended HAPPEN, occur, come about, develop, work out, come out, end up, *informal* pan out, *formal* eventuate

■ **turn someone out** THROW OUT, eject, evict, expel, oust, drum out, banish, *informal* kick out, send packing, boot out, show someone the door, turf out

■ **turn something out** ① turn out the light See TURN SOMETHING OFF ② they turn out a million engines a year PRODUCE, make, manufacture, fabricate, put out, churn out ③ she turned out the cupboards CLEAR OUT, clean out, empty (out)

■ **turn over** OVERTURN, upturn, capsize, keel over, turn turtle, be upended

■ **turn something over** ① I turned over a few pages FLIP OVER, flick through, leaf through ② she turned the proposal over in her mind THINK ABOUT/OVER, consider, weigh up, ponder, contemplate, reflect on, chew over, mull over, muse on, ruminate on ③ he turned over the business to his brother TRANSFER, hand over, pass on, consign, commit

■ **turn of phrase** EXPRESSION, idiom, phrase, term, word

■ **turn someone's stomach** NAUSEATE, sicken, make someone's gorge rise

■ **turn to someone/something** SEEK HELP FROM, have recourse to, approach, apply to, appeal to, take to, resort to

■ **turn up** ① the missing documents turned up BE FOUND, be discovered, be located, reappear ② the police turned up ARRIVE, appear, present oneself, *informal* show (up), show one's face ③ something better will turn up PRESENT ITSELF, occur, happen, crop up

■ **turn something up** ① she turned up the volume INCREASE, raise, amplify, intensify ② they turned up lots of information DISCOVER, uncover, unearth, find, dig up, ferret out, root out, expose ③ I turned up the hem TAKE UP, raise, shorten

turncoat ► noun TRAITOR, renegade, defector, deserter, betrayer, Judas, fifth columnist, quisling, *informal* rat

turning ► noun TURN-OFF, turn, side road, exit, *N Amer* turnout

turning point ► noun WATERSHED, critical moment, decisive moment, moment of truth, crossroads, crisis

turnout ► noun ① the lecture attracted a good turnout ATTENDANCE, audience, house, crowd, gathering, throng, assembly, assemblage, congregation. ② his turnout was very elegant OUTFIT, clothes, clothing, dress, garb, attire, ensemble, *informal* get-up, gear, togs; *Brit informal* clobber, kit, *formal* apparel

turnover ► noun ① an annual turnover of £2.25 million (GROSS) REVENUE, income, yield, sales ② a high turnover of staff rate of replacement, change, movement

turpitude ► noun (formal) See DEPRAVITY

tussle ► noun his glasses were smashed in the tussle SCUFFLE, fight, struggle, skirmish, brawl, scrum, rough and tumble, free-for-all, fracas, fray, rumpus, melee, *Irish*, *N Amer*, & *Austral* donnybrook, *informal* scrap, dust-up, punch-up, spat, ruck, *Brit informal* ding-dong, bust-up, *Scol*ish *informal* rammy, *Law*, dated affray

► verb demonstrators tussled with police SCUFFLE, fight, struggle, brawl, grapple, wrestle, clash, *informal* scrap, *N Amer informal* rough-house

tutor ► noun a history tutor TEACHER, instructor, educator, educationalist, lecturer, trainer, mentor, *informal* teach, *formal* pedagogue

► verb he was tutored at home TEACH, instruct, educate, school, coach, train, drill

tutorial ► noun LESSON, class, seminar

twaddle ► noun (informal) See NONSENSE sense 1

tweak ► verb ① he tweaked the boy's ear PULL, jerk, tug, twist, twitch, pinch, squeeze ② (informal) the programme can be tweaked to suit your needs ADJUST, modify, alter, change, adapt, refine

► noun ① he gave her hair a tweak PULL, jerk, tug, twist, pinch, twitch, squeeze ② (informal) a few minor tweaks were required ADJUSTMENT, modification, alteration, change, refinement

twee ► adjective (*Brit*) ① twee little shops QUAIN, sweet, dainty, pretty, *informal* cute, cutesy ② the lyrics are too twee in places SENTIMENTAL, over-sentimental, mawkish, sickly, *Brit informal* soppy

twelve ► cardinal number DOZEN, zodiac
—RELATED TERMS duodecimal, dodeca-

twenty ► cardinal number SCORE
—RELATED TERMS ICOS-

twiddle ► verb she twiddled the dials TURN, twist, swivel, twirl, adjust, move, jiggle, fiddle with, play with

■ **twiddle one's thumbs** BE IDLE, kick one's heels, kill time, waste time, *informal* hang around/round, *Brit informal* hang about

twig¹ ► noun leafy twigs STICK, sprig, withy, shoot, stem, branchlet

twig² ► verb (*Brit informal*) she finally twigged what I was on about REALIZE, understand, grasp, comprehend, take in, fathom, see, recognize, *informal* latch on to, cotton on to, tumble to, get, get wise to, figure out, *Brit informal* suss

twilight ► noun ① we arrived at twilight DUSK, sunset, sundown, nightfall, evening, close of day, poetic/literary eventide ② it was scarcely visible in the twilight. HALF-LIGHT, semi-darkness, gloom ③ the twilight of his career DECLINE, waning, ebb, autumn, final years

—RELATED TERMS crepuscular

—OPPOSITES dawn

► adjective a twilight world. SHADY, dark, shady, dim, gloomy, obscure

twin ► noun a sitting room that was the twin of her own DUPLICATE, double, carbon-copy, exact likeness, mirror image, replica, lookalike, clone, counterpart, match, pair; *informal* spitting image, dead ringer

► adjective ① the twin towers of the stadium MATCHING, identical, matched, paired. ② the twin aims of conservation and recreation: TWOFOLD, double, dual, related, linked, connected; corresponding, parallel, complementary, equivalent.



► **verb** the company twinned its brewing with distilling
COMBINE, join, link, couple, pair

twine ► **noun** a ball of twine STRING, cord, thread, yarn

► **verb** ① she twined her arms around him WIND, entwine, wrap, wreath ② convolulus twined around the tree ENTWINE ITSELF, coil, loop, twist, spiral, curl ③ a bloom was twined in her hair WEAVE, interlace, intertwine, braid, twist

twinge ► **noun** ① twinges in her stomach PAIN, spasm, ache, throb, cramp, stitch ② a twinge of guilt PANG, prick, dart, qualm, scruple, misgiving

twinkle ► **verb** ① the lights of the city twinkled GLITTER, sparkle, shine, glimmer, shimmer, glint, gleam, glisten, flicker, flash, wink, poetic/literary coruscate, glister ② his feet twinkled over the ground DART, dance, skip, flit, glide

► **noun** the twinkle of the lights GLITTER, sparkle, glimmer, shimmer, glint, gleam, flicker, flash, wink, poetic/literary coruscation

twinkling ► **adjective** SPARKLING, glistening, glittering, glimmering, glinting, gleaming, flickering, winking, shining, scintillating, poetic/literary coruscating

twirl ► **verb** ① she twirled her parasol SPIN, whirl, turn, gyrate, pivot, swivel, twist, revolve, rotate ② she twirled her hair round her fingers WIND, twist, coil, curl, wrap

► **noun** she did a quick twirl PIROUETTE, spin, whirl, turn, twist, rotation, revolution, gyration

twist ► **verb** ① the impact twisted the chassis CRUMPLE, crush, buckle, mangle, warp, deform, distort ② her face twisted with rage CONTORT, screw up ③ Ma anxiously twisted a handkerchief WRING, squeeze ④ he twisted round in his seat TURN (ROUND), swivel (round), spin (round), pivot, rotate, revolve ⑤ she twisted out of his grasp WRIGGLE, squirm, worm, wiggle ⑥ I twisted my ankle SPRAIN, wrench, turn, rick, crick ⑦ you are twisting my words DISTORT, misrepresent, change, alter, pervert, falsify, warp, skew, misinterpret, misconstrue, misstate, misquote, garble ⑧ he twisted the radio knob TWIDDLE, adjust, turn, rotate, swivel ⑨ she twisted her hair round her finger WIND, twirl, coil, curl, wrap ⑩ the wires were twisted together INTERTWINE, twine, interlace, weave, plait, braid, coil, wind ⑪ the road twisted and turned WIND, bend, curve, turn, meander, weave, zigzag, swerve, snake

► **noun** ① the twist of a dial TURN, twirl, spin ② a personality twist QUIRK, idiosyncrasy, foible, eccentricity, peculiarity, oddity, kink, aberration, fault, flaw, imperfection, defect, failing, weakness ③ (Brit) a twist of tobacco WAD, quid, plug, chew, Brit screw ④ long twists of black hair RING LET, curl, corkscrew, coil, lock, hank ⑤ the twists of the road BEND, curve, turn, zigzag, kink, dog-leg, Brit hairpin bend ⑥ the twists of the plot CONVOLUTION, complication, complexity, intricacy, surprise, revelation ⑦ a new twist on an old theme INTERPRETATION, slant, outlook, angle, approach, treatment, variation

■ **twist someone's arm** (informal) PRESSURIZE, coerce, force, persuade, informal lean on, bulldoze, railroad, put the screws on

twisted ► **adjective** ① twisted metal CRUMPLED, bent, crushed, buckled, warped, misshapen, distorted, deformed. ② a twisted smile. CROOKED, lopsided, contorted, wry ③ his twisted mind

PERVERTED, warped, deviant, depraved, corrupt, abnormal, unhealthy, aberrant, distorted, corrupted, debauched, debased, informal sick, kinky, pervy

twisty ► **adjective** WINDING, windy, twisting, bendy, zigzag, meandering, curving, sinuous, snaky

—OPPOSITES straight

twit ► **noun** (Brit informal) See FOOL noun sense 1

twitch ► **verb** ① he twitched and then lay still JERK, convulse, have a spasm, quiver, tremble, shiver, shudder ② he twitched the note out of my hand SNATCH, tweak, pluck, pull, tug, informal yank

► **noun** ① a twitch of her lips SPASM, convulsion, quiver, tremor, shiver, shudder, tic ② he gave a twitch at his moustache PULL, tug, tweak, informal yank ③ he felt a twitch of annoyance PANG, twinge, dart, stab, prick

twitter ► **verb** ① sparrows twittered under the eaves CHIRP, chirrup, cheep, tweet, peep, chatter, trill, warble, sing ② stop twittering about I rancid PRATTLE, babble, chatter, gabble, jabber, go on, yap, blether, blither, ramble, informal yak, yabber, Brit informal witter, rabbit, chunter, waffle

► **noun** ① a bird's twitter CHIRP, chirrup, cheep, tweet, peep, trill, warble, song ② her non-stop twitter PRATTLE, chatter, babble, talk, gabble, blether, informal yackety-yak, Brit informal wittering, nattering, chuntering ③ (informal) she got into a real twitter See STEW noun sense 2

two ► **cardinal number** PAIR, duo, duet, double, dyad, duplet, tandem, archaic twain

—RELATED TERMS binary, dual, bi-, di-, duo-

two-faced ► **adjective** DECEITFUL, insincere, double-dealing, hypocritical, back-stabbing, false, untrustworthy, duplicitous, deceiving, dissembling, dishonest, disloyal, treacherous, faithless, poetic/literary perfidious

—OPPOSITES sincere

twosome ► **noun** COUPLE, pair, duo

tycoon ► **noun** MAGNATE, mogul, businessman, captain of industry, industrialist, financier, entrepreneur, millionaire, multimillionaire, informal big shot, bigwig, honcho, Brit informal supremo, N Amer informal big wheel, kahuna, derogatory fat cat

type ► **noun** ① a curate of the old-fashioned type KIND, sort, variety, class, category, set, genre, species, order, breed, race, style, nature, manner, rank, generation, vintage, stamp, ilk, kidney, cast, grain, mould, N Amer stripe ② (informal) sporty types PERSON, individual, character, sort, Brit informal bod ③ his sayings are the type of modern wisdom EPITOME, quintessence, essence, archetype, paradigm, model, embodiment ④ italic type PRINT, typeface, face, characters, lettering, letters, font, Brit fount

typhoon ► **noun** CYCLONE, tropical storm, storm, tornado, hurricane, whirlwind, N Amer informal twister

typical ► **adjective** ① a typical example of art deco REPRESENTATIVE, classic, quintessential, archetypal, model, prototypical, stereotypical ② a fairly typical day NORMAL, average, ordinary, standard, regular, routine, run-of-the-mill, conventional, unremarkable, unexceptional, informal bog-standard ③ it's typical of him to forget: CHARACTERISTIC, in keeping, usual, normal, par for



the course, predictable, true to form, customary, habitual

—OPPOSITES unusual, exceptional, uncharacteristic

typify ▶ **verb** ① *he typified the civil servant*: EPI-
TOMIZE, exemplify, characterize, be representa-
tive of, personify, embody. ② *the sun typified the
Greeks* SYMBOLIZE, represent, stand for, be em-
blematic of

tyrannical ▶ **adjective** DICTATORIAL, despotic,
autocratic, oppressive, repressive, totalitarian,
undemocratic, illiberal, authoritarian, high-
handed, imperious, harsh, strict, iron-handed,
severe, cruel, brutal, ruthless

—OPPOSITES liberal

tyrannize ▶ **verb** DOMINATE, dictate to, brow-
beat, intimidate, bully, lord it over, persecute,
victimize, torment, oppress, rule with a rod of

iron, repress, crush, subjugate; *informal* push
around

tyranny ▶ **noun** DESPOTISM, absolute power, au-
tocracy, dictatorship, totalitarianism, Fascism;
oppression, repression, subjugation, enslave-
ment, authoritarianism, bullying, severity,
cruelty, brutality, ruthlessness.

tyrant ▶ **noun** DICTATOR, despot, autocrat, au-
thoritarian, oppressor; slave-driver, martinet,
bully

tyro ▶ **noun** NOVICE, beginner, learner, neophyte,
newcomer, initiate, fledgling, apprentice, train-
ee, probationer, *N Amer* tenderfoot, *informal*
rookie, newbie, newbie; *N Amer informal* green-
horn

—OPPOSITES veteran

Uu

ubiquitous ▶ adjective OMNIPRESENT, ever-present, everywhere, all over the place, all-pervasive, universal, worldwide, global, rife, prevalent, far-reaching, inescapable
-OPPOSITES rare

ugly ▶ adjective ① an ugly face UNATTRACTIVE, ill-favoured, hideous, plain, unlovely, unprepossessing, unsightly, horrible, frightful, awful, ghastly, unpleasant, vile, revolting, repellent, repugnant, grotesque, monstrous, reptilian, misshapen, deformed, disfigured, *N Amer* homely, *informal* not much to look at, *Brit, informal* no oil painting ② things got pretty ugly UNPLEASANT, nasty, disagreeable, alarming, tense, charged, serious, grave, dangerous, perilous, threatening, menacing, hostile, ominous, sinister ③ an ugly rumour HORRIBLE, despicable, reprehensible, nasty, appalling, objectionable, offensive, obnoxious, vile, dishonourable, rotten, vicious, spiteful
-OPPOSITES beautiful, pleasant

ulcer ▶ noun SORE, ulceration, abscess, boil, carbuncle, blister, gumboil, wen, *Medicine* apthra, chancre, furuncle

ulterior ▶ adjective UNDERLYING, undisclosed, undivulged, concealed, hidden, covert, secret, personal, private, selfish
-OPPOSITES overt

ultimate ▶ adjective ① the ultimate collapse of the Empire EVENTUAL, final, concluding, terminal, end, resulting, ensuing, consequent, subsequent ② ultimate truths about civilization FUNDAMENTAL, basic, primary, elementary, elemental, absolute, central, key, crucial, essential, pivotal ③ the ultimate gift for cat lovers BEST, ideal, greatest, supreme, paramount, superlative, highest, utmost, optimum, quintessential

▶ noun the ultimate in luxury living: UTMOST, optimum, last word, height, epitome, peak, pinnacle, acme, zenith, nonpareil, dernier cri, ne plus ultra, *informal* the bee's knees, the cat's pyjamas/whiskers

ultimately ▶ adverb ① the cost will ultimately fall on us EVENTUALLY, in the end, in the long run, at length, finally, sooner or later, in time, in the fullness of time, when all is said and done, one day, some day, sometime, *informal* when push comes to shove; *Brit informal* at the end of the day ② two ultimately contradictory reasons FUNDAMENTALLY, basically, primarily, essentially, at heart, deep down

ultra- ▶ combining form an ultra-conservative view EXTREMELY, exceedingly, excessively, immensely, especially, exceptionally; *N English* right, *informal* mega, mucho, majorly, oh-so, *Brit informal* dead, ever so, well; *N Amer informal* real; *informal, dated* devilish, *archaic* exceeding

▶ noun ultras in the animal rights movement: EXTREMIST, radical, fanatic, zealot, diehard, militant.

umbrage

■ take umbrage TAKE OFFENCE, take exception, be aggrieved, be affronted, be annoyed, be angry, be indignant, be put out, be insulted, be hurt, be piqued, be resentful, be disgrun-

tled, go into a huff, *informal* be miffed, have one's nose put out of joint, *Brit informal* get the hump

umbrella ▶ noun ① they huddled under the umbrella parasol, sunshade, *Brit informal* brolly, *Brit informal, dated* gamp ② the groups worked under the umbrella of the Liberal Party AEGIS, auspices, patronage, protection, guardianship, support, backing, agency, guidance, care, charge, responsibility, cover

umpire ▶ noun the umpire reversed his decision REFEREE, linesman, adjudicator, arbitrator, judge, moderator, *informal* ref, *N Amer informal* ump

▶ verb he umpired a boat race REFEREE, adjudicate, arbitrate, judge, moderate, oversee, *Cnckel* stand, *informal* ref

umpteenth ▶ adjective (*informal*) See COUNTLESS

unabashed ▶ adjective UNASHAMED, shameless, unembarrassed, brazen, audacious, barefaced, blatant, flagrant, bold, cocky, unrepentant, undaunted, unconcerned, fearless
-OPPOSITES sheepish

unable ▶ adjective POWERLESS, impotent, at a loss, inadequate, incompetent, unfit, unqualified, incapable

unabridged ▶ adjective COMPLETE, entire, whole, intact, uncut, unshortened, unexpurgated

unacceptable ▶ adjective INTOLERABLE, insufferable, unsatisfactory, inadmissible, inappropriate, unsuitable, undesirable, unreasonable, insupportable, offensive, obnoxious, disagreeable, disgraceful, deplorable, beyond the pale, bad, *informal* not on, a bit much, too much, out of order, *Brit informal* a bit thick, a bit off, not cricket, *formal* exceptionable
-OPPOSITES satisfactory

unaccompanied ▶ adjective ALONE, on one's own, by oneself, solo, lone, solitary, single-handed, unescorted, unattended, unchaperoned; *informal* by one's lonesome; *Brit informal* on one's tod, on one's Jack Jones, *Austral/NZ informal* on one's Pat Malone

unaccomplished ▶ adjective ① unaccomplished works UNCOMPLETED, incomplete, unfinished, undone, half-done, unfulfilled, neglected ② an unaccomplished poet INEXPERT, unskilful, unskilled, amateur, amateurish, unqualified, untrained, incompetent, maladroit.
-OPPOSITES complete, skilful.

unaccountable ▶ adjective ① for some unaccountable reason INEXPLICABLE, insoluble, incomprehensible, unfathomable, impenetrable, puzzling, perplexing, baffling, bewildering, mystifying, mysterious, inscrutable, peculiar, strange, queer, odd, obscure; *Informal* weird, freaky; *Brit informal* rum ② the Council is unaccountable to anyone: UNANSWERABLE, not liable, free, exempt, immune; unsupervised

unaccustomed ▶ adjective ① she was unaccustomed to being bossed about UNUSED, new, fresh, unfamiliar with, inexperienced in, unconver-

sant with, unacquainted with ② *he showed unaccustomed emotion* UNUSUAL, unfamiliar, uncommon, unwonted, exceptional, extraordinary, rare, surprising, abnormal, atypical
-OPPOSITES habitual

unacquainted ▶ adjective UNFAMILIAR, unaccustomed, unused, inexperienced, ignorant, uninformed, unenlightened, unversant; *informal* in the dark, *poetic/literary* nescient
-OPPOSITES familiar

unadorned ▶ adjective UNEMBELLISHED, unadorned, undecorated, unfussy, no-nonsense, no-frills, plain, basic, restrained, bare, bald, austere, stark, spartan, clinical
-OPPOSITES ornate

unadventurous ▶ adjective CAUTIOUS, careful, circumspect, wary, hesitant, timid, conservative, conventional, unenterprising, unexciting, unimaginative, boring, strait-laced, stuffy, narrow-minded, *informal* square, straight, stick-in-the-mud
-OPPOSITES enterprising

unaffected ▶ adjective ① *they are unaffected by the cabinet reshuffle* UNCHANGED, unaltered, uninfluenced, untouched, unmoved, unresponsive to, proof against, impervious to, immune to ② *his manner was unaffected* UNASSUMING, unpretentious, down-to-earth, natural, easy, uninhibited, open, artless, guileless, ingenuous, unsophisticated ③ *she was welcomed with unaffected warmth* GENUINE, real, sincere, honest, earnest, wholehearted, heartfelt, true, bona fide, frank, open, *informal* upfront
-OPPOSITES influenced, pretentious, false, feigned

unafraid ▶ adjective UNDAUNTED, unabashed, fearless, brave, courageous, plucky, intrepid, stout-hearted, bold, daring, confident, audacious, mettlesome, unshrinking, *informal* gutsy, spunky
-OPPOSITES timid

unanimous ▶ adjective ① *doctors were unanimous about the effects* UNITED, in agreement, in accord, of one mind, in harmony, concordant, undivided ② *a unanimous vote* UNIFORM, consistent, united, concerted, congruent
-OPPOSITES divided

unanswerable ▶ adjective ① *an unanswerable case* IRREFUTABLE, indisputable, undeniable, incontestable, incontrovertible, conclusive, absolute, positive ② *unanswerable questions* UNSOLVABLE, unsolvable, insoluble, inexplicable, unexplainable
-OPPOSITES weak, obvious

unanswered ▶ adjective UNRESOLVED, undecided, unsettled, undetermined, pending, open to question, up in the air, doubtful, disputed

unappetizing ▶ adjective UNPALATABLE, uninviting, unappealing, unpleasant, off-putting, disagreeable, distasteful, unsavoury, insipid, tasteless, flavourless, dull, inedible, uneatable, revolting, *informal* yucky, gross
-OPPOSITES tempting

unapproachable ▶ adjective ① *unapproachable islands* INACCESSIBLE, unreachable, remote, out of the way, isolated, far-flung; *informal* off the beaten track, in the middle of nowhere, in the sticks, unget-at-able ② *her boss appeared unapproachable* ALOOF, distant, remote, detached,

reserved, withdrawn, uncommunicative, guarded, undemonstrative, unresponsive, unforthcoming, unfriendly, unsympathetic, unsociable, cool, cold, frosty, stiff, formal, *informal* standoffish

-OPPOSITES accessible, friendly

unarmed ▶ adjective DEFENCELESS, weaponless, unprotected, undefended, unguarded, unshielded, vulnerable, exposed, assailable, pregnable

unassailable ▶ adjective ① *an unassailable fortress* IMPREGNABLE, invulnerable, impenetrable, inviolable, invincible, unconquerable, secure, safe, strong, indestructible ② *his logic was unassailable* INDISPUTABLE, undeniable, unquestionable, incontestable, incontrovertible, irrefutable, indubitable, watertight, sound, good, sure, manifest, patent, obvious
-OPPOSITES defenceless

unassertive ▶ adjective PASSIVE, retiring, unforthcoming, submissive, unassuming, self-effacing, modest, humble, meek, unconfident, diffident, shy, timid, insecure, *informal* mousy
-OPPOSITES bold

unassuming ▶ adjective MODEST, self-effacing, humble, meek, reserved, diffident, unobtrusive, unostentatious, unpretentious, unaffected, natural, artless, ingenuous

unattached ▶ adjective ① *they were both unattached* SINGLE, unmarried, unwed, partnerless, uncommitted, available, footloose and fancy free, on one's own, on the shelf, unloved ② *we are unattached to any organization* UNAFFILIATED, unallied; autonomous, independent, non-aligned, self-governing, neutral, separate, unconnected, detached
-OPPOSITES married

unattended ▶ adjective ① *his cries went unattended* IGNORED, disregarded, neglected, passed over ② *an unattended vehicle* UNGUARDED, unwatched, alone, solitary, abandoned ③ *she had to walk there unattended* UNACCOMPANIED, unescorted, partnerless, unchaperoned, alone, on one's own, by oneself, solo, *informal* by one's lonesome, *Brit informal* on one's tod, on one's Jack Jones, *Austral/NZ informal* on one's Pat Malone

unattractive ▶ adjective PLAIN, ugly, ill-favoured, unappealing, unsightly, unlovely, unprepossessing, displeasing, hideous, monstrous, grotesque; *N Amer* homely, *informal* not much to look at, as ugly as sin; *Brit informal* no oil painting
-OPPOSITES beautiful

unauthorized ▶ adjective UNOFFICIAL, unsanctioned, unaccredited, unlicensed, unwarranted, unapproved; disallowed, prohibited, banned, barred, forbidden, outlawed, illegal, illegitimate, illicit, proscribed
-OPPOSITES official

unavailing ▶ adjective INEFFECTIVE, ineffectual, inefficacious, vain, futile, useless, unsuccessful, fruitless, profitless, unprofitable, to no avail, abortive; *archaic* bootless.
-OPPOSITES effective.

unavoidable ▶ adjective INESCAPABLE, inevitable, inexorable, assured, certain, predestined, predetermined, ineluctable; necessary, compulsory, required, obligatory, mandatory

unaware ▶ adjective IGNORANT, unknowing, unconscious, heedless, unmindful, oblivious, un-

suspecting, uninformed, unenlightened, unwitting, innocent, inattentive, unobservant, unperceptive, blind, deaf, *informal* in the dark, *poetic/literary* nescient

—OPPOSITES conscious

unawares ▶ **adverb** ① *brigands caught them unawares* BY SURPRISE, unexpectedly, without warning, suddenly, abruptly, unprepared, off-guard, *informal* with one's trousers down, napping, *Brit informal* on the hop. ② *the roach approached the pike unawares* UNKNOWNINGLY, unwittingly, unconsciously, unintentionally, inadvertently, accidentally, by mistake
—OPPOSITES prepared, knowingly

unbalanced ▶ **adjective** ① *he is unbalanced and dangerous* UNSTABLE, mentally ill, deranged, demented, disturbed, unhinged, insane, mad, out of one's mind, *non compos mentis*, *informal* crazy, loopy, loony, nuts, nutty, cracked, screwy, batty, dotty, cuckoo, bonkers, mental, off one's head, round the bend/twist, *Brit informal* barmy, potty, crackers, barking, off one's rocker, *N Amer informal* nutso, squirrely, dated touched. ② *a most unbalanced article* BIASED, prejudiced, one-sided, partisan, inequitable, unjust, unfair, parti pris
—OPPOSITES sane, unbiased

unbearable ▶ **adjective** INTOLERABLE, insufferable, insupportable, unendurable, unacceptable, unmanageable, more than flesh and blood can stand, overpowering, *informal* too much
—OPPOSITES tolerable

unbeatable ▶ **adjective** INVINCIBLE, unstoppable, unassailable, indomitable, unconquerable, unsurpassable, matchless, peerless, supreme.

unbeaten ▶ **adjective** UNDEFEATED, unconquered, unsurpassed, unequalled, unrivalled, triumphant, victorious, supreme, matchless, second to none

unbecoming ▶ **adjective** ① *an unbecoming sundress* UNFLATTERING, unattractive, unsightly, plain, ugly, hideous, unsuitable. ② *conduct unbecoming to the Senate* INAPPROPRIATE, unfitting, unbecoming, unsuitable, unsuited, inapt, out of keeping, untoward, incorrect, unacceptable, unworthy, improper, unseemly, undignified
—OPPOSITES flattering, appropriate

unbelief ▶ **noun** ATHEISM, non-belief, agnosticism, apostasy, irreligion, godlessness, nihilism, scepticism, cynicism, disbelief, doubt
—OPPOSITES faith

unbelievable ▶ **adjective** INCREDIBLE, beyond belief, inconceivable, unthinkable, unimaginable; unconvincing, far-fetched, implausible, improbable, *informal* hard to swallow.
—OPPOSITES credible.

unbend ▶ **verb** ① *I couldn't unbend my knees* STRAIGHTEN (OUT), extend, flex, uncurl. ② *if you'd only unbend a little*: RELAX, unwind, destress, loosen up, let oneself go, *informal* let one's hair down, let it all hang out, hang loose

unbending ▶ **adjective** ① *an unbending man*: ALOOF, formal, stiff, reserved, remote, forbidding, cool, unfeeling, unemotional, unfriendly, austere; *informal* uptight, stand-offish. ② *unbending attitudes*: UNCOMPROMISING, inflexible, unyielding, hard-line, tough, strict, firm, resolute,

determined, unrelenting, relentless, inexorable, intransigent, immovable

unbiased ▶ **adjective** IMPARTIAL, unprejudiced, neutral, non-partisan, disinterested, detached, dispassionate, objective, open-minded, equitable, even-handed, fair
—OPPOSITES prejudiced

unbidden ▶ **adjective** ① *an unbidden guest* UNINVITED, unasked, unsolicited, unwanted, unwelcome. ② *unbidden excitement* SPONTANEOUS, unprompted, voluntary, unforced, unplanned, unpremeditated, *informal* off-the-cuff

unblind ▶ **verb** UNTIE, unchain, unfetter, unshackle, unfasten, untether, undo, loosen, release, free, liberate

unblemished ▶ **adjective** IMPECCABLE, flawless, faultless, perfect, pure, whiter than white, clean, spotless, unsullied, unspoilt, undefiled, untouched, untarnished, unpolluted, incorrupt, guiltless, sinless, innocent, blameless, *informal* squeaky clean
—OPPOSITES flawed

unborn ▶ **adjective** ① *your unborn child* EMBRYONIC, fetal, in utero, expected. ② *the unborn generations* FUTURE, coming, forthcoming, subsequent

unbounded ▶ **adjective** UNLIMITED, boundless, limitless, illimitable, unrestrained, unrestricted, unconstrained, uncontrolled, unchecked, unbridled, untold, immeasurable, endless, unending, interminable, everlasting, infinite, inexhaustible
—OPPOSITES limited

unbreakable ▶ **adjective** SHATTERPROOF, indestructible, impensable, durable, long-lasting, toughened, sturdy, stout, resistant, hard-wearing, heavy-duty
—OPPOSITES fragile

unbridled ▶ **adjective** UNRESTRAINED, unconstrained, uncontrolled, uninhibited, unrestricted, unchecked, uncurbed, rampant, runaway, irrepressible, unstoppable, intemperate, immoderate
—OPPOSITES restrained

unbroken ▶ **adjective** ① *the last unbroken window* UNDAMAGED, unimpaired, unharmed, unscathed, untouched, sound, intact, whole, perfect. ② *an unbroken horse* UNTAMED, undomesticated, wild, feral. ③ *an unbroken chain of victories* UNINTERRUPTED, continuous, endless, constant, unremitting, ongoing. ④ *his record is still unbroken* UNBEATEN, undefeated, unsurpassed, unrivalled, ungnatched, supreme

unburden ▶ **verb** *she had a sudden wish to unburden herself* OPEN ONE'S HEART, confess, tell all, *informal* come clean, *archaic* unbosom oneself

uncalled

■ **uncalled for** GRATUITOUS, unnecessary, needless, inessential, undeserved, unmerited, unwarranted, unjustified, unreasonable, unfair, inappropriate, pointless, unasked, unsolicited, unrequested, unprompted, unprovoked, unwelcome.

uncanny ▶ **adjective** ① *the silence was uncanny*: EERIE, unnatural, unearthly, other-worldly, ghostly, strange, abnormal, weird, bizarre, freakish, *Scottish* eldritch; *informal* creepy, spooky, freaky. ② *an uncanny resemblance* STRIK-

ing, remarkable, extraordinary, exceptional, incredible, noteworthy, notable, arresting

unceasing ▶ **adjective** **INCESSANT**, ceaseless, constant, continual, unabating, interminable, endless, unending, never-ending, everlasting, eternal, perpetual, continuous, non-stop, uninterrupted, unbroken, unremitting, persistent, relentless, unrelenting, unrelieved, sustained

unceremonious ▶ **adjective** ① *an unceremonious dismissal* **ABRUPT**, sudden, hasty, hurried, summary, perfunctory, undignified, rude, impolite, discourteous, offhand. ② *an unceremonious man* **INFORMAL**, casual, relaxed, easy-going, familiar, natural, open, *informal* laid-back
-**OPPOSITES** formal

uncertain ▶ **adjective** ① *the effects are uncertain* **UNKNOWN**, debatable, open to question, in doubt, undetermined, unsure, in the balance, up in the air, unpredictable, unforeseeable, incalculable, risky, chancy, *informal* iffy. ② *uncertain weather* **CHANGEABLE**, variable, changeful, irregular, unpredictable, unreliable, unsettled, erratic, fluctuating. ③ *Ed was uncertain about the decision* **UNSURE**, doubtful, dubious, undecided, irresolute, hesitant, blowing hot and cold, vacillating, vague, unclear, ambivalent, in two minds. ④ *an uncertain smile* **HESITANT**, tentative, faltering, unsure, unconfident
-**OPPOSITES** predictable, sure, confident

unchangeable ▶ **adjective** **UNALTERABLE**, immutable, invariable, changeless, fixed, hard and fast, cast-iron, set in stone, established, permanent, enduring, abiding, lasting, indestructible, ineradicable, irreversible
-**OPPOSITES** variable

unchanging ▶ **adjective** **CONSISTENT**, constant, regular, unvarying, predictable, stable, steady, fixed, permanent, perpetual, eternal, sustained, lasting, persistent

uncharitable ▶ **adjective** **MEAN**, mean-spirited, unkind, selfish, self-centred, inconsiderate, thoughtless, insensitive, unfriendly, unsympathetic, uncaring, ungenerous, ungracious, unfair

uncharted ▶ **adjective** **UNEXPLORED**, undiscovered, unmapped, untravelled, unfamiliar, unplumbed, unknown

uncivil ▶ **adjective** **IMPOLITE**, rude, discourteous, disrespectful, unmannerly, bad-mannered, impertinent, impudent, ungracious, brusque, sharp, curt, offhand, gruff, churlish, *informal* off, fresh
-**OPPOSITES** polite.

uncivilized ▶ **adjective** **UNCOUTH**, coarse, rough, boorish, vulgar, philistine, uneducated, uncultured, uncultivated, benighted, unsophisticated, unpolished, ill-bred, ill-mannered, thuggish, loutish; barbarian, primitive, savage, brutish, *archaic* rude

unclean ▶ **adjective** ① *unclean premises* **DIRTY**, filthy, grubby, grimy, mucky, foul, impure, tainted, soiled, unwashed; polluted, contaminated, infected, unsanitary, unhygienic, unhealthy, germey, disease-ridden, *informal* yucky, cruddy; *Brit informal* grotty, gungy. ② *sex was considered unclean* **SINFUL**, immoral, bad, wicked, evil, corrupt, impure, unwholesome, sordid, disgusting, debased, degenerate, depraved. ③ *an unclean meat* **IMPURE**; forbidden, taboo.
-**OPPOSITES** pure, halal, kosher.

unclear ▶ **adjective** **UNCERTAIN**, unsure, unsettled, up in the air, debatable, open to question, in doubt, doubtful, ambiguous, equivocal, indefinite, vague, mysterious, obscure, hazy, foggy, nebulous, *informal* iffy
-**OPPOSITES** evident

unclothed ▶ **adjective** **NAKED**, bare, nude, stripped, undressed, in a state of nature, *informal* in one's birthday suit, in the buff, in the raw, in the altogether, in the nuddy; *Brit informal* starkers, *Scottish informal* in the scud, *N Amer informal* buck naked
-**OPPOSITES** dressed

uncomfortable ▶ **adjective** ① *an uncomfortable chair* **PAINFUL**, disagreeable, intolerable, unbearable, confining, cramped. ② *I felt uncomfortable in her presence* **UNEASY**, awkward, nervous, tense, strained, edgy, restless, embarrassed, troubled, worried, anxious, unquiet, fraught, *informal* rattled, twitchy, *N Amer informal* discom-bobulated, antsy
-**OPPOSITES** relaxed

uncommitted ▶ **adjective** ① *uncommitted voters* **FLOATING**, undecided, non-partisan, unaffiliated, neutral, impartial, independent, undeclared, uncertain, *informal* sitting on the fence. ② *the uncommitted male* **UNMARRIED**, unattached, unwed, partnerless, footloose and fancy free, available, single, lone
-**OPPOSITES** aligned, attached

uncommon ▶ **adjective** ① *an uncommon plant* **UNUSUAL**, abnormal, rare, atypical, unconventional, unfamiliar, strange, odd, curious, extraordinary, outlandish, novel, singular, peculiar, queer, bizarre; alien, *informal* weird, oddball, off-beat. ② *abductions are uncommon* **RARE**, scarce, few and far between, exceptional, abnormal, isolated, infrequent, irregular; *Brit* out of the common. ③ *an uncommon capacity for hard work* **REMARKABLE**, extraordinary, exceptional, singular, particular, marked, outstanding, noteworthy, significant, especial, special, signal, superior, unique, unparalleled, prodigious, *informal* mind-boggling

uncommonly ▶ **adverb** **UNUSUALLY**, remarkably, extraordinarily, exceptionally, singularly, particularly, especially, decidedly, notably, eminently, extremely, very; *N English* right; *informal* awfully, terribly, seriously; *Brit informal* jolly, dead.

uncommunicative ▶ **adjective** **TACITURN**, quiet, unforthcoming, reserved, reticent, laconic, tongue-tied, mute, silent, tight-lipped, guarded, secretive, close, private; distant, remote, aloof, withdrawn, unsociable, *informal* mum, stand-offish.
-**OPPOSITES** talkative

uncomplicated ▶ **adjective** **SIMPLE**, straightforward, clear, accessible, undemanding, unchallenging, unsophisticated, trouble-free, painless, effortless, easy, elementary, idiot-proof, plain sailing; *informal* a piece of cake, child's play, a cinch, a doddle, a breeze, *Brit informal* easy-peasy.
-**OPPOSITES** complex.

uncompromising ▶ **adjective** **INFLEXIBLE**, unbending, unyielding, unshakeable, resolute, rigid, hard-line, immovable, intractable, firm, determined, iron-willed, obstinate, stubborn,

adamant, obdurate, intransigent, headstrong, pig-headed; *Brit informal* bloody-minded.
-OPPOSITES flexible.

unconcerned ▶ **adjective** ① *he is unconcerned about their responses*: **INDIFFERENT**, unmoved, apathetic, uninterested, incurious, dispassionate, heedless, unmindful; cool, lukewarm, unenthusiastic ② *she tried to look unconcerned* **UNTROUBLED**, unworried, unruffled, insouciant, nonchalant, blasé, carefree, casual, relaxed, at ease, (cool, calm, and collected), *informal* laid-back
-OPPOSITES interested, anxious

unconditional ▶ **adjective** **UNQUESTIONING**, unqualified, unreserved, unlimited, unrestricted, wholehearted, complete, total, entire, full, absolute, out-and-out, unequivocal

unconnected ▶ **adjective** ① *the earth wire was unconnected* **DETACHED**, disconnected, loose ② *unconnected tasks* **UNRELATED**, dissociated, separate, independent, distinct, different, disparate, discrete ③ *unconnected chains of thought* **DISJOINTED**, incoherent, disconnected, rambling, wandering, diffuse, disorderly, haphazard, disorganized, garbled, mixed, muddled, aimless.
-OPPOSITES attached, related, coherent.

unconscionable ▶ **adjective** ① *the unconscionable use of test animals* **UNETHICAL**, amoral, immoral, unprincipled, indefensible, wrong, unscrupulous, unfair, underhand, dishonourable ② *we had to wait an unconscionable time* **EXCESSIVE**, unreasonable, unwarranted, uncalled for, unfair, inordinate, immoderate, undue, inexcusable, unnecessary, needless, *informal* over the top, **OTT**
-OPPOSITES ethical, acceptable.

unconscious ▶ **adjective** ① *she made sure he was unconscious* **INSENSIBLE**, senseless, insentient, insensate, comatose, inert, knocked out, stunned, motionless, immobile, prostrate, *informal* out cold, out for the count, dead to the world, *Brit informal* spark out ② *she was unconscious of the pain* **HEEDLESS**, unmindful, disregarding, oblivious to, insensible to, impervious to, unaffected by, unconcerned by, indifferent to; unaware, unknowing. ③ *an unconscious desire*: **SUBCONSCIOUS**, latent, suppressed, subliminal, sleeping, inherent, instinctive, involuntary, uncontrolled, spontaneous, unintentional, unthinking, unwitting, inadvertent; *informal* gut
-OPPOSITES aware, voluntary.

▶ **noun** fantasies raging in the unconscious: **SUBCONSCIOUS**, psyche, ego, id, inner self.

uncontrollable ▶ **adjective** ① *the crowds were uncontrollable*: **UNMANAGEABLE**, out of control, ungovernable, wild, unruly, disorderly, recalcitrant, turbulent, disobedient, delinquent, defiant, undisciplined, *formal* refractory ② *an uncontrollable rage*: **UNGOVERNABLE**, irrepresible, unstoppable, unquenchable; wild, violent, frenzied, furious, mad, hysterical, passionate
-OPPOSITES compliant.

unconventional ▶ **adjective** **UNUSUAL**, irregular, unorthodox, unfamiliar, uncommon, unwonted, out of the ordinary, atypical, singular, alternative, different, new, novel, innovative, ground-breaking, pioneering, original, unprecedented; eccentric, idiosyncratic, quirky, odd, strange, bizarre, weird, outlandish, curious; abnormal, anomalous, aberrant, extraordinary; nonconformist, bohemian, avant-garde; *informal*

way out, far out, offbeat, wacky, madcap, zany, hippy; *Brit informal* rum, *N Amer informal* kooky, wacko
-OPPOSITES orthodox.

unconvincing ▶ **adjective** **IMPROBABLE**, unlikely, implausible, incredible, unbelievable, questionable, dubious, doubtful, strained, laboured, far-fetched, unrealistic, fanciful, fantastic; feeble, weak, transparent, poor, lame, ineffectual, half-baked, *informal* hard to swallow
-OPPOSITES persuasive

uncooperative ▶ **adjective** **UNHELPLEFUL**, awkward, disobliging, recalcitrant, perverse, contrary, stubborn, wilful, stiff-necked, unyielding, unbending, inflexible, immovable, obstructive, difficult, obstreperous, disobedient, *Brit informal* bloody-minded
-OPPOSITES obliging

uncoordinated ▶ **adjective** **CLUMSY**, awkward, blundering, bumbling, lumbering, flat-footed, heavy-handed, graceless, gawky, ungainly, ungraceful; inept, unhandy, unskilful, inexpert, maladroit, bungling; *informal* butterfingers, cack-handed, ham-fisted; *Brit informal* all (fingers and) thumbs, *N Amer informal* klutzy
-OPPOSITES dexterous

uncouth ▶ **adjective** **UNCIVILIZED**, uncultured, uncultivated, unrefined, unpolished, unsophisticated, common, low, rough, coarse, crude, loutish, boorish, oafish; churlish, uncivil, rude, impolite, discourteous, disrespectful, unmannerly, bad-mannered, ill-bred, indecorous, vulgar, crass, indelicate, *Brit informal* yobbish
-OPPOSITES refined

uncover ▶ **verb** ① *she uncovered the sandwiches* **EXPOSE**, reveal, lay bare, unwrap, unveil; strip, denude ② *they uncovered a money-laundering plot* **DETECT**, discover, come across, stumble on, chance on, find, turn up, unearth, dig up, expose, bring to light, unmask, unveil, reveal, lay bare, make known, make public, betray, give away, *informal* blow the whistle on, pull the plug on

unctuous ▶ **adjective** **SYCOPHANTIC**, ingratiating, obsequious, fawning, servile, grovelling, subservient, cringing, humble, hypocritical, insincere, gushing, effusive; glib, smooth, slick, slippery, oily, greasy, *informal* smarmy, slimy, sucky, soapy

undaunted ▶ **adjective** **UNAFRAID**, undismayed, unflinching, unshrinking, unabashed, fearless, dauntless, intrepid, bold, valiant, brave, courageous, plucky, mettlesome, gritty, indomitable, confident, audacious, daring; *informal* gutsy, spunky
-OPPOSITES fearful.

undecided ▶ **adjective** **UNRESOLVED**, uncertain, unsure, unclear, unsettled, indefinite, undetermined, unknown, in the balance, up in the air, debatable, arguable, moot, open to question, doubtful, dubious, borderline, ambiguous, vague; indecisive, irresolute, hesitant, tentative, wavering, vacillating, uncommitted, ambivalent, in two minds; *informal* iffy.
-OPPOSITES certain.

undefined ▶ **adjective** ① *some matters are still undefined*: **UNSPECIFIED**, unexplained, unspecific, indeterminate, unsettled; unclear, woolly, imprecise, inexact, indefinite, vague. ② *undefined shapes*: **INDISTINCT**, indefinite, formless, indistin-

guishable, vague, hazy, misty, shadowy, nebulous, blurred, blurry
 —OPPOSITES definite, distinct

undemonstrative ▶ **adjective** UNEMOTIONAL, unaffectionate, impassive, dispassionate, restrained, reserved, unresponsive, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, stiff, guarded, aloof, distant, detached, remote, withdrawn, cool, cold, frosty, frigid, *informal* stand-offish

undeniable ▶ **adjective** INDISPUTABLE, indubitable, unquestionable, beyond doubt, beyond question, undebatable, incontrovertible, incontestable, irrefutable, unassailable, certain, sure, definite, positive, conclusive, plain, obvious, unmistakable, self-evident, patent, emphatic, categorical, unequivocal
 —OPPOSITES questionable

under ▶ **preposition** ① *they hid under a bush* BE NEATH, below, underneath ② *the rent is under £250* LESS THAN, lower than, below ③ *branch managers are under the retail director* SUBORDINATE TO, junior to, inferior to, subservient to, answerable to, responsible to, subject to, controlled by ④ *forty homes are under construction* UNDERGOING, in the process of ⑤ *the town was under water* FLOODED BY, immersed in, submerged by, sunk in, engulfed by, inundated by. ⑥ *our finances are under pressure* SUBJECT TO, liable to, at the mercy of
 —OPPOSITES above, over

▶ **adverb** *coughing and spluttering she went under* DOWN, lower, below, underneath, beneath, underwater

underclothes ▶ **plural noun** UNDERWEAR, undergarments, underclothing, underthings, lingerie, *informal* undies, frillies, *Brit informal* smalls, *archaic* underlinen

undercover ▶ **adjective** COVERT, secret, clandestine, underground, surreptitious, furtive, cloak-and-dagger, hole-and-corner, hugger-mugger, stealthy, hidden, concealed, *informal* hush-hush, sneaky
 —OPPOSITES overt

undercurrent ▶ **noun** ① *dangerous undercurrents in the cove* UNDERTOW, underflow, under-swell, underset ② *the undercurrent of despair in his words* UNDERTONE, overtone, suggestion, connotation, intimation, hint, nuance, trace, suspicion, whisper, tinge, feeling, atmosphere, aura, echo; *informal* vibes

undercut ▶ **verb** ① *the firm undercut their rivals* CHARGE LESS THAN, undersell, underbid ② *his authority was being undercut* UNDERMINE, weaken, impair, sap, threaten, subvert, sabotage, ruin, destabilize, wreck

underdog ▶ **noun** WEAKER PARTY, victim, loser, scapegoat; *informal* little guy, fall guy, stooge

underestimate ▶ **verb** UNDERRATE, undervalue, do an injustice to, be wrong about, sell short, play down, understate, minimize, de-emphasize, underemphasize, diminish, downgrade, gloss over, trivialize; miscalculate, misjudge, misconstrue, misread.
 —OPPOSITES exaggerate

undergo ▶ **verb** GO THROUGH, expence, undertake, face, submit to, be subjected to, come in for, receive, sustain, endure, brave, bear, tolerate, stand, withstand, weather; *Brit informal* wear.

underground ▶ **adjective** ① *an underground car park* SUBTERRANEAN, buried, sunken, basement ② *underground organizations*: CLANDESTINE, secret, surreptitious, covert, undercover, closet, hole-and-corner, cloak-and-dagger, hugger-mugger, back-alley, hidden, sneaky, furtive, resistance, subversive, *informal* hush-hush ③ *the underground art scene* ALTERNATIVE, radical, revolutionary, unconventional, unorthodox, avant-garde, experimental, innovative

▶ **adverb** ① *the insects live underground* BELOW GROUND, in the earth ② *the rebels went underground* INTO HIDING, into seclusion, undercover

▶ **noun** ① *he took the underground* UNDERGROUND RAILWAY, metro, *N Amer* subway, *Brit informal* tube ② *information from the French underground* RESISTANCE (MOVEMENT), partisans, guerrillas, freedom fighters, *historical* Maquis

undergrowth ▶ **noun** SHRUBBERY, vegetation, greenery, ground cover, underwood, brushwood, brush, scrub, covert, thicket, copse, bushes, plants, brambles, herbage, *N Amer* underbrush

underhand ▶ **adjective** DECEITFUL, dishonest, dishonourable, disreputable, unethical, unprincipled, immoral, unscrupulous, fraudulent, dubious, unfair; treacherous, duplicitous, double-dealing, devious, artful, crafty, conniving, scheming, sly, wily, clandestine, sneaky, furtive, covert, cloak-and-dagger, *N Amer* snide, *informal* crooked, shady, bent, low-down, *Brit informal* dodgy, *Austral / NZ informal* shonky
 —OPPOSITES honest

underline ▶ **verb** ① *she underlined a phrase* UNDERSCORE, mark, pick out, emphasize, highlight ② *the programme underlines the benefits of exercise* EMPHASIZE, stress, highlight, accentuate, accent, focus on, spotlight, point up, play up, *informal* rub in

underling ▶ **noun** SUBORDINATE, inferior, junior, minion, lackey, flunkie, menial, retainer, vassal, subject, hireling, servant, henchman, factotum, gofer, *Brit informal* skivvy, dogsbody
 —OPPOSITES boss

underlying ▶ **adjective** ① *the underlying aims of the research* FUNDAMENTAL, basic, primary, prime, central, principal, chief, key, elementary, intrinsic, essential ② *an underlying feeling of irritation* LATENT, repressed, suppressed, unrevealed, undisclosed, unexpressed, concealed, hidden, masked

undermine ▶ **verb** ① *their integrity is being undermined* SUBVERT, sabotage, threaten, weaken, compromise, diminish, reduce, impair, mar, spoil, ruin, damage, hurt, injure, cripple, sap, shake, *informal* drag through the mud ② *we undermined the building* TUNNEL UNDER, dig under, burrow under, sap ③ *the damp had so undermined the wall that it collapsed* ERODE, wear away, eat away at
 —OPPOSITES strengthen, support

underprivileged ▶ **adjective** NEEDY, deprived, disadvantaged, poor, destitute, in straitened circumstances, on one's uppers, on one's beam-ends, impoverished, poverty-stricken, indigent; *Brit* on the breadline; *formal* penurious.
 —OPPOSITES wealthy.

underrate ▶ **verb** UNDERVALUE, underestimate, do an injustice to, sell short, play down, under-

state, minimize, diminish, downgrade, trivialize

—OPPOSITES exaggerate

undersized ► **adjective** UNDERDEVELOPED, stunted, small, short, little, tiny, petite, slight, compact, miniature, mini, diminutive, dwarfish, pygmy, *Scottish wee, informal* pint-sized, pocket-sized, knee-high to a grasshopper, baby, teeny-weeny, itsy-bitsy

—OPPOSITES overgrown

understand ► **verb** ① *he couldn't understand anything we said* COMPREHEND, grasp, take in, see, apprehend, follow, make sense of, fathom, unravel, decipher, interpret, *informal* work out, figure out, make head or tail of, get one's head around, take on board, get the drift of, catch on to, get, *Bnt informal* twig, suss (out) ② *she understood how hard he'd worked* APPRECIATE, recognize, realize, acknowledge, know, be aware of, be conscious of, *informal* be wise to, *formal* be cognizant of ③ *I understand that you wish to go* BELIEVE, gather, take it, hear (tell), notice, see, learn, conclude, infer, assume, surmise, fancy

understandable ► **adjective** ① *make it understandable to the layman* COMPREHENSIBLE, intelligible, coherent, clear, explicit, unambiguous, transparent, plain, straightforward, digestible, user-friendly ② *an understandable desire to be happy* UNSURPRISING, expected, predictable, inevitable, reasonable, acceptable, logical, rational, normal, natural, justifiable, justified, defensible, excusable, pardonable, forgivable

understanding ► **noun** ① *test your understanding of the language* COMPREHENSION, apprehension, grasp, mastery, appreciation, assimilation, absorption, knowledge, awareness, insight, skill, expertise, proficiency, *informal* know-how, *formal* cognizance ② *a young man of brilliant understanding* INTELLECT, intelligence, brainpower, brains, judgement, reasoning, mentality, insight, intuition, shrewdness, acumen, sagacity, wisdom, wit, *informal* nous, savvy, know-how ③ *it was my understanding that this was free* BELIEF, perception, view, conviction, feeling, opinion, intuition, impression, assumption, supposition ④ *he treated me with understanding* COMPASSION, sympathy, pity, feeling, concern, consideration, kindness, sensitivity, decency, humanity, charity, goodwill, mercy, tolerance ⑤ *we had a tacit understanding* AGREEMENT, arrangement, deal, bargain, settlement, pledge, pact, compact, contract, covenant, bond

—OPPOSITES ignorance, indifference

► **adjective** *an understanding friend* COMPASSIONATE, sympathetic, sensitive, considerate, tender, kind, thoughtful, tolerant, patient, forbearing, lenient, merciful, forgiving, humane, approachable, supportive, perceptive

understate ► **verb** PLAY DOWN, downplay, understate, underplay, de-emphasize, trivialize, minimize, diminish, downgrade, brush aside, gloss over; *informal* soft-pedal, sell short.

—OPPOSITES exaggerate.

understudy ► **noun** STAND-IN, substitute, replacement, reserve, fill-in, locum, proxy, backup, relief, standby, stopgap, second, ancillary, *informal* sub, *N Amer informal* pinch-hitter

undertake ► **verb** TACKLE, take on, assume, shoulder, handle, manage, deal with, be responsible for, engage in, take part in, go about,

set about, get down to, get to grips with, embark on, attempt, try, endeavour, *informal* have a go at, *formal* essay

undertaker ► **noun** FUNERAL DIRECTOR, *N Amer* mortician

undertaking ► **noun** ① *a risky undertaking* ENTERPRISE, venture, project, campaign, scheme, plan, operation, endeavour, effort, task, activity, pursuit, exploit, business, affair, procedure, mission, quest ② *sign this undertaking to comply with the rules* PLEDGE, agreement, promise, oath, covenant, vow, commitment, guarantee, assurance, contract

undertone ► **noun** ① *he said something in an undertone* LOW VOICE, murmur, whisper, mutter ② *the story's dark undertones* UNDERCURRENT, overtone, suggestion, nuance, vein, atmosphere, aura, tenor, flavour, vibrations

undervalue ► **verb** UNDERRATE, underestimate, play down, understate, underemphasize, diminish, minimize, downgrade, reduce, brush aside, gloss over, trivialize, hold cheap, *informal* sell short

underwater ► **adjective** SUBMERGED, immersed, sunken, subaqueous, undersea, submarine

underwear ► **noun** UNDERCLOTHES, underclothing, undergarments, underthings, lingere, *informal* undies, frillies, *Bnt informal* smalls, *archaic* underlinen

underworld ► **noun** ① *Osiris, god of the underworld* THE NETHERWORLD, the nether regions, hell, the abyss, eternal damnation, Gehenna, Tophet, Sheol, Hades, *Bnt* the other place, *poetic/literary* the pit ② *the violent underworld of Southwark* CRIMINAL WORLD, gangland, criminals, gangsters, *informal* mobsters

—OPPOSITES heaven

underwrite ► **verb** SPONSOR, support, back, insure, indemnify, subsidize, pay for, finance, fund, *informal* foot the bill for, *N Amer informal* bankroll

undesirable ► **adjective** ① *undesirable side effects* UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, nasty, unwelcome, unwanted, unfortunate, infelicitous ② *some very undesirable people* UNPLEASANT, disagreeable, obnoxious, nasty, awful, terrible, dreadful, frightful, repulsive, repellent, abhorrent, loathsome, hateful, detestable, deplorable, appalling, insufferable, intolerable, despicable, contemptible, odious, vile, unsavoury, *informal* ghastly, horrible, horrid, *Bnt informal* beastly

—OPPOSITES pleasant, agreeable

undignified ► **adjective** UNSEEMLY, demeaning, unbecoming, unworthy, unbefitting, degrading, shameful, dishonourable, ignominious, discreditable, ignoble, untoward, unsuitable, scandalous, disgraceful, indecent, low, base, *informal* infra dig

undisciplined ► **adjective** UNRULY, disorderly, disobedient, badly behaved, recalcitrant, wilful, wayward, delinquent, naughty, rebellious, insubordinate, disruptive, errant, out of control, uncontrollable, wild, disorganized, unsystematic, unmethodical, lax, slapdash, slipshod, sloppy, *Bnt informal* stroppy, *bolshie, formal* refractory

undisguised ► **adjective** OBVIOUS, evident, patent, manifest, transparent, overt, unconcealed, unhidden, unmistakable, undeniable, plain, clear, clear-cut, explicit, naked, visible, blatant, flagrant, glaring, bold, *informal* standing/sticking out a mile

undisputed ► **adjective** UNDOUBTED, indubitable, uncontested, incontestable, unchallenged, incontrovertible, unequivocal, undeniable, irrefutable, unmistakable, sure, certain, definite, accepted, acknowledged, recognized
—OPPOSITES doubtful

undistinguished ► **adjective** UNEXCEPTIONAL, indifferent, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, ordinary, average, commonplace, mediocre, humdrum, lacklustre, forgettable, uninspired, uneventful, unremarkable, inconsequential, featureless, nondescript, middling, moderate, *N Amer* garden-variety, *informal* nothing special, no great shakes, nothing to write home about, OK, so-so, bog standard, *Brit informal* common or garden, *N Amer informal* bush-league
—OPPOSITES extraordinary

undivided ► **adjective** COMPLETE, full, total, whole, entire, absolute, unqualified, unreserved, unmitigated, unbroken, consistent, thorough, exclusive, dedicated, focused, engrossed, absorbed, attentive, committed

undo ► **verb** ① *he undid another button* UNFASTEN, unbutton, unhook, untie, unlace, unlock, unbolt, loosen, disentangle, extricate, release, detach, free, open, disconnect, disengage, separate ② *they will undo a decision by the law lords* REVOKE, overrule, overturn, repeal, rescind, reverse, countermand, cancel, annul, nullify, invalidate, void, negate, *Law* vacate; *formal* abrogate ③ *she undid much of the good work done* RUIN, undermine, subvert, overturn, scotch, sabotage, spoil, impair, mar, destroy, wreck, eradicate, obliterate, cancel out, neutralize, thwart, foil, frustrate, hamper, hinder, obstruct, *Brit* throw a spanner in the works of, *informal* blow, put the kibosh on, foul up, muck up, *Brit informal* scupper, *N Amer informal* rain on someone's parade
—OPPOSITES fasten, ratify, enhance

undoing ► **noun** ① *she plotted the king's undoing* DOWNFALL, defeat, conquest, deposition, overthrow, ruin, ruination, elimination, end, collapse, failure, debasement, Waterloo ② *their complacency was their undoing* FATAL FLAW, Achilles' heel, weakness, weak point, failing, misfortune, affliction, curse

undone ► **adjective** ① *some work was left undone* UNFINISHED, incomplete, half-done, unaccomplished, unfulfilled, unconcluded, omitted, neglected, disregarded, ignored, remaining, outstanding, deferred, pending, on ice; *informal* on the back burner ② *(formal) she had lost and was utterly undone* DONE FOR, finished, ruined, destroyed, doomed, lost, defeated, beaten, *informal* washed up
—OPPOSITES finished, successful

undoubted ► **adjective** UNDISPUTED, unchallenged, unquestioned, indubitable, incontrovertible, irrefutable, incontestable, sure, certain, unmistakable, definite, accepted, acknowledged, recognized

undoubtedly ► **adverb** DOUBTLESS, indubitably, doubtlessly, no doubt, without (a) doubt;

unquestionably, indisputably, undeniably, incontrovertibly, clearly, obviously, patently, certainly, definitely, surely, of course, indeed.

undress ► **verb** *he undressed and got into bed* STRIP (OFF), disrobe, take off one's clothes; *Brit informal* peel off

■ **In a state of undress** NAKED, (in the) nude, bare, stripped, unclothed, undressed, in a state of nature, *informal* in one's birthday suit, in the raw, in the buff, in the nuddy, *Brit informal* starkers

undue ► **adjective** EXCESSIVE, immoderate, intemperate, inordinate, disproportionate, uncalled for, unneeded, unnecessary, non-essential, needless, unwarranted, unjustified, unreasonable, inappropriate, unmerited, unsuitable, improper
—OPPOSITES appropriate

undulate ► **verb** RISE AND FALL, surge, swell, heave, ripple, flow, wind, wobble, oscillate

undying ► **adjective** ABIDING, lasting, enduring, permanent, constant, infinite, unceasing, perpetual, ceaseless, incessant, unending, never-ending, immortal, eternal, deathless

unearth ► **verb** ① *workmen unearthed an artillery shell* DIG UP, excavate, exhume, disinter, root out, unbury ② *I unearthed an interesting fact* DISCOVER, uncover, find, come across, hit on, bring to light, expose, turn up, hunt out, nose out

unearthly ► **adjective** ① *an unearthly chill in the air* OTHER-WORLDLY, supernatural, preternatural, alien, ghostly, spectral, phantom, mysterious, spine-chilling, hair-raising, uncanny, eerie, strange, weird, unnatural, bizarre, *Scottish* eldritch, *informal* spooky, creepy, scary ② *(informal) they rose at some unearthly hour* UNREASONABLE, preposterous, abnormal, extraordinary, absurd, ridiculous, unheard of, *informal* ungodly, unholy
—OPPOSITES normal, reasonable

uneasy ► **adjective** ① *the doctor made him feel uneasy* WORRIED, anxious, troubled, disturbed, agitated, nervous, tense, nervy, overwrought, edgy, apprehensive, restless, discomfited, perturbed, fearful, uncomfortable, unsettled, *informal* jittery ② *he had an uneasy feeling* WORRYING, disturbing, troubling, alarming, dismaying, disquieting, unsettling, disconcerting, upsetting ③ *the victory ensured an uneasy peace* TENSE, awkward, strained, fraught; precarious, unstable, insecure
—OPPOSITES calm, stable

uneconomic, uneconomical ► **adjective** UNPROFITABLE, uncommercial, non-viable, loss-making, worthless; wasteful, inefficient, improvident

uneducated ► **adjective** UNTAUGHT, unschooled, untutored, untrained, unread, unscholarly, illiterate, unlettered, ignorant, ill-informed, uninformed, uncouth, unsophisticated, uncultured, unaccomplished, unenlightened, philistine, benighted, backward
—OPPOSITES learned

unemotional ► **adjective** RESERVED, undemonstrative, sober, restrained, passionless, emotionless, unsentimental, unexcitable, impassive, phlegmatic, stoical, equable; cold, cool, unfeeling

unemployed ► **adjective** JOBLESS, out of work, between jobs, unwaged, unoccupied, redun-

dant, laid off; on benefit, *Brit* signing on, *N Amer* on welfare, *Brit informal* on the dole, 'resting'

unending ▶ **adjective** ENDLESS, never-ending, interminable, perpetual, eternal, ceaseless, incessant, unceasing, non-stop, uninterrupted, continuous, continual, constant, persistent, unbroken, unabating, unremitting, relentless

unendurable ▶ **adjective** INTOLERABLE, unbearable, insufferable, insupportable, more than flesh and blood can stand

unenthusiastic ▶ **adjective** INDIFFERENT, apathetic, half-hearted, lukewarm, casual, cool, lacklustre, offhand, unmoved, cursory, perfunctory
-OPPOSITES keen

unenvious ▶ **adjective** DISAGREEABLE, nasty, unpleasant, undesirable, horrible, thankless, unwanted, unwished-for

unequal ▶ **adjective** ① they are unequal in length DIFFERENT, dissimilar, unlike, unlike, disparate, unmatched, uneven, irregular, varying, variable ② the unequal distribution of wealth UNFAIR, unjust, disproportionate, inequitable, biased ③ an unequal contest ONE-SIDED, uneven, unfair, ill-matched, unbalanced, lopsided ④ she felt unequal to the task INADEQUATE FOR, incapable of, unqualified for, unsuited to, incompetent at, not up to, *informal* not cut out for
-OPPOSITES identical, fair

unequaled ▶ **adjective** UNBEATEN, matchless, unmatched, unrivalled, unsurpassed, unparalleled, peerless, incomparable, inimitable, second to none, unique

unequivocal ▶ **adjective** UNAMBIGUOUS, unmis-takable, indisputable, incontrovertible, indubitable, undeniable, clear, clear-cut, plain, explicit, specific, categorical, straightforward, blunt, candid, emphatic, manifest
-OPPOSITES ambiguous

unerring ▶ **adjective** UNFAILING, infallible, perfect, flawless, faultless, impeccable, unimpeachable, sure, true, assured, deadly, *informal* sure-fire

unethical ▶ **adjective** IMMORAL, amoral, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonourable, dishonest, wrong, deceitful, unconscionable, fraudulent, underhand, wicked, evil, corrupt, unprofessional, improper

uneven ▶ **adjective** ① uneven ground BUMPY, rough, lumpy, stony, rocky, potholed, rutted, pitted, jagged ② uneven teeth IRREGULAR, unequal, unbalanced, lopsided, askew, crooked, asymmetrical, unsymmetrical ③ uneven quality INCONSISTENT, variable, varying, fluctuating, irregular, erratic, patchy. ④ an uneven contest ONE-SIDED, unequal, unfair, unjust, inequitable, ill-matched, unbalanced
-OPPOSITES flat, regular, equal

uneventful ▶ **adjective** UNEXCITING, uninteresting, monotonous, boring, dull, tedious, humdrum, routine, unvaried, ordinary, run-of-the-mill, pedestrian, mundane, predictable
-OPPOSITES exciting

unexceptional ▶ **adjective** ORDINARY, average, typical, everyday, mediocre, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, indifferent, *informal* OK, so-so, nothing special, no great shakes, fair-to-middling

unexpected ▶ **adjective** UNFORESEEN, unanticipated, unpredicted, unlooked-for, without warning, sudden, abrupt, surprising, out of the blue

unfailing ▶ **adjective** his unfailing good humour CONSTANT, reliable, dependable, steadfast, steady, endless, undying, unfading, inexhaustible, boundless, ceaseless

unfair ▶ **adjective** ① the trial was unfair UNJUST, inequitable, prejudiced, biased, discriminatory, one-sided, unequal, uneven, unbalanced, partisan ② his comments were unfair UNDESERVED, unmerited, uncalled for, unreasonable, unjustified, *Brit informal* out of order ③ unfair play UNSPORTING, unsportsmanlike, dirty, below the belt, underhand, dishonourable ④ you're being very unfair INCONSIDERATE, thoughtless, insensitive, selfish, mean, unkind, unreasonable
-OPPOSITES just, justified

unfaithful ▶ **adjective** ① her husband had been unfaithful ADULTEROUS, faithless, fickle, untrue, inconstant, *informal* cheating, two-timing ② an unfaithful friend DISLOYAL, treacherous, traitorous, untrustworthy, unreliable, undependable, false, two-faced, double-crossing, deceitful, *poetic/literary* perfidious
-OPPOSITES loyal

unfaltering ▶ **adjective** STEADY, resolute, resolved, firm, steadfast, fixed, decided, unswerving, unwavering, tireless, indefatigable, persistent, unyielding, relentless, unremitting, unrelenting
-OPPOSITES unsteady

unfamiliar ▶ **adjective** ① an unfamiliar part of the city UNKNOWN, new, strange, foreign, alien ② the unfamiliar sounds UNSUAL, uncommon, unconventional, novel, different, exotic, unorthodox, odd, peculiar, curious, uncharacteristic, anomalous, out of the ordinary ③ investors unfamiliar with the stock market UNACQUAINTED, unused, unaccustomed, unconservant, inexperienced, uninformed, unenlightened, ignorant, new to, a stranger to

unfashionable ▶ **adjective** OUT OF FASHION, outdated, old-fashioned, outmoded, out of style, dated, unstylish, passé, démodé, *informal* out, square, out of the ark

unfasten ▶ **verb** UNDO, open, disconnect, remove, untie, unbutton, unzip, loose, loosen, free, unlock, unbolt

unfathomable ▶ **adjective** ① dark unfathomable eyes INSCRUTABLE, incomprehensible, enigmatic, indecipherable, obscure, esoteric, mysterious, mystifying, deep, profound ② unfathomable water DEEP, immeasurable, unfathomed, unplumbed, bottomless
-OPPOSITES penetrable

unfavourable ▶ **adjective** ① unfavourable comment ADVERSE, critical, hostile, inimical, unfriendly, unsympathetic, negative, discouraging, disapproving, uncomplimentary, unflattering ② the unfavourable economic climate DISADVANTAGEOUS, adverse, inauspicious, unpropitious, gloomy, unsuitable, inappropriate, inopportune
-OPPOSITES positive

unfeeling ▶ **adjective** UNCARING, unsympathetic, unemotional, uncharitable, heartless, hard-hearted, hard, harsh, austere, cold, cold-hearted



—OPPOSITES compassionate

unfeigned ▶ **adjective** SINCERE, genuine, real, true, honest, unaffected, unforced, heartfelt, wholehearted

—OPPOSITES insincere

unfettered ▶ **adjective** UNRESTRAINED, unrestricted, unconstrained, free, unbridled, unchecked, uncontrolled

—OPPOSITES restricted

unfinished ▶ **adjective** ① *an unfinished essay* IN COMPLETE, uncompleted, partial, undone, half-done, imperfect, unpolished, unrefined, sketchy, fragmentary, rough ② *the door can be supplied unfinished* UNPAINTED, unvarnished, untreated

—OPPOSITES complete

unfit ▶ **adjective** ① *the film is unfit for children* | *unfit for duty* UNSUITABLE, unsuited, inappropriate, unequipped, inadequate, not designed, incapable of, unable to do something, not up to, not equal to, *informal* not cut out for, not up to scratch ② *I am unfit* UNHEALTHY, out of condition/shape, in poor condition/shape

—OPPOSITES suitable

unflagging ▶ **adjective** TIRELESS, persistent, dogged, tenacious, determined, resolute, staunch, single-minded, unrelenting, unfaltering, unflagging

—OPPOSITES inconstant

unflappable ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) IMPERTURBABLE, unexcitable, cool, calm, (cool, calm, and collected), self-controlled, cool-headed, level-headed, *informal* laid-back

—OPPOSITES excitable

unflattering ▶ **adjective** ① *an unflattering review* UNFAVOURABLE, uncomplimentary, harsh, unsympathetic, critical, hostile, scathing ② *an unflattering dress* UNATTRACTIVE, unbecoming, unsightly, ugly, plain, ill-fitting

—OPPOSITES complimentary, becoming

unflinching ▶ **adjective** RESOLUTE, determined, single-minded, dogged, resolved, firm, committed, steady, unwavering, unflagging, unswerving, unfaltering, untiring, undaunted, fearless

unfold ▶ **verb** ① *May unfold the map.* OPEN OUT, spread out, flatten, straighten out, unroll ② *she unfolded her tale to Joanna* NARRATE, relate, recount, tell, reveal, disclose, divulge, communicate, report, recite, give an account of. ③ *I watched the events unfold* DEVELOP, evolve, happen, take place, occur, transpire, progress

unforeseen ▶ **adjective** UNPREDICTED, unexpected, unanticipated, unplanned, unlooked-for, not bargained for

—OPPOSITES expected

unforgettable ▶ **adjective** MEMORABLE, not/never to be forgotten, haunting, catchy, striking, impressive, outstanding, extraordinary, exceptional.

—OPPOSITES unexceptional

unforgivable ▶ **adjective** INEXCUSABLE, unpardonable, unjustifiable, indefensible, inexpiable, irremissible

—OPPOSITES venial

unfortunate ▶ **adjective** ① *unfortunate people* UNLUCKY, hapless, out of luck, luckless, wretched, miserable, forlorn, poor, pitiful, *informal* down on one's luck. ② *an unfortunate start to our holiday* ADVERSE, disadvantageous, unfavour-

able, unlucky, unwelcome, unpromising, inauspicious, unpropitious, *formal* grievous ③ *an unfortunate remark* REGRETTABLE, inappropriate, unsuitable, infelicitous, tactless, injudicious.

—OPPOSITES lucky, auspicious

unfortunately ▶ **adverb** UNLUCKILY, sadly, regrettably, unhappily, alas, sad to say, *informal* worse luck

unfounded ▶ **adjective** GROUNDLESS, baseless, unsubstantiated, unproven, unsupported, uncorroborated, unconfirmed, unverified, unattested, without basis, without foundation, speculative, conjectural

—OPPOSITES proven

unfriendly ▶ **adjective** ① *an unfriendly look* HOSTILE, disagreeable, antagonistic, aggressive, ill-natured, unpleasant, surly, sour, unamicable, uncongenial, inhospitable, unneighbourly, unwelcoming, unkind, unsympathetic, unsociable, antisocial, aloof, cold, cool, frosty, distant, unapproachable, *informal* stand-offish, starchy ② *unfriendly terrain* UNFAVOURABLE, disadvantageous, unpropitious, inauspicious, hostile

—OPPOSITES amiable, favourable

ungainly ▶ **adjective** AWKWARD, clumsy, ungraceful, graceless, inelegant, gawky, maladroit, gauche, uncoordinated, *archaic* lumberly

—OPPOSITES graceful

ungodly ▶ **adjective** ① *ungodly behaviour* UNHOLY, godless, irreligious, impious, blasphemous, sacrilegious, immoral, corrupt, depraved, sinful, wicked, evil, iniquitous ② (*informal*) *he called at an ungodly hour* UNREASONABLE, unsocial, antisocial, *informal* unearthly

ungovernable ▶ **adjective** UNCONTROLLABLE, unmanageable, anarchic, intractable, unruly, disorderly, rebellious, riotous, wild, mutinous, undisciplined

ungracious ▶ **adjective** RUDE, impolite, uncivil, discourteous, ill-mannered, bad-mannered, uncouth, disrespectful, insolent, impertinent, offhand

—OPPOSITES polite

ungrateful ▶ **adjective** UNAPPRECIATIVE, unthankful, ungracious

—OPPOSITES thankful

unguarded ▶ **adjective** ① *an unguarded frontier* UNDEFENDED, unprotected, unfortified, vulnerable, insecure, open to attack. ② *an unguarded remark* CARELESS, ill-considered, incautious, thoughtless, rash, foolhardy, foolish, indiscreet, imprudent, injudicious, ill-judged, insensitive, *poetic/literary* temerarious ③ *an unguarded moment* UNWARY, inattentive, off guard, distracted, absent-minded

unhappiness ▶ **noun** SADNESS, SORROW, dejection, depression, misery, cheerlessness, downheartedness, despondency, despair, desolation, wretchedness, gloominess, gloom, gloominess, dolefulness; melancholy, low spirits, mournfulness, woe, heartache, distress, chagrin, grief, pain, *informal* the blues

unhappy ▶ **adjective** ① *an unhappy childhood* SAD, miserable, sorrowful, dejected, despondent, disconsolate, morose, broken-hearted, heartbroken, down, downcast, dispirited, downhearted, depressed, melancholy, mournful, gloomy, glum, despairing, doleful, forlorn, woebegone, woeful, long-faced, joyless, cheerless, *informal* down in the mouth/dumps, fed up,

blue ② in the unhappy event of litigation UNFORTUNATE, unlucky, luckless, ill-starred, ill-fated, doomed, *informal* jinxed, *poetic/literary* star-crossed ③ I was unhappy with the service I received. DISSATISFIED, displeased, discontented, disappointed, disgruntled ④ 'disorganized capitalism' seems an unhappy term INAPPROPRIATE, unsuitable, inapt, unfortunate, regrettable, ill-chosen
-OPPOSITES cheerful

unharméd ▶ adjective ① they released the hostage unharméd UNINJURED, unhurt, unscathed, safe (and sound), alive and well, in one piece, without a scratch. ② the tomb was unharméd UN DAMAGED, unbroken, unmarred, unspoiled, unsullied, unmarked, sound, intact, perfect, unblemished, pristine
-OPPOSITES injured, damaged

unhealthy ▶ adjective ① an unhealthy lifestyle HARMFUL, detrimental, destructive, injurious, damaging, deleterious, malign, noxious, poisonous, insalubrious, baleful ② an unhealthy pallor ILL-LOOKING, ill, unwell, in poor health, ailing, sick, sickly, poorly, indisposed, weak, frail, delicate, infirm, washed out, run down, peaky ③ an unhealthy obsession with drugs UN WHOLESOME, morbid, macabre, twisted, abnormal, warped, depraved, unnatural, *informal* sick

unheard of ▶ adjective ① such behaviour was unheard of UNPRECEDENTED, exceptional, extraordinary, out of the ordinary, unthought of, undreamed of, unbelievable, inconceivable, unimaginable, unthinkable, *formal* unexampled ② a game unheard of in the UK UNKNOWN, unfamiliar, new
-OPPOSITES common, well known

unheeded ▶ adjective DISREGARDED, ignored, neglected, overlooked, unnoted, unrecognized

unhinged ▶ adjective DERANGED, demented, unbalanced, out of one's mind, crazed, mad, insane, disturbed, *informal* crazy, mental, bonkers, batty, loopy, bananas, touched
-OPPOSITES sane

unholy ▶ adjective ① a grin of unholy amusement UNGODLY, godless, irreligious, impious, blasphemous, sacrilegious, profane, irreverent, wicked, evil, immoral, corrupt, depraved, sinful ② (*informal*) an unholy row SHOCKING, dreadful, outrageous, appalling, terrible, horrendous, frightful ③ an unholy alliance UNNATURAL, unusual, improbable, made in Hell

unhoped for ▶ adjective UNEXPECTED, unanticipated, unforeseen, unlooked-for, undreamed of, out of the blue
-OPPOSITES expected

unhurried ▶ adjective LEISURELY, easy, easygoing, relaxed, slow, deliberate, measured, calm
-OPPOSITES hasty

unhygienic ▶ adjective INSANITARY, unsanitary, dirty, filthy, contaminated, unhealthy, unwholesome, insalubrious, polluted, foul
-OPPOSITES sanitary

unidentified ▶ adjective UNKNOWN, unnamed, anonymous, incognito, nameless, unfamiliar, strange
-OPPOSITES known

unification ▶ noun UNION, merger, fusion, fusing, amalgamation, coalition, combination, confederation, federation, synthesis, joining.

uniform ▶ adjective ① a uniform temperature CONSTANT, consistent, steady, invariable, unvarying, unfluctuating, unchanging, stable, static, regular, fixed, even, equal ② pieces of uniform size IDENTICAL, matching, similar, equal, same, like, homogeneous, consistent
-OPPOSITES variable

▶ noun a soldier in uniform COSTUME, livery, regalia, suit, ensemble, outfit, regimentals, colours, *informal* get-up, rig, gear, *archaic* habit

uniformity ▶ noun ① uniformity in tax law CONSTANCY, consistency, conformity, invariability, stability, regularity, evenness, homogeneity, homogeneousness, equality ② a dull uniformity MONOTONY, tedium, tediousness, dullness, dreariness, flatness, sameness
-OPPOSITES variation, variety

unify ▶ verb UNITE, bring together, join (together), merge, fuse, amalgamate, coalesce, combine, blend, mix, bind, consolidate
-OPPOSITES separate

unimaginable ▶ adjective UNTHINKABLE, inconceivable, incredible, unbelievable, unheard of, unthought of, untold, undreamed of, beyond one's wildest dreams

unimaginative ▶ adjective UNINSPIRED, uninventive, unoriginal, uncreative, commonplace, pedestrian, mundane, ordinary, routine, humdrum, workaday, run-of-the-mill, hackneyed, trite

unimpeachable ▶ adjective TRUSTWORTHY, reliable, dependable, above suspicion, irrefragable
-OPPOSITES unreliable

unimpeded ▶ adjective UNRESTRICTED, unhindered, unblocked, unhampered, free, clear

unimportant ▶ adjective INSIGNIFICANT, inconsequential, trivial, minor, trifling, of little/no importance, of little/no consequence, of no account, irrelevant, peripheral, extraneous, petty, paltry, *informal* piddling, *formal* of no moment

uninhabited ▶ adjective ① much of this land was uninhabited UNPOPULATED, unpeopled, unsettled ② an uninhabited hut VACANT, empty, unoccupied, untenanted, to let

uninhibited ▶ adjective ① uninhibited dancing UNRESTRAINED, unrepressed, abandoned, wild, reckless, unrestricted, uncontrolled, unchecked, intemperate, wanton ② I'm pretty uninhibited UNRESERVED, unrepressed, liberated, unselfconscious, free and easy, relaxed, *informal*, open, outgoing, extrovert, outspoken, frank, forthright, *informal* upfront
-OPPOSITES repressed

uninspired ▶ adjective UNIMAGINATIVE, uninventive, pedestrian, mundane, unoriginal, commonplace, ordinary, routine, humdrum, run-of-the-mill, hackneyed, trite, spiritless, passionless

uninspiring ▶ adjective BORING, dull, dreary, unexciting, unstimulating, dry, colourless, bland, lacklustre, tedious, humdrum, run-of-the-mill.

unintelligent ▶ adjective STUPID, ignorant, dense, brainless, mindless, foolish, dull-witted, slow, simple-minded, vacuous, vapid, idiotic, obtuse; *informal* thick, dum, dumb, dopey, half-witted, dozy

unintelligible ▶ adjective ① *unintelligible sounds* INCOMPREHENSIBLE, indiscernible, mumbled, indistinct, unclear, slurred, inarticulate, incoherent, garbled ② *unintelligible graffiti* ILLEGIBLE, indecipherable, unreadable

unintentional ▶ adjective UNINTENDED, accidental, inadvertent, involuntary, unwitting, unthinking, unpremeditated, unconscious
—OPPOSITES deliberate

uninterested ▶ adjective INDIFFERENT, unconcerned, uninvolved, apathetic, lukewarm, unenthusiastic

uninteresting ▶ adjective UNEXCITING, boring, dull, tiresome, wearisome, tedious, dreary, lifeless, humdrum, colourless, bland, insipid, banal, dry, pedestrian, *informal* samey
—OPPOSITES exciting

uninterrupted ▶ adjective UNBROKEN, continuous, continual, undisturbed, untroubled
—OPPOSITES intermittent

uninvited ▶ adjective ① *an uninvited guest* UNASKED, unexpected, unwelcome, unwanted ② *uninvited suggestions* UNSOLICITED, unrequested, unsought

uninviting ▶ adjective UNAPPEALING, unattractive, unappetizing, off-putting, bleak, cheerless, dreary, dismal, depressing, grim, inhospitable
—OPPOSITES tempting

union ▶ noun ① *the union of art and nature* UNIFICATION, uniting, joining, merging, merger, fusion, fusing, amalgamating, amalgamation, coalition, combination, synthesis, blend, blending, mingling ② *the crowd moved in union* UNITY, accord, unison, harmony, agreement, concurrence, *formal* concord ③ *his daughter's union* MARRIAGE, wedding, alliance, coupling, intercourse, copulation ④ *representation by a union* ASSOCIATION, trade union, league, guild, confederation, federation
—OPPOSITES separation, parting

unique ▶ adjective ① *each site is unique* DISTINCTIVE, individual, special, idiosyncratic, single, sole, lone, unrepeatable, unrepeatable, solitary, exclusive, rare, uncommon, unusual, *informal* one-off ② *a unique insight into history* REMARKABLE, special, singular, noteworthy, notable, extraordinary, unequalled, unparalleled, unmatched, unsurpassed, incomparable, *formal* unexampled ③ *species unique to the island* PECULIAR, specific

unison

■ **in unison** ① *they lifted their arms in unison* SIMULTANEOUSLY, at (one and) the same time, (all) at once, (all) together ② *we are in complete unison in agreement*, in accord, in harmony, as one, *formal* in concord

unit ▶ noun ① *the family is the fundamental unit of society* COMPONENT, element, constituent, subdivision ② *a unit of currency* QUANTITY, measure, denomination See list ③ *a guerrilla unit* DETACHMENT, contingent, division, company, squadron, corps, regiment, brigade, platoon, battalion, cell, faction

unite ▶ verb ① *uniting the nation* UNIFY, join, link, connect, combine, amalgamate, fuse, weld, bond, bring together, knit together. ② *environmentalists and activists united*. JOIN TOGETHER, join forces, combine, band together, ally, cooperate, collaborate, work together, pull together, team up ③ *he sought to unite comfort*

with elegance MERGE, mix, blend, mingle, combine, *poetic/literary* commingle
—OPPOSITES divide

united ▶ adjective ① *a united Germany* UNIFIED, integrated, amalgamated, joined, merged, federal, confederate ② *a united response* COMMON, shared, joint, combined, communal, cooperative, collective, collaborative, concerted ③ *they were united in their views* IN AGREEMENT, agreed, in unison, of the same opinion, like-minded, as one, in accord, in harmony, in unity

United Nations ▶ noun. See list

Secretaries General of the United Nations

DATES IN OFFICE

Trygve Halvdan Lie	(Norwegian)	1946–1953
Dag Hammarskjöld	(Swedish)	1953–1961
U Thant	(Burmese)	1962–1971
Kurt Waldheim	(Austrian)	1972–1981
Javier Pérez de Cuéllar	(Peruvian)	1982–1991
Boutros Boutros-Ghali	(Egyptian)	1992–1997
Kofi Annan	(Ghanaian)	from 1997

United States of America ▶ noun AMERICA, the USA, the US, *informal* the States, the US of A, Uncle Sam, *poetic/literary* Columbia See lists here and at PRESIDENT

unity ▶ noun ① *European unity* UNION, unification, integration, amalgamation, coalition, federation, confederation ② *unity between opposing factions* HARMONY, accord, cooperation, collaboration, agreement, consensus, solidarity, *formal* concord ③ *the organic unity of the universe* ONENESS, singleness, wholeness, uniformity, homogeneity
—OPPOSITES division, discord

universal ▶ adjective GENERAL, ubiquitous, comprehensive, common, omnipresent, all-inclusive, global, worldwide, international, widespread

universally ▶ adverb INVARIABLY, always, without exception, in all cases, everywhere, worldwide, globally, internationally, widely, commonly, generally

universe ▶ noun ① *the physical universe* COSMOS, macrocosm, totality, infinity, all existence ② *the universe of computer hardware* PROVINCE, world, sphere, preserve, domain
—RELATED TERMS cosmic

university ▶ noun COLLEGE, academy, institute, *N Amer* school, *historical* polytechnic

unjust ▶ adjective ① *the attack was unjust*. BIASED, prejudiced, unfair, inequitable, discriminatory, partisan, partial, one-sided ② *an unjust law* WRONGFUL, unfair, undeserved, unmerited, unwarranted, uncalled for, unreasonable, unjustifiable, indefensible
—OPPOSITES fair.

unjustifiable ▶ adjective ① *an unjustifiable extravagance* INDEFENSIBLE, inexcusable, unforgivable, unpardonable, uncalled for, without justification, unwarrantable; excessive, immoderate. ② *an unjustifiable slur on his character*. GROUNDLESS, unfounded, baseless, unsubstantiated, unconfirmed, uncorroborated

Units

acre	decalitre	hectometre	microlitre	quartan
acre-foot	decametre	henry	micrometre	quintal
air mile	decibel	hertz	micron	rad
ampere	decigram	hln	microsecond	radian
angstrom	decilitre	hogshead	mil	rem
are	decimetre	Hoppus foot	mile	rod
astronomical unit	degree	horsepower	millennium	roentgen
atmosphere	degree-day	hour	milliampere	rood
atomic mass unit	denarius	hundredweight	millibar	rutherford
bale	denier	inch	milligram	sabin
bar	dessertspoon	Jansky	millilitre	scruple
barleycorn	dioptre	joule	millimetre	sea mile
barn	drachm	kelvin	millimicron	second
barrel	dunam	kilderkin	millisecond	section
bath	dyne	kilobit	millivolt	seer
baud	ell	kilobyte	milliwatt	siemens
becquerel	electronvolt	kilocalorie	minim	sievert
bel	em	kilocycle	minute	sone
bigha	en	kilo-electronvolt	mole	span
bit	ephah	kilogram	month	spindle
board foot	epoch	kilohertz	morgan	square
Board of Trade Unit	erg	kilojoule	morgen	stack
bovate	farad	kilolitre	mutchkin	stadium
brake horsepower	faraday	kilometre	nail	standard
British thermal unit	fathom	kiloton/kilotonne	nanometre	steradian
bushel	fermi	kilovolt	nanosecond	stere
butt	firkin	kilowatt-hour	nautical mile	stilb
byte	fluid drachm	kip	neper	stokes
cable	fluid ounce	knot	newton	Svedberg
calorie	fluidram	lambert	nit	stone
candela	foot	last	noggin	tablespoon
candle	foot-pound	lea	oersted	teaspoon
carat	fresnel	league	ohm	teraflop
cental	furlong	libra	oka/oke	terawatt
centiare	gal	light year	okta/octa	tesla
centigram	gallon	line	ounce	therm
centigram	gamma	link	parsec	tierce
centilitre	gauss	litre	pascal	tog
centner	geographical mile	lumen	peck	ton
century	gigabyte	lux	pennyweight	tonne
chain	giga-electronvolt	Mach number	perch	torr
cord	giga-flop	magnetron	phon	troy ounce
coulomb	gigawatt	maxwell	phot	tsubo
cran	gilbert	megabyte	pica	tun
cubit	gill	mega-electronvolt	pint	verst
cup	grade	megaflop	pipe	virgate
cupful	grain	megahertz	ploughland	volt
curie	gram	megaton	point	watt
cusec	gram-molecular	megavolt	poise	weber
cycle	weight	megawatt	pole	week
dalton	gray	megohm	pound	wey
daraf	hand	metre	poundal	x-unit
darcy	hank	metric ton	probit	yard
day	hectare	mho	puncheon	year
debye	hectogram	microfarad	quart	
decade	hectolitre	microgram	quarter	

—OPPOSITES reasonable

unkempt ► **adjective** UNTIDY, messy, scruffy, disordered, dishevelled, disarranged, rumpled, wind-blown, unroomed, bedraggled, in a mess, messed up; tousled, uncombed; *N Amer informal* mussed up.

—OPPOSITES tidy

unkind ► **adjective** ① everyone was being unkind to him. UNCHARITABLE, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, mean, mean-spirited, cruel, vicious, spiteful, malicious, callous, unsympathetic, unfeeling, uncaring, hurtful, ill-natured, hard-

hearted, cold-hearted, unfriendly, uncivil, inconsiderate, insensitive, hostile, *informal* bitchy, catty, *Brit informal* beastly. ② unkind weather IN CLEMENT, intemperate, rough, severe, filthy

unkindness ► **noun** NASTINESS, unpleasantness, disagreeableness, cruelty, malice, meanness, mean-spiritedness, viciousness, callousness, hard-heartedness, cold-heartedness, unfriendliness, inconsiderateness, hostility, *informal* bitchiness, cattiness

unknown ► **adjective** ① the outcome was unknown: UNDISCLOSED, unrevealed, secret, un-

States of the United States of America

STATE	ZIP CODE	CAPITAL	NICKNAMES
Alabama	AL	Montgomery	Camellia State, Heart of Dixie
Alaska	AK	Juneau	Mainland State, the Last Frontier
Arizona	AZ	Phoenix	Apache State, Grand Canyon State
Arkansas	AR	Little Rock	Bear State, Land of Opportunity
California	CA	Sacramento	Golden State
Colorado	CO	Denver	Centennial State
Connecticut	CT	Hartford	Nutmeg State, Constitution State
Delaware	DE	Dover	Diamond State, First State
Florida	FL	Tallahassee	Everglade State, Sunshine State
Georgia	GA	Atlanta	Empire State of the South, Peach State
Hawaii	HI	Honolulu	Aloha State
Idaho	ID	Boise	Gem State
Illinois	IL	Springfield	Prairie State, Land of Lincoln
Indiana	IN	Indianapolis	Hoosier State
Iowa	IO	Des Moines	Hawkeye State, Corn State
Kansas	KS	Topeka	Sunflower State, Jayhawker State
Kentucky	KY	Frankfort	Bluegrass State
Louisiana	LA	Baton Rouge	Pelican State, Sugar State, Creole State
Maine	ME	Augusta	Pine Tree State
Maryland	MD	Annapolis	Old Line State, Free State
Massachusetts	MA	Boston	Bay State, Old Colony
Michigan	MI	Lansing	Wolverine State, Great Lake State
Minnesota	MN	St Paul	Gopher State, North Star State
Mississippi	MS	Jackson	Magnolia State
Missouri	MO	Jefferson City	Bullion State, Show Me State
Montana	MT	Helena	Treasure State, Big Sky Country
Nebraska	NE	Lincoln	Cornhusker State, Beef State
Nevada	NV	Carson City	Silver State, Sagebrush State
New Hampshire	NH	Concord	Granite State
New Jersey	NJ	Trenton	Garden State
New Mexico	NM	Santa Fe	Sunshine State, Land of Enchantment
New York	NY	Albany	Empire State
North Carolina	ND	Raleigh	Old North State, Tar Heel State
North Dakota	ND	Bismarck	Flickertail State, Sioux State
Ohio	OH	Columbus	Buckeye State
Oklahoma	OK	Oklahoma City	Sooner State
Oregon	OR	Salem	Sunset State, Beaver State
Pennsylvania	PA	Harrisburg	Keystone State
Rhode Island	RI	Providence	Little Rhody, Plantation State
South Carolina	SC	Columbia	Palmetto State
South Dakota	SD	Pierre	Sunshine State, Coyote State
Tennessee	TN	Nashville	Volunteer State
Texas	TX	Austin	Lone Star State
Utah	UT	Salt Lake City	Mormon State, Beehive State
Vermont	VT	Montpelier	Green Mountain State
Virginia	VA	Richmond	Old Dominion State, Mother of Presidents
Washington	WA	Olympia	Evergreen State, Chinook State
West Virginia	WV	Charleston	Panhandle State, Mountain State
Wisconsin	WI	Madison	Badger State, America's Dairyland
Wyoming	WY	Cheyenne	Equality State

FEDERAL DISTRICT

District of Columbia	DC	Washington
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determined, undecided, unresolved, unsettled, unsure, unascertained ② *unknown country* UNEXPLORED, uncharted, unmapped, untravelled, undiscovered ③ *persons unknown* UNIDENTIFIED, unnamed, nameless, anonymous ④ *firearms were unknown to the Indians* UNFAMILIAR, unheard of, new, novel, strange ⑤ *unknown artists* OBSCURE, unheard of, unsung, minor, insignificant, unimportant, undistinguished
—OPPOSITES familiar

unlawful ▶ **adjective** ILLEGAL, illicit, illegitimate, against the law; criminal, felonious; pro-

hibited, banned, outlawed, proscribed, forbidden

—OPPOSITES legal

unleash ▶ **verb** LET LOOSE, release, (set) free, unloose, untie, untether, unchain

unlettered ▶ **adjective** ILLITERATE, uneducated, poorly educated, unschooled, unlearned, ignorant
—OPPOSITES educated.

unlike ▶ **preposition** ① *England is totally unlike Jamaica*: DIFFERENT FROM, unlike, dissimilar to

② *unlike* Linda, Chrissy was a bit of a radical **IN CONTRAST TO**, as opposed to
-**OPPOSITES** similar too

► **adjective** a meeting of unlike minds **DISSIMILAR**, unlike, disparate, contrasting, antithetical, different, diverse, heterogeneous, divergent, at variance, varying, at odds, *informal* like chalk and cheese

unlikely ► **adjective** ① it is unlikely they will ever recover **IMPROBABLE**, doubtful, dubious ② an unlikely story **IMPLAUSIBLE**, improbable, questionable, unconvincing, far-fetched, unrealistic, incredible, unbelievable, inconceivable, unimaginable, *informal* tall, cock and bull
-**OPPOSITES** probable, believable

unlimited ► **adjective** ① unlimited supplies of water **INEXHAUSTIBLE**, limitless, illimitable, boundless, immeasurable, incalculable, untold, infinite, endless, never-ending ② unlimited travel **UNRESTRICTED**, unconstrained, unrestrained, unchecked, unbridled, uncurbed ③ unlimited power **TOTAL**, unqualified, unconditional, unrestricted, absolute, supreme
-**OPPOSITES** finite, restricted

unload ► **verb** ① we unloaded the van **UNPACK**, empty, *archaic* unlade ② they unloaded the cases from the lorry **REMOVE**, offload, discharge ③ the state unloaded its 25 per cent stake **SELL**, discard, jettison, offload, get rid of, dispose of, palm something off on someone, foist something on someone, fob something off on someone, *informal* dump, junk, get shot/shut of

unlock ► **verb** **UNBOLT**, unlatch, unbar, unfasten, open

unlooked-for ► **adjective** **UNEXPECTED**, unforeseen, unanticipated, unsought, unpredicted, undreamed of, fortuitous, chance, serendipitous

unloved ► **adjective** **UNCARED-FOR**, unwanted, friendless, unvalued, rejected, unwelcome, shunned, spurned, neglected, abandoned

unlucky ► **adjective** ① he was unlucky not to score **UNFORTUNATE**, luckless, out of luck, hapless, ill-fated, ill-starred, unhappy, *informal* down on one's luck, *poetic/literary* star-crossed ② an unlucky number **UNFAVOURABLE**, inauspicious, unpropitious, ominous, cursed, ill-fated, ill-omened, disadvantageous, unfortunate
-**OPPOSITES** fortunate, favourable

unmanageable ► **adjective** ① the huge house was unmanageable **TROUBLESOME**, awkward, inconvenient, cumbersome, bulky, unwieldy ② his behaviour was becoming unmanageable **UNCONTROLLABLE**, ungovernable, unruly, disorderly, out of hand, difficult, disruptive, undisciplined, wayward, *informal* stroppy, *archaic* contumacious

unmanly ► **adjective** **EFFEMINATE**, effete, unmasculine, weak, soft, timid, timorous, limp-wristed, *informal* sissy, wimpish, wimpy
-**OPPOSITES** virile

unmannerly ► **adjective** **RUDE**, impolite, uncivil, discourteous, bad-mannered, ill-mannered, disrespectful, impertinent, impudent, insolent, uncouth, boorish, oafish, loutish, ill-bred, coarse
-**OPPOSITES** polite

unmarried ► **adjective** **UNWED(DED)**, single, spinster, bachelor, unattached, available, eligible, free

unmatched ► **adjective** ① a talent for publicity unmatched by any other politician **UNEQUALLED**, unrivalled, unparalleled, unsurpassed ② unmatched clarity and balance **PEERLESS**, matchless, without equal, without parallel, incomparable, inimitable, superlative, second to none, in a class of its own

unmentionable ► **adjective** **TABOO**, censored, forbidden, banned, proscribed, prohibited, not to be spoken of, ineffable, unspeakable, unutterable, unprintable, off limits, *informal* no go

unmerciful ► **adjective** **RUTHLESS**, cruel, harsh, merciless, pitiless, cold-blooded, hard-hearted, callous, brutal, severe, unforgiving, inhumane, inhuman, heartless, unsympathetic, unfeeling

unmistakable ► **adjective** **DISTINCTIVE**, distinct, telltale, indisputable, indubitable, undoubted, plain, clear, definite, obvious, evident, self-evident, manifest, patent, unambiguous, unequivocal, pronounced, as plain as the nose on your face

unmitigated ► **adjective** **ABSOLUTE**, unqualified, categorical, complete, total, downright, outright, utter, out-and-out, undiluted, unequivocal, veritable, perfect, consummate, pure, sheer

unmoved ► **adjective** ① he was totally unmoved by her outburst **UNAFFECTED**, untouched, unimpressed, undismayed, unworried, aloof, cool, cold, dry-eyed, unconcerned, uncaring, indifferent, impassive, unemotional, stoical, phlegmatic, equable, impervious (to), oblivious (to), heedless (of), deaf to ② he remained unmoved on the crucial issues **STEADFAST**, firm, unwavering, unswerving, resolute, decided, resolved, inflexible, unbending, implacable, adamant

unnatural ► **adjective** ① the life of a battery hen is completely unnatural **ABNORMAL**, unusual, uncommon, extraordinary, strange, freak, odd, peculiar, unorthodox, exceptional, irregular, untypical ② a flash of unnatural colour **ARTIFICIAL**, man-made, synthetic, manufactured ③ unnatural vice **PERVERTED**, warped, twisted, deviant, depraved, degenerate, *informal* kinky, pervy, sick ④ her voice sounded unnatural **AF FECTED**, artificial, stilted, forced, laboured, strained, false, fake, insincere, *informal* put on, phoney ⑤ they condemned her as an unnatural woman **UNCARING**, unfeeling, heartless, cold-blooded, hard-hearted, callous, cruel, inhumane
-**OPPOSITES** normal, genuine

unnecessary ► **adjective** **UNNEEDED**, inessential, not required, uncalled for, useless, unwarranted, unwanted, undesired, dispensable, unimportant, optional, extraneous, expendable, disposable, redundant, pointless, purposeless
-**OPPOSITES** essential

unnerve ► **verb** **DEMORALIZE**, discourage, dishearten, dispirit, daunt, alarm, frighten, dismay, disconcert, discompose, perturb, upset, discomfit, take aback, unsettle, disquiet, fluster, agitate, shake, ruffle, throw off balance, *informal* rattle, faze, shake up, *Brit informal* put the wind up, *N Amer informal* discombobulate
-**OPPOSITES** hearten

unobtrusive ► **adjective** ① she was unobtrusive and shy **SELF-EFFACING**, retiring, unassuming, quiet, shy, bashful, timid, timorous, reserved, withdrawn, introvert(ed), unforthcoming, un-



assertive ② *unobtrusive service* INCONSPICUOUS, unnoticeable, low-key, discreet, circumspect, understated, unostentatious.
-OPPOSITES extrovert, conspicuous.

unoccupied ▶ **adjective** ① *an unoccupied house* VACANT, empty, uninhabited, free, available, to let ② *an unoccupied territory* UNINHABITED, unpopulated, unpeopled, unsettled ③ *many young people were unoccupied* AT LEISURE, idle, free, with time on one's hands, at a loose end
-OPPOSITES inhabited, populated, busy

unofficial ▶ **adjective** ① *unofficial figures* UN AUTHENTICATED, unconfirmed, uncorroborated, unsubstantiated, off the record ② *an unofficial committee* INFORMAL, casual, unauthorized, unsanctioned, unaccredited
-OPPOSITES confirmed, formal

unorthodox ▶ **adjective** ① *unorthodox views on management* UNCONVENTIONAL, unusual, radical, nonconformist, avant-garde, eccentric, *informal* off the wall, way out, offbeat ② *unorthodox religious views* HETERODOX, heretical, nonconformist, dissenting
-OPPOSITES conventional

unpaid ▶ **adjective** ① *unpaid bills* UNSETTLED, outstanding, due, overdue, owing, owed, payable, undischarged, *N Amer* delinquent, past due ② *unpaid charity work* VOLUNTARY, volunteer, honorary, unremunerative, unsalaried, pro bono (publico)

unpalatable ▶ **adjective** ① *unpalatable food* UN APPETIZING, unappealing, unsavoury, inedible, uneatable, disgusting, revolting, nauseating, tasteless, flavourless ② *the unpalatable truth* DIS AGREEABLE, unpleasant, regrettable, unwellcome, lamentable, dreadful, hateful
-OPPOSITES tasty

unparalleled ▶ **adjective** EXCEPTIONAL, unique, singular, rare, unequalled, unprecedented, without parallel, without equal, matchless, peerless, unrivalled, unsurpassed, unexcelled, incomparable, second to none, *formal* unexampled

unperturbed ▶ **adjective** UNTROUBLED, undisturbed, unworried, unconcerned, unmoved, unflustered, unruffled, undismayed, calm, composed, cool, collected, unemotional, self-possessed, self-assured, level-headed, unfazed, laid-back

unpleasant ▶ **adjective** ① *a very unpleasant situation* DISAGREEABLE, irksome, troublesome, annoying, irritating, vexatious, displeasing, distressing, nasty, horrible, terrible, awful, dreadful, hateful, miserable, invidious, objectionable, offensive, obnoxious, repugnant, repulsive, repellent, revolting, disgusting, distasteful, nauseating, unsavoury ② *an unpleasant man* UNLIKABLE, unlovable, disagreeable, unfriendly, rude, impolite, obnoxious, nasty, spiteful, mean, mean-spirited, unsufferable, unbearable, annoying, irritating. ③ *an unpleasant taste* UNAPPETIZING, unpalatable, unsavoury, unappealing, bitter, sour, rancid, disgusting, revolting, nauseating, sickening
-OPPOSITES agreeable, likable.

unpolished ▶ **adjective** ① *unpolished wood* UNVARNISHED, unfinished, untreated, natural. ② *his unpolished ways*: UNSOPHISTICATED, unrefined, uncultured, uncultivated, coarse, vulgar, crude, rough (and ready), awkward, clumsy, gauche

③ *an unpolished performance* SLIPSHOD, rough, crude, uneven
-OPPOSITES varnished, sophisticated

unpopular ▶ **adjective** DISLIKED, friendless, unliked, unloved, unwelcome, avoided, ignored, rejected, shunned, spurned, cold-shouldered

unprecedented ▶ **adjective** UNPARALLELED, unequalled, unmatched, unrivalled, without parallel, without equal, out of the ordinary, unusual, exceptional, singular, remarkable, unique, unheard of, unknown, new, groundbreaking, revolutionary, pioneering, *formal* unexampled

unpredictable ▶ **adjective** ① *unpredictable results* UNFORESEEABLE, uncertain, unsure, doubtful, dubious, in the balance, up in the air, arbitrary ② *unpredictable behaviour* ERRATIC, moody, volatile, unstable, capricious, temperamental, mercurial, changeable, variable

unprejudiced ▶ **adjective** ① *unprejudiced observation* OBJECTIVE, impartial, unbiased, neutral, non-partisan, detached, disinterested ② *unprejudiced attitudes* UNBIASED, non-discriminatory, tolerant, liberal, broad-minded, unbogoted
-OPPOSITES partisan, intolerant

unpremeditated ▶ **adjective** UNPLANNED, unprepared, spontaneous, impromptu, spur-of-the-moment, unrehearsed, *informal* off-the-cuff
-OPPOSITES planned

unprepared ▶ **adjective** ① *we were unprepared for the new VAT regime*. UNREADY, off (one's) guard, surprised, taken aback, *informal* caught napping, caught on the hop ② *they are unprepared to support the reforms* UNWILLING, disinclined, loath, reluctant, resistant, opposed
-OPPOSITES ready, willing

unpretentious ▶ **adjective** ① *he was thoroughly unpretentious* UNAFFECTED, modest, unassuming, without airs, natural, straightforward, open, honest, sincere, frank ② *an unpretentious hotel* SIMPLE, plain, modest, humble, unostentatious, homely, unsophisticated

unprincipled ▶ **adjective** IMMORAL, unethical, unscrupulous, dishonourable, dishonest, deceitful, devious, corrupt, crooked, wicked, evil, villainous, shameless, base, low.
-OPPOSITES ethical

unproductive ▶ **adjective** ① *unproductive soil* STERILE, barren, infertile, unfruitful, poor ② *unproductive meetings* FRUITLESS, futile, vain, idle, useless, worthless, valueless, pointless, ineffective, ineffectual, unprofitable, unrewarding
-OPPOSITES fruitful

unprofessional ▶ **adjective** ① *unprofessional conduct* IMPROPER, unethical, unprincipled, unscrupulous, dishonourable, disreputable, unseemly, unbecoming, indecorous; *informal* shady, crooked ② *he accused the detectives of being unprofessional*: AMATEURISH, amateur, unskilled, unskilful, inexpert, unqualified, inexperienced, incompetent, second-rate, inefficient

unpromising ▶ **adjective** INAUSPICIOUS, unfavourable, unpromising, discouraging, disheartening, gloomy, bleak, black, portentous, ominous, ill-omened.
-OPPOSITES auspicious.

unqualified ▶ **adjective** ① *an unqualified accountant* UNCERTIFICATED, unlicensed, untrained, inexperienced ② *those unqualified to look after children* UNSUITABLE, unfit, ineligible, incompetent, unable, incapable ③ *unqualified support* UNCONDITIONAL, unreserved, unlimited, without reservations, categorical, unequivocal, unambiguous, wholehearted, complete, absolute downright, undivided, total, utter

unquestionable ▶ **adjective** INDUBITABLE, undoubted, beyond question, beyond doubt, indisputable, undeniable, irrefutable, incontestable, incontrovertible, unequivocal, certain, sure, definite, self-evident, evident, manifest, obvious, apparent, patent

unravel ▶ **verb** ① *he unravelled the strands* UNTANGLE, disentangle, separate out, unwind, untwist ② *detectives are trying to unravel the mystery* SOLVE, resolve, clear up, puzzle out, get to the bottom of, explain, clarify, make head or tail of, *informal* figure out, suss (out) ③ *society is starting to unravel* FALL APART, fail, collapse, go wrong
-OPPOSITES entangle

unreadable ▶ **adjective** ① *unreadable writing* ILLEGIBLE, hard to read, indecipherable, unintelligible, scrawled, crabbed ② *heavy, unreadable novels* DULL, tedious, boring, uninteresting, dry, wearisome, difficult, heavy ③ *Nathan's expression was unreadable* INSCRUTABLE, enigmatic, impenetrable, cryptic, mysterious, deadpan, poker-faced
-OPPOSITES legible, accessible

unreal ▶ **adjective** IMAGINARY, fictitious, pretend, make-believe, made-up, dreamed-up, mock, false, illusory, mythical, fanciful, hypothetical, theoretical, *informal* phoney

unrealistic ▶ **adjective** ① *it is unrealistic to expect changes overnight* IMPRACTICAL, impracticable, unfeasible, non-viable, unreasonable, irrational, illogical, senseless, silly, foolish, fanciful, idealistic, romantic, starry-eyed ② *unrealistic images* UNLIFELIKE, non-realistic, unnatural, non-representational, abstract
-OPPOSITES pragmatic, lifelike

unreasonable ▶ **adjective** ① *an unreasonable woman* UNCOOPERATIVE, unhelpful, disobliging, unaccommodating, awkward, contrary, difficult, obstinate, obdurate, wilful, headstrong, pig-headed, intractable, intransigent, inflexible, irrational, illogical, prejudiced, intolerant ② *unreasonable demands* UNACCEPTABLE, preposterous, outrageous, excessive, immoderate, disproportionate, undue, inordinate, intolerable, unjustified, unwarranted, uncalled for

unrecognizable ▶ **adjective** UNIDENTIFIABLE, unknowable, disguised

unrefined ▶ **adjective** ① *unrefined clay* UNPROCESSED, untreated, crude, raw, natural, unprepared, unfinished ② *unrefined men* UNCULTURED, uncultivated, uncivilized, uneducated, unsophisticated, boorish, oafish, loutish, coarse, vulgar, rude, uncouth
-OPPOSITES processed

unrelated ▶ **adjective** ① *unrelated incidents* SEPARATE, unconnected, independent, unassociated, distinct, discrete, disparate. ② *a reason unrelated to my work* IRRELEVANT, immaterial, inapplicable, unconcerned, off the subject, beside the point, not pertinent, not germane.

unrelenting ▶ **adjective** ① *the unrelenting heat* CONTINUAL, constant, continuous, relentless, unrelenting, unabating, unrelieved, incessant, unceasing, endless, unending, persistent ② *an unrelenting opponent* IMPLACABLE, inflexible, uncompromising, unyielding, unbending, relentless, determined, dogged, tireless, unflagging, unshakeable, unswerving, unwavering
-OPPOSITES intermittent

unreliable ▶ **adjective** ① *unreliable volunteers* UNDEPENDABLE, untrustworthy, irresponsible, fickle, capricious, erratic, unpredictable, inconstant, faithless ② *an unreliable indicator* QUESTIONABLE, open to doubt, doubtful, dubious, suspect, unsound, tenuous, fallible, risky, chancy, inaccurate, *informal* iffy, dicey

unremitting ▶ **adjective** RELENTLESS, unrelenting, continual, constant, continuous, unabating, unrelieved, sustained, unceasing, ceaseless, endless, unending, persistent, perpetual, interminable

unrepentant ▶ **adjective** IMPENITENT, unrepenting, remorseless, unashamed, unapologetic, unabashed

unreserved ▶ **adjective** ① *unreserved support* UNCONDITIONAL, unqualified, without reservations, unlimited, categorical, unequivocal, unambiguous, absolute, complete, thorough, wholehearted, total, utter undivided ② *an unreserved young man* UNINHIBITED, extrovert, outgoing, unrestrained, open, unconstrained, unselfconscious, outspoken, frank, candid ③ *unreserved seats* UNBOOKED, unallocated, unoccupied, free, empty, vacant
-OPPOSITES qualified, reticent, booked

unresolved ▶ **adjective** UNDECIDED, unsettled, undetermined, uncertain, open, pending, open to debate/question, doubtful, in doubt, up in the air
-OPPOSITES decided

unrest ▶ **noun** DISRUPTION, disturbance, trouble, turmoil, disorder, chaos, anarchy, discord, dissension, dissent, strife, protest, rebellion, uprising, rioting
-OPPOSITES peace

unrestrained ▶ **adjective** UNCONTROLLED, unconstrained, unrestricted, unchecked, unbridled, unlimited, unfettered, uninhibited, unbounded, undisciplined

unrestricted ▶ **adjective** UNLIMITED, open, free, clear, unhindered, unimpeded, unhampered, unchecked, unrestrained, unconstrained, unblocked, unbounded, unconfined, unqualified
-OPPOSITES limited

unripe ▶ **adjective** IMMATURE, unready, green, sour

unrivalled ▶ **adjective** UNEQUALLED, without equal, unparalleled, without parallel, unmatched, unsurpassed, unexcelled, incomparable, beyond compare, inimitable, second to none

unruffled ▶ **adjective** ① *an unruffled voice* CALM, composed, self-controlled, self-possessed, untroubled, unperturbed, at ease, relaxed, serene, cool, (cool, calm, and collected), cool-headed, unemotional, equanimous, equable, stoical; *informal* unfazed ② *an unruffled sea* TRANQUIL, calm, smooth, still, flat, motionless, placid, waveless, pacific, like a millpond.



unruly ▶ **adjective** DISORDERLY, rowdy, wild, unmanageable, uncontrollable, disobedient, disruptive, undisciplined, wayward, wilful, headstrong, irrepressible, obstreperous, difficult, intractable, out of hand, recalcitrant, boisterous, lively, *formal* refractory, *archaic* contumacious
—OPPOSITES disciplined

unsafe ▶ **adjective** ① the building was unsafe DANGEROUS, risky, perilous, hazardous, life-threatening, high-risk, treacherous, insecure, unsound, harmful, injurious, toxic ② the verdict was unsafe UNRELIABLE, insecure, unsound, questionable, open to question/doubt, doubtful, dubious, suspect, fallible, *informal* iffy
—OPPOSITES harmless, secure

unsaid ▶ **adjective** UNSPOKEN, unuttered, unstated, unexpressed, unvoiced, untalked-of, suppressed, tacit, implicit, understood, not spelt out, taken as read, inferred, implied

unsanitary ▶ **adjective** UNHYGIENIC, insanitary, dirty, filthy, unclean, contaminated, unhealthy, germ-ridden, disease-ridden, infested, insalubrious, polluted
—OPPOSITES hygienic

unsatisfactory ▶ **adjective** DISAPPOINTING, dissatisfying, undesirable, disagreeable, displeasing, inadequate, unacceptable, poor, bad, substandard, weak, mediocre, not good enough, not up to par, defective, deficient, imperfect, inferior, *informal* leaving a lot to be desired, no great shakes, not much cop

unsavoury ▶ **adjective** ① unsavoury portions of food UNPALATABLE, unappetizing, distasteful, disagreeable, unappealing, unattractive, inedible, uneatable, disgusting, revolting, nauseating, sickening, foul, nasty, vile, tasteless, bland, flavourless, *informal* yucky ② an unsavoury character DISREPUTABLE, unpleasant, disagreeable, nasty, mean, rough, immoral, degenerate, dishonourable, dishonest, unprincipled, unscrupulous, low, villainous, *informal* shady, crooked
—OPPOSITES tasty, appetizing

unscathed ▶ **adjective** UNHARMED, unhurt, uninjured, undamaged, in one piece, intact, safe (and sound), unmarked, untouched, unscratched
—OPPOSITES harmed, injured

unscrupulous ▶ **adjective** UNPRINCIPLED, unethical, immoral, conscienceless, shameless, reprobate, exploitative, corrupt, dishonest, dishonourable, deceitful, devious, underhand, unsavoury, disreputable, evil, wicked, villainous, *informal* crooked, shady, *dated* dastardly

unseat ▶ **verb** ① the horse unseated his rider DISLODGE, throw, dismount, upset, unhorse ② an attempt to unseat the party leader DEPOSE, oust, remove from office, topple, overthrow, bring down, dislodge, supplant, usurp, overturn, eject

unseemly ▶ **adjective** INDECOROUS, improper, unbecoming, unfitting, unbecoming, unworthy, undignified, indiscreet, indelicate, ungentelemanly, unladylike
—OPPOSITES decorous

unseen ▶ **adjective** HIDDEN, concealed, obscured, camouflaged, out of sight, imperceptible, undetectable, unnoticeable, unnoticed, unobserved

unselfish ▶ **adjective** ALTRUISTIC, disinterested, selfless, self-denying, self-sacrificing; generous,

philanthropic, public-spirited, charitable, benevolent, caring, kind, considerate, noble

unsettle ▶ **verb** DISCOMPOSE, unnerve, upset, disturb, disquiet, perturb, discomfit, disconcert, alarm, dismay, trouble, bother, agitate, fluster, ruffle, shake (up), throw, unbalance, destabilize, *informal* rattle, faze

unsettled ▶ **adjective** ① an unsettled life AIMLESS, directionless, purposeless, without purpose, rootless, nomadic ② an unsettled child RESTLESS, restive, fidgety, anxious, worried, troubled, fretful, agitated, ruffled, uneasy, disconcerted, discomposed, unnerved, ill at ease, edgy, on edge, tense, nervous, apprehensive, disturbed, perturbed, *informal* rattled, fazed ③ unsettled weather CHANGEABLE, changing, variable, varying, inconstant, inconsistent, ever-changing, erratic, unstable, undependable, unreliable, uncertain, unpredictable, protean ④ the question remains unsettled UNDECIDED, to be decided, unresolved, undetermined, uncertain, open to debate, doubtful, in doubt, up in the air, in a state of uncertainty ⑤ the debt remains unsettled UNPAID, payable, outstanding, owing, owed, to be paid, due, undischarged, *N Amer* delinquent, past due ⑥ unsettled areas UNINHABITED, unpopulated, unpeopled, desolate, lonely

unshakeable ▶ **adjective** STEADFAST, resolute, staunch, firm, decided, determined, unswerving, unwavering, unyielding, inflexible, dogged, obstinate, persistent, indefatigable, tireless, unflagging, unremitting, unrelenting, relentless

unsightly ▶ **adjective** UGLY, unattractive, unprepossessing, unlovely, disagreeable, displeasing, hideous, horrible, repulsive, revolting, offensive, grotesque, monstrous, ghastly.
—OPPOSITES attractive

unskilful ▶ **adjective** INEXPERT, incompetent, inept, unskilled, amateurish, unprofessional, inexperienced, untrained, unpractised, *informal* ham-fisted, ham-handed, cack-handed

unskilled ▶ **adjective** UNTRAINED, unqualified, manual, blue-collar, labouring, menial, inexperienced, unpractised, amateurish, unprofessional

unsociable ▶ **adjective** UNFRIENDLY, uncongenial, unneighbourly, unapproachable, introverted, reticent, reserved, withdrawn, aloof, distant, remote, detached, unsocial, antisocial, taciturn, silent, quiet, *informal* stand-offish
—OPPOSITES friendly

unsolicited ▶ **adjective** UNINVITED, unsought, unasked for, unrequested

unsophisticated ▶ **adjective** ① she seemed terribly unsophisticated UNWORLDLY, naive, simple, innocent, ignorant, green, immature, callow, inexperienced, childlike, artless, guileless, ingenuous, natural, unaffected, unassuming, unpretentious ② unsophisticated software SIMPLE, crude, basic, rudimentary, primitive, rough and ready; straightforward, uncomplicated, uninvolved

unsound ▶ **adjective** ① structurally unsound RICKETY, flimsy, wobbly, unstable, crumbling, damaged, rotten, ramshackle, insubstantial, unsafe, dangerous. ② this submission appears unsound UNTENABLE, flawed, defective, faulty, ill-founded, flimsy, unreliable, questionable, dubious, tenuous, suspect, fallacious, fallible; *informal* iffy ③ of unsound mind DISORDERED, deranged,



disturbed, demented, unstable, unbalanced, unhinged, insane, *informal* touched
-OPPOSITES strong.

unsparing ▶ **adjective** ① *he is unsparing in his criticism* MERCILESS, pitiless, ruthless, relentless, remorseless, unmerciful, unforgiving, implacable, uncompromising, stern, strict, severe, harsh, tough, rigorous ② *unsparing approval* UNGRUDGING, unstinting, willingly given, free, free-handed, ready, lavish, liberal, generous, magnanimous, open-handed

unspeakable ▶ **adjective** ① *unspeakable delights* INDESCRIBABLE, beyond description, inexpressible, unutterable, indefinable, unimaginable, inconceivable, marvellous, wonderful ② *an unspeakable crime* DREADFUL, awful, appalling, horrific, horrifying, horrendous, abominable, frightful, fearful, shocking, ghastly, gruesome, monstrous, heinous, egregious, deplorable, despicable, execrable, vile

unspecified ▶ **adjective** UNNAMED, unstated, unidentified, undesignated, undefined, unfixed, undecided, undetermined, uncertain, nameless, unknown, indefinite, indeterminate, vague

unspectacular ▶ **adjective** UNREMARKABLE, unexceptional, undistinguished, unmemorable, ordinary, average, commonplace, mediocre, run-of-the-mill, indifferent
-OPPOSITES remarkable

unspoil ▶ **adjective** UNIMPAIRED, as good as new/before, perfect, pristine, immaculate, unblemished, unharmed, unflawed, undamaged, untouched, unmarked, untainted

unspoken ▶ **adjective** UNSTATED, unexpressed, unuttered, unsaid, unvoiced, unarticulated, undeclared, not spelt out, tacit, implicit, implied, understood, taken as read
-OPPOSITES explicit

unstable ▶ **adjective** ① *icebergs are notoriously unstable* UNSTEADY, rocky, wobbly, rickety, shaky, unsafe, insecure, precarious ② *unstable coffee prices* CHANGEABLE, volatile, variable, fluctuating, irregular, unpredictable, erratic ③ *he was mentally unstable* UNBALANCED, of unsound mind, mentally ill, deranged, demented, disturbed, unhinged
-OPPOSITES steady, firm

unsteady ▶ **adjective** ① *she was unsteady on her feet* UNSTABLE, rocky, wobbly, rickety, shaky, tottery, dodderly, insecure ② *an unsteady flow* IRREGULAR, uneven, varying, variable, erratic, spasmodic, changeable, changing, fluctuating, inconstant, intermittent, fitful
-OPPOSITES stable, regular.

unstinted, unstinting ▶ **adjective** *unstinted praise* LAVISH, liberal, generous, open-handed, ungrudging, unsparing, willingly given, ready, profuse, abundant, ample

unstudied ▶ **adjective** NATURAL, easy, unaffected, unforced, uncontrived, unstilted, unpretentious, without airs, artless.

unsubstantiated ▶ **adjective** UNCONFIRMED, unsupported, uncorroborated, unverified, unattested, unproven, unfounded, groundless, baseless, without foundation.

unsuccessful ▶ **adjective** ① *an unsuccessful attempt*: FAILED, without success, abortive, ineffective, fruitless, profitless, unproductive; vain, futile, useless, pointless, worthless. ② *an unsuc-*

cessful business. UNPROFITABLE, loss-making ③ *an unsuccessful candidate* FAILED, losing, beaten, unlucky, out of luck

unsuitable ▶ **adjective** ① *an unsuitable product* INAPPROPRIATE, unsuited, ill-suited, inapt, inapposite, unacceptable, unfitting, unbefitting, incompatible, out of place/keeping ② *an unsuitable moment* INOPPORTUNE, infelicitous, *formal* malapropos
-OPPOSITES appropriate, opportune

unsullied ▶ **adjective** SPOTLESS, untarnished, unblemished, unspoil, untainted, impeccable, undamaged, unimpaired, stainless, immaculate, unflawed
-OPPOSITES tarnished

unsung ▶ **adjective** UNACKNOWLEDGED, uncelebrated, unacclaimed, unapplauded, unhailed, neglected, unrecognized, overlooked, forgotten
-OPPOSITES celebrated

unsure ▶ **adjective** ① *she felt very unsure* UNCONFIDENT, unassertive, insecure, hesitant, diffident, anxious, apprehensive ② *Sally was unsure what to do* UNDECIDED, irresolute, dithering, equivocating, in two minds, in a quandary ③ *some teachers are unsure about the proposed strike* DUBIOUS, doubtful, sceptical, uncertain, unconvinced ④ *the date is unsure* NOT FIXED, undecided, uncertain
-OPPOSITES confident

unsurpassed ▶ **adjective** UNMATCHED, unrivalled, unparalleled, unequalled, matchless, peerless, without equal, inimitable, incomparable, unsurpassable, *formal* unexampled

unsurprising ▶ **adjective** PREDICTABLE, foreseeable, (only) to be expected, foreseen, anticipated, par for the course, *informal* inevitable, on the cards

unsuspecting ▶ **adjective** UNSUSPICIOUS, unwary, unaware, unconscious, ignorant, unwitting, trusting, gullible, credulous, ingenuous, naive
-OPPOSITES wary

unswerving ▶ **adjective** UNWAVERING, unfaltering, steadfast, unshakeable, staunch, firm, resolute, stalwart, dedicated, committed, constant, single-minded, dogged, indefatigable, unyielding, unbending, indomitable

unsympathetic ▶ **adjective** ① *unsympathetic staff* UNCARING, unconcerned, unfeeling, insensitive, unkind, pitiless, heartless, hard-hearted ② *the government was unsympathetic to these views* OPPOSED, against, (dead) set against, antagonistic, ill-disposed, *informal* anti ③ *an unsympathetic character* UNLIKEABLE, disagreeable, unpleasant, objectionable, unsavoury, congenial, unfriendly, unneighbourly, unapproachable
-OPPOSITES caring

unsystematic ▶ **adjective** UNMETHODICAL, uncoordinated, disorganized, unplanned, indiscriminate, random, inconsistent, irregular, erratic, casual, haphazard, chaotic

untamed ▶ **adjective** WILD, feral, undomesticated, unbroken

untangle ▶ **verb** ① *I untangled the fishing tackle* DISENTANGLE, unravel, unsnarl, straighten out, untwist, untwine, unknot. ② *untangling a mystery*: SOLVE, find the/an answer to, resolve, puzzle out, fathom, clear up, clarify, get to the

U

bottom of, *informal* figure out, *Brit informal* suss out

untarnished ▶ **adjective** UNSULLIED, unblemished, untainted, impeccable, undamaged, unspoil, unimpaired, spotless, stainless

untenable ▶ **adjective** INDEFENSIBLE, undefendable, insupportable, unsustainable, unjustified, unjustifiable, flimsy, weak, shaky

unthinkable ▶ **adjective** UNIMAGINABLE, inconceivable, unbelievable, incredible, beyond belief, implausible

unthinking ▶ **adjective** ① an unthinking woman THOUGHTLESS, inconsiderate, insensitive, tactless, undiplomatic, indiscreet. ② an unthinking remark ABSENT-MINDED, heedless, thoughtless, careless, injudicious, imprudent, unwise, foolish, reckless, rash, precipitate, involuntary, inadvertent, unintentional, spontaneous, impulsive, unpremeditated
-OPPOSITES thoughtful, intentional

untidy ▶ **adjective** ① untidy hair SCRUFFY, tousled, dishevelled, unkempt, messy, disordered, disarranged, messed up, rumpled, bedraggled, uncombed, ungroomed, straggly, ruffled, tangled, matted, wind-blown, *informal* mussed up, *N Amer informal* raggedy. ② the room was untidy DISORDERED, messy, in a mess, disorderly, disorganized, in disorder, cluttered, in a muddle, muddled, in chaos, chaotic, haywire, topsyturvy, in disarray, at sixes and sevens, *informal* higgledy-piggledy
-OPPOSITES neat, orderly

untie ▶ **verb** UNDO, unknot, unbind, unfasten, unlace, untether, unhitch, unmoor, loose, (set) free, release, let go

until ▶ **preposition & conjunction** ① I was working until midnight (UP) TILL, up to, up until, as late as, *N Amer* through. ② this did not happen until 1998 BEFORE, prior to, previous to, up to, up until, (up) till, earlier than

untimely ▶ **adjective** ① an untimely interruption ILL-TIMED, badly timed, mistimed, inopportune, inappropriate, inconvenient, unwelcome, infelicitous, *formal* malapropos. ② his untimely death PREMATURE, (too) early, too soon, before time
-OPPOSITES opportune

untiring ▶ **adjective** VIGOROUS, energetic, determined, resolute, enthusiastic, keen, zealous, spirited, dogged, tenacious, persistent, persevering, staunch, tireless, unflagging, unfailing, unfaltering, unwavering, indefatigable, unremitting, unswerving, *formal* pertinacious

untold ▶ **adjective** ① untold damage BOUNDLESS, measureless, limitless, unlimited, infinite, immeasurable, incalculable. ② untold billions. COUNTLESS, innumerable, endless, limitless, numberless, an infinite number of, without number, uncountable, numerous, many, multiple, *poetic/literary* multitudinous, myriad. ③ the untold story UNREPORTED, unrecounted, unrevealed, undisclosed, undivulged, unpublished
-OPPOSITES limited

untouched ▶ **adjective** ① the food was untouched UNEATEN, unconsumed, undrunk. ② one of the few untouched areas UNSPOILT, unmarked, unblemished, unsullied, undefiled, undamaged, unharmed; pristine, natural, immaculate, in perfect condition, unaffected, unchanged, unaltered.

untoward ▶ **adjective** UNEXPECTED, unanticipated, unforeseen, unpredictable, unpredicted, surprising, unusual, unwelcome, unfavourable, adverse, unfortunate, infelicitous, *formal* malapropos

untrained ▶ **adjective** UNSKILLED, untaught, unschooled, untutored, unpractised, inexperienced, unqualified, unlicensed, amateur, non-professional

untried ▶ **adjective** UNTESTED, unestablished, new, experimental, unattempted, trial, test, pilot, unproven
-OPPOSITES established

untroubled ▶ **adjective** UNWORRIED, unperturbed, unconcerned, unruffled, undismayed, unbothered, unagitated, unflustered, insouciant, nonchalant, blasé, carefree, serene, relaxed, at ease, happy-go-lucky, *informal* laid-back

untrue ▶ **adjective** ① these suggestions are totally untrue FALSE, untruthful, fabricated, made up, invented, concocted, trumped up, erroneous, wrong, incorrect, inaccurate, fallacious, unsound, unfounded, misguided. ② he was untrue to his friends UNFAITHFUL, disloyal, faithless, false, treacherous, traitorous, deceitful, deceiving, duplicitous, double-dealing, insincere, unreliable, undependable, inconstant, *informal* two-timing, *poetic/literary* perfidious
-OPPOSITES correct, faithful

untrustworthy ▶ **adjective** DISHONEST, deceitful, double-dealing, treacherous, traitorous, two-faced, duplicitous, dishonourable, unprincipled, unscrupulous, corrupt, unreliable, undependable
-OPPOSITES reliable

untruth ▶ **noun** ① a patent untruth LIE, falsehood, fib, fabrication, invention, falsification, cock-and-bull story, half-truth, exaggeration, story, myth, piece of fiction, *informal* tall story, fairy tale, whopper, *Brit informal* porky (pie). ② the total untruth of the story FALSITY, falsehood, falseness, untruthfulness, fallaciousness, fictitiousness, fabrication, dishonesty, deceit, deceitfulness

untruthful ▶ **adjective** ① the answers may be untruthful FALSE, untrue, fabricated, made up, invented, trumped up, erroneous, wrong, incorrect, inaccurate, fallacious, fictitious. ② an untruthful person LYING, mendacious, dishonest, deceitful, duplicitous, false, double-dealing, two-faced, *informal* crooked, bent, *poetic/literary* perfidious
-OPPOSITES honest

untutored ▶ **adjective** UNEDUCATED, untaught, unschooled, ignorant, unsophisticated, uncultured, unenlightened
-OPPOSITES educated

untwine ▶ **verb**. See UNTWIST

untwist ▶ **verb** UNTWINE, disentangle, unravel, unsnarl, unwind, unroll, uncoil, unfurl, open (out), straighten (out)

unused ▶ **adjective** ① the notebook is unused | unused food UNUTILIZED, unemployed, unexploited, not in service, left over, remaining, uneaten, unconsumed, unneeded, not required, to spare, surplus. ② he was unused to such directness: UNACCUSTOMED, new, a stranger, unfamiliar, unconsversant, unacquainted; *archaic* strange.
-OPPOSITES accustomed.



unusual ▶ **adjective** ① an unusual sight UNCOMMON, abnormal, atypical, unexpected, surprising, unfamiliar, different, strange, odd, curious, out of the ordinary, extraordinary, unorthodox, unconventional, outlandish, singular, peculiar, bizarre, rare, scarce, few and far between, thin on the ground, exceptional, isolated, occasional, infrequent, *informal* weird, offbeat, way out, freaky ② a man of unusual talent REMARKABLE, extraordinary, exceptional, singular, particular, outstanding, notable, noteworthy, distinctive, striking, significant, special, unique, unparalleled, prodigious
-OPPOSITES common

unutterable ▶ **adjective** ① an existence of unutterable boredom INDESCRIBABLE, beyond description, inexpressible, unspeakable, undefinable, inconceivable, extreme, great, overwhelming, dreadful, awful, appalling, terrible ② unutterable joy MARVELLOUS, wonderful, superb, splendid, unimaginable, profound, deep

unvarnished ▶ **adjective** ① unvarnished wood BARE, unpainted, unpolished, unfinished, untreated ② the unvarnished truth STRAIGHTFORWARD, plain, simple, stark, truthful, realistic, candid, honest, frank, forthright, direct, blunt, straight from the shoulder

unveil ▶ **verb** REVEAL, present, disclose, divulge, make known, make public, communicate, publish, broadcast, display, show, exhibit, put on display, release, bring out

unwanted ▶ **adjective** ① an unwanted development UNWELCOME, undesirable, undesired, unpopular, unfortunate, unlucky, unfavourable, untoward, unpleasant, disagreeable, displeasing, distasteful, objectionable, regrettable, deplorable, lamentable, unacceptable, intolerable, awful, terrible, wretched, appalling ② tins of unwanted pet food UNUSED, left over, surplus, superfluous, uneaten, unconsumed, untouched ③ an unwanted guest UNINVITED, unbidden, unasked, unrequested, unsolicited ④ many ageing people feel unwanted FRIENDLESS, unloved, uncared-for, forsaken, rejected, shunned, superfluous, useless, unnecessary
-OPPOSITES welcome

unwarranted ▶ **adjective** ① the criticism is unwarranted UNJUSTIFIED, unjustifiable, indefensible, inexcusable, unforgivable, unpardonable, uncalled for, unnecessary, unreasonable, unjust, groundless, excessive, immoderate, disproportionate ② an unwarranted invasion of privacy UNAUTHORIZED, unsanctioned, unapproved, uncertified, unlicensed; illegal, unlawful, illicit, illegitimate, criminal, actionable
-OPPOSITES justified

unwary ▶ **adjective** INCAUTIOUS, careless, thoughtless, heedless, inattentive, unwatchful, off one's guard.

unwavering ▶ **adjective** STEADY, fixed, resolute, resolved, firm, steadfast, unswerving, unfaltering, untiring, tireless, indefatigable, unyielding, relentless, unremitting, unrelenting, sustained.
-OPPOSITES unsteady.

unwelcome ▶ **adjective** ① I was made to feel unwelcome: UNWANTED, uninvited ② even a small increase is unwelcome: UNDESIRABLE, undesired, unpopular, unfortunate, unlucky; disappoint-

ing, upsetting, distressing, disagreeable, displeasing, regrettable, deplorable, lamentable

unwell ▶ **adjective** ILL, sick, poorly, indisposed, ailing, not (very) well, not oneself, under/below par, peaky, queasy, nauseous, *Brit* off colour; *informal* under the weather, not up to snuff, funny, peculiar, lousy, rough, *Brit informal* groggy, *Austral/NZ informal* crook, dated queer

unwholesome ▶ **adjective** ① unwholesome air UNHEALTHY, noxious, poisonous; insalubrious, unhygienic, insanitary, harmful, injurious, detrimental, destructive, damaging, deleterious, baleful ② unwholesome Web pages IMPROPER, immoral, indecent, corrupting, depraving, salacious
-OPPOSITES healthy, seemly

unwieldy ▶ **adjective** CUMBERSOME, unmanageable, unmanoeuvrable, awkward, clumsy, massive, heavy, hefty, bulky, weighty
-OPPOSITES manageable

unwilling ▶ **adjective** ① unwilling conscripts RELUCTANT, unenthusiastic, hesitant, resistant, grudging, involuntary, forced ② he was unwilling to take on that responsibility DISINCLINED, reluctant, averse, loath, (be unwilling to do something) not have the heart to, balk at, demur at, shy away from, flinch from, shrink from, have qualms about, have misgivings about, have reservations about
-OPPOSITES keen

unwillingness ▶ **adjective** DISINCLINATION, reluctance, hesitation, diffidence, wavering, vacillation, resistance, objection, opposition, doubts, second thoughts, scruples, qualms, misgivings, *archaic* disrelish

unwind ▶ **verb** ① Ella unwound the scarf from her neck UNROLL, uncoil, unravel, untwine, untwist, disentangle, open (out), straighten (out) ② unwinding after work RELAX, loosen up, ease up/off, slow down, de-stress, unbend, rest, put one's feet up, take it easy, *informal* wind down, let it all hang out, unbutton, *N Amer informal* hang loose, chill out.

unwise ▶ **adjective** INJUDICIOUS, ill-advised, imprudent, foolish, silly, inadvisable, impolitic, misguided, foolhardy, irresponsible, rash, hasty, overhasty, reckless
-OPPOSITES sensible

unwitting ▶ **adjective** ① an unwitting accomplice UNKNOWNING, unconscious, unsuspecting, oblivious, unaware, innocent ② an unwitting mistake UNINTENTIONAL, unintended, inadvertent, involuntary, unconscious, accidental
-OPPOSITES conscious

unwonted ▶ **adjective** UNUSUAL, uncommon, unaccustomed, unfamiliar, unprecedented, exceptional, extraordinary, remarkable, singular, surprising
-OPPOSITES usual.

unworldly ▶ **adjective** ① a gauche, unworldly girl NAIVE, simple, inexperienced, innocent, green, raw, callow, immature, unsophisticated, glib, ingenuous, artless, guileless, childlike, trusting, credulous. ② unworldly beauty: UN EARTHLY, other-worldly, ethereal, ghostly, preternatural, supernatural, paranormal, mystical, rare extramundane ③ an unworldly religious order. NON-MATERIALISTIC, spiritualistic, religious

unworthy ▶ **adjective** ① he was unworthy of trust: UNDESERVING, ineligible, unqualified,

unfit ② *unworthy behaviour* UNBECOMING, unsuitable, inappropriate, unbecoming, unfitting, unseemly, improper, discreditable, shameful, dishonourable, despicable, ignoble, contemptible, reprehensible

—OPPOSITES deserving, becoming

unwritten ▶ **adjective** TACIT, implicit, unvoiced, taken for granted, accepted, recognized, understood, traditional, customary, conventional, oral, verbal, spoken, vocal, word-of-mouth

unyielding ▶ **adjective** ① *unyielding spikes of cane* STIFF, inflexible, unbending, inelastic, firm, hard, solid, tough, tight, compact, compressed, dense ② *an unyielding policy* RESOLUTE, inflexible, uncompromising, unbending, unshakeable, unwavering, immovable, intractable, intransigent, rigid, stiff, firm, determined, dogged, obstinate, stubborn, adamant, obdurate, tenacious, relentless, implacable, single-minded, *formal* pertinacious

up-and-coming ▶ **adjective** PROMISING, budding, rising, on the up and up, with potential, talented, gifted, able

upbeat ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) OPTIMISTIC, cheerful, cheery, positive, confident, hopeful, sanguine, bullish, buoyant

—OPPOSITES pessimistic, negative

upbraid ▶ **verb** REPRIMAND, rebuke, admonish, chastise, chide, reprove, reproach, scold, berate, take to task, lambaste, give someone a piece of one's mind, haul over the coals, lecture, *informal* tell off, give someone a talking-to, dress down, give someone an earful, rap over the knuckles, bawl out, lay into, *Brit informal* tick off, carpet, tear off a strip, give someone what for, give someone a rocket/rollicking, *N Amer informal* chew out, ream out, *Austral informal* monst(er), *formal* castigate, *rare* reprehend

upbringing ▶ **noun** CHILDHOOD, early life, formative years, teaching, instruction, care, bringing-up, rearing

update ▶ **verb** ① *security measures are continually updated* MODERNIZE, upgrade, bring up to date, improve, overhaul, *N Amer* bring up to code ② *I'll update him on today's developments* BRIEF, bring up to date, inform, fill in, tell, notify, apprise, keep posted, *informal* clue in, put in the picture, bring/keep up to speed

upgrade ▶ **verb** ① *there are plans to upgrade the rail system* IMPROVE, modernize, update, bring up to date, make better, ameliorate, reform, rehabilitate, recondition, refurbish, renovate, *N Amer* bring up to code ② *he was upgraded to a seat in the cabinet* PROMOTE, give promotion to, elevate, move up, raise, *archaic* prefer.

—OPPOSITES downgrade, demote

upheaval ▶ **noun** DISRUPTION, disturbance, trouble, turbulence, disorder, confusion, turmoil, pandemonium, chaos, mayhem, cataclysm, revolution, change

uphill ▶ **adjective** ① *an uphill path* UPWARD, rising, ascending, climbing ② *an uphill job* ARDUOUS, difficult, hard, tough, taxing, demanding, exacting, stiff, formidable, exhausting, tiring, wearisome, laborious, gruelling, back-breaking, punishing, burdensome, onerous, Herculean; *informal* no picnic, killing; *archaic* toilsome

—OPPOSITES downhill

uphold ▶ **verb** ① *the court upheld his claim for damages* CONFIRM, endorse, sustain, approve,

support, back (up), stand by, champion, defend ② *they've a tradition to uphold* MAINTAIN, sustain, continue, preserve, protect, keep, hold to, keep alive, keep going

—OPPOSITES overturn, oppose

upkeep ▶ **noun** ① *the upkeep of the road* MAINTENANCE, repair(s), service, servicing, care, preservation, conservation, running ② *the child's upkeep* (FINANCIAL) SUPPORT, maintenance, keep, subsistence, care

uplift ▶ **verb** *she needs something to uplift her spirits* BOOST, raise, buoy up, lift, cheer up, perk up, enliven, brighten up, lighten, stimulate, inspire, ginger up, revive, restore, *informal* buck up

uplifted ▶ **adjective** RAISED, upraised, elevated, upthrust, held high, erect, proud

uplifting ▶ **adjective** INSPIRING, stirring, inspirational, rousing, moving, touching, affecting, cheering, heartening, encouraging

upper ▶ **adjective** ① *the upper floor* HIGHER, superior, top ② *the upper echelons of the party* SENIOR, superior, higher-level, higher-ranking, top

—OPPOSITES lower

■ **the upper hand** AN ADVANTAGE, the edge, the whip hand, a lead, a head start, ascendancy, superiority, supremacy, sway, control, power, mastery, dominance, command

upper-class ▶ **adjective** ARISTOCRATIC, noble, of noble birth, patrician, titled, blue-blooded, high-born, well born, elite, landowning, landed, born with a silver spoon in one's mouth, *Brit* county, upmarket, *informal* upper-crust, top-drawer, (huntin', shootin', and fishin'), classy, *Brit informal* posh, *archaic* gentle, of gentle birth

uppermost ▶ **adjective** ① *the uppermost branches* HIGHEST, top, topmost ② *their own problems remained uppermost in their minds* PRE DOMINANT, of greatest importance, to the fore, foremost, dominant, principal, chief, main, paramount, major

uppish ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) ARROGANT, bump-tious, full of oneself, puffed up, conceited, swollen-headed, pompous, self-assertive, overbearing, throwing one's weight about, cocky, cocksure, haughty, self-important, superior, presumptuous, overweening, *informal* snooty, up-pity, high and mighty, too big for one's boots

upright ▶ **adjective** ① *an upright position* VERTICAL, perpendicular, plumb, straight (up), straight up and down, bolt upright, erect, on end, on one's feet, *Heraldry* rampant ② *an upright member of the community* HONEST, honourable, upstanding, respectable, high-minded, law-abiding, right-minded, worthy, moral, ethical, righteous, decent, good, virtuous, principled, high-principled, of principle, noble, incorruptible

—OPPOSITES horizontal, dishonourable

uprising ▶ **noun** REBELLION, revolt, insurrection, mutiny, revolution, insurgence, rioting, riot, civil disobedience, unrest, anarchy, fighting in the streets; coup, coup d'état, putsch

uproar ▶ **noun** ① *the uproar in the kitchen continued for some time* TURMOIL, disorder, confusion, chaos, commotion, disturbance, rumpus, tumult, turbulence, mayhem, pandemonium, bedlam, noise, din, clamour, hubbub, racket; shouting, yelling, babel; *informal* hullabaloo; *Brit*



informal row ② *there was an uproar when he was dismissed* OUTCRY, furore, howl of protest, fuss, commotion, hue and cry, rumpus, ruckus, brouhaha, *informal* hullabaloo, stink, ructions, *Brit informal row*

—OPPOSITES calm

uproarious ▶ **adjective** ① *an uproarious party* RIOTOUS, rowdy, noisy, loud, wild, unrestrained, unruly, rip-roaring, rollicking, boisterous, *informal* rumbustious, *N Amer informal* rambunctious ② *an uproarious joke* HILARIOUS, hysterically funny, too funny for words, rib-tickling, *informal* priceless, side-splitting, a scream, a hoot, *informal*, dated killing

—OPPOSITES quiet

uproot ▶ **verb** ① *don't pick or uproot wild flowers* PULL UP, root out, deracinate, grub out/up ② *a revolution is necessary to uproot the social order* ERADICATE, get rid of, eliminate, root out, destroy, put an end to, do away with, wipe out, stamp out

—OPPOSITES plant

upset ▶ **verb** ① *the accusation upset her* DISTRESS, trouble, perturb, dismay, disturb, discompose, unsettle, disconcert, disquiet, worry, bother, agitate, fluster, throw, ruffle, unnerve, shake, hurt, sadden, grieve ② *he upset a tureen of soup* KNOCK OVER, overturn, upend, tip over, topple (over), spill, *archaic* overset ③ *the dam will upset the ecological balance* DISRUPT, interfere with, disturb, throw out, turn topsy-turvy, throw into confusion, mess up

▶ **noun** ① *a legal dispute will cause worry and upset* DISTRESS, trouble, perturbation, dismay, disquiet, worry, bother, agitation, hurt, grief ② *a stomach upset* DISORDER, complaint, ailment, illness, sickness, malady *informal* bug, *Brit informal* lurgy

▶ **adjective** ① *I was upset by the news* DISTRESSED, troubled, perturbed, dismayed, disturbed, unsettled, disconcerted, worried, bothered, anxious, agitated, flustered, ruffled, unnerved, shaken, hurt, saddened, grieved, *informal* cut up, choked, *Brit informal* gutted ② *an upset stomach* DISTURBED, unsettled, queasy, bad, poorly, *informal* gippy

—OPPOSITES unperturbed, calm

upshot ▶ **noun** RESULT, end result, consequence, outcome, conclusion, effect, repercussion, reverberations, ramification, dated issue

—OPPOSITES cause

upside down ▶ **adjective** ① *an upside-down canoe* UPTURNED, upended, wrong side up, overturned, inverted, capsized ② *they left the flat upside down* IN DISARRAY, in disorder, jumbled up, in a muddle, untidy, disorganized, chaotic, all over the place, in chaos, in confusion, topsy-turvy, at sixes and sevens, *informal* higgledy-piggledy

upstanding ▶ **adjective** ① *an upstanding member of the community* HONEST, honourable, upright, respectable, high-minded, law-abiding, right-minded, worthy, moral, ethical, righteous, decent, good, virtuous, principled, high-principled, of principle, noble, incorruptible ② *the upstanding feathered plumes* UPRIGHT, erect, vertical; standing, in a standing position, on one's feet, *Heraldry* rampant

—OPPOSITES dishonourable

upstart ▶ **noun** PARVENU(E), arriviste, nouveau riche, vulgarian, status seeker, social climber.

up to date ▶ **adjective** ① *up-to-date equipment* MODERN, contemporary, the latest, state-of-the-art, new, present-day, up to the minute; advanced, *informal* bang up to date, mod ② *the newsletter will keep you up to date* INFORMED, up to speed, in the picture, in touch, au fait, au courant, conversant, familiar, knowledgeable, acquainted, aware

—OPPOSITES out of date, old-fashioned

upturn ▶ **noun** IMPROVEMENT, upswing, turn for the better, recovery, revival, rally, resurgence, increase, rise, jump, leap, upsurge, boost, escalation.

—OPPOSITES fall, slump

upward ▶ **adjective** *an upward trend* RISING, on the rise, ascending, climbing, mounting, uphill

—OPPOSITES downward

▶ **adverb** *the smoke drifts upward* See UPWARDS

upwards ▶ **adverb** *he inched his way upwards* UP, upward, uphill, to the top

—OPPOSITES downward

■ **upward(s)** of MORE THAN, above, over, in excess of, exceeding, beyond

urban ▶ **adjective** TOWN, city, municipal, metropolitan, built-up, inner-city, suburban

—OPPOSITES rural

urbane ▶ **adjective** SUAVE, sophisticated, debonair, worldly, cultivated, cultured, civilized, smooth, polished, refined, self-possessed, courteous, polite, civil, well-mannered, mannerly, charming, gentlemanly, gallant

—OPPOSITES uncouth, unsophisticated

urchin ▶ **noun** RAGAMUFFIN, waif, stray, imp, rascal, derogatory guttersnipe, dated gamin, *archaic* mudlark, scapegrace, street Arab

urge ▶ **verb** ① *she urged him to try again* ENCOURAGE, exhort, enjoin, press, entreat, implore, call on, appeal to, beg, plead with, egg on, spur, push, pressure, pressurize, *formal* adjure, *poetic/literary* beseech ② *she urged her horse down the lune* SPUR (ON), force, drive, impel ③ *I urge caution in interpreting these results* ADVISE, counsel, advocate, recommend

▶ **noun** *his urge to travel* DESIRE, wish, need, compulsion, longing, yearning, hankering, craving, appetite, hunger, thirst, fancy, impulse, *informal* yen, itch

urgent ▶ **adjective** ① *the urgent need for more funding* ACUTE, pressing, dire, desperate, critical, serious, grave, intense, crying, burning, compelling, extreme, high-priority, top-priority, life-and-death ② *an urgent whisper* INSISTENT, persistent, importunate, earnest, pleading, begging

urinate ▶ **verb** PASS WATER, relieve oneself, *informal* spend a penny, have/take a leak, pee, piddle, widdle, have a tinkle, *Brit informal* wee, have a Jimmy (Riddle), have a slash, *N Amer informal* take a whizz, *formal* micturate

usable ▶ **adjective** READY/FIT FOR USE, able to be used, at someone's disposal, disposable, working, in working order, functioning, functional, serviceable, operational, up and running

usage ▶ **noun** ① *energy usage* USE, consumption, utilization ② *the usage of equipment* USE, utilization, operation, manipulation, running, handling ③ *the intricacies of English usage* PHRASEOLOGY, parlance, idiom, way of speaking/writing, mode of expression, idiolect ④ *the usages of polite society* CUSTOM, practice, habit,



tradition, convention, rule, observance, way, procedure, form, *formal* praxis, wont, (**usages**) mores

use ▶ **verb** ① *she used her key to open the front door* UTILIZE, make use of, avail oneself of, employ, work, operate, wield, ply, apply, manoeuvre, manipulate, put to use, put into service ② *the court will use its discretion in making an order* EXERCISE, employ, bring into play, practise, apply ③ *use your troops well and they will not let you down* MANAGE, handle, treat, deal with, behave/act towards, conduct oneself towards ④ *I couldn't help feeling that she was using me* TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, exploit, manipulate, take liberties with, impose on, abuse, capitalize on, profit from, trade on, milk, *informal* cash in on, walk all over ⑤ *we have used all the available funds* CONSUME, get/go through, exhaust, deplete, expend, spend, waste, fritter away, squander, dissipate

▶ **noun** ① *the use of such weapons* UTILIZATION, usage, application, employment, operation, manipulation ② *his use of other people for his own ends* EXPLOITATION, manipulation, abuse ③ *what is the use of that?* ADVANTAGE, benefit, service, utility, usefulness, help, good, gain, avail, profit, value, worth, point, object, purpose, sense, reason ④ *composers have not found much use for the device* NEED, necessity, call, demand, requirement

used ▶ **adjective** a used car SECOND-HAND, pre-owned, nearly new, old, worn, hand-me-down, handed-down, cast-off, *Brit informal* reach-me-down

—OPPOSITES new

■ **used to** ACCUSTOMED TO, no stranger to, familiar with, at home with, in the habit of, experienced in, versed in, conversant with, acquainted with

useful ▶ **adjective** ① *a useful multi-purpose tool* FUNCTIONAL, practical, handy, convenient, utilitarian, serviceable, of use, of service, *informal* nifty ② *a useful experience* BENEFICIAL, advantageous, helpful, worthwhile, profitable, rewarding, productive, constructive, valuable, fruitful ③ *(informal) they had some very useful players* COMPETENT, capable, able, skilful, skilled, talented, proficient, accomplished, good, handy —OPPOSITES useless, disadvantageous, incompetent

useless ▶ **adjective** ① *it was useless to try | a piece of useless knowledge* FUTILE, to no avail, in vain, vain, pointless, to no purpose, unavailing, hopeless, ineffectual, ineffective, to no effect, fruitless, unprofitable, profitless, unproductive, broken, kaput, *archaic* bootless ② *(informal) he was useless at his job* INCOMPETENT, inept, ineffective, incapable, inadequate, hopeless, bad, *informal* pathetic, a dead loss —OPPOSITES useful, beneficial, competent.

usher ▶ **verb** *she ushered him to a window seat* ESCORT, accompany, take, show, see, lead, conduct, guide, steer, shepherd

▶ **noun** *ushers showed them to their seats* GUIDE, attendant, escort

■ **usher something in** HERALD, mark the start of, signal, ring in, show in, set the scene for, pave the way for, start, begin, introduce, open the door to, get going, set in motion, get under way, kick off, launch

usual ▶ **adjective** HABITUAL, customary, accustomed, normal, routine, regular, standard, typical, established, set, settled, stock, conventional, traditional, expected, predictable, familiar, average, general, ordinary, everyday, *poetic/literary* wonted

—OPPOSITES exceptional

usually ▶ **adverb** NORMALLY, generally, habitually, customarily, routinely, typically, ordinarily, commonly, conventionally, traditionally, as a rule, in general, more often than not, in the main, mainly, mostly, for the most part

usurp ▶ **verb** ① *Richard usurped the throne* SEIZE, take over, take possession of, take, commandeer, assume ② *the Hanoverian dynasty had usurped the Stuarts* OUST, overthrow, remove, topple, unseat, depose, dethrone, supplant, replace

utensil ▶ **noun** IMPLEMENT, tool, instrument, device, apparatus, gadget, appliance, contrivance, contraption, aid, *informal* gizmo

utilitarian ▶ **adjective** PRACTICAL, functional, serviceable, useful, sensible, efficient, utility, workaday, plain, unadorned, undecorative —OPPOSITES decorative

utility ▶ **noun** USEFULNESS, use, benefit, value, advantage, advantageousness, help, helpfulness, profitability, practicality, effectiveness, avail, service, *formal* efficacy

utilize ▶ **verb** USE, make use of, put to use, employ, avail oneself of, bring/press into service, bring into play, deploy, draw on, exploit

utmost ▶ **adjective** ① *a matter of the utmost importance* GREATEST, highest, maximum, most, uttermost, extreme, supreme, paramount ② *the utmost tip of Shetland* FURTHEST, farthest, furthestmost, farthermost, extreme, very, uttermost, outermost, endmost

▶ **noun** *a plot that stretches credulity to the utmost* UTMOST, maximum, limit

Utopia ▶ **noun** PARADISE, heaven, heaven on earth, Eden, Garden of Eden, Shangri-La, Elysium, idyll, nirvana, ideal place, *poetic/literary* Arcadia

Utopian ▶ **adjective** IDEALISTIC, visionary, romantic, starry-eyed, fanciful, unrealistic, ideal, perfect, paradisaal, heavenly, idyllic, blissful, Elysian; *poetic/literary* Arcadian

utter¹ ▶ **adjective** *that's utter nonsense* COMPLETE, total, absolute, thorough, perfect, downright, out-and-out, outright, thoroughgoing, all-out, sheer, arrant, positive, prize, rank, pure, real, veritable, consummate, categorical, unmitigated, unqualified, unadulterated, unalloyed.

utter² ▶ **verb** ① *he uttered an exasperated snort* EMIT, let out, give, produce ② *he hardly uttered a word* SAY, speak, voice, express, articulate, pronounce, enunciate, verbalize, vocalize

utterance ▶ **noun** REMARK, comment, word, statement, observation, declaration, pronouncement

utterly ▶ **adverb** COMPLETELY, totally, absolutely, entirely, wholly, fully, thoroughly, quite, altogether, one hundred per cent, downright, outright, in all respects, unconditionally, perfectly, really, to the hilt, to the core, *informal* dead

uttermost ▶ **adjective & noun**. See UTMOST



U-turn ► noun a complete U-turn in economic policy VOLTE-FACE, turnaround, about-face, rever-

sal, shift, change of heart, change of mind, backtracking, change of plan. *Bnt* about-turn.

Vv

vacancy ▶ noun ① *there are vacancies for computer technicians* OPENING, position, situation vacant, post, job, opportunity, place ② *Cathy stared into vacancy, seeing nothing* EMPTY SPACE, emptiness, nothingness, void ③ *a vacancy of mind* EMPTY-HEADEDNESS, lack of intelligence, brainlessness, vacuousness, vacuity, stupidity

vacant ▶ adjective ① *a vacant house* EMPTY, unoccupied, available, not in use, free, unfilled, uninhabited, untenanted ② *a vacant look* BLANK, expressionless, unresponsive, emotionless, impassive, uninterested, vacuous, empty, glazed, glassy, unintelligent, dull-witted, dense, brainless, empty-headed
—OPPOSITES full, occupied, expressive

vacate ▶ verb ① *he was forced to vacate the premises* LEAVE, move out of, evacuate, quit, depart from, abandon, desert ② *he will be vacating his post next year* RESIGN FROM, leave, stand down from, give up, bow out of, relinquish, retire from, *informal* quit
—OPPOSITES occupy, take up

vacation ▶ noun ① *his summer vacations in France* HOLIDAY, trip, tour, break, mini-break, leave, time off, recess, furlough, *informal* hol, vac, *formal* sojourn ② *the squatters' vacation of the occupied land* DEPARTURE, evacuation, abandonment, desertion

vacillate ▶ verb DITHER, be indecisive, be undecided, waver, hesitate, be in two minds, blow hot and cold, keep changing one's mind, *Brit* haver, hum and haw, *informal* dilly-dally, shilly-shally

vacillating ▶ adjective IRRESOLUTE, indecisive, dithering, undecided, hesitant, wavering, ambivalent, divided, uncertain, in two minds, blowing hot and cold, *informal* dilly-dallying, shilly-shallying
—OPPOSITES resolute

vacuous ▶ adjective SILLY, inane, unintelligent, foolish, stupid, fatuous, idiotic, brainless, witless, vapid, vacant, empty-headed, *informal* dumb, gormless, moronic, brain-dead
—OPPOSITES intelligent

vacuum ▶ noun ① *people longing to fill the spiritual vacuum in their lives* EMPTINESS, void, nothingness, vacancy ② *the political vacuum left by the Emperor's death* GAP, space, lacuna, void ③ (*informal*) *I use the vacuum for cleaning the rug* VACUUM CLEANER, *Brit informal* vac, *trademark* Hoover

vagabond ▶ noun. See VAGRANT noun

vagary ▶ noun CHANGE, fluctuation, variation, quirk, peculiarity, oddity, eccentricity, unpredictability, caprice, foible, whim, whimsy, fancy.

vagrant ▶ noun a temporary home for vagrants, TRAMP, drifter, down-and-out, derelict, beggar, itinerant, wanderer, nomad, traveller, vagabond, transient, homeless person, beachcomber; *informal* knight of the road, *N Amer* hobo; *Austral* bagman, *informal* bag lady; *N Amer informal* bum, *poetic/literary* wayfarer.

▶ adjective *vagrant beggars* HOMELESS, drifting, transient, roving, roaming, itinerant, wandering, nomadic, travelling, vagabond, rootless, of no fixed address/abode

vague ▶ adjective ① *a vague shape* INDISTINCT, indefinite, indeterminate, unclear, ill-defined, hazy, fuzzy, misty, blurred, blurry, out of focus, faint, shadowy, dim, obscure, nebulous, amorphous ② *a vague description* IMPRECISE, rough, approximate, inexact, non-specific, generalized, ambiguous, equivocal, hazy, woolly ③ *they had only vague plans* HAZY, uncertain, undecided, unsure, unclear, unsettled, indefinite, indeterminate, unconfirmed, up in the air, speculative ④ *she was so vague in everyday life* ABSENT-MINDED, forgetful, dreamy, abstracted, with one's head in the clouds, *informal* scatty, not with it
—OPPOSITES clear, precise, certain

vaguely ▶ adverb ① *she looks vaguely familiar* SLIGHTLY, a little, a bit, somewhat, rather, in a way, faintly, obscurely, *informal* sort of, kind of ② *he fired his rifle vaguely in our direction* ROUGHLY, more or less, approximately ③ *he smiled vaguely* ABSENT-MINDEDLY, abstractedly, vacantly
—OPPOSITES very, exactly

vain ▶ adjective ① *he was vain about his looks* CONCEITED, narcissistic, self-loving, in love with oneself, self-admiring, self-regarding, egotistic, egotistical, proud, arrogant, boastful, cocky, immodest, swaggering, *informal* big-headed, *poetic/literary* vainglorious ② *a vain attempt* FUTILE, useless, pointless, to no purpose, in vain, ineffective, ineffectual, inefficacious, impotent, unavailing, to no avail, fruitless, profitless, unproductive, unsuccessful, failed, abortive, for nothing, thwarted, frustrated, foiled, *archaic* bootless
—OPPOSITES modest, successful

■ **in vain** ① *they tried in vain to save him* UNSUCCESSFULLY, without success, to no avail, to no purpose, fruitlessly ② *his efforts were in vain* See VAIN sense 2

valediction ▶ noun FAREWELL, goodbye, adieu, leave-taking

valedictory ▶ adjective FAREWELL, goodbye, leaving, parting; last, final

valet ▶ noun MANSERVANT, man, personal attendant, gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves, *Military, dated* batman

valetudinarian ▶ noun an elderly valetudinarian HYPOCHONDRIAC; invalid

▶ adjective *he was earnest, fussy, and valetudinarian* HYPOCHONDRIAC, obsessed with one's health, neurotic, sickly, ailing, poorly, in poor health, weak, infirm, valetudinary

valiant ▶ adjective BRAVE, courageous, plucky, valorous, intrepid, heroic, gallant, lionhearted, bold, fearless, daring, audacious, unflinching, unshrinking, unafraid, dauntless, undaunted, doughty, indomitable, mettlesome, stout-hearted, spirited; *informal* game, gutsy, spunky
—OPPOSITES cowardly.

valid ▶ **adjective** ① a valid criticism WELL FOUND ED, sound, reasonable, rational, logical, justifiable, defensible, viable, bona fide, cogent, effective, powerful, convincing, credible, forceful, strong, weighty ② a valid contract LEGALLY BINDING, lawful, legal, official, signed and sealed, contractual; in force, in effect, effective

validate ▶ **verb** ① clinical trials now exist to validate this claim PROVE, substantiate, corroborate, verify, support, back up, bear out, confirm, justify, vindicate, authenticate ② 250 course proposals were validated. RATIFY, endorse, approve, agree to, accept, authorize, legalize, legitimize, warrant, license, certify, recognize
-OPPOSITES disprove

valley ▶ **noun** DALE, vale, hollow, gully, gorge, ravine, canyon, rift; *Brit* combe, dene, *N English* clough, *Scottish* glen, strath, *poetic/literary* dell, dingle

valour ▶ **noun** BRAVERY, courage, pluck, intrepidity, nerve, daring, fearlessness, audacity, boldness, dauntlessness, stout-heartedness, heroism, backbone, spirit, *informal* guts, spunk, *Brit informal* bottle, *N Amer informal* moxie
-OPPOSITES cowardice

valuable ▶ **adjective** ① a valuable watch PRECIOUS, costly, high-priced, high-cost, expensive, dear, worth its weight in gold, worth a king's ransom, priceless ② a valuable contribution USEFUL, helpful, beneficial, invaluable, productive, constructive, effective, advantageous, worthwhile, worthy, important
-OPPOSITES cheap, worthless, useless

valuables ▶ **plural noun** PRECIOUS ITEMS, costly items, prized possessions, personal effects, treasures

value ▶ **noun** ① houses exceeding £250,000 in value PRICE, cost, worth; market price, monetary value, face value ② the value of adequate preparation cannot be understated WORTH, usefulness, advantage, benefit, gain, profit, good, help, helpfulness, avail; importance, significance ③ society's values are passed on to us as children PRINCIPLES, ethics, moral code, morals, standards, code of behaviour

▶ **verb** ① his estate was valued at £45,000 EVALUATE, assess, estimate, appraise, price, put/set a price on ② she valued his opinion THINK HIGHLY OF, have a high opinion of, hold in high regard, rate highly, esteem, set (great) store by, appreciate, respect, prize, cherish, treasure

valued ▶ **adjective** CHERISHED, treasured, dear, prized, esteemed, respected, highly regarded.

valueless ▶ **adjective** WORTHLESS, of no value, useless, to no purpose, (of) no use, profitless, futile, pointless, vain, in vain, to no avail, to no effect, fruitless, unproductive, idle, ineffective, unavailing; *archaic* bootless.

vamp¹ ▶ **verb** (*informal*) the design had been vamped up IMPROVE, revamp, redesign, remodel, re-style, rework, make over, renovate, refurbish, redecorate, recondition, rehabilitate, overhaul, repair; *informal* do up, give something a facelift, *N Amer informal* rehab.

vamp² ▶ **noun** (*informal*) a raven-haired vamp. SEDUCTRESS, temptress, siren, femme fatale, Mata Hari; flirt, coquette, tease

van¹ ▶ **noun**. See list at VEHICLE.

van² ▶ **noun** he was in the van of the movement See VANGUARD

vanguard ▶ **noun** FOREFRONT, van, advance guard, spearhead, front, front line, fore, lead, cutting edge, leaders, founders, founding fathers, pioneers, trailblazers, trendsetters, innovators, ground-breakers
-OPPOSITES rear

vanish ▶ **verb** ① he vanished into the darkness DISAPPEAR, be lost to sight/view, become invisible, vanish into thin air, recede from view ② all hope of freedom vanished FADE (AWAY), evaporate, melt away, come to an end, end, cease to exist, pass away, die out, be no more
-OPPOSITES appear, materialize

vanity ▶ **noun** ① she had none of the vanity often associated with beautiful women CONCEIT, narcissism, self-love, self-admiration, self-regard, egotism, pride, arrogance, boastfulness, cockiness, swagger, *informal* big-headedness, *poetic/literary* vainglory ② the vanity of all desires of the will FUTILITY, uselessness, pointlessness, worthlessness, fruitlessness
-OPPOSITES modesty

vanquish ▶ **verb** CONQUER, defeat, beat, trounce, rout, triumph over, be victorious over, get the better of, worst, overcome, overwhelm, overpower, overthrow, subdue, subjugate, quell, quash, crush, bring someone to their knees, *informal* lick, hammer, clobber, thrash, demolish, wipe the floor with, make mincemeat of, massacre, slaughter, annihilate; *Brit informal* stuff, *N Amer informal* cream, shellac

vapid ▶ **adjective** INSIPID, uninspired, colourless, uninteresting, feeble, flat, dull, boring, tedious, tired, unexciting, uninspiring, unimaginative, lifeless, tame, vacuous, bland, trite
-OPPOSITES lively, colourful

vapour ▶ **noun** HAZE, mist, steam, condensation, fumes, exhalation, fog, smog, smoke

variable ▶ **adjective** CHANGEABLE, changing, varying, shifting, fluctuating, changeful, irregular, inconstant, inconsistent, fluid, unsteady, unstable, unsettled, fitful, mutable, protean, wavering, vacillating, capricious, fickle, volatile, unpredictable, unreliable, *informal* up and down
-OPPOSITES constant

variance ▶ **noun** DIFFERENCE, variation, discrepancy, dissimilarity, disagreement, conflict, divergence, deviation, contrast, contradiction, imbalance, incongruity

■ **at variance** ① his recollections were at variance with documentary evidence INCONSISTENT, at odds, not in keeping, out of keeping, out of line, out of step, in conflict, in disagreement, different, differing, divergent, discrepant, dissimilar, contrary, incompatible, contradictory, irreconcilable, incongruous ② they were at variance with their previous allies IN DISAGREEMENT, at odds, at cross purposes, at loggerheads, in conflict, in dispute, at outs, quarrelling

variant ▶ **noun** there are a number of variants of the same idea. VARIATION, form, alternative, adaptation, alteration, modification, permutation

▶ **adjective** a variant spelling ALTERNATIVE, other, different, divergent, derived, modified

variation ▶ **noun** ① regional variations in farming practice DIFFERENCE, dissimilarity; disparity, contrast, discrepancy, imbalance; *technical* differ-



Types of Vaulting

barrel	lierne	Romanesque
cross	neo-Gothic	segmental
domical	ogival	sexpartite
fan	palm	tunnel
Gothic	parabolic	underpitch
groin/	pendentive	wagon
groined	quadripartite	
intersecting	rib/ribbed	

ential, formal dissimilitude ② opening times are subject to variation CHANGE, alteration, modification, diversification ③ there was very little variation from an understood pattern DEVIATION, variance, divergence, departure, fluctuation ④ hurling is an Irish variation of hockey VARIANT, form, alternative form, development, adaptation, alteration, diversification, modification

varied ▶ **adjective** DIVERSE, assorted, miscellaneous, mixed, sundry, heterogeneous, wide-ranging, multifarious, disparate, motley

variegated ▶ **adjective** MULTICOLOURED, particoloured, multicolour, many-coloured, many-hued, polychromatic, colourful, prismatic, rainbow-like, kaleidoscopic, mottled, striated, marbled, streaked, speckled, flecked, dappled, informal splotchy, sploidy
-OPPOSITES plain, monochrome

variety ▶ **noun** ① the lack of variety in the curriculum DIVERSITY, variation, diversification, multifariousness, heterogeneity, many-sidedness, change, difference ② a wide variety of flowers and shrubs ASSORTMENT, miscellany, range, array, collection, selection, mixture, medley, multiplicity, mixed bag, motley collection, potpourri ③ fifty varieties of pasta SORT, kind, type, class, category, style, form, make, model, brand, strain, breed, genus
-OPPOSITES uniformity

various ▶ **adjective** DIVERSE, different, differing, varied, varying, a variety of, assorted, mixed, sundry, miscellaneous, heterogeneous, disparate, motley, poetic/literary divers

varnish ▶ **noun & verb** LACQUER, shellac, japan, enamel, glaze, polish

vary ▶ **verb** ① estimates of the development cost vary DIFFER, be different, be dissimilar ② rates of interest vary over time FLUCTUATE, rise and fall, go up and down, change, alter, shift, swing ③ the diaphragm is used for varying the aperture of the lens MODIFY, change, alter, adjust, regulate, control, set, diversify ④ the routine never varied CHANGE, alter, deviate, differ, fluctuate

vassal ▶ **noun** (historical) VILLEIN, liegeman, man, vavasour, serf, helot

vast ▶ **adjective** HUGE, extensive, expansive, broad, wide, boundless, immeasurable, limitless, infinite; enormous, immense, great, massive, colossal, tremendous, mighty, prodigious, gigantic, gargantuan, mammoth, monumental, giant, towering, mountainous, titanic, Brobdignagian, informal jumbo, mega, monster, whopping, humongous, astronomical; Brit informal ginormous.
-OPPOSITES tiny

vat ▶ **noun** TUB, tank, cistern, barrel, butt, cask, tun, drum, basin; vessel, receptacle, container, holder, reservoir.

Vegetables

adzuki/aduki bean	kohlrabi
alfalfa	jerusalem artichoke
artichoke	jicama
asparagus	leek
aubergine	lentil
avocado pear	lettuce
bamboo shoots	lima bean
bean	mangetout
beet	manioc
beetroot	marrow
black bean	marrow squash
black-eyed bean	mizuna
borlotti bean	mung bean
butter bean	mustard
breadfruit	okra
broad bean	onion
broccoli	orache
Brussels sprout	oyster plant
butter bean	pak choi
butternut squash	parsnip
cabbage	pattypan
calabrese	pea
cannellini bean	pea bean
capsicum	pepper
cardoon	petits pois
carrot	pimiento
cassava	pinto bean
cauliflower	plantain
celeriac	potato
celery	puha
chard	pumpkin
chayote	radish
chervil	radicchio
chickpea	runner bean
chicory	rutabaga
Chinese artichoke	salsify
Chinese cabbage	savoy cabbage
Chinese leaves	scallion
choko	scorzonera
collard	sea kale
corn on the cob	shallot
cos lettuce	snap bean
courgette	spinach
cress	spinach beet
cucumber	spring onion
curly kale	squash
cush-cush	string bean
custard marrow	succory
dishcloth gourd	sugar bean
eggplant	sugar-snap peas
endive	swede
fennel	sweetcorn
flageolet	sweet potato
French bean	taro
garden pea	tomato
garlic	turnip
gherkin	turnip greens
globe artichoke	vegetable spaghetti
gobo	water chestnut
gourd	watercress
gumbo	waxpod
haricot bean	yam
kale	yam bean
kidney bean	zucchini

vault ▶ **noun** ① the highest Gothic vault in Europe ARCHED ROOF, dome, arch. See list ② the vault under the church: CELLAR, basement, underground chamber; crypt, undercroft, catacomb,



burial chamber ① *valuables stored in the vault*
STRONGROOM, safe deposit, safety deposit

vault ² ▶ **verb** *he vaulted over the gate* JUMP OVER, leap over, spring over, bound over, hurdle, clear

vault ▶ **verb** BOAST ABOUT, brag about, make much of, crow about, parade, flaunt, acclaim, praise, extol, celebrate, *informal* show off about, *formal* laud

veer ▶ **verb** TURN, swerve, swing, sheer, career, weave, wheel, change direction/course, go off course, deviate

vegetable ▶ **noun** See list

vegetate ▶ **verb** DO NOTHING, idle, languish, laze, lounge, loll, moulder, stagnate, *informal* veg out, slob out, *Brit informal* slummock, *N Amer informal* bum around, lollygag

vegetation ▶ **noun** PLANTS, flora, greenery, foliage, herbage, verdure See lists at GRASS, PLANT, TREE

vehemence ▶ **noun** PASSION, force, forcefulness, ardour, fervour, violence, urgency, strength, vigour, intensity, keenness, enthusiasm, zeal

vehement ▶ **adjective** PASSIONATE, forceful, ardent, impassioned, heated, spirited, urgent, fervent, violent, fierce, strong, forcible, powerful, emphatic, vigorous, intense, earnest, keen, enthusiastic, zealous
-OPPOSITES mild, apathetic

vehicle ▶ **noun** ① *a stolen vehicle* MEANS OF TRANSPORT, conveyance, car, automobile, motorcycle, motorbike, van, bus, coach, lorry, truck, *N Amer informal* auto See lists here and at CARRIAGE ② *a vehicle for the communication of original ideas* CHANNEL, medium, means (of expression), agency, agent, instrument, mechanism, organ, apparatus

veil ▶ **noun** *a thin veil of high cloud made the sun hazy* COVERING, cover, screen, curtain, mantle, cloak, mask, blanket, shroud, canopy, cloud, pall

▶ **verb** *the peak was veiled in mist* ENVELOP, surround, swathe, enfold, cover, conceal, hide, screen, shield, cloak, blanket, shroud, obscure, *poetic/literary* enshroud, mantle

veiled ▶ **adjective** *veiled threats* DISGUISED, camouflaged, masked, covert, hidden, concealed, suppressed, underlying, implicit, implied, indirect
-OPPOSITES overt

vein ▶ **noun** ① *a vein in his neck pulsed* BLOOD VESSEL See list ② *the mineral veins in the rock* LAYER, lode, seam, stratum, stratification, deposit ③ *white marble with grey veins* STREAK, marking, mark, line, stripe, strip, band, thread, strand, *technical* stria, striation ④ *he closes the article in a humorous vein* MOOD, humour, frame of mind, temper, disposition, attitude, tenor, tone, key, spirit, character, feel, flavour, quality, atmosphere, manner, way, style.
-RELATED TERMS vascular

velocity ▶ **noun** SPEED, pace, rate, tempo, momentum, impetus, swiftness, rapidity, *poetic/literary* fleetness, celerity

venal ▶ **adjective** CORRUPT, corruptible, bribable, open to bribery, dishonest, dishonourable, untrustworthy, unscrupulous, unprincipled, mercenary, greedy, *informal* bent.

Motor Vehicles

See also CAR.

all-terrain vehicle (ATV)
ambulance
armoured car
articulated lorry
automobile
beach buggy
Black Maria
bloodmobile
bookmobile
bowser (*trademark*)
bulldozer
bus
cab
camper (van)
car
caravanette
carryall
car transporter
charabanc
coach
combination
crash wagon
delivery truck
digger
Dormobile (*trademark*)
double-decker bus
dragster
DUKW/duck
dune buggy
dustcart
estate car
fire engine
flatbed (truck)
float
forklift truck
four-wheel drive (4WD)
garbage truck
go-kart
golf cart/buggy
gritter
hackney cab
half-track
hearse
heavy goods vehicle (HGV)
horsebox
hot rod
JCB (*trademark*)
Jeep (*trademark*)
juggernaut
kart
large goods vehicle (LGV)
lorry
low-loader
low-rider

lunar roving vehicle (LRV)
milk float
minelayer
moped
motorbike/motorcycle
motor caravan
multi-purpose vehicle (MPV)
off-road vehicle (ORV)
omnibus
pantechicon
passenger-carrying vehicle (PCV)
people carrier
personnel carrier
pickup (truck)
public service vehicle (PSV)
quad bike
recreational vehicle (RV)
refrigerated van
removal van
roadroller
rover
scooter
scout car
scrambler
semitrailer
shooting brake
skidsteer loader
skimobile
snowcat
snowmobile
snowplough
sport utility vehicle (SUV)
steamroller
streetcar
superbike
tank
tanker
taxi/taxicab
tracklayer
tractor
trailer
tram
transporter
trolleybus
troop carrier
truck
tuk-tuk
utility van
wagon/waggon

-OPPOSITES honourable, honest

vendetta ▶ **noun** FEUD, blood feud, quarrel, argument, falling-out, dispute, fight, war, bad blood, enmity, rivalry, conflict, strife

vendor ▶ **noun** SELLER, retailer, purveyor, dealer, trader, tradesman, shopkeeper, merchant, supplier, stockist, huckster, pedlar, hawk; *N Amer* storekeeper

veneer ▶ **noun** ① *American cherry wood with a maple veneer* SURFACE, lamination, layer, over-



Main Human Veins and Arteries

aorta	(inferior/superior)
axillary artery	mesenteric artery
axillary vein	(inferior/superior)
azygos vein	mesenteric vein
basilic vein	ovarian artery
brachial artery	ovarian vein
brachial vein	palmar arch
carotid artery	palmar network
coeliac artery	peroneal artery
cephalic artery	plantar artery
cephalic vein	popliteal artery
coronary artery	popliteal vein
crural artery	portal vein
crural vein	pulmonary artery
cubital vein	pulmonary vein
digital artery	radial artery
digital vein	renal artery
dorsal metatarsal artery	renal vein
dorsal venous arch	(great/short)
femoral artery	saphenous vein
femoral vein	splenic artery
gastric artery	subclavian artery
gastroepiploic vein	subclavian vein
hepatic artery	superior vena cava
hepatic portal vein	suprarenal vein
iliac artery	testicular artery
iliac vein	testicular vein
inferior vena cava	tibial artery
innominate artery	ulnar artery
innominate vein	ulnar vein
jugular vein	vena cava
long thoracic artery	vertebral artery
median cubital vein	

lay, facing, covering, finish, exterior ② a veneer of sophistication **FACADE**, front, false front, show, outward display, appearance, impression, semblance, guise, disguise, mask, masquerade, pretence, camouflage, cover

venerable ▶ **adjective** RESPECTED, venerated, revered, revered, honoured, esteemed, hallowed, august, distinguished, eminent, great

venerate ▶ **verb** REVERE, reverence, worship, hallow, hold sacred, exalt, adore, honour, respect, esteem, *archaic* magnify

veneration ▶ **noun** REVERENCE, worship, adoration, exaltation, devotion, honour, respect, esteem, high regard

vengeance ▶ **noun** REVENGE, retribution, retaliation, requital, reprisal, satisfaction, an eye for an eye (and a tooth for a tooth)

■ **with a vengeance** VIGOROUSLY, strenuously, energetically, with a will, with might and main, with all the stops out, for all one is worth, all out, flat out, at full tilt, *informal* hammer and tongs, like crazy, like mad, *Brit informal* like billy-o

vengeful ▶ **adjective** VINDICTIVE, revengeful, out for revenge, unforgiving, grudge-bearing.
—OPPOSITES forgiving

venial ▶ **adjective** FORGIVABLE, pardonable, excusable, allowable, permissible, slight, minor, unimportant, insignificant, trivial, trifling
—OPPOSITES unforgivable, mortal

venom ▶ **noun** ① *snake venom*: POISON, toxin, *archaic* bane. ② his voice was full of venom **RANCOUR**, malevolence, vitriol, spite, vindictiveness, mal-

ice, maliciousness, ill will, animosity, animus, bitterness, antagonism, hostility, bile, hate, hatred, *informal* bitchiness, cattiness

venomous ▶ **adjective** ① a venomous snake | the spider's venomous bite **POISONOUS**, toxic, dangerous, deadly, lethal, fatal, mortal ② venomous remarks vicious, spiteful, rancorous, malevolent, vitriolic, vindictive, malicious, poisonous, virulent, bitter, acrimonious, antagonistic, hostile, cruel, *informal* bitchy, catty, *poetic/literary* malefic, maleficent

—OPPOSITES harmless, benevolent

vent ▶ **noun** an air vent **OUTLET**, **INLET**, opening, aperture, hole, gap, orifice, space, duct, flue, shaft, well, passage, airway

▶ **verb** the crowd vented their fury on the pitch **LET OUT**, give vent to, give free rein to, release, pour out, express, give expression to, air, voice, give voice to, ventilate

ventilate ▶ **verb** ① the greenhouse must be properly ventilated **AIR**, aerate, oxygenate, air-condition, freshen, cool ② the workers ventilated their discontent **EXPRESS**, give expression to, air, bring into the open, communicate, voice, give voice to, verbalize, discuss, debate, talk over

venture ▶ **noun** a business venture **ENTERPRISE**, undertaking, project, scheme, operation, endeavour, speculation, plunge, gamble, experiment

▶ **verb** ① we ventured across the moor **SET OUT**, go, travel, journey ② may I venture an opinion? **PUT FORWARD**, advance, proffer, offer, air, suggest, submit, propose, moot, ventilate ③ I ventured to ask her to come and dine with me **DARE**, make so bold as, presume, take the liberty of, *informal* stick one's neck out, go out on a limb

veracious ▶ **adjective** (formal) See **TRUTHFUL** senses 1, 2

verbal ▶ **adjective** **ORAL**, spoken, stated, said, verbalized, unwritten

verbatim ▶ **adverb** **WORD FOR WORD**, letter for letter, line for line, to the letter, literally, exactly, precisely, closely, faithfully, *formal* **litera** **atim**

verbiage ▶ **noun** **VERBOSITY**, padding, wordiness, prolixity, long-windedness, *Brit informal* waffle

verbose ▶ **adjective** **WORDY**, loquacious, garrulous, talkative, voluble, long-winded, lengthy, prolix, tautological, pleonastic, periphrastic, circumlocutory, circuitous, discursive, digressive, rambling, *informal* mouthy, gabby, *Brit informal* waffly

—OPPOSITES succinct, laconic

verbosity ▶ **noun** **WORDINESS**, loquacity, garrulity, talkativeness, volubility, long-windedness, lengthiness, verbiage, prolixity, tautology, circumlocution, discursiveness, *Brit informal* waffle

verdant ▶ **adjective** **GREEN**, leafy, grassy; lush, rich; *poetic/literary* verdured, verdurous

verdict ▶ **noun** **JUDGEMENT**, adjudication, decision, finding, ruling, resolution, pronouncement, conclusion, opinion, *Law* determination.

verge ▶ **noun** ① the verge of the lake **EDGE**, border, margin, side, brink, rim, lip, fringe, boundary, perimeter, *poetic/literary* bourn, marge, skirt. ② Spain was on the verge of an economic crisis **BRINK**, threshold, edge, point.

▶ **verb** a degree of caution that verged on the obsessive

APPROACH, border on, be close/near to, be tantamount to, tend towards, approximate to, resemble

verification ► **noun** CONFIRMATION, substantiation, proof, corroboration, support, attestation, validation, authentication, endorsement

verify ► **verb** SUBSTANTIATE, confirm, prove, corroborate, back up, bear out, justify, support, uphold, attest to, testify to, validate, authenticate, endorse, certify
—OPPOSITES refute

vernacular ► **noun** ① he wrote in the vernacular to reach a wider audience EVERYDAY LANGUAGE, colloquial language, conversational language, common parlance, dialect, regional language, regionalisms, patois, informal lingo, local lingo ② (informal) the vernacular of today's youth LANGUAGE, parlance, idiom, slang, jargon, informal lingo, -speak, -ese

versatile ► **adjective** ADAPTABLE, flexible, all-round, multifaceted, multit talented, resourceful, adjustable multi-purpose, all-purpose, handy

verse ► **noun** ① Elizabethan verse POETRY, versification, poems, lyrics, poetic/literary poesy See lists ② a verse he'd composed to mark my anniversary POEM, rhyme, ditty ③ a poem with sixty verses STANZA, canto, couplet, strophe
—OPPOSITES prose

Verse Forms

See also POEM.

alcaics (or alcaic verse)	macaronic verse)
alexandrine verse	madrigal
alliterative verse	monody
Anacreontics	ode
ballad	ottava rima
ballade	pantoum/pantun
blank verse	Petrarchan sonnet
Clerihew	Pindaric
dactyls (or dactylic verse)	quatorzain
doggerel	rhyme royal
dramatic monologue	ritornello
echo verse	rondeau
elegy	roundel
epic	sapphics
epigram	secondary epic
epode	sequidilla
epopee	sestina
fixed form	sonnet
free verse	Spenserian stanza
haiku	tail rhyme
heroic verse	tanka
Horatian ode	terza rima
iambics (or iambic verse)	triolet
Leonines	triolet
limerick	trochaics (or trochaic verse)
lyric	villanelle
macaronics (or	virelay

version ► **noun** ① his version of events ACCOUNT, report, statement, description, record, story, rendering, interpretation, explanation, understanding, reading, impression, side ② the English version will be published next year EDITION, translation, impression ③ they have replaced coal-burning fires with gas versions FORM, sort, kind, type, variety, variant.

Metres and Metrical Feet

alexandrine	heroic couplet
amphibrach	hexameter
amphimacer	iamb/iambus
anapaest/anapest	iambic pentameter
choree	ionic
choriamb/choriambus	monometer
cretic	octameter
dactyl	paean
decasyllable	pentameter
dimeter	pyrrhic
dipody	spondee
distich	tetrameter
disyllable	tribrach
duple metre	trimeter
elegiac couplet	trisyllable
elegiac distich	trochee
heptameter	

vertebra ► **noun** See list

Vertebrae

VERTEBRA	NUMBER
cervical	7
thoracic	12
lumbar	5
sacral	5 (fused, forming the sacrum)
coccygeal	4 (fused, forming the coccyx)

vertex ► **noun** APEX, peak, tip, top

vertical ► **adjective** UPRIGHT, erect, perpendicular, plumb, straight up and down, on end, standing, upstanding, bolt upright, upended
—OPPOSITES horizontal

vertigo ► **noun** DIZZINESS, giddiness, light-headedness, loss of balance, Veterinary Medicine sturdy

verve ► **noun** ENTHUSIASM, vigour, energy, pep, dynamism, go, elan, vitality, vivacity, buoyancy, liveliness, animation, zest, sparkle, spirit, ebullience, life, brio, gusto, eagerness, keenness, passion, zeal, relish, feeling, ardour, fire, informal zing, zip, vim, pizzazz, oomph

very ► **adverb** that's very kind of you EXTREMELY, exceedingly, exceptionally, extraordinarily, tremendously, immensely, hugely, intensely, acutely, abundantly, singularly, uncommonly, unusually, decidedly, particularly, supremely, highly, remarkably, really, truly, mightily, informal terrifically, awfully, fearfully, terribly, devilishly, majorly, seriously, mega, ultra, damn, damned, Brit informal ever so, well, hellish, dead, jolly, N Amer informal real, mighty, awful, darned, informal, dated devilish, frightfully, archaic exceeding
—OPPOSITES slightly

► **adjective** ① those were his very words EXACT, actual, precise ② the very thought of food made her feel ill MERE, simple, pure, sheer

vessel ► **noun** ① a fishing vessel BOAT, ship, craft, watercraft; poetic/literary barque See lists at SAILING SHIP, SHIP, WARSHIP ② pour the mixture into a heatproof vessel CONTAINER, receptacle; basin, bowl, pan, pot; urn, cask, barrel, drum, butt, vat



vest ▶ **verb** executive power is vested in the President: CONFER ON, entrust to, invest in, bestow on, grant to, give to, endow, lodge, lay, place

vestibule ▶ **noun** ENTRANCE HALL, hall, hallway, entrance, porch, portico, foyer, lobby, ante-room, antechamber, waiting room

vestige ▶ **noun** ① the last vestiges of colonialism REMNANT, fragment, relic, echo, indication, sign, trace, mark, legacy, reminder, remains ② she showed no vestige of emotion BIT, touch, hint, suggestion, suspicion, shadow, scrap, tinge, speck, shred, jot, iota, whit, scintilla, glimmer, informal smidgen, tad

vestigial ▶ **adjective** ① vestigial limbs RUDIMENTARY, undeveloped, non-functional, Biology primitive ② he felt a vestigial flicker of anger from last night REMAINING, surviving, residual, leftover, lingering

vestments ▶ **noun** ROBES, clothes, garments, attire, costume, garb, uniform, trappings, finery, regalia See list at CLERICAL

vet ▶ **verb** press releases are vetted by an executive council CHECK, examine, scrutinize, investigate, inspect, look over, screen, assess, evaluate, appraise, informal check out

▶ **noun** I took the cat to the vet VETERINARY SURGEON, animal doctor, horse doctor, N Amer veterinarian, dated veterinary

veteran ▶ **noun** a veteran of 16 political campaigns OLD HAND, past master, doyen, informal old-timer, old stager, old warhorse
—OPPOSITES novice

▶ **adjective** a veteran diplomat LONG-SERVING, seasoned, old, hardened, adept, expert, well trained, practised, experienced, informal battle-scarred

veto ▶ **noun** parliament's right of veto REJECTION, dismissal, prohibition, proscription, embargo, ban, interdict, informal thumbs down, red light
—OPPOSITES approval

▶ **verb** the president vetoed the bill REJECT, turn down, throw out, dismiss, prohibit, forbid, interdict, proscribe, disallow, embargo, ban, informal kill, put the kibosh on, give the thumbs down to, give the red light to
—OPPOSITES approve

vex ▶ **verb** ANNOY, irritate, anger, infuriate, exasperate, irk, gall, pique, put out, antagonize, get on someone's nerves, ruffle someone's feathers, make someone's hackles rise, Brit rub up the wrong way, informal aggravate, peeve, miff, rile, nettle, needle, get (to), bug, hack off, get up someone's nose, get someone's goat, get someone's back up, give someone the hump, get someone's dander up, Brit informal wind up, nark, get on someone's wick, N Amer informal tee off, tick off, burn up, rankle, informal, dated give someone the pip

vexation ▶ **noun** ANNOYANCE, irritation, exasperation, indignation, anger, crossness, displeasure, pique, disgruntlement, informal aggravation

vexatious ▶ **adjective** ANNOYING, irritating, infuriating, exasperating, maddening, trying, tiresome, troublesome, bothersome, irksome, vexing, galling, informal aggravating, pesky

vexed ▶ **adjective** ① a vexed expression ANNOYED, irritated, cross, angry, infuriated, exasperated, irked, piqued, displeased, put out, disgruntled, informal aggravated, peeved, nettled, miffed,

miffy, riled, hacked off, hot under the collar, Brit informal narked, shirty, N Amer informal teed off, ticked off, sore, bent out of shape, archaic wroth ② the vexed issue of immigration DISPUTED, in dispute, contested, in contention, contentious, debated, at issue, controversial, moot, problematic, difficult, knotty, thorny

viable ▶ **adjective** FEASIBLE, workable, practicable, practical, usable, possible, realistic, achievable, attainable, realizable, informal doable

—OPPOSITES impracticable

vibrant ▶ **adjective** ① a vibrant and passionate woman SPIRITED, lively, full of life, energetic, vigorous, vital, full of vim and vigour, animated, sparkling, effervescent, vivacious, dynamic, stimulating, exciting, passionate, fiery, informal peppy, feisty ② she was vibrant with excitement QUIVERING, trembling, shaking, shivering, shuddering, quavering, quaking ③ vibrant colours VIVID, bright, striking, brilliant, strong, rich ④ his vibrant voice RESONANT, sonorous, reverberant, resounding, ringing, echoing, strong, rich, full
—OPPOSITES lifeless, pale

vibrate ▶ **verb** ① the floor beneath them vibrated QUIVER, shake, tremble, shiver, shudder, judder, throb, pulsate, rock, oscillate, swing, sway, move to and fro ② a low rumbling sound began to vibrate through the car REVERBERATE, resonate, resound, ring, echo

vibration ▶ **noun** TREMOR, shaking, quivering, quaking, judder, juddering, shuddering, throb, throbbing, pulsation

vicar ▶ **noun** MINISTER, rector, priest, parson, clergyman, clergywoman, cleric, churchman, churchwoman, ecclesiastic, pastor, father, man/woman of the cloth, man/woman of god, curate, chaplain, preacher Scottish kirkman, N Amer dominie, informal reverend, padre, Holy Joe, sky pilot, Austral informal jossler, dated divine

vicarious ▶ **adjective** INDIRECT, second-hand, secondary, derivative, derived, surrogate, substitute, empathetic, empathic

vice ▶ **noun** ① youngsters may be driven to vice IM MORALITY, wrongdoing, wickedness, badness, evil, iniquity, villainy, corruption, misconduct, sin, sinfulness, ungodliness, depravity, degeneracy, dissolution, dissipation, debauchery, decadence, lechery, crime, transgression, formal turpitude, archaic trespass ② smoking is my only vice SHORTCOMING, failing, flaw, fault, defect, weakness, deficiency, limitation, imperfection, blemish, foible, frailty
—OPPOSITES virtue

vice versa ▶ **adverb** CONVERSELY, inversely, contrariwise, reciprocally

vicinity ▶ **noun** ① she lives in the vicinity NEIGHBOURHOOD, surrounding area, locality, locale, (local) area, district, region, quarter, zone, environs, surroundings, precincts; N Amer vicinage, informal neck of the woods ② (archaic) the forest's vicinity to the dockyards. See PROXIMITY

■ In the vicinity of AROUND, about, nearly, circa, approaching, roughly, something like, more or less, in the region of, in the neighbourhood of, near to, close to; Brit getting on for.

vicious ▶ **adjective** ① a vicious killer BRUTAL, ferocious, savage, violent, dangerous, ruthless, re-



morseless, merciless, heartless, callous, cruel, harsh, cold-blooded, inhuman, fierce, barbarous, barbaric, brutish, bloodthirsty, fiendish, sadistic, monstrous, murderous, homicidal ② a vicious hate campaign **MALICIOUS**, malevolent, malignant, malign, spiteful, vindictive, venomous, poisonous, rancorous, mean, cruel, bitter, acrimonious, hostile, nasty, defamatory, slanderous, *informal* catty

—**OPPOSITES** gentle, kindly

vicissitude ▶ **noun** **CHANGE**, alteration, transition, shift, reversal, downturn, inconstancy, instability, uncertainty, unpredictability, chance, fickleness, variability, changeability, fluctuation, vacillation, ups and downs

victim ▶ **noun** ① a victim of crime **SUFFERER**, injured party, casualty, fatality, loss, loser ② the victim of a confidence trick **DUPE**, stooge, gull, fool, target, prey, quarry, object, subject, focus, recipient, *informal* sucker, fall guy, chump, muggins, charlie, *N Amer informal* patsy, pigeon, sap ③ a sacrificial victim **SACRIFICE**, (burnt) offering, scapegoat

■ **fall victim to** **FALL ILL WITH**, be stricken with, catch, develop, contract, pick up, succumb to, *informal* go down with

victimize ▶ **verb** **PERSECUTE**, pick on, push around, bully, abuse, discriminate against, ill-treat, mistreat, maltreat, terrorize, exploit, prey on, take advantage of, dupe, cheat, double-cross, *informal* get at, have it in for, give someone a hard time, hassle, lean on

victor ▶ **verb** **WINNER**, champion, conqueror, vanquisher, hero, prizewinner, medallist, *informal* champ, top dog

—**OPPOSITES** loser

victorious ▶ **adjective** **TRIUMPHANT**, conquering, vanquishing, winning, champion, successful, top, first

victory ▶ **noun** **SUCCESS**, triumph, conquest, win, favourable result, landslide, coup, vanquishment, mastery, superiority, supremacy, *informal* walkover, thrashing, trouncing

—**OPPOSITES** defeat

victuals ▶ **plural noun** (dated) See **FOOD** sense 1

vie ▶ **verb** **COMPETE**, contend, contest, struggle, fight, battle, cross swords, lock horns, jockey, war, feud

view ▶ **noun** ① the view from her flat **OUTLOOK**, prospect, panorama, vista, scene, aspect, perspective, spectacle, sight, scenery, landscape ② we agree with this view **OPINION**, point of view, viewpoint, belief, judgement, thinking, notion, idea, conviction, persuasion, attitude, feeling, sentiment, concept, hypothesis, theory, stance, standpoint, approach ③ the church came into view **SIGHT**, perspective, vision, visibility

▶ **verb** ① they viewed the landscape **LOOK AT**, eye, observe, gaze at, stare at, ogle, contemplate, regard, scan, survey, inspect, scrutinize; *informal* check out, get a load of, gawp at; *Brit informal* clock; *N Amer informal* eyeball, *poetic/literary* espy, behold ② the law was viewed as a last resort **CONSIDER**, regard, look on, see, perceive, judge, deem, reckon

■ **in view of** **CONSIDERING**, bearing in mind, taking into account, on account of, in the light of, owing to, because of, as a result of

■ **on view** **ON DISPLAY**, on exhibition, on show

viewer ▶ **noun** **WATCHER**, spectator, onlooker, observer, (**viewers**) audience, crowd, *poetic/literary* beholder

viewpoint ▶ **noun** See **VIEW** noun sense 2

vigilant ▶ **adjective** **WATCHFUL**, observant, attentive, alert, eagle-eyed, hawk-eyed, on the lookout, on one's toes, on the qui vive, wide awake, on one's guard, cautious, wary, circumspect, heedful, mindful, *informal* beady-eyed

—**OPPOSITES** inattentive

vigorous ▶ **adjective** ① the child was vigorous **ROBUST**, healthy, hale and hearty, strong, sturdy, fit, hardy, tough, athletic, bouncing, thriving, flourishing, blooming, energetic, lively, active, perky, spirited, vibrant, vital, zestful, *informal* peppy, bouncy, in the pink ② a vigorous defence of policy **STRENUOUS**, powerful, forceful, spirited, mettlesome, determined, aggressive, eager, zealous, ardent, fervent, vehement, passionate, tough, blunt, hard-hitting, *informal* punchy

—**OPPOSITES** weak, feeble

vigorously ▶ **adverb** **STRENUOUSLY**, strongly, powerfully, forcefully, energetically, heartily, with might and main, for dear life, for all one is worth, all out, fiercely, hard, *informal* like mad, like crazy, *Brit informal* like billy-o

vigour ▶ **noun** **ROBUSTNESS**, health, hardiness, strength, sturdiness, toughness, bloom, radiance, energy, life, vitality, verve, spirit, zeal, passion, determination, dynamism, zest, pep, drive, *informal* oomph, get-up-and-go, *Brit informal* welly

—**OPPOSITES** lethargy

vile ▶ **adjective** **FOUL**, nasty, unpleasant, bad, disagreeable, horrid, horrible, dreadful, abominable, atrocious, offensive, obnoxious, odious, unsavoury, repulsive, disgusting, distasteful, loathsome, hateful, nauseating, sickening, disgraceful, appalling, shocking, sorry, shabby, shameful, dishonourable, execrable, heinous, abhorrent, deplorable, monstrous, wicked, evil, iniquitous, depraved, debased, contemptible, despicable, reprehensible, *informal* gross, God-awful, low-down, lousy, *Brit informal* beastly, *archaic* scurvy

—**OPPOSITES** pleasant

villify ▶ **verb** **DISPARAGE**, denigrate, defame, run down, revile, abuse, speak ill of, criticize, condemn, malign, slander, libel, *N Amer* slur, *informal* pull apart, lay into, slam, bad-mouth, *Brit informal* rubbish, slate, *Austral/NZ informal* bag, monster, *formal* derogate, calumniate

—**OPPOSITES** commend

villain ▶ **noun** **CRIMINAL**, lawbreaker, offender, felon, convict, malefactor, miscreant, wrongdoer, gangster, gunman, thief, robber, rogue, scoundrel, reprobate, ruffian, hoodlum, *Law* malfeasant, *informal* crook, con, crim, baddy, dated cad, knave, *archaic* blackguard

villainous ▶ **adjective** **WICKED**, evil, iniquitous, sinful, nefarious, vile, foul, monstrous, outrageous, atrocious, abominable, reprehensible, hateful, odious, contemptible, horrible, heinous, egregious, diabolical, fiendish, vicious, murderous, criminal, illicit, unlawful, illegal, lawless, immoral, corrupt, degenerate, sordid, depraved, dishonourable, dishonest, unscrupulous, unprincipled, *informal* crooked, bent, low-down, dirty, shady; dated dastardly



-OPPOSITES VIRTUOUS

villainy ► **noun** WICKEDNESS, badness, evil, iniquity, wrongdoing, dishonesty, unscrupulousness, roguery, delinquency; crime, vice, criminality, lawlessness, lawbreaking, corruption, Law malfeasance, *informal* crookedness, *formal* turpitude, *archaic* knavery

vindicate ► **verb** ① he was vindicated by the jury ACQUIT, clear, absolve, exonerate, discharge, liberate, free, redeem, *informal* let off (the hook), *formal* exculpate ② I had fully vindicated my request JUSTIFY, warrant, substantiate, ratify, authenticate, verify, confirm, corroborate, prove, defend, support, back, evidence, endorse

vindictive ► **adjective** VENGEFUL, revengeful, unforgiving, resentful, acrimonious, bitter, spiteful, mean, rancorous, venomous, malicious, malevolent, nasty, cruel, unkind, *informal* catty

-OPPOSITES FORGIVING

vintage ► **noun** ① 1986 was a classic vintage YEAR ② he lost a vintage through frost (GRAPE) HARVEST, crop, yield ③ furniture of Louis XV vintage PERIOD, era, epoch, time, origin, genre, style, kind, sort, type

► **adjective** ① vintage French wine HIGH-QUALITY, quality, choice, select, superior, best ② vintage motor vehicles CLASSIC, ageless, timeless, old, antique, heritage, historic ③ his reaction was vintage Francis CHARACTERISTIC, typical, pure

violate ► **verb** ① this violates fundamental human rights CONTRAVENE, breach, infringe, break, transgress, overstep, disobey, defy, flout, disregard, ignore ② the tomb was violated DESECRATE, profane, defile, degrade, debase, damage, vandalize, deface, destroy ③ he drugged and then violated her RAPE, assault, force oneself on, abuse, molest, interfere with, *dated* deflower, defile, dishonour, ruin, *poetic/literary* ravish

-OPPOSITES RESPECT

violation ► **noun** ① a violation of human rights CONTRAVENTION, breach, infringement, infraction, transgression, defiance, neglect ② a violation of their private lives INVASION, breach, infraction, trespass, intrusion, encroachment ③ she was threatened with violation RAPE, (sexual) assault, (sexual) abuse, molestation, interference; *dated* defloration, defilement, dishonour, *archaic* ravishment

violence ► **noun** ① police violence BRUTALITY, brute force, ferocity, savagery, cruelty, sadism, barbarity, brutishness ② the violence of the blow FORCEFULNESS, force, power, strength, might, savagery, ferocity, brutality ③ the violence of his passion INTENSITY, severity, strength, force, vehemence, power, potency, fervency, ardency, ferocity, fury

violent ► **adjective** ① a violent alcoholic: BRUTAL, vicious, savage, rough, aggressive, threatening, fierce, wild, ferocious, barbarous, barbaric, thuggish, cut-throat, homicidal, murderous, cruel. ② a violent blow POWERFUL, forceful, hard, sharp, smart, strong, vigorous, mighty, hefty, savage, ferocious, brutal, vicious ③ violent jealousy: INTENSE, extreme, strong, powerful, vehement, intemperate, unbridled, uncontrollable, ungovernable, inordinate, consuming, passionate

-OPPOSITES GENTLE, WEAK, MILD.

VIP ► **noun** CELEBRITY, famous person, very important person, personality, big name, star, superstar, dignitary, luminary, worthy, grandee, lion, notable, notability, personage, *informal* heavyweight, celeb, bigwig, big shot, big cheese, nob, honcho, top dog, megastar, *N Amer informal* big wheel, (big) kahuna, high muckamuck

virago ► **noun** HARRIDAN, shrew, dragon, termagant, vixen, fishwife, witch, hellcat, she-devil, tartar, martinet, spitfire, ogress, *informal* battle-axe, *archaic* scold.

virgin ► **noun** she remained a virgin chaste woman, celibate, *formal* virgo intacta, *poetic/literary* maiden, maid, vestal

► **adjective** ① virgin forest UNTOUCHED, unspoilt, untainted, immaculate, pristine, flawless, spotless, unsullied, unpolluted, undefiled, perfect, unchanged, intact, unexplored, uncharted, unmapped ② virgin girls CHASTE, virginal, celibate, abstinent, unmarried, unwed, maiden, maidenly, pure, uncorrupted, incorrupt, undefiled, unsullied, innocent, *poetic/literary* vestal

virginal ► **adjective**. See VIRGIN adjective sense 2

virginity ► **noun** CHASTITY, maidenhood, honour, purity, innocence, celibacy, abstinence, *informal* cherry, *archaic* virtue

virile ► **adjective** MANLY, masculine, male, strong, tough, vigorous, robust, muscular, muscly, brawny, rugged, sturdy, husky, red-blooded, fertile, *informal* macho, laddish, butch, beefy, hunky

-OPPOSITES EFFEMINATE

virtual ► **adjective** EFFECTIVE, in effect, near (enough), essential, practical, to all intents and purposes, indirect, implied, implicit, unacknowledged, tacit

virtually ► **adverb** EFFECTIVELY, in effect, all but, more or less, practically, almost, nearly, close to, well-nigh, nigh on, verging on, just about, as good as, essentially, to all intents and purposes, as near as dammit, roughly, approximately, *informal* pretty much, pretty well

virtue ► **noun** ① the simple virtue of peasant life GOODNESS, virtuousness, righteousness, morality, integrity, dignity, rectitude, honour, decency, respectability, nobility, worthiness, purity, principles, ethics See list ② promptness was not one of his virtues GOOD POINT, good quality, strong point, asset, forte, attribute, strength, talent ③ (archaic) she lost her virtue in the city See VIRGINITY ④ I can see no virtue in this MERIT, advantage, benefit, usefulness, strength, efficacy

-OPPOSITES VICE, FAILING, DISADVANTAGE

■ **by virtue of** BECAUSE OF, on account of, by dint of, by means of, by way of, via, through, as a result of, as a consequence of, on the strength of, owing to, thanks to, due to, by reason of

Virtues

CARDINAL VIRTUES

fortitude
justice
prudence
temperance

THEOLOGICAL VIRTUES

charity
faith
hope

virtuosity ► **noun** SKILL, skilfulness, mastery, expertise, prowess, proficiency, ability, apti-



tude; excellence, brilliance, talent, genius, artistry, flair, panache, finesse, wizardry, *informal* know-how

virtuoso ► **noun** *the pianist is clearly a virtuoso* GENIUS, expert, (past) master, maestro, artist, prodigy, marvel, adept, professional, doyen, veteran, star, champion; *informal* hotshot, wizard, pro, ace, *Brit informal* dab hand
-OPPOSITES duffer

► **adjective** *a virtuoso violinist* SKILFUL, expert, accomplished, masterly, master, consummate, proficient, talented, gifted, adept, able, good, competent, capable, impressive, outstanding, exceptional, magnificent, supreme, first-rate, brilliant, excellent, *informal* superb, mean, ace
-OPPOSITES incompetent

virtuous ► **adjective** RIGHTEOUS, good, moral, ethical, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, exemplary, law-abiding, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless, unimpeachable, honest, honourable, reputable, decent, respectable, noble, worthy, meritorious, pure, whiter than white, saintly, angelic, *informal* squeaky clean

virulent ► **adjective** ① *virulent herbicides* POISONOUS, toxic, venomous, noxious, deadly, lethal, fatal, mortal, dangerous, harmful, injurious, pernicious, damaging, destructive, *poetic/literary* deathly, noxious ② *a virulent epidemic* INFECTIOUS, infective, contagious, communicable, transmittable, transmissible, spreading, pestilential, *informal* catching ③ *a virulent attack on morals* VITRIOLIC, malicious, malevolent, hostile, spiteful, venomous, vicious, vindictive, bitter, rancorous, acrimonious, scathing, caustic, withering, nasty, savage, harsh
-OPPOSITES harmless, amicable

virus ► **noun**. See list

Viruses

actinophages	mengovirus
adenovirus	morbillivirus
alphavirus	myxovirus
arbovirus	oncomavirus
arenavirus	orbivirus
bacteriophage	papillomavirus
baculovirus	papovavirus
Borna disease virus	parainfluenza virus
coronavirus	paramyxovirus
Coxsackie virus	parvovirus
cytomegalovirus	picornavirus
Ebola virus	poliovirus
echovirus	polyomavirus
enterovirus	polyoma virus
Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)	poxvirus
filovirus	reovirus
hantavirus	retrovirus
herpes simplex virus	rhabdovirus
herpesvirus	rhinovirus
herpes zoster virus	Ross River virus
human	rotavirus
immunodeficiency virus (HIV)	Sendai virus
human papilloma virus (HPV)	Shope virus
influenza virus	slow virus
Lassa virus	tobacco mosaic virus (TMV)
lentivirus	togavirus
leukovirus	tumour virus
maedi virus	ultravirus
Marburg virus	varicella virus
	West Nile virus

viscous ► **adjective** STICKY, gummy, gluey, adhesive, tacky, adherent, treacly, syrupy, glutinous, gelatinous, thick, viscid, mucous, mucoid, mucilaginous, *informal* gooey, gloopy, *N Amer informal* gloppy

visible ► **adjective** PERCEPTIBLE, perceivable, seeable, observable, noticeable, detectable, discernible, in sight, in/on view, on display, evident, apparent, manifest, transparent, plain, clear, conspicuous, obvious, patent, unmistakable, unconcealed, undisguised, prominent, salient, striking, glaring

vision ► **noun** ① *her vision was blurred by tears* EYESIGHT, sight, observation, (visual) perception, eyes, view, perspective ② *visions of the ancestral pilgrims* APPARITION, spectre, phantom, ghost, wraith, manifestation, hallucination, illusion, mirage, *informal* spook, *poetic/literary* phantasm, shade ③ *visions of a better future* DREAM, daydream, reverie, plan, hope, fantasy, pipe dream, delusion ④ *his speech lacked vision* IMAGINATION, creativity, inventiveness, innovation, inspiration, intuition, perception, insight, foresight, prescience ⑤ *Melissa was a vision in lilac* BEAUTIFUL SIGHT, feast for the eyes, pleasure to behold, delight, dream, beauty, picture, joy, marvel, sensation, *informal* sight for sore eyes, stunner, knockout, looker, peach, *Brit informal* smasher

visionary ► **adjective** ① *a visionary leader* INSPIRED, imaginative, creative, inventive, ingenious, enterprising, innovative, insightful, perceptive, intuitive, prescient, discerning, shrewd, wise, clever, resourceful; idealistic, romantic, quixotic, dreamy, *informal* starry-eyed ② (*archaic*) *a visionary image* See IMAGINARY

► **noun** ① *a visionary pictured him in hell* SEER, mystic, oracle, prophet(ess), soothsayer, augur, diviner, clairvoyant, crystal-gazer, *Scottish* spawwife, *poetic/literary* sibyl ② *a visionary can't run a business effectively* DREAMER, daydreamer, idealist, romantic, fantasist, utopian

visit ► **verb** ① *I visited my dear uncle* CALL ON, pay a visit to, go to see, look in on, stay with, holiday with, stop by, drop by, *N Amer* visit with, go see, *informal* pop in on, drop in on, look up ② *Alex was visiting America* STAY IN, stop over in, spend time in, holiday in, vacation in, tour, explore, see, *informal* do ③ *they were visited with many epidemics* AFFLICT, attack, trouble, torment, *archaic* smite.

► **noun** ① *she paid a visit to her mum* (SOCIAL) CALL ② *a visit to the museum* TRIP TO, tour of, look round, stopover, stay, holiday, break, vacation, formal sojourn

visitation ► **noun** ① *the bishop's pastoral visitations* (OFFICIAL) VISIT, tour of inspection, survey, examination. ② *a visitation from God*: APPARITION, vision, appearance, manifestation, materialization. ③ *Jehovah punished them by visitations* AFFLICTION, scourge, bane, curse, plague, blight, disaster, tragedy, catastrophe, punishment, retribution, vengeance

visitor ► **noun** ① *I am expecting a visitor* GUEST, caller, company, *archaic* visitant ② *the monument attracts foreign visitors*: TOURIST, traveller, holidaymaker, day tripper, tripper, vacationer, vacationist, sightseer, pilgrim, foreigner, outsider, stranger, alien, *Brit informal* emmet, grockle



vista ► **noun** VIEW, prospect, panorama, aspect, perspective, spectacle, sight, scenery, landscape

visual ► **adjective** ① *visual defects* OPTICAL, optic, ocular, eye, vision, sight ② *a visual indication that the alarm works* VISIBLE, perceptible, perceivable, discernible

visualize ► **verb** ENVISAGE, envision, conjure up, picture, call to mind, see, imagine, evoke, dream up, fantasize about, conceptualize, contemplate

vital ► **adjective** ① *it is vital that action is taken* ESSENTIAL, of the essence, critical, crucial, indispensable, all-important, imperative, mandatory, urgent, pressing, burning, compelling, high-priority, *informal* earth-shattering, world-shaking ② *the vital organs* MAJOR, main, chief, essential, necessary ③ *he is young and vital* LIVELY, energetic, active, sprightly, spry, spirited, vivacious, exuberant, bouncy, enthusiastic, vibrant, zestful, sparkling, dynamic, vigorous, lusty, hale and hearty, *informal* peppy, spunky, full of beans, bright-eyed and bushy-tailed
-OPPOSITES unimportant, minor, listless

vitality ► **noun** LIVELINESS, life, energy, spirit, vivacity, exuberance, buoyancy, bounce, verve, vim, pep, brio, zest, sparkle, dynamism, passion, fire, vigour, drive, *informal* get-up-and-go

vitamin ► **noun** See list

Vitamins

A	retinol
B1	thiamine
B2	riboflavin
B3	niacin
B6	pyridoxine
B12	cyanocobalamin
B complex	folic acid, pantothenic acid, biotin, inositol, choline, pteroylglutamic acid
C	ascorbic acid
D2	calciferol
D3	cholecalciferol
E	tocopherol
H	biotin
K1	phyllaquinone
K2	menaquinone/menadiol
M	folic acid
P	citric, bioflavonoid

vitriolic ► **adjective** ACRIMONIOUS, rancorous, bitter, caustic, mordant, acerbic, trenchant, virulent, spiteful, savage, venomous, poisonous, malicious, splenetic, nasty, mean, cruel, unkind, harsh, vindictive, scathing, barbed, wounding, sharp, cutting, withering, sarcastic, *informal* bitchy, catty

vituperate ► **verb** (archaic). See REVILE

vituperation ► **noun** INVECTIVE, revilement, condemnation, opprobrium, scolding, criticism, disapprobation, fault-finding; blame, abuse, insults, vilification, denunciation, obloquy, denigration, disparagement, slander, libel, defamation, slurs, aspersions; vitriol, venom; *informal* flak, *Brit* *informal* stuck, *formal* castigation
-OPPOSITES praise

vivacious ► **adjective** LIVELY, spirited, bubbly, ebullient, buoyant, sparkling, light-hearted, jaunty, merry, happy, jolly, full of fun, cheery, cheerful, perky, sunny, breezy, enthusiastic, ir-

repressible, vibrant, vital, zestful, energetic, dynamic, *informal* peppy, bouncy, upbeat, chirpy, *dated* gay

-OPPOSITES dull

vivid ► **adjective** ① *a vivid blue sea* BRIGHT, colourful, brilliant, radiant, vibrant, strong, bold, deep, intense, rich, warm ② *a vivid account of urban poverty* GRAPHIC, evocative, realistic, life-like, faithful, authentic, clear, detailed, lucid, striking, arresting, impressive, colourful, rich, dramatic, lively, stimulating, interesting, fascinating, scintillating, memorable, powerful, stirring, moving, haunting
-OPPOSITES dull, vague

viz. ► **adverb** NAMELY, that is to say, in other words, to wit, specifically, such as, as, like, for instance, for example; *formal* videlicet

vocabulary ► **noun** ① *she has an extensive vocabulary* LEXICON, lexis ② *we listed the terms in a vocabulary* WORDBOOK, dictionary, wordfinder, glossary, lexicon, thesaurus

vocal ► **adjective** ① *vocal sounds* VOCALIZED, voiced, uttered, articulated, oral, spoken, said ② *a vocal critic of the government* VOCIFEROUS, outspoken, forthright, plain-spoken, blunt, frank, candid, open, vehement, vigorous, emphatic, insistent, forceful, zealous, clamorous

vocation ► **noun** CALLING, life's work, mission, purpose, function, profession, occupation, career, job, employment, trade, craft, business, line (of work), métier

vociferous ► **adjective** See VOCAL sense 2

vogue ► **noun** *the skirt is enjoying a new vogue* FASHION, trend, fad, fancy, craze, rage, enthusiasm, passion, obsession, mania, fashionable ness, popularity, currency, favour, *informal* trendiness

■ **In vogue** FASHIONABLE, voguish, stylish, modish, up to date, up to the minute, modern, current, prevalent, popular, in favour, in demand, sought-after, all the rage, chic, smart, le dernier cri, *informal* trendy, hip, cool, big, happening, now, in, with it, *N Amer* *informal* tony, lucky

voice ► **noun** ① *she lost her voice* POWER OF SPEECH See list ② *he gave voice to his anger* EXPRESSION, utterance, verbalization, vocalization ③ *the voice of the people* OPINION, view, feeling, wish, desire, vote, input ④ *a powerful voice for conservation*. MOUTHPIECE, representative, spokesperson, intermediary, forum, vehicle, instrument, channel, organ, agent

► **verb** *they voiced their opposition* EXPRESS, vocalize, communicate, declare, state, assert, reveal, proclaim, announce, table, air, ventilate, vent, utter, say, speak, articulate, *informal* come out with

Types of Singing Voice

See also SINGER.

alto	boy soprano	mezzo
baritone	castrato	mezzo-soprano
bass	contralto	soprano
basso	countertenor	tenor
profundo	falsetto	treble

void ► **noun** *the void of space*: VACUUM, emptiness, nothingness, blankness, vacuity; (empty) space,



gap, cavity, chasm, abyss, gulf, pit

► **verb** ① *the contract was voided* INVALIDATE, annul, nullify, negate, quash, cancel, countermand, repeal, revoke, rescind, retract, withdraw, reverse, undo, abolish, *Law vacate, formal abrogate*

② *they voided their bladders* EVACUATE, empty, drain, clear, purge ③ *bacteria are voided in the urine* EJECT, expel, emit, discharge, pass, excrete, exude, eliminate

—OPPOSITES validate, fill

► **adjective** ① *vast void spaces* EMPTY, vacant, blank, bare, clear, free, unfilled, unoccupied, uninhabited ② *a country void of man or beast* DEVOID OF, empty of, vacant of, bereft of, free from, lacking, wanting, without ③ *the election was void* INVALID, null, ineffective, non-viable, useless, worthless, nugatory

—OPPOSITES full, occupied, valid

volatile ► **adjective** ① *a volatile personality* UNPREDICTABLE, changeable, variable, inconstant, inconsistent, erratic, irregular, unstable, turbulent, blowing hot and cold, varying, shifting, fluctuating, fluid, mutable, mercurial, capricious, whimsical, fickle, flighty, impulsive, temperamental, highly strung, excitable, emotional, fiery, moody, tempestuous ② *the atmosphere is too volatile for an election* TENSE, strained, fraught, uneasy, uncomfortable, charged, explosive, inflammatory, turbulent, *informal* nail-biting, *Bnt informal* dodgy ③ *a volatile organic compound* EVAPORATIVE, vaporous, explosive, inflammable, unstable, labile

—OPPOSITES stable, calm

volcano ► **noun** See list

volition

■ **of one's own volition** OF ONE'S OWN FREE WILL, of one's own accord, by choice, by preference, voluntarily, willingly, readily, freely, intentionally, consciously, deliberately, on purpose, purposely, gladly, with pleasure

volley ► **noun** BARRAGE, cannonade, battery, bombardment, salvo, fusillade, storm, hail, shower, deluge, torrent, *historical* broadside

voluble ► **adjective** TALKATIVE, loquacious, garrulous, verbose, wordy, chatty, gossipy, effusive, gushing, forthcoming, conversational, communicative, expansive, articulate, fluent, *informal* mouthy, gabby, gassy, windy

—OPPOSITES taciturn

volume ► **noun** ① *a volume from the library* BOOK, publication, tome, hardback, paperback, title, manual, almanac, compendium ② *a glass syringe of known volume* CAPACITY, cubic measure, size, magnitude, mass, bulk, extent, dimensions, proportions, measurements ③ *a huge volume of water* QUANTITY, amount, proportion, measure, mass, bulk ④ *she turned the volume down* LOUDNESS, sound, amplification

voluminous ► **adjective** CAPACIOUS, roomy, spacious, ample, full, big, large, generous, billowing, baggy, loose-fitting, *formal* commodious

voluntarily ► **adverb** OF ONE'S OWN FREE WILL, of one's own accord, of one's own volition, by choice, by preference, willingly, readily, freely, intentionally, deliberately, on purpose, purposely, spontaneously, gladly, with pleasure

voluntary ► **adjective** ① *attendance is voluntary* OPTIONAL, discretionary, elective, non-compulsory, volitional, *Law* permissive. ② *voluntary work* UNPAID, unsalaried, for free, without

Volcanoes

VOLCANO

Aconcagua
Ararat
Bezmyanny
Cerro Negro
Colima
Coseguina
Cotopaxi
El Chichón
Erebus
Etna
Fuji
Galunggung
Hekla
Helgafell
Hudson
Jurullo
Katmai
Kilauea
Kilimanjaro
Klyuchevskoy
Krakatoa/Krakatau
Laki
Lamington
Lassen Peak
Llullaillaco
Mauna Loa
Mayon
Merapi
Nevado del Ruiz
Nyamuragira
Pacaya
Parícutin
Pelée
Pinatubo
Popocatepetl
Rainier
Ruapehu
St Helens
Santorini/Thera
Soufrière
Soufrière Hills
Stromboli
Surtsey
Taal
Tambora
Tarawera
Unzen, Mt
Vesuvius
Vulcano

LOCATION

Argentina/Chile
Turkey
Kamchatka, Russia
Nicaragua
Mexico
Nicaragua
Ecuador
Mexico
Antarctica
Sicily, Italy
Japan
Java, Indonesia
Iceland
Iceland
Chile
Mexico
Alaska
Hawaii
Tanzania
Kamchatka, Russia
Indonesia
Iceland
Papua New Guinea
USA
Argentina/Chile
Hawaii
Luzon, Philippines
Java, Indonesia
Colombia
Zaire
Guatemala
Mexico
Martinique
Luzon, Philippines
Mexico
Washington State, USA
New Zealand
Washington State, USA
Greece
St Vincent
Montserrat
Italy
Iceland
Philippines
Sumbawa, Indonesia
New Zealand
Japan
Italy
Italy

charge, for nothing, honorary, volunteer, *Law* pro bono (publifo)

—OPPOSITES compulsory, paid

volunteer ► **verb** ① *I volunteered my services* OFFER, tender, proffer, put forward, put up, venture ② *he volunteered as a driver* OFFER ONE'S SERVICES, present oneself, make oneself available

► **noun** *each volunteer was tested three times* SUBJECT, participant, case, client, patient, *informal* guinea pig

voluptuous ► **adjective** ① *a voluptuous model* CURVACEOUS, shapely, ample, buxom, full-figured, Junoesque, Rubenesque, seductive, alluring, sultry, sensuous, sexy, *informal* curvy, busty, slinky ② *she was voluptuous by nature*: HEDONISTIC, sybaritic, epicurean, pleasure-loving;



self-indulgent, decadent, intemperate, immoderate, dissolute, sensual, licentious
-OPPOSITES scrawny, ascetic

vomit ▶ **verb** ① *he needed to vomit* BE SICK, spew, fetch up, heave, retch, reach, gag, *N Amer* get sick, *informal* throw up, puke, chunder, chuck up, hurl, *Brit informal* honk, *Scottish informal* boke, *N Amer informal* barf, upchuck ② *I vomited my breakfast* REGURGITATE, bring up, spew up, cough up, *informal* chuck up, throw up, puke, *Brit informal* sick up, *N Amer informal* spit up ③ *the printer is vomiting paper* EJECT, issue, emit, expel, discharge, disgorge, throw out, spew out, belch

▶ **noun** *a coat stained with vomit* SICK, *informal* chunder, puke, spew, *N Amer informal* barf, *Medicine* vomitus

voracious ▶ **adjective** INSATIABLE, unquenchable, unappeasable, prodigious, uncontrollable, compulsive, gluttonous, greedy, rapacious, enthusiastic, eager, keen, avid, desirous, hungry, ravenous, *informal* piggish

vortex ▶ **noun** WHIRLWIND, whirlpool, gyre, maelstrom, eddy, swirl

vote ▶ **noun** ① *a rigged vote* BALLOT, poll, election, referendum, plebiscite, show of hands ② *in 1918 women got the vote* SUFFRAGE, voting rights, franchise, enfranchisement, voice, say

▶ **verb** ① *only half of them voted* GO TO THE POLLS, cast one's vote ② *I vote we have one more game* SUGGEST, propose, recommend, advocate, move, table, submit

■ **vote someone in** ELECT, return, select, choose, pick, adopt, appoint, designate, opt for, plump for, decide on

vouch

■ **vouch for** ATTEST TO, confirm, affirm, verify, swear to, testify to, bear out, back up, support, stick up for, corroborate, substantiate, prove, uphold, give credence to, endorse, certify, warrant, validate

voucher ▶ **noun** COUPON, token, ticket, licence, permit, carnet, pass, chit, slip, stub, docket, *Brit informal* chitty, *N Amer informal* ducat, comp

vouchsafe ▶ **verb** ① *the grace which God had vouchsafed him* GRANT, give, accord, confer on, bestow on, favour with ② *you never vouchsafed that information before* DISCLOSE, reveal, divulge, impart, give away, make known, broadcast, air,

informal blab, spill, *Brit informal* cough ③ *if he would only vouchsafe to talk with them* DEIGN, condescend, stoop, lower oneself, humble oneself, demean oneself

-OPPOSITES withhold, conceal

vow ▶ **noun** *a vow of silence* OATH, pledge, promise, bond, covenant, commitment, avowal, profession, affirmation, attestation, assurance, guarantee, word (of honour), *formal* troth

-RELATED TERMS votive

▶ **verb** *I vowed to do better* SWEAR, pledge, promise, avow, undertake, engage, make a commitment, give one's word, guarantee, *archaic* plight

voyage ▶ **noun** *the voyage lasted 120 days* JOURNEY, trip, expedition, excursion, tour, hike, trek, pilgrimage, quest, crusade, odyssey, cruise, passage, flight, drive

▶ **verb** *he voyaged through Peru* TRAVEL, journey, tour, globetrot, sail, steam, cruise, fly, drive, *informal* gallivant, *archaic* peregrinate

vulgar ▶ **adjective** ① *a vulgar joke* RUDE, indecent, indelicate, offensive, distasteful, coarse, crude, ribald, risqué, naughty, suggestive, racy, earthy, off colour, bawdy, obscene, lewd, salacious, smutty, dirty, filthy, pornographic, X-rated, *informal* sleazy, raunchy, blue, locker-room, *Brit informal* saucy, close to the bone, *N Amer informal* gamy, *euphemistic* adult ② *the decor was lavish but vulgar* TASTELESS, crass, tawdry, ostentatious, flamboyant, overdone, showy, gaudy, garish, brassy, kitsch, tinselly, loud, *informal* flash, flashy, tacky, over the top ③ *it was vulgar for a woman to whistle* IMPOLITE, ill-mannered, unmannerly, indecorous, unseemly, ill-bred, boorish, uncouth, crude, rough, unsophisticated, unrefined, common

-OPPOSITES tasteful, decorous

vulnerable ▶ **adjective** ① *a vulnerable city* IN DANGER, in peril, in jeopardy, at risk, endangered, unsafe, unprotected, unguarded, open to attack, assailable, exposed, wide open, undefended, unfortified, unarmed, defenceless, helpless, pregnable ② *he is vulnerable to criticism* EXPOSED TO, open to, liable to, prone to, prey to, susceptible to, subject to, an easy target for, *archaic* susceptible of

-OPPOSITES resilient

Ww

wacky ► **adjective** (*informal*) See ECCENTRIC adjective

wad ► **noun** ① a wad of cotton wool LUMP, clump, mass, plug, pad, hunk, wedge, ball, cake, nugget, bit, piece, *Brit informal* wodge ② a wad of dollar bills BUNDLE, roll, pile, stack, sheaf, *N Amer* bankroll ③ a wad of tobacco QUID, twist, plug, chew

► **verb** the teddy bear was wadded with cotton STUFF, pad, fill, pack, wrap, cover, cushion

wadding ► **noun** STUFFING, filling, filler, packing, padding, cushioning, quilting

waddle ► **verb** TODDLE, dodder, totter, wobble, shuffle, duckwalk

wade ► **verb** ① they waded in the icy water PAD DLE, wallow, dabble, squelch, *informal* splosh ② I had to wade through some hefty documents PLOUGH, plod, trawl, labour, toil, study, browse, *informal* slog

■ **wade in** (*informal*) SET TO WORK, buckle down, go to it, put one's shoulder to the wheel, *informal* plunge in, dive in, get stuck in, get cracking

waffle (*Brit informal*) ► **verb** they waffled on about the baby PRATTLE, chatter, babble, ramble, jabber, gibber, gabble, prate, drivel, *informal* blather, *Brit informal* rabbit, witter, natter

► **noun** my panic reduced the interview to waffle PRATTLE, drivel, nonsense, twaddle, gibberish, mumbo-jumbo, *informal* hot air, poppycock, bunk, hogwash, gobbledegook

waft ► **verb** ① smoke wafted through the air DRIFT, float, glide, whirl, travel ② a breeze wafted the smell towards us CONVEY, carry, transport, bear, blow, puff

wag¹ ► **verb** ① the dog's tail wagged frantically SWING, swish, switch, sway, shake, quiver, twitch, whip, *informal* waggle ② he wagged his stick at them SHAKE, wave, wiggle, flourish, brandish

► **noun** ① a feeble wag of her tail SWING, shake, swish, switch, quiver, twitch, whip, *informal* waggle ② a wag of the finger SHAKE, flourish, wiggle, wobble, wave, *informal* waggle

wag² ► **noun** (*informal*) he's a bit of a wag See JOKER

wage ► **noun** ① the farm workers' wages PAY, payment, remuneration, salary, stipend, fee, honorarium, income, revenue, profit, gain, reward, earnings, *formal* emolument ② the wages of sin is death REWARD, recompense, retribution, returns, deserts

► **verb** they waged war on the guerrillas ENGAGE IN, carry on, conduct, execute, pursue, prosecute, proceed with

wager ► **noun** a wager of £100 BET gamble, speculation, stake, pledge, ante, *Brit informal* flutter

► **verb** I'll wager a pound on the home team BET, gamble, lay odds, put money on, stake, pledge, risk, venture, hazard, chance, *informal* punt

waggle ► **verb** (*informal*). See WAG¹ verb senses 1, 2

waif ► **noun** RAGAMUFFIN, urchin, foundling, orphan, stray, derogatory guttersnipe, dated gamin

wail ► **noun** a wail of anguish HOWL, bawl, yowl, cry, moan, groan, shriek, scream, yelp

► **verb** the children began to wail HOWL, weep, cry, sob, moan, groan, keen, lament, yowl, snivel, whimper, whine, bawl, shriek, scream, yelp, caterwaul, *Scottish greet, informal* blubber, blub

wait ► **verb** ① we'll wait in the airport STAY (PUT), remain, rest, stop, halt, pause, linger, loiter, dally, *informal* stick around, archaic tarry ② she had to wait until her bags arrived STAND BY, hold back, bide one's time, hang fire, mark time, kill time, waste time, kick one's heels, twiddle one's thumbs, *informal* hold on, hang around, sit tight, hold one's horses ③ they were waiting for the kettle to boil AWAIT, anticipate, expect, be ready ④ that job will have to wait BE POSTPONED, be delayed, be put off, be deferred, *informal* be put on the back burner, be put on ice

► **noun** a long wait DELAY, hold-up, interval, interlude, intermission, pause, break, stay, cessation, suspension, stoppage, halt, interruption, lull, respite, recess, moratorium, hiatus, gap, rest

■ **wait on someone** SERVE, attend to, tend, cater for/to, minister to, take care of, look after, see to

■ **wait up** STAY AWAKE, stay up

waiter, waitress ► **noun** SERVER, stewardess, steward, attendant, garçon, hostess, host, butler, servant, page, *N Amer* waitperson

waive ► **verb** ① he waived his right to a hearing RELINQUISH, renounce, give up, abandon, surrender, yield, reject, dispense with, abdicate, sacrifice, refuse, turn down, spurn ② the manager waived the rules DISREGARD, ignore, overlook, set aside, forgo, drop

wake¹ ► **verb** ① at 4.30 am Mark woke up AWAKE, waken (up), awaken, rouse oneself, stir, come to, come round, bestir oneself, get up, get out of bed, *formal* arise ② she woke her husband ROUSE, arouse, waken, *Brit informal* knock up ③ the shock woke him up a bit ACTIVATE, stimulate, galvanize, enliven, stir up, spur on, ginger up, buoy up, invigorate, perk up, revitalize, *informal* pep up ④ they woke up to what we were saying REALIZE, become aware of, become conscious of, become mindful of ⑤ the name woke an old memory EVOKE, conjure up, rouse, stir, revive, awaken, rekindle, rejuvenate, stimulate

—OPPOSITES sleep

► **noun** a mourner at a wake VIGIL, watch, funeral

wake² ► **noun** the cruiser's wake BACKWASH, wash, slipstream, turbulence, trail, path

■ **in the wake of** IN THE AFTERMATH OF, after, subsequent to, following, as a result of, as a consequence of, on account of, because of, owing to

wakeful ► **adjective** ① he had been wakeful all night. AWAKE, restless, restive, tossing and turning; archaic watchful ② I was suddenly wakeful

atchful, vigilant, on the lookout, on
ard, attentive, heedful, wary
ITBS asleep, inattentive
on ► verb. See WAKE¹ verb senses 1, 2
es ► noun Cambria, *Brit* the Principality See
list

Counties of Wales

COUNTY	ADMINISTRATIVE CENTRE
Anglesey	Llangefni
Cardiganshire	Cardigan
Ceredigion	Aberaeron
Denbighshire	Ruthin
Flintshire	Mold
Gwynedd	Caernarfon
Monmouthshire	Cwmbran
Pembrokeshire	Haverfordwest
Powys	Llandrindod Wells

FORMER/TRADITIONAL COUNTIES

Breconshire
Caernarvonshire
Cardiganshire
Clywd
Dyfed
East Glamorgan
Glamorgan
Gwent
Merionethshire
Mid Glamorgan
Montgomeryshire
Radnorshire
South Glamorgan
West Glamorgan

walk ► verb ① they walked along the road STROLL, saunter, amble, trudge, plod, hike, tramp, trek, march, stride, troop, patrol, step out, wander, ramble, tread, prowl, footslog, promenade, roam, traipse, stretch one's legs, *informal* mosey, pootle, hoof it, *Brit informal* yomp, *formal* perambulate ② he walked her home ACCOMPANY, escort, guide, show, see, usher, take, chaperone, steer, shepherd.

► noun ① country walks STROLL, saunter, amble, promenade; ramble, hike, tramp, march, turn, airing; *dated* constitutional. ② her elegant walk: GAIT, step, stride, tread. ③ the riverside walk: PATHWAY, path, footpath, track, walkway, promenade, footway, pavement, trail, towpath

■ **walk all over someone** (*informal*) ① be firm or they'll walk all over you: TAKE ADVANTAGE OF, impose on, exploit, use, abuse, misuse, manipulate, take liberties with; *informal* take for a ride, run rings around. ② we walked all over the home team See TROUNCE

■ **walk off/away with** ① (*informal*) she walked off with my car keys See STEAL verb sense 1 ② he walked off with four awards WIN EASILY, win hands down, attain, earn, gain, receive, acquire, secure, collect, pick up, net; *informal* bag.

■ **walk of life** CLASS, status, rank, caste, sphere, arena; profession, career, vocation, job, occupation, employment, business, trade, craft; province, field; *dated* station

■ **walk out** ① he walked out in a temper LEAVE, depart, get up and go, storm off/out, flounce out, absent oneself; *informal* take off ② teachers

walked out in protest (GO ON) STRIKE, stop work, protest, mutiny, revolt; *Brit informal* down tools.

■ **walk out on someone** DESERT, abandon, leave, betray, throw over, jilt, run out on, rat on, *informal* chuck, dump, ditch

walker ► noun HIKER, Rambler, traveller, roamer, rover, stroller, pedestrian, *poetic/literary* wayfarer

walkout ► noun STRIKE, stoppage, industrial action, revolt, rebellion

walkover ► noun EASY VICTORY, rout, landslide, *informal* piece of cake, doddle, pushover, cinch, breeze, picnic, whitewash, *N Amer informal* duck soup, *dated* snip

wall ► noun ① brick walls BARRIER, partition, enclosure, screen, panel, separator ② an ancient city wall FORTIFICATION, rampart, barricade, bulwark, stockade ③ break down the walls that stop world trade OBSTACLE, barrier, fence, impediment, hindrance, block, check

—RELATED TERMS mural

► verb ① tenements walled in the courtyard ENCLOSE, bound, encircle, confine, hem, close in, shut in, fence in ② the doorway had been walled up BLOCK, seal, close, brick up

■ **go to the wall** (*informal*) See FAIL sense 1

■ **off the wall** (*informal*). See UNCONVENTIONAL

wallet ► noun PURSE, *N Amer* billfold, pocket-book, *Brit dated* notecase

wallop ► verb (*informal*). See THUMP verb sense 1

wallow ► verb ① buffalo wallowed in the lake LOLL ABOUT/AROUND, lie about/around, splash about/around, slosh, wade, paddle, *informal* splosh ② a ship wallowing in stormy seas ROLL, lurch, toss, plunge, reel, rock, flounder, keel, list, labour ③ she seems to wallow in self-pity LUXURIATE, bask, take pleasure, take satisfaction, indulge (oneself), delight, revel, glory, enjoy, like, love, relish, savour; *informal* get a kick out of, get a buzz from

wan ► adjective ① she looked so wan and frail PALE, pallid, ashen, white, grey, anaemic, colourless, bloodless, waxen, chalky, pasty, peaky, sickly, washed out, drained, drawn, ghostly. ② the wan light of the moon. DIM, faint, weak, feeble, pale, watery
—OPPOSITES flushed, bright.

wand ► noun BATON, stick, staff, bar, dowel, rod, twig, cane, birch, switch, *historical* caduceus

wander ► verb ① I wandered around the estate. STROLL, amble, saunter, walk, dawdle, potter, ramble, meander; roam, rove, range, drift, prowl, *Scottish & Irish* stravaig; *informal* traipse, mosey, tootle, *Brit informal* mooch. ② we are wandering from the point: STRAY, depart, diverge, veer, swerve, deviate, digress, drift, get sidetracked. ③ the child wandered off: GET LOST, lose one's way, go astray. ④ the road wanders along the shore: MEANDER, wind, twist, curve, zigzag, bend, snake.

► noun let's go for a wander STROLL, amble, saunter, walk, potter, ramble, prowl, promenade, turn, breather, airing; *informal* traipse, mosey, tootle; *Brit informal* mooch, *dated* constitutional.

wanderer ► noun TRAVELLER, Rambler, hiker, migrant, globetrotter, roamer, rover; itinerant, rolling stone, bird of passage, nomad; tramp, drifter, vagabond, vagrant; *Brit informal* dossier; *N Amer informal* hobo, bum, *poetic/literary* wayfarer.

wane ▶ **verb** ① the moon is waning: DECREASE, diminish, dwindle ② their support was waning: DECLINE, diminish, decrease, dwindle, shrink, tail off, ebb, fade (away), lessen, peter out, fall off, recede, slump, flag, weaken, give way, wither, evaporate, die out, *poetic/literary* evanesce –OPPOSITES wax, grow

■ **on the wane** DECLINING, decreasing, diminishing, dwindling, shrinking, contracting, tapering off, subsiding, ebbing, fading away, dissolving, petering out, winding down, falling off, on the way out, receding, flagging, melting away, crumbling, withering, disintegrating, evaporating, dying out

wangle ▶ **verb** (*informal*) See CONTRIVE

want ▶ **verb** ① do you want more coffee? DESIRE, wish for, hope for, fancy, care for, like, long for, yearn for, crave, hanker after, hunger for, thirst for, cry out for, covet, need, *informal* have a yen for, be dying for ② (*informal*) his toaster wants repairing: NEED, require, demand, cry out for ③ (*informal*) you want to be more careful: SHOULD, ought, need, must ④ (*archaic*) his poem wants a name: LACK, be without, have need of, be devoid of, be bereft of

▶ **noun** ① his want of vigilance: LACK, absence, non-existence, unavailability, dearth, deficiency, inadequacy, insufficiency, paucity, shortage, scarcity, deficit ② a time of want: NEED, neediness, austerity, privation, deprivation, poverty, impoverishment, penury, destitution, famine, drought ③ all her wants would be taken care of: WISH, desire, demand, longing, yearning, fancy, craving, hankering, need, requirement, *informal* yen

wanting ▶ **adjective** ① the defences were found wanting: DEFICIENT, inadequate, lacking, insufficient, imperfect, unacceptable, flawed, faulty, defective, unsound, substandard, inferior, second-rate, poor, shoddy, *Brit informal* not much cop ② the kneecap is wanting in amphibians: ABSENT, missing, lacking, non-existent ③ millions were left wanting for food: WITHOUT, lacking, deprived of, devoid of, bereft of, in need of, deficient in, short on, *informal* minus –OPPOSITES sufficient, present

wanton ▶ **adjective** ① wanton destruction: DELIBERATE, wilful, malicious, spiteful, wicked, cruel, gratuitous, unprovoked, motiveless, arbitrary, groundless, unjustifiable, needless, unnecessary, uncalled for, senseless, pointless, purposeless, meaningless, empty ② a wanton seductress: PROMISCUOUS, immoral, immodest, indecent, shameless, unchaste, fast, impure, abandoned, lustful, lecherous, lascivious, libidinous, licentious, dissolute, debauched, degenerate, corrupt, whorish, disreputable, *dated* loose –OPPOSITES justifiable, chaste

war ▶ **noun** ① the Napoleonic wars: CONFLICT, warfare, combat, fighting, (military) action, bloodshed, struggle, battle, skirmish, fight, clash, engagement, encounter, offensive, attack, campaign; hostilities; jihad, crusade See list ② the war against drugs: CAMPAIGN, crusade, battle, fight, struggle, movement, drive –RELATED TERMS belligerent, martial. –OPPOSITES peace

▶ **verb** rival Emperors warred against each other: FIGHT, battle, combat, wage war, take up arms, feud, quarrel, struggle, contend, wrangle, cross swords; attack, engage, take on, skirmish with

Wars

See also BATTLE, SIEGE.

Afghan War
American Civil War
Anglo-Boer War or
Second Boer War
Balkan Wars
Boer Wars
Bosnian/Yugoslavian
Civil War
Chaco War
Chechen Wars
Crimean War
Crusades
English Civil War
Falklands War
First World War or
World War I or Great
War
Franco-Prussian War
French and Indian War
French Indochina War
French Wars of
Religion
Gallic Wars
Great Northern War
Greek War of
Independence
Gulf War
Hundred Years War
Iran-Iraq War or Gulf
War
Korean War
Kosovo War
Macedonian Wars
Maori Wars
Mexican War
Napoleonic Wars
Norman Conquest
Opium Wars

Peloponnesian War
Peninsular War
Persian Wars
Punic Wars
Russian Civil War
Russo-Japanese War
Russo-Turkish Wars
Samnite Wars
Second World War or
World War II
Seven Years War
Sikh Wars
Sino-Japanese Wars
Six Day War or June
War
Spanish-American War
Spanish Civil War
Suez crisis
Thirty Years War
Trojan War
Vietnam War
War against Terrorism
War of 1812
War of American
Independence
War of Jenkins's Ear
War of the Austrian
Succession
War of the Sicilian
Vespers
War of the Spanish
Succession
Wars of the Roses
Winter War or Russo-
Finnish War
Yom Kippur War or
October War

warble ▶ **verb** larks warbled in the sky: TRILL, sing, chirp, chirrup, cheep, twitter, tweet, chatter, peep

▶ **noun** a warble pierced the air: TRILL, song, chirp, chirrup, chirr, cheep, twitter, tweet, chatter, peep, call

ward ▶ **noun** ① the surgical ward: ROOM, department, unit, area ② the most marginal ward in Westminster: DISTRICT, constituency, division, quarter, zone, parish ③ the boy is my ward: DEPENDANT, charge, protégé

■ **ward someone off** FEND OFF, repel, repulse, beat back, chase away, *informal* send packing

■ **ward something off** ① she warded off the blow: PARRY, avert, deflect, block, evade, avoid, dodge ② garlic is worn to ward off evil spirits: REBUFF, avert, keep at bay, fend off, stave off, resist, prevent, obstruct, foil, frustrate, thwart, check, stop

warden ▶ **noun** ① the flats have a resident warden: SUPERINTENDENT, caretaker, janitor, porter, custodian, watchman, concierge, doorman ② a game warden: RANGER, custodian, keeper, guardian, protector ③ he was handcuffed to a warden: PRISON OFFICER, guard, jailer, warder, wardress, keeper, sentry; *informal* screw ④ (*Brit*) the college warden: PRINCIPAL, head, governor, master, mis-

treasurer, rector, provost, president, director, chancellor, *N Amer informal prexy*

warder, wardress ▶ noun. See **WARDEN** sense 3

wardrobe ▶ noun ① she opened the wardrobe CUPBOARD, cabinet, locker, *N Amer closet* ② her wardrobe has an outfit for every mood COLLECTION OF CLOTHES, garments, attire, outfits, trousseau

warehouse ▶ noun STOREROOM, storehouse, store, depot, depository, stockroom, magazine, granary, *informal lock-up*

wares ▶ plural noun MERCHANDISE, goods, products, produce, stock, commodities, lines, range

warfare ▶ noun FIGHTING, war, combat, conflict, (military) action, hostilities, bloodshed, battles, skirmishes

warlike ▶ adjective AGGRESSIVE, belligerent, warring, bellicose, pugnacious, combative, bloodthirsty, jingoistic, sabre-rattling, hostile, threatening, quarrelsome, militaristic, militant, *informal gung-ho*

warlock ▶ noun SORCERER, wizard, magus, (black) magician, enchanter, *archaic mage*

warm ▶ adjective ① a warm kitchen HOT, cosy, snug, *informal toasty* ② a warm day in spring BALMY, summery, sultry, hot, mild, temperate, sunny, fine ③ warm water HEATED, tepid, lukewarm ④ a warm sweater THICK, chunky, thermal, winter, woolly ⑤ a warm welcome FRIENDLY, cordial, amiable, genial, kind, pleasant, fond, welcoming, hospitable, benevolent, benign, charitable, sincere, genuine, wholehearted, heartfelt, enthusiastic, eager, hearty ⑥ (*informal*) they haven't found it, but they're warm CLOSE, near, *informal hot*

—OPPOSITES cold, chilly, light, hostile

▶ verb warm the soup in that pun HEAT (UP), reheat, cook, thaw (out), melt, *N Amer warm over, informal zap, Brit informal hot up*

—OPPOSITES chill

■ warm to/towards ① everyone warmed to him LIKE, take to, get on (well) with, be on good terms with, *informal hit it off with* ② he couldn't warm to the notion BE ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT, be supportive of, be excited about

■ warm up LIMBER UP, loosen up, stretch, work out, exercise, prepare, rehearse

■ warm someone up the compere warmed up the crowd ENLIVEN, liven, stimulate, animate, rouse, stir, excite, *informal get going*

warm-blooded ▶ adjective ① mammals are warm-blooded Zoology HOMEOTHERMIC, homeothermal ② a warm-blooded woman PASSIONATE, ardent, red-blooded, emotional, intense, impetuous, lively, spirited, fiery, tempestuous

—OPPOSITES poikilothermic, reserved

warmed-up ▶ adjective ① a warmed-up pasta REHEATED, *N Amer warmed-over* ② warmed-up ideas UNORIGINAL, derivative, imitative, uninspired, copied, plagiarized, rehearsed, hackneyed, stale, tired, banal, *informal old hat*

—OPPOSITES original

warm-hearted ▶ adjective KIND, warm, big-hearted, tender-hearted, tender, loving, caring, feeling, unselfish, selfless, benevolent, humane, good-natured, friendly, sympathetic, understanding, compassionate, charitable, generous

warmonger ▶ noun MILITARIST, hawk, jingoist, sabre-rattler, aggressor, belligerent

warmth ▶ noun ① the warmth of the fire HEAT, warmth, hotness, cosiness ② the warmth of their welcome FRIENDLINESS, amiability, geniality, cordiality, kindness, tenderness, fondness, benevolence, charity, enthusiasm, eagerness, ardour, fervour, effusiveness

warn ▶ verb ① David warned her that it was too late NOTIFY, alert, apprise, inform, tell, make someone aware, forewarn, remind, *informal tip off*, put wise ② police are warning galleries to be alert ADVISE, exhort, urge, counsel, caution

warning ▶ noun ① the earthquake came without warning (ADVANCE) NOTICE, forewarning, alert, hint, signal, sign, alarm bells, *informal a tip-off* ② a health warning CAUTION, notification, information, exhortation, injunction, advice ③ a warning of things to come OMEN, premonition, foreboding, prophecy, prediction, forecast, token, portent, signal, sign, poetic/literary foreshadowing ④ his sentence is a warning to other drunk drivers EXAMPLE, deterrent, lesson, caution, exemplar, message, moral ⑤ a written warning ADMONITION, caution, remonstrance, reprimand, censure, *informal dressing-down*, talking-to, telling-off

warp ▶ verb ① timber which is too dry will warp BUCKLE, twist, bend, distort, deform, misshape, malform, curve, bow, contort ② he warped the mind of her child CORRUPT, twist, pervert, deprave

—OPPOSITES straighten

warrant ▶ noun ① a warrant for his arrest AUTHORIZATION, order, licence, permit, document, writ, summons, subpoena, mandate, decree, fiat, edict ② a travel warrant VOUCHER, chit, slip, ticket, coupon, pass ③ there's no warrant for this assumption JUSTIFICATION, grounds, cause, rationale, basis, authority, licence, sanction, vindication

▶ verb ① the charges warranted a severe sentence JUSTIFY, vindicate, call for, sanction, validate, permit, authorize, deserve, excuse, account for, legitimize, support, license, approve of, merit, qualify for, rate, be worthy of, be deserving of ② we warrant that the texts do not infringe copyright GUARANTEE, affirm, swear, promise, vow, pledge, undertake, state, assert, declare, profess, attest, vouch, testify, bear witness, *formal aver*

warranty ▶ noun GUARANTEE, assurance, promise, commitment, undertaking, agreement

warring ▶ adjective OPPOSING, conflicting, at war, fighting, battling, quarrelling, competing, hostile, rival

warrior ▶ noun FIGHTER, soldier, serviceman, combatant

warship ▶ noun See list

wary ▶ adjective ① he was trained to be wary CAUTIOUS, careful, circumspect, on one's guard, chary, alert, on the lookout, on one's toes, on the qui vive, attentive, heedful, watchful, vigilant, observant, *informal wide awake* ② we are wary of strangers SUSPICIOUS, chary, leery, careful, distrustful, mistrustful, sceptical, doubtful, dubious

—OPPOSITES inattentive, trustful

wash ▶ verb ① he washed in the bath CLEAN ONESELF, have a wash; bathe, bath, shower, soak, freshen up; *formal perform one's ablutions, dated make one's toilet*. ② she washed her hands



Warships

See also SHIP.

Admiral Graf Spee	Iowa
Agamemnon	Kiev
Alabama	King George V
Amethyst	Kuznetsov
Arizona	Mary Rose
Ark Royal	Nautilus
Belfast	New Jersey
Belgrano	Nimitz
Bismarck	Potemkin
Bounty	Queen Elizabeth
Conqueror	Resolution
Constitution	Royal George
Dreadnought	Royal Sovereign
Enterprise	Tirpitz
Gloire	Victory
Hood	Warrior
Illustrious	Warspite
Invincible	Yamato

CLEAN, cleanse, sponge, scrub, wipe, scour, shampoo, lather, sluice, swill, douse, swab, disinfect ③ she washed off the blood REMOVE, expunge, eradicate, sponge off, scrub off, wipe off, rinse off ④ the women were washing clothes LAUNDER, clean, rinse, poetic/literary lave ⑤ waves washed against the hull SPLASH, lap, splosh, dash, break, beat, surge, ripple, roll ⑥ the wreckage was washed up downriver SWEEP, carry, convey, transport, deposit ⑦ guilt washed over her AFFECT, rush through, surge through, course through, flood over, flow over ⑧ the stonework was washed with pastel paint PAINT, colour, tint, shade, dye, stain coat, cover ⑨ (informal) this story just won't wash BE ACCEPTED, be acceptable, be plausible, be convincing, hold up, hold water, stand up, bear scrutiny
—OPPOSITES dirty, soil

► **noun** ① she needs a wash CLEAN, shower, dip, bath, soak, formal ablutions ② that shirt should go in the wash LAUNDRY, washing ③ antiseptic skin wash LOTION, salve, preparation, rinse, liquid, liniment, embrocation ④ the wash of a motor boat BACKWASH, wake, trail, path ⑤ the wash of the waves on the beach SURGE, flow, swell, sweep, rise and fall, roll, splash ⑥ water thinned out the crayon into a wash PAINT, stain, film

■ **wash something away** ERODE, abrade, wear away, eat away, undermine

■ **wash one's hands of** DISOWN, renounce, reject, forswear, disavow, give up on, turn one's back on, cast aside, abandon, formal abjure

■ **wash up** WASH THE DISHES, do the dishes, do the washing-up

washed out ► **adjective** ① a washed-out denim jacket. FADED, bleached, decolorized, stone-washed, pale, light, drab muted ② he looked washed out after his exams EXHAUSTED, tired, worn out, weary, fatigued, spent, drained, enervated, run down, informal all in, done in, dog-tired, bushed, beat, zonked, Brit informal knackered, N Amer informal pooped, tuckered out

—OPPOSITES bold, energetic

washout ► **noun** (informal) See FAILURE senses 2,

3

wasplish ► **adjective** IRRITABLE, touchy, testy, cross, snappish, cantankerous, splenetic, short-tempered, bad-tempered, moody, crotchety, crabby, ratty, informal grouchy

waste ► **verb** ① he doesn't like to waste money SQUANDER, misspend, misuse, fritter away, throw away, lavish, dissipate, throw around, informal blow, splurge ② kids are wasting away in the streets GROW WEAK, grow thin, shrink, decline, wilt, fade, flag, deteriorate, degenerate, languish ③ the disease wasted his legs EMACIATE, atrophy, wither, debilitate, shrivel, shrink, weaken, enfeeble ④ (poetic/literary) our country was wasted by the enemy See DEVASTATE sense 1 ⑤ (N Amer informal) I saw them waste the guy See MURDER verb sense 1

—OPPOSITES conserve, thrive

► **adjective** ① waste material UNWANTED, excess, superfluous, left over, scrap, useless, worthless, unusable, unprofitable ② waste ground UNCULTIVATED, barren, desert, arid, bare, desolate, void, uninhabited, unpopulated, wild

► **noun** ① a waste of money MISUSE, misapplication, misemployment, abuse, extravagance, wastefulness, lavishness ② household waste RUBBISH, refuse, litter, debris, dross, junk, detritus, scrap, dregs, scraps, sewage, effluent, N Amer garbage, trash ③ the frozen wastes of the South Pole DESERT, wasteland, wilderness, emptiness, wilds

■ **lay waste.** See LAY

wasted ► **adjective** ① a wasted effort SQUANDERED, misspent, misdirected, misused, dissipated, pointless, useless, needless, unnecessary ② a wasted opportunity MISSED, lost, forfeited, neglected, squandered, bungled, informal down the drain ③ I'm wasted in this job UNDEREMPLOYED, underused, too good for, neglected, forgotten, disregarded ④ his wasted legs EMACIATED, atrophied, withered, shrivelled, weak, frail, shrunken, skeletal, rickety, scrawny, wizened ⑤ (informal) everybody at the party was wasted See DRUNK adjective

wasteful ► **adjective** PRODIGAL, profligate, uneconomical, extravagant, lavish, excessive, imprudent, improvident, thriftless, spendthrift, needless, useless

—OPPOSITES frugal

wasteland ► **noun** WILDERNESS, desert, wilds, wastes, badlands

waster ► **noun** (informal) IDLER, loafer, good-for-nothing, ne'er-do-well, slob, lounge, shirker, sluggard, laggard, informal loser, skiver, slacker, lazybones, N Amer informal bum, poetic/literary wastrel

wastrel ► **noun** (poetic/literary) See WASTER

watch ► **verb** ① she watched him as he spoke OBSERVE, view, look at, eye, gaze at, stare at, gape at, peer at, contemplate, survey, keep an eye on, inspect, scrutinize, scan, examine, study, ogle, regard, mark, informal check out, get a load of, recce, Brit informal have a butcher's at, N Amer informal eyeball, poetic/literary behold ② he was being watched by the police SPY ON, keep in sight, track, monitor, survey, follow, keep under surveillance, informal keep tabs on, stake out ③ will you watch the kids? LOOK AFTER, mind, keep an eye on, take care of, supervise, tend, attend to, guard, safeguard, protect ④ we stayed to watch the boat GUARD, protect, shield, defend, safeguard, cover, patrol, police ⑤ watch what you say BE CAREFUL, mind, be



aware of, pay attention to, consider, pay heed to

—OPPOSITES ignore, neglect

► **noun** ① *Bill looked at his watch* TIMEPIECE, chronometer, wristwatch, pocket watch, stopwatch See list at CLOCK ② *we kept watch on the yacht* GUARD, vigil, lookout, an eye, observation, surveillance, vigilance

■ **watch out/it/yourself** BE CAREFUL, be watchful, be on your guard, beware, be wary, be cautious, mind out, look out, pay attention, take heed, take care, keep an eye open/out, keep one's eyes peeled, be vigilant

watchdog ► **noun** ① *they use watchdogs to ward off trespassers* GUARD DOG ② *a consumer watchdog* OMBUDSMAN, monitor, scrutineer, inspector, supervisor, custodian, guardian, protector

watcher ► **noun** ONLOOKER, spectator, observer, viewer, fly on the wall, witness, bystander, spy, informal rubberneck, poetic/literary beholder

watchful ► **adjective** OBSERVANT, alert, vigilant, attentive, awake, aware, heedful, sharp-eyed, eagle-eyed, on the lookout, on the qui vive, wary, cautious, careful, chary

watchman ► **noun** SECURITY GUARD, custodian, warden, sentry, guard, patrolman, lookout, sentinel, scout, watch

watchword ► **noun** GUIDING PRINCIPLE, motto, slogan, maxim, mantra, catchword, catchphrase, byword, informal buzzword

water ► **noun** ① *a glass of water* technical H₂O, dated Adam's ale ② *a house down by the water* SEA, ocean, lake, river

—RELATED TERMS aqueous, aqua-

► **verb** ① *water the plants* SPRINKLE, moisten, dampen, wet, spray, splash, soak, douse, souse, drench, saturate, hose (down) ② *my mouth watered* MOISTEN, become wet, leak, salivate ③ *he watered the claret* See WATER SOMETHING DOWN sense 1

■ **hold water** BE TENABLE, ring true, bear scrutiny, make sense, stand up, hold up, be convincing, be plausible, be sound

■ **water something down** ① *staff had watered down the drinks* DILUTE, water, thin (out), weaken, adulterate, doctor, mix, informal cut ② *the proposals were watered down* MODERATE, temper, mitigate, tone down, soften, tame, understate, play down, soft-pedal

waterfall ► **noun** CASCADE, cataract, falls, rapids, N English force See list

waterproof ► **adjective** a waterproof jacket WATERTIGHT, water-repellent, water-resistant, damp-proof, impermeable, impervious, rubberized, waxed

► **noun** (Brit) *she put on a waterproof* RAINCOAT, anorak, oilskin, cagoule, Brit mackintosh, Brit informal mac

watertight ► **adjective** ① *a watertight container* IMPERMFABLE, impervious, (hermetically) sealed, waterproof, water-repellent, water-resistant, damp-proof ② *a watertight alibi* INDISPUTABLE, unquestionable, incontrovertible, irrefutable, unassailable, impregnable, foolproof, sound, flawless, airtight, conclusive.

—OPPOSITES leaky, flawed

watery ► **adjective** ① *a watery discharge* LIQUID, fluid, aqueous, technical hydrous ② *a watery meadow* WET, damp, moist, sodden, soggy, squelchy, soft, saturated, waterlogged, boggy,

Waterfalls

WATERFALL	COUNTRY
Angel	Venezuela
Augrabies	South Africa
Boyoma (formerly Stanley)	Congo
Cauvery	India
Cuquenán	Venezuela
Della	Canada
Eas Coul Aulin	Scotland
Gersoppa	India
Glomach	Scotland
Grande Cascade	France
Huangguoshu	China
Iguaçu	Argentina/Brazil
Jog	India
Kabalega (formerly Murchison Falls)	Uganda
Kaeteur	Guyana
Kalambo	Tanzania/Zambia
Kapachira (formerly Murchison Rapids)	Malawi
Kegon	Japan
Khone	Laos
Kota Tinggi	Malaysia
Krimmler	Austria
Livingstone	Congo
Marmore	Italy
Mardalsfossen	Norway
Niagara	Canada/USA
Paulo Afonso	Brazil
Reichenbach	Switzerland
Ribbon	USA
Ruacana	Angola
Sutherland	New Zealand
Takkakaw	Canada
Tislat	Ethiopia
Tugela	South Africa
Victoria	Zimbabwe/Zambia
Wallaman	Australia
Yosemite	USA

marshy, swampy, miry, muddy ③ *watery porridge* THIN, runny, weak, sloppy, dilute, diluted, tasteless, flavourless, insipid, bland ④ *the light was watery and grey* PALE, wan, faint, weak, feeble, informal wishy-washy. ⑤ *watery eyes* TEARFUL, moist, rheumy, informal teary, weepy, formal lachrymose

—OPPOSITES dry, thick, bright

wave ► **verb** ① *he waved his flag furiously* MOVE UP AND DOWN, move to and fro, wag, shake, swish, sweep, swing, brandish, flourish, wield, flick, flutter, informal waggle ② *the grass waved in the breeze* RIPPLE, flutter, undulate, stir, flap, sway, shake, quiver, move ③ *the waiter waved them closer* GESTURE, gesticulate, signal, beckon, motion

► **noun** ① *she gave him a friendly wave* GESTURE, gesticulation, signal, sign, motion ② *he surfs the big waves* BREAKER, roller, comber, boomer, ripple, white horse, (waves) swell, surf, froth; Austral bombora; archaic billow. ③ *a wave of emigration* FLOW, rush, surge, flood, stream, tide, deluge, spate ④ *a wave of self-pity* SURGE, rush, stab, dart, upsurge; thrill, frisson, feeling. ⑤ *his hair grew in thick waves* CURL, kink, corkscrew, twist, ringlet, coil. ⑥ *electromagnetic waves* ripple, vibration, oscillation See list at RADIATION.



■ **make waves** (informal) CAUSE TROUBLE, be disruptive, be troublesome; make an impression, get noticed.

■ **wave something aside** DISMISS, reject, brush aside, shrug off, disregard, ignore, discount, play down, informal pooh-pooh

■ **wave someone/something down** FLAG DOWN, hail, stop, summon, call, accost

waver ▶ verb ① the candlelight wavered in the draught FLICKER, quiver, twinkle, glimmer, wink, blink ② his voice wavered FALTER, wobble, tremble, quaver ③ he wavered between the choices BE UNDECIDED, be irresolute, hesitate, dither, equivocate, vacillate, fluctuate, think twice, change one's mind, blow hot and cold, *Brit* haver, hum and haw, informal shilly-shally, sit on the fence

wavy ▶ adjective CURLY, curvy, curved, undulating, squiggly, rippled, crinkly, kinked, zigzag

wax ▶ verb ① the moon is waxing GET BIGGER, increase, enlarge ② (poetic/literary) price sensitivity is waxing INCREASE, grow, develop, rise, expand, escalate, intensify, spread, mushroom, snowball

—OPPOSITES wane

■ **wax lyrical** BE ENTHUSIASTIC, enthuse, rave, gush, get carried away

waxen ▶ adjective PALLID, pale, pasty, wan, ashen, colourless, anaemic, bloodless, washed out, white, grey, whitish, waxy, drained, sickly

—OPPOSITES ruddy

waxy ▶ adjective. See WAXEN

way ▶ noun ① a way of reducing the damage METHOD, process, procedure, technique, system, plan, strategy, scheme, means, mechanism, approach ② she kissed him in her brisk way MANER, style, fashion, mode, *modus operandi*, MO ③ I've changed my ways PRACTICE, habit, custom, policy, procedure, convention, routine, *modus vivendi*, trait, attribute, peculiarity, idiosyncrasy, conduct, behaviour, manner, style, nature, personality, temperament, disposition, character; formal wont ④ which way leads home? ROUTE, course, direction, road, street, track, path ⑤ I'll go out the back way DOOR, gate, exit, entrance, entry; route ⑥ a short way downstream DISTANCE, length, stretch, journey, space, interval, span ⑦ April is a long way away TIME, stretch, term, span, duration ⑧ a car coming the other way DIRECTION, bearing, course, orientation, line, tack ⑨ (informal) what do they call it down your way? AREA, region, district, neighbourhood, locality, locale, informal neck of the woods, parts, *Brit* informal manor, *N Amer* informal hood, nabe ⑩ in some ways, he may be better off RESPECT, regard, aspect, facet, sense, detail, point, particular ⑪ the country is in a bad way STATE, condition, situation, circumstances, position, predicament, plight, informal shape.

■ **by the way** INCIDENTALLY, by the by, in passing, en passant

■ **give way** ① the government gave way and passed the bill. YIELD, back down, surrender, concede defeat, give in, submit, succumb, acquiesce, agree, assent; informal throw in the towel/sponge, cave in. ② the door gave way. COLLAPSE, give, cave in, fall in, come apart, crumple ③ grief gave way to guilt: BE REPLACED BY, be succeeded by, be followed by, be supplanted by.

■ **on the way** COMING, imminent, forthcoming,

approaching, impending, close, near, on us, proceeding, en route, in transit

wayfarer ▶ noun (poetic/literary) See WANDERER

waylay ▶ verb ① we were waylaid and robbed AMBUSH, hold up, attack, assail, rob, informal mug, stick up ② several people waylaid her to chat. ACCOST, detain, intercept, take aside, pounce on, importune, informal buttonhole

way-out ▶ adjective (informal) UNCONVENTIONAL, avant-garde, outlandish, eccentric, quirky, unusual, bizarre, strange, peculiar, odd, uncommon; informal far out, offbeat, oddball, off the wall, *Brit* informal rum

—OPPOSITES ordinary

wayward ▶ adjective WILFUL, headstrong, stubborn, obstinate, obdurate, perverse, contrary, disobedient, insubordinate, undisciplined, rebellious, defiant, uncooperative, recalcitrant, unruly, wild, unmanageable, erratic, difficult, impossible, formal refractory

—OPPOSITES docile

weak ▶ adjective ① they are too weak to move FRAIL, feeble, delicate, fragile, infirm, sick, sickly, debilitated, incapacitated, ailing, indisposed, decrepit, tired, fatigued, exhausted, informal weedy ② bats have weak eyes INADEQUATE, poor, feeble, defective, faulty, deficient, imperfect, substandard ③ a weak excuse UNCONVINCING, untenable, tenuous, implausible, unsatisfactory, poor, inadequate, feeble, flimsy, lame, hollow, informal pathetic ④ I was too weak to be a rebel SPINELESS, craven, cowardly, pusillanimous, timid, irresolute, indecisive, ineffectual, inept, effete, meek, tame, ineffective, impotent, soft, faint-hearted, informal yellow, weak-kneed, gutless, chicken ⑤ a weak light DIM, pale, wan, faint, feeble, muted ⑥ a weak voice INDISTINCT, muffled, muted, hushed, faint, low ⑦ weak coffee WATERY, diluted, dilute, watered down, thin, tasteless, flavourless, bland, insipid, wishy-washy ⑧ a weak smile UNENTHUSIASTIC, feeble, half-hearted, lame

—OPPOSITES strong, powerful, convincing, resolute, bright, loud

weaken ▶ verb ① the virus weakened him terribly ENFEEBLE, debilitate, incapacitate, sap, enervate, tire, exhaust, wear out, wither, cripple, disable ② she tried to weaken the shock for him REDUCE, decrease, diminish, lessen, moderate, temper, dilute, blunt, mitigate, soften ③ our morale weakened DECREASE, dwindle, diminish, wane, ebb, subside, peter out, fizzle out, tail off, decline, falter ④ the move weakened her authority IMPAIR, undermine, compromise, invalidate, negate, discredit

weakling ▶ noun MILKSOP, namby-pamby, coward, pushover, informal wimp, weed, sissy, drip, softie, doormat, chicken, yellow-belly, scaredy-cat, *N Amer* informal wuss, pussy

weakness ▶ noun ① with old age came weakness. FRAILTY, feebleness, enfeeblement, fragility, delicacy; infirmity, sickness, sickliness, debility, incapacity, indisposition, decrepitude; informal weediness. ② he has worked on his weaknesses FAULT, flaw, defect, deficiency, weak point, failing, shortcoming, imperfection, Achilles' heel ③ a weakness for champagne: FONDNESS, liking, partiality, preference, love, penchant, soft spot, predilection, inclination, taste, eye; enthusiasm, appetite ④ the President was



accused of weakness TIMIDITY, cravenness, cowardliness, pusillanimity, indecision, irresolution, ineffectuality, ineptitude, meekness, powerlessness, ineffectiveness, impotence ⑤ *the weakness of this argument* UNTENABILITY, implausibility, poverty, inadequacy, transparency, flimsiness, hollowness ⑥ *the weakness of the sound* INDISTINCTNESS, mutedness, faintness, feebleness, lowness, dimness, paleness

weak-willed ▶ *adjective* SPINELESS, weak, irresolute, indecisive, impressionable, persuadable, persuasible, submissive, unassertive, compliant, pusillanimous, *informal* wimpish, chicken

weal ▶ *noun* WELT, wound, lesion, swelling, scar, cicatrix, mark, blemish

wealth ▶ *noun* ① *a gentleman of wealth* AFFLUENCE, prosperity, riches, means, substance, fortune, money, cash, lucre, capital, treasure, finance, assets, possessions, resources, funds, property, stock, reserves, securities, holdings, *informal* wherewithal, dough, bread ② *a wealth of information* ABUNDANCE, profusion, plethora, mine, store, treasury, bounty, cornucopia, *informal* lot, load, heap, mass, mountain, stack, ton, *Brit informal* shedload, *formal* plenitude
—OPPOSITES poverty, dearth

wealthy ▶ *adjective* RICH, affluent, moneyed, well off, well-to-do, prosperous, comfortable, propertied, of substance, *informal* well heeled, rolling in it, in the money, made of money, filthy rich, stinking rich, loaded, flush, quids in, *Austral / NZ informal* financial, *informal, dated* oofy
—OPPOSITES poor

weapon ▶ *noun* See list

Personal Weapons

See also BOMB, BULLET, GUN, PROJECTILE.

axe	épée	pike
backsword	falchion	poleaxe
battleaxe	flick knife	poniard
bayonet	foil	quarterstaff
bilbo	gisarme	rapier
bill	gun	sabre
blackjack	halberd	scimitar
blade	harpoon	shillelagh
bludgeon	hatchet	skean
bowie knife	javelin	skean-dhu
brass	kleywang	slung shot
knuckles	knife	small-sword
broadsword	knobkerrie	snickersnee
chopper	knuckleduster	spear
claymore	kris	staff
club	kukri	stave
commando	lance	stick
knife	lathi	stiletto
cosh	mace	sword
cudgel	machete	swordstick
cutlass	nulla-nulla	tomahawk
dagger	panga	truncheon
danda	parang	yataghan
dirk	partisan	

wear ▶ *verb* ① *he wore a suit* DRESS IN, be clothed in, have on, sport, put on, don ② *Barbara wore a smile* BEAR, have (on one's face), show, display, exhibit, give, put on, assume ③ *the bricks have been worn down* ERODE, abrade, rub away, grind away, wash away, crumble (away), wear down, corrode, eat away (at), dis-

solve ④ *the tyres are wearing well* LAST, endure, hold up, bear up, prove durable ⑤ (*Brit informal*) *I've asked him twice, but he won't wear it* ALLOW, permit, authorize, sanction, condone, indulge, agree to, approve of, put up with, take, stand, support, accept, stomach, swallow, tolerate, countenance, *informal* hack, abide, *Brit informal* stick, *formal* brook, *archaic* suffer

▶ *noun* ① *you won't get much wear out of that* USE, wearing, service, utility, value, *informal* mileage ② *evening wear* CLOTHES, clothing, garments, dress, attire, garb, wardrobe, *informal* get-up, gear, togs *Brit informal* kit, clobber, *formal* apparel, *poetic/literary* array ③ *the varnish which will withstand wear* DAMAGE, friction, erosion, attrition, abrasion

■ **wear something down** *he wore down her resistance* GRADUALLY OVERCOME, slowly reduce, erode, wear away, exhaust, undermine

■ **wear off** *the novelty soon wore off* FADE, diminish, lessen, dwindle, decrease, wane, ebb, peter out, fizzle out, pall, disappear, vanish, run out

■ **wear on** *the afternoon wore on* PASS, elapse, proceed, advance, progress, go by, roll by, march on, slip by/away, fly by/past

■ **wear out** DETERIORATE, become worn, wear thin, fray, become threadbare, go into holes, wear through

■ **wear something out** USE UP, consume, go through

■ **wear someone out** FATIGUE, tire out, weary, exhaust, drain, sap, overtax, enervate, debilitate, jade, prostrate, *informal* whack, poop, shatter, frazzle, do in, *Brit informal* knacker

wearing ▶ *adjective* TIRING, exhausting, wearying, fatiguing, enervating, draining, sapping, demanding, exacting, taxing, arduous, grueling, punishing, difficult, hard, tough, laborious, strenuous, rigorous

wearisome ▶ *adjective* See WEARING

weary ▶ *adjective* ① *he was weary after cycling* TIRED, worn out, exhausted, fatigued, sapped, dog-tired, spent, drained, prostrate, enervated, *informal* all in, done in, dead beat, ready to drop, bushed, worn to a frazzle, shattered, *Brit informal* knackered, whacked, *N Amer informal* pooped, tucked out ② *she was weary of the arguments* TIRED OF, bored by, sick of, *informal* fed up with, have had it up to here with ③ *a weary journey* TIRING, exhausting, wearying, fatiguing, enervating, draining, sapping, wearing, trying, demanding, taxing, arduous, gruelling, difficult, hard, tough

—OPPOSITES fresh, keen, refreshing

▶ *verb* ① *she was wearied by her illness* TIRE, fatigue, wear out, overture, exhaust, drain, sap, enervate, debilitate, enfeeble, prostrate, *informal* whack, bush, shatter, frazzle, poop, do in, *Brit informal* knacker ② *don't risk wearying the reader* BORE, tire, irk, irritate, exasperate ③ *he wearied of the struggle* TIRE OF, become bored by, sicken of, have had enough of, *informal* become fed up with

—OPPOSITES refresh, interest.

wearying ▶ *adjective*. See WEARING

weasel ▶ *noun* See list

weather ▶ *noun* what's the weather like? FORECAST, outlook; meteorological conditions, climate, atmospheric pressure, temperature, elements See list



Weasels and Similar Animals

badger	honey	polecat
beech	badger	ratel
marten	kolinsky	sable
civet	linsang	sea otter
cusimanse	marbled	skunk
ermine	polecat	stink badger
ferret	marten	stoat
ferret-badger	meerkat	suncate
fisher	mink	tayra
fossa	mongoose	teledu
genet	muishond	toddy cat
glutton	otter	weasel
grison	palm civet	wolverine
hoe badger	pine marten	zorilla

Atmospheric Phenomena

See also **WIND**.

anticyclone	pressure system
blocking high	ridge
cold front	shallow depression
cyclone	stationary depression
deep depression	stationary high
depression	temperature inversion
filling depression	thermal
frontal system	trough
high pressure	turbulence
jet stream	warm front
low pressure	warm sector
occlusion	

► **verb** we weathered the recession **SURVIVE**, come through, ride out, pull through, withstand, endure, rise above, surmount, overcome, resist, *in formal* stick out

■ **under the weather** (*informal*) See **ILL** adjective sense 1

weathered ► **adjective** **WEATHER-BEATEN**, worn, tanned, bronzed, lined, creased, wrinkled, gnarled

weave¹ ► **verb** ① flowers were woven into their hair **ENTWINE**, lace, twist, knit, intertwine, braid, plait ② he weaves colourful plots **INVENT**, make up, fabricate, construct, create, contrive, spin, tell, recount, relate

weave² ► **verb** he had to weave his way through the crowds **THREAD**, wind, wend, dodge, zigzag

web ► **noun** ① a spider's web **MESH**, net, lattice, latticework, lacework, webbing, gauze, gossamer ② a web of friendships **NETWORK**, nexus, complex, set, chain

wed ► **verb** ① they are old enough to wed **MARRY**, get married, become husband and wife, *informal* tie the knot, walk down the aisle, get spliced, get hitched ② he will wed his girlfriend **MARRY**, take as one's wife/husband, lead to the altar, *informal* make an honest woman of, *archaic* espouse ③ she wedded the two forms of spirituality **UNITE**, unify, join, combine, amalgamate, fuse, integrate, bond, merge
—**OPPOSITES** divorce, separate

wedded ► **adjective** ① wedded bliss **MARRIED**, matrimonial, marital, conjugal, nuptial, *Law* spousal, *poetic/literary* connubial ② he is wedded to his work **DEDICATED TO**, devoted to, attached to, fixated on, single-minded about

Wedding Anniversaries

1st	paper	12th	silk/linen
2nd	cotton	13th	lace
3rd	leather	14th	ivory
4th	fruit/flowers/ linen/silk	15th	crystal
5th	wood	20th	china
6th	iron	25th	silver
7th	wool/copper	30th	pearl
8th	bronze/pottery	35th	coral
9th	pottery/china/ willow	40th	ruby?
10th	tin/aluminium	45th	sapphire
11th	steel	50th	gold
		55th	emerald
		60th	diamond

wedding ► **noun** **MARRIAGE** (**SERVICE RITES**), nuptials, union, *archaic* espousal See **list**
—**RELATED TERMS** nuptial

wedge ► **noun** ① the door was secured by a wedge **TAPERED BLOCK**, chock, stop ② a wedge of cheese **TRIANGLE**, segment, slice, section, chunk, lump, slab, hunk, block, piece

► **verb** she wedged her case between two bags **SQUEEZE**, cram, jam, ram, force, push, shove, *in formal* stuff, bung

wedlock ► **noun** **MARRIAGE**, (holy) matrimony, married state, union

wee ► **adjective** (*Scottish*) **LITTLE**, small, tiny, minute, miniature, mini, compact, undecorated, diminutive, dwarf, midget, infinitesimal, microscopic, minuscule, *informal* teeny, teeny-weeny, itty-bitsy, half-pint, dinky, *Bnt informal* titchy, diddy, *N Amer informal* little-bitty
—**OPPOSITES** big

weed

■ **weed something/someone out** **ISOLATE**, separate out, sort out, sift out, winnow out, filter out, set apart, segregate, eliminate, get rid of, remove, *informal* lose

weedy ► **adjective** (*informal*) **PUNY**, feeble, weak, frail, undersized, slight, skinny, *informal* pint-sized

weekly ► **adjective** weekly instalments **ONCE A WEEK**, lasting a week, *formal* hebdomadal

► **adverb** the directors meet weekly **ONCE A WEEK**, every week, each week, on a weekly basis, by the week, per week, a week

weep ► **verb** even the toughest soldiers wept **CRY**, shed tears, sob, snivel, whimper, whine, wail, bawl, keen, *Scottish* greet, *informal* boohoo, blub, blubber, *Bnt informal* grizzle

► **noun** you sit and have a weep **CRY**, sob, snivel, whimper, bawl, *informal* blub, blubber, *Bnt informal* grizzle

weepy ► **adjective** (*informal*) **TEARFUL**, close to tears, upset, distressed, sad, unhappy, in tears, crying, weeping, snivelling, *informal* teary, *formal* lachrymose

weigh ► **verb** ① she weighs the vegetables **MEASURE THE WEIGHT OF**, put on the scales ② he weighed 118 kg **HAVE A WEIGHT OF**, tip the scales at ③ the situation weighed heavily on him See **WEIGH SOMEONE DOWN** sense 2 ④ he has to weigh up the possibilities **CONSIDER**, contemplate, think about, mull over, chew over, reflect on, ruminate about, muse on, assess, appraise, analyse, investigate, inquire into, look into, examine, review, explore, take stock of ⑤ they need to

weigh benefit against risk. **BALANCE**, evaluate, compare, juxtapose, contrast.

■ **weigh someone down** ① my fishing gear weighed me down **BURDEN**, saddle, overload, overburden, encumber, hamper, handicap ② the silence weighed me down **OPPRESS**, depress, lie heavy on, burden, cast down, hang over, gnaw at, prey on (one's mind), trouble, worry, bother, disturb, upset, haunt, nag, torment, afflict, plague.

weight ▶ **noun** ① the weight of the book **HEAVINESS**, mass, load, burden, pressure, force, poundage, tonnage ② his recommendation will carry great weight: **INFLUENCE**, force, leverage, sway, pull, importance, significance, consequence, value, substance, power, authority, *informal* clout ③ a weight off her mind **BURDEN**, load, millstone, albatross, encumbrance, trouble, worry, strain. ④ the weight of the evidence is against him **PREPONDERANCE**, majority, bulk, body, lion's share, predominance, most, almost all

weighty ▶ **adjective** ① a weighty tome **HEAVY**, thick, bulky, hefty, cumbersome, ponderous ② a weighty subject **IMPORTANT**, significant, momentous, consequential, far-reaching, key, major, vital, critical, crucial, serious, grave, solemn ③ a weighty responsibility **BURDENSOME**, onerous, heavy, oppressive, taxing, troublesome. ④ weighty arguments **COMPELLING**, cogent, strong, forceful, powerful, potent, effective, sound, valid, telling, impressive, persuasive, convincing, influential, authoritative
-**OPPOSITES** light, trivial, weak

weird ▶ **adjective** ① weird apparitions **UNCANNY**, eerie, unnatural, supernatural, unearthly, other-worldly, ghostly, mysterious, strange, abnormal, unusual, *Scottish* eldritch, *informal* creepy, spooky, freaky. ② (*informal*) a weird sense of humour **BIZARRE**, quirky, outlandish, eccentric, unconventional, unorthodox, idiosyncratic, surreal, crazy, peculiar, odd, strange, queer, freakish, zany, madcap, outré, *informal* wacky, freaky, way-out, offbeat, off the wall, *Brit informal* rum, *N Amer informal* wacko
-**OPPOSITES** normal, conventional.

weirdo ▶ **noun** (*informal*). See **ECCENTRIC** noun

welcome ▶ **noun** a welcome from the vicar **GREETING**, salutation, reception, hospitality, the red carpet

▶ **verb** ① welcome your guests in their own language **GREET**, salute, receive, meet, usher in ② we welcomed their decision **BE PLEASED BY**, be glad about, approve of, appreciate, embrace, *informal* give the thumbs up to

▶ **adjective** welcome news: **PLEASING**, agreeable, encouraging, gratifying, heartening, promising, favourable, pleasant; gladly received, wanted, appreciated, popular, desirable

weld ▶ **verb** **FUSE**, bond, stick, join, attach, seal, splice, melt, solder

welfare ▶ **noun** ① the welfare of children. **WELL-BEING**, health, comfort, security, safety, protection, prosperity, success, fortune, interest, good ② we cannot claim welfare: **SOCIAL SECURITY**, (state) benefit, public assistance, pension, credit, support, sick pay, unemployment benefit; *Brit informal* the dole.

well ▶ **adverb** ① please behave well. **SATISFACTORILY**, nicely, correctly, properly, fittingly, suit-

ably, appropriately ② they get on well together **HARMONIOUSLY**, agreeably, pleasantly, nicely, happily, amicably, amiably, peaceably; *informal* famously ③ he plays the piano well: **SKILFULLY**, ably, competently, proficiently, adeptly, deftly, expertly, admirably, excellently ④ treat your employees well: **DECENTLY**, fairly, kindly, generously, honestly ⑤ mix the ingredients well **THOROUGHLY**, completely, effectively, rigorously, carefully ⑥ I know her quite well. **INTIMATELY**, thoroughly, deeply, profoundly, personally ⑦ they studied the car market well **CAREFULLY**, closely, attentively, rigorously, in depth, exhaustively, in detail, meticulously, scrupulously, conscientiously, methodically, completely, comprehensively, fully, extensively ⑧ they speak well of him **ADMIRINGLY**, highly, approvingly, favourably, appreciatively, warmly, enthusiastically, glowingly ⑨ she makes enough money to live well **COMFORTABLY**, in (the lap of) luxury, prosperously ⑩ you may well be right **QUITE POSSIBLY**, conceivably, probably, undoubtedly, certainly, unquestionably ⑪ he is well over forty **CONSIDERABLY**, very much, a great deal, substantially, easily, comfortably, significantly ⑫ she could well afford it **EASILY**, comfortably, readily, effortlessly

-**OPPOSITES** badly, negligently, disparagingly, barely

▶ **adjective** ① she was completely well again **HEALTHY**, fine, fit, robust, strong, vigorous, blooming, thriving, hale and hearty, in good shape, in good condition, in good trim, in fine fettle, *informal* in the pink ② all is not well **SATISFACTORY**, all right, fine, in order, as it should be, acceptable, *informal* OK, hunky-dory, *N Amer & Austral/NZ informal* jake, *Brit informal*, dated tickety-boo ③ it would be well to tell us in advance **ADVISABLE**, sensible, prudent, politic, commonsensical, wise, judicious, expedient, recommended, advantageous, beneficial, profitable, desirable, a good idea

-**OPPOSITES** poorly, unsatisfactory, inadvisable

■ **as well too**, also, in addition, additionally, into the bargain, besides, furthermore, moreover, to boot

■ **as well as** **TOGETHER WITH**, along with, besides, plus, and, with, on top of, not to mention, to say nothing of, let alone

well ▶ **noun** ① she drew water from the well **BOREHOLE**, bore, spring, waterhole ② he's a bottomless well of forgiveness **SOURCE**, supply, fount, reservoir, mine, fund, treasury

▶ **verb** tears welled from her eyes: **FLOW**, spill, stream, run, rush, gush, roll, cascade, flood, spout, seep, trickle, burst, issue.

well advised ▶ **adjective** **WISE**, prudent, sensible.

well balanced ▶ **adjective**. See **BALANCED** senses 1, 2, 3

well behaved ▶ **adjective** **ORDERLY**, obedient, disciplined, peaceable, docile, controlled, restrained, cooperative, compliant; mannerly, polite, civil, courteous, respectful, proper, decorous, refined, polished.

-**OPPOSITES** naughty.

well-being ▶ **noun**. See **WELFARE** sense 1

well bred ▶ **adjective** **WELL BROUGHT UP**, polite, civil, mannerly, courteous, respectful; ladylike, gentlemanly, genteel, cultivated, urbane, proper, refined, polished, well behaved.



well built ▶ **adjective** STURDY, strapping, brawny, burly, hefty, muscular, muscly, strong, rugged, lusty, Herculean, *informal* hunky, beefy, husky, hulking
 -OPPOSITES puny

well dressed ▶ **adjective** SMART, fashionable, stylish, chic, modish, elegant, neat, spruce, trim, dapper, *N Amer* trig, *informal* snazzy, natty, snappy, sharp, *N Amer* *informal* spiffy, fly
 -OPPOSITES scruffy

well founded ▶ **adjective** JUSTIFIABLE, justified, warranted, legitimate, defensible, valid, admissible, allowable, understandable, excusable, acceptable, reasonable, sensible, sound
 -OPPOSITES groundless

well heeled ▶ **adjective** (*informal*) See WEALTHY

well known ▶ **adjective** ① well-known principles FAMILIAR, widely known, popular, common, everyday, established ② a well-known family of architects FAMOUS, famed, prominent, notable, renowned, distinguished, eminent, illustrious, celebrated, acclaimed, important
 -OPPOSITES obscure

well mannered ▶ **adjective** POLITE, courteous, civil, mannerly, genteel, decorous, respectful, refined, polished, civilized, urbane, well bred

well-nigh ▶ **adverb** ALMOST, nearly, just about, more or less, practically, virtually, all but, as good as, nearing, approaching, nigh on, roughly, approximately, *informal* pretty much

well off ▶ **adjective** ① her family's very well off See WELL-TO-DO ② the prisoners were relatively well off FORTUNATE, lucky, comfortable, *informal* sitting pretty ③ the island is not well off for hours WELL SUPPLIED WITH, well stocked with, well furnished with, well equipped with

well read ▶ **adjective** KNOWLEDGEABLE, well informed, well versed, erudite, scholarly, literate, educated, cultured, bookish, studious, *dated* lettered
 -OPPOSITES ignorant

well spoken ▶ **adjective** ARTICULATE, nicely spoken, refined, polite, *Brit* *informal* posh

well-to-do ▶ **adjective** WEALTHY, rich, affluent, moneyed, well off, prosperous, comfortable, propertied, *informal* rolling in it, in the money, loaded, well heeled, flush, made of money, quids in, worth a packet, on easy street

welter ▶ **noun** CONFUSION, jumble, tangle, mess, hotchpotch, mishmash, mass

wend ▶ **verb** MEANDER, wind one's way, wander, amble, stroll, saunter, drift, roam, swan, traipse, walk, journey, travel, *informal* mosey, tootle

west ▶ **adjective** WESTERN, westerly, occidental

wet ▶ **adjective** ① wet clothes. DAMP, moist, soaked, drenched, saturated, sopping, dripping, soggy; waterlogged, squelchy ② it was cold and wet RAINY, raining, pouring, teeming, showery, drizzly, drizzling, damp ③ the paint is still wet STICKY, tacky, fresh ④ a wet mortar mix. AQUEOUS, watery, sloppy. ⑤ (*Brit* *informal*) the cadets were a bit wet: FEEBLE, silly, weak, foolish, inept, ineffectual, effete, soft, namby-pamby, timid, spiritless, cowardly, spineless; *informal* sissy, pathetic, drippy, wimpish, weedy, chicken; *Brit* *informal* soppy.
 -OPPOSITES dry, fine, brave

▶ **verb** wet the clothes before ironing them. DAMPEN,

damp, moisten, sprinkle, spray, splash, soak, saturate, flood, douse, souse, drench.

-OPPOSITES dry

▶ **noun** ① the wet of his tears WETNESS, damp, moisture, moistness, soggy, wateriness ② the race was held in the wet RAIN, drizzle, precipitation, spray, dew, damp ③ (*Brit* *informal*) come on, don't be such a wet NAMBY-PAMBY, weakling, milksop, Milquetoast, baby, coward, *informal* wimp, weed, drip, sissy, softie, chicken, scaredy-cat, *Brit* *informal* big girl's blouse, *N Amer* *informal* pantywaist, pussy

whack (*informal*) ▶ **verb** she whacked him on the head See STRIKE verb sense 1

▶ **noun** ① he got a whack with a stick See BLOW² sense 1 ② (*Brit*) everyone will get their whack See SHARE noun

whale ▶ **noun**. See list at CETACEAN

wharf ▶ **noun** QUAY, pier, dock, berth, landing, jetty, harbour, dockyard, marina

whatsit ▶ **noun** (*informal*) THING, so-and-so, whatever it's called, *informal* whatnot, doodah, what-d'you-call-it, what's-its-name, thingy, thingummy, thingamabob, thingamajig, oojamaflop, *Brit* *informal* doings, *N Amer* *informal* doodad, doo-hickey

whoodle ▶ **verb** COAX, cajole, inveigle, induce, entice, charm, tempt, beguile, flatter, persuade, influence, win someone over, bring someone round, convince, prevail on, get round, *informal* sweet-talk, soft-soap

wheel ▶ **noun** a wagon wheel, disc, hoop, ring, circle

▶ **verb** ① she wheeled the trolley away PUSH, trundle, roll ② the flock of doves wheeled round TURN, go round, circle, orbit

■ at/behind the wheel DRIVING, steering, in the driving seat

wheeze ▶ **verb** the illness left her wheezing BREATHE NOISILY, gasp, whistle, hiss, rasp, croak, pant, cough

▶ **noun** ① she still had a slight wheeze RASP, croak, whistle, hiss, pant, cough ② (*Brit* *informal*) I've thought of a brilliant wheeze See RUSE

whereabouts ▶ **noun** LOCATION, position, site, place, situation, spot, point, vicinity, home, address, locale, neighbourhood, bearings, orientation

wherewithal ▶ **noun** MONEY, cash, capital, finance(s), funds, resources, means, ability, capability, *informal* dough, bread, loot, the necessary, boodle, dibs, ducats, *Brit* *informal* dosh, brass, lolly, readies, *N Amer* *informal* bucks; *US* *informal* greenbacks

whet ▶ **verb** ① he whetted his knife on a stone SHARPEN, hone, strop, grind, file. ② something to whet your appetite. STIMULATE, excite, arouse, rouse, kindle, trigger, spark, quicken, stir, inspire, animate, fuel, fire, activate, tempt, galvanize.
 -OPPOSITES blunt

whiff ▶ **noun** ① I caught a whiff of perfume: FAINT SMELL, trace, sniff, scent, odour, aroma ② (*Brit* *informal*) there's a terrible whiff in here: STENCH, stink, smell, reek, *Brit* *informal* pong, niff, hum, *Scottish* *informal* guff, *N Amer* *informal* funk. ③ the faintest whiff of irony TRACE, hint, suggestion, impression, suspicion, soupçon, nuance, intimation, tinge, vein, shred, whisper, air, element,

W

overtone ① whiffs of smoke from the boiler PUFF, gust, flurry, breath, draught, waft

while ▶ noun we chatted for a while TIME, spell, stretch, stint, span, interval, period, duration, phase, *Brit informal* patch

▶ verb tennis helped to while away the time PASS, spend, occupy, use up, kill

whim ▶ noun ① she bought it on a whim IMPULSE, urge, notion, fancy, foible, caprice, conceit, vagary, crotchety, inclination ② human whim CAPRICIOUSNESS, whimsy, caprice, volatility, fickleness, idiosyncrasy

whimper ▶ verb he was whimpering in pain WHINE, cry, sob, moan, snivel, wail, groan, *Brit informal* grizzle

▶ noun she gave a whimper of protest WHINE, cry, sob, moan, bleat, wail, groan

whimsical ▶ adjective ① a whimsical sense of humour FANCIFUL, playful, mischievous, waggish, quaint, curious, droll, eccentric, quirky, idiosyncratic, unconventional, outlandish, queer, informal offbeat, freaky ② the whimsical arbitrariness of autocracy VOLATILE, capricious, fickle, changeable, unpredictable, variable, erratic, mercurial, mutable, inconstant, inconsistent, unstable, protean

whine ▶ noun ① the dog gave a whine WHIMPER, cry, mewl, howl, yowl ② the whine of the motor HUM, drone ③ a whine about the quality of service COMPLAINT, grouse, grumble, murmur, informal gripe, moan, grouch, whinge, bellyache, beef

▶ verb ① a child was whining WAIL, whimper, cry, mewl, moan, howl, yowl ② the lift began to whine HUM, drone ③ he's always whining about something COMPLAIN, grouse, grouch, grumble, moan, carp, mutter, murmur, informal gripe, bellyache, whinge

whinge (*informal*) ▶ verb I whinged about the weather See WHINE verb sense 3

▶ noun his tale is one long whinge See WHINE noun sense 3

whip ▶ noun he would use a whip on his dogs LASH, scourge, strap, belt, *historical* cat-o'-nine-tails

▶ verb ① he whipped the boy FLOG, scourge, flagellate, lash, strap, belt, thrash, beat, tan someone's hide ② whip the cream WHISK, beat ③ he whipped his listeners into a frenzy ROUSE, stir up, excite, galvanize, electrify, stimulate, inspire, fire up, get someone going, inflame, agitate, goad, provoke ④ (*informal*) he whipped round the corner See DASH verb sense 1 ⑤ (*informal*) then he whipped out a revolver PULL, whisk, snatch, pluck, jerk, informal yank, *Scottish informal* wheech ⑥ (*Brit informal*) he whipped the necklace See STEAL verb sense 1

whippersnapper ▶ noun (*informal*) UPSTART, strapping, informal pipsqueak, squirt, *Brit informal* squit, *N Amer informal* snip

whirl ▶ verb ① leaves whirled in eddies of wind ROTATE, circle, wheel, turn, revolve, orbit, spin, twirl, *Scottish* birl ② they whirled past HURRY, race, dash, rush, run, sprint, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, scurry, informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot; *Brit informal* bomb, *N Amer informal* hightail it ③ his mind was whirling SPIN, reel, swim

▶ noun ① a whirl of dust SWIRL, flurry, eddy ② the mad social whirl HURLY-BURLY, activity, bustle, rush, flurry, fuss, turmoil, merry-go-round; *infor-*

mal to-do ③ Laura's mind was in a whirl SPIN, daze, stupor, muddle, jumble; confusion, *informal* dither ④ (*informal*) go on, give it a whirl TRY, test, *informal* go, shot, bash, stab

whirlpool ▶ noun ① a river full of whirlpools EDDY, vortex, maelstrom, *N Amer informal* suckhole ② the health club has a whirlpool JACUZZI, spa bath, hot tub

whirlwind ▶ noun ① the building was hit by a whirlwind TORNADO, hurricane, typhoon, cyclone, vortex, *Austral* willy-willy, *N Amer informal* twister ② a whirlwind of activity MAELSTROM, welter, bedlam, mayhem, babel, swirl, tumult, hurly-burly, commotion, confusion, informal madhouse, *N Amer* three-ring circus

▶ adjective a whirlwind romance RAPID, lightning, headlong, impulsive, breakneck, meteoric, sudden, swift, fast, quick, speedy, informal quickie

whisk ▶ verb ① the cable car will whisk you to the top SPEED, hurry, rush, sweep, hurtle, shoot, *Scottish informal* wheech ② she whisked the cloth away PULL, snatch, pluck, tug, jerk, informal whip, yank, *Scottish informal* wheech ③ he whisked out of sight DASH, rush, race, bolt, dart, gallop, career, charge, shoot, hurtle, hare, fly, speed, zoom, scurry, scuttle, scamper, informal tear, belt, pelt, scoot, zip, whip ④ horses whisk their tails FLICK, twitch, wave ⑤ whisk the egg yolks WHIP, beat, mix

▶ noun ① the horse gave a whisk of its tail FLICK, twitch, wave, sweep ② blend the eggs with a whisk BEATER, mixer, blender

whisky ▶ noun. See list

Types of Whisky

blended whisky	rye (whisky)
bourbon	Scotch (whisky)
corn whisky	single malt (whisky)
grain whisky	sour mash (whiskey)
Irish whiskey	vatted malt (whisky)
malt (whisky)	

whisper ▶ verb ① Alison whispered in his ear MURMUR, mutter, mumble, speak softly, breathe ② (*poetic/literary*) the wind whispered in the grass RUSTLE, murmur, sigh, moan, whoosh, whirr, swish, blow, breathe

—OPPOSITES roar

▶ noun ① she spoke in a whisper MURMUR, mutter, mumble, low voice, undertone ② (*poetic/literary*) the wind died to a whisper RUSTLE, murmur, sigh, whoosh, swish ③ I heard a whisper that he's left town RUMOUR, story, report, speculation, insinuation, suggestion, hint, informal buzz ④ not a whisper of interest See WHIT

whit ▶ noun SCRAP, bit, speck, iota, jot, atom, crumb, shred, grain, mite, touch, trace, shadow, suggestion, whisper, suspicion, scintilla, informal smidgen, smudge

white ▶ adjective ① a clean white bandage COLORLESS, unpigmented, bleached, natural, snowy, milky, chalky, ivory ② her face was white with fear PALE, pallid, wan, ashen, bloodless, waxen, chalky, pasty, peaky, washed out, drained, drawn, ghostly, deathly ③ white hair SNOWY, grey, silver, silvery, hoary, grizzled ④ the early white settlers CAUCASIAN, European ⑤ a whiter than white government. VIRTUOUS, moral, ethical, good, righteous, honourable,



reputable, wholesome, honest, upright, upstanding, irreproachable, decent, worthy, noble, blameless, spotless, impeccable, unsullied, unblemished, uncorrupted, untainted, *informal* squeaky clean

—OPPOSITES black, flord, immoral

white-collar ► **adjective** CLERICAL, professional, executive, salaried, office

whiten ► **verb** MAKE WHITE, make pale, bleach, blanch, lighten, fade, *Brit* Military blanco, *archaic* white

whitewash ► **noun** ① the report was a white-wash COVER-UP, camouflage, deception, facade, veneer, pretext ② a four-maich whitewash WALK OVER, rout, landslide, *informal* pushover, cinch, breeze

—OPPOSITES expose

► **verb** don't whitewash what happened COVER UP, sweep under the carpet, hush up, suppress, draw a veil over, conceal, veil, obscure, keep secret, gloss over, downplay, soft-pedal

—OPPOSITES expose

whittle ► **verb** ① he sat whittling a piece of wood PARE, shave, trim, carve, shape, model ② his powers were whittled away ERODE, wear away, eat away, reduce, diminish, undermine, weaken, subvert, compromise, impair, impede, hinder, cripple, disable, enfeeble, sap ③ the ten teams have been whittled down to six REDUCE, cut down, cut back, prune, trim, slim down, pare down, shrink, decrease, diminish

whole ► **adjective** ① the whole report ENTIRE, complete, full, unabridged, uncut ② a whole marble mantelpiece INTACT, in one piece, unbroken, undamaged, flawless, faultless, unmarked, perfect

—OPPOSITES incomplete

► **noun** ① a single whole ENTITY, unit, body, discrete item, ensemble ② the whole of the year ALL, every part, the lot, the sum (total)

■ **on the whole** OVERALL, all in all, all things considered, for the most part, in the main, in general, generally (speaking), as a (general) rule, by and large, normally, usually, more often than not, almost always, most of the time, typically, ordinarily

wholehearted ► **adjective** COMMITTED, positive, emphatic, devoted, dedicated, enthusiastic, unshakeable, unswerving, unqualified, unreserved, without reservations, unconditional, unequivocal, unmitigated, complete, full, total, absolute

—OPPOSITES half-hearted

wholesale ► **adverb** the images were removed wholesale EXTENSIVELY, on a large scale, comprehensively, indiscriminately, without exception

—OPPOSITES selectively

► **adjective** wholesale destruction: EXTENSIVE, widespread, large-scale, wide-ranging, comprehensive, total, mass, indiscriminate

—OPPOSITES partial

wholesome ► **adjective** ① wholesome food HEALTHY, health-giving, healthful, good (for one), nutritious, nourishing, natural, uncontaminated, organic. ② wholesome fun MORAL, ethical, good, clean, virtuous, pure, innocent, chaste, uplifting, edifying, proper, correct, decent, *informal* squeaky clean.

wholly ► **adverb** ① the measures were wholly inadequate: COMPLETELY, totally, absolutely, entirely,

fully, thoroughly, utterly, quite, perfectly, downright, in every respect, in all respects, *informal* one hundred per cent ② they rely wholly on you EXCLUSIVELY, only, solely, purely, alone

whoop ► **noun** whoops of delight SHOUT, cry, call, yell, roar, scream, shriek, screech, cheer, *informal* holler

► **verb** he whooped for joy SHOUT, cry, call, yell, roar, scream, shriek, screech, cheer, *informal* holler

whopper ► **noun** (*informal*) ① what a whopper! MONSTER, brute, giant, colossus, mammoth, monstrosity, *informal* jumbo ② Joseph's story is a whopper See LIE 1 **noun**

whopping ► **adjective** (*informal*) See HUGE

whore ► **noun** the whores on the street See PROSTITUTE **noun**

► **verb** ① she spent her life whoring WORK AS A PROSTITUTE, sell one's body, sell oneself, be on the streets, *informal* be on the game ② the men whored and drunk USE PROSTITUTES, *archaic* wench

whorehouse ► **noun** See BROTHEL

whorl ► **noun** LOOP, coil, hoop, ring, curl, swirl, twist, spiral, helix

wicked ► **adjective** ① wicked deeds EVIL, sinful, immoral, wrong, morally wrong, wrongful, bad, iniquitous, corrupt, black-hearted, base, mean, vile, villainous, nefarious, erring, foul, monstrous, shocking, outrageous, atrocious, abominable, reprehensible, hateful, detestable, despicable, odious, contemptible, horrible, heinous, egregious, execrable, fiendish, vicious, murderous, barbarous, criminal illicit, unlawful, illegal, lawless, felonious, dishonest, unscrupulous, *Law* malfeasant, *informal* crooked, *Brit* *informal* beastly, *dated* dastardly, *rare* peccable ② the wind was wicked DISAGREEABLE, unpleasant, foul, bad, nasty, irksome, troublesome, annoying, irritating, displeasing, uncomfortable, hateful, detestable ③ a wicked sense of humour MISCHIEVOUS, playful, naughty, impish, roguish, arch, puckish, cheeky ④ (*informal*) Sophie makes wicked cakes See EXCELLENT

—OPPOSITES virtuous.

wickedness ► **noun** EVIL-DOING, evil, sin, sinfulness, iniquity, villainess, baseness, badness, wrongdoing, dishonesty, unscrupulousness, roguery, villainy, viciousness, degeneracy, depravity, immorality, vice, corruption, corruptness, devilry, fiendishness, *Law* malfeasance, *informal* crookedness, *formal* turpitude

wide ► **adjective** ① a wide river BROAD, extensive, spacious, vast, spread out ② their mouths were wide with shock FULLY OPEN, agape, wide open ③ a wide range of opinion COMPREHENSIVE, ample, broad, extensive, large, large-scale, wide-ranging, exhaustive, general, all-inclusive ④ his shot was wide OFF TARGET, off the mark, wide of the mark/target, inaccurate

—OPPOSITES narrow

► **adverb** ① he opened his eyes wide FULLY, to the fullest/furthest extent, as far/much as possible ② he shot wide OFF TARGET, wide of the mark/target, inaccurately

wide awake ► **adjective** FULLY AWAKE, conscious, sleepless, insomniac, *archaic* watchful

—OPPOSITES asleep

wide-eyed ► **adjective** ① the whole class was wide-eyed. STARING IN AMAZEMENT, goggle-eyed,

open-mouthed, dumbstruck, amazed, surprised, astonished, astounded, stunned, staggered, informal flabbergasted, *Brit informal* gobsmacked.
 ② wide-eyed visitors INNOCENT, naive, impressionable, ingenuous, childlike, credulous, trusting, unquestioning, unsophisticated, gullible

widen ▶ verb ① a proposal to widen the motorway BROADEN, make/become wider, open up/out, expand, extend, enlarge ② the Party must widen its support INCREASE, augment, boost, swell, enlarge

wide open ▶ adjective ① his eyes were wide open FULLY OPEN, open wide, agape ② the championship is wide open UNPREDICTABLE, uncertain, unsure, in the balance, up in the air; informal anyone's guess ③ they were wide open to attacks VULNERABLE, exposed, unprotected, defenceless, undefended, at risk, in danger

widespread ▶ adjective GENERAL, extensive, universal, common, global, worldwide, international, omnipresent, ubiquitous, across the board, predominant, prevalent, rife, broad, rampant, pervasive
 -OPPOSITES limited

width ▶ noun ① the width of the river WIDENESS, breadth, broadness, thickness, span, diameter, girth ② the width of experience required RANGE, breadth, compass, scope, span, scale, extent, extensiveness, comprehensiveness
 -OPPOSITES length, narrowness

wield ▶ verb ① he was wielding a sword BRANISH, flourish, wave, swing, use, employ, handle ② he has wielded power since 1972 EXERCISE, exert, hold, maintain, command, control

wife ▶ noun SPOUSE, partner, mate, consort, woman, helpmate, helpmeet, bride, informal old lady, wifey, better half, missus, *Brit informal* other half, her indoors, trouble and strife
 -RELATED TERMS uxorial

wiggle ▶ verb JIGGLE, wriggle, twitch, shimmy, joggle, wag, wobble, shake, twist, squirm, writhe, informal waggie

wild ▶ adjective ① wild animals UNTAMED, undomesticated, feral, fierce, ferocious, savage ② wild flowers: UNCULTIVATED, native, indigenous. ③ wild tribes: PRIMITIVE, uncivilized, uncultured, savage, barbarous, barbaric ④ wild hill country UNINHABITED, unpopulated, uncultivated; rugged, rough, inhospitable, desolate, barren. ⑤ a wild night: STORMY, squally, tempestuous, turbulent, boisterous ⑥ her wild black hair: DISHEVELLED, tousled, tangled, windswept, untidy, unkempt, *N Amer* mussed up ⑦ wild behaviour UNCONTROLLED, unrestrained, out of control, undisciplined, unruly, rowdy, disorderly, riotous ⑧ wild with excitement: VERY EXCITED, delirious, in a frenzy; tumultuous, passionate, vehement, unrestrained. ⑨ (informal) I was wild with jealousy: DISTRAUGHT, frantic, beside oneself, in a frenzy, hysterical, deranged, berserk, informal mad, crazy. ⑩ (informal) Hank went wild when he found out See FURIOUS sense 1 ⑪ (informal) his family weren't wild about me: VERY KEEN, very enthusiastic, enamoured, infatuated, smitten; informal crazy, mad, nutty/nuts ⑫ Bill's wild schemes: MADCAP, ridiculous, ludicrous, foolish, stupid, foolhardy, idiotic, absurd, silly, ill-considered, senseless, nonsensical; impractical, impracticable, unworkable; informal crazy, crack-

pot, cock-eyed. ⑬ a wild guess. RANDOM, arbitrary, haphazard, uninformed.

-OPPOSITES tame, cultivated, calm, disciplined
 ■ run wild ① the garden had run wild: GROW UNCHECKED, grow profusely, run riot ② the children are running wild RUN AMOK, run riot, get out of control, be undisciplined

wilderness ▶ noun ① the Siberian wilderness WILDS, wastes, inhospitable region, desert. ② a litter-strewn wilderness WASTELAND.

wildlife ▶ noun (WILD) ANIMALS, fauna

wilds ▶ plural noun REMOTE AREAS, wilderness, backwoods, *N Amer* backcountry, backland, Austral/NZ outback, bush, backblocks, booby; *N Amer informal* boondocks, tall timbers

wiles ▶ plural noun TRICKS, ruses, ploys, schemes, dodges, manoeuvres, subterfuges, artifices; guile, artfulness, cunning, craftiness

wilful ▶ adjective ① wilful destruction DELIBERATE, intentional, done on purpose, premeditated, planned, conscious ② a wilful child HEAD STRONG, strong-willed, obstinate, stubborn, pig-headed, recalcitrant, uncooperative, obstreperous, ungovernable, unmanageable; *Brit informal* bloody-minded, bolshie, *N Amer informal* balky; formal refractory, archaic froward, contumacious
 -OPPOSITES accidental, amenable

will¹ ▶ verb accidents will happen HAVE A TENDENCY TO, are bound to, do

will² ▶ noun ① the will to succeed DETERMINATION, will power, strength of character, resolution, resolve, resoluteness, single-mindedness, purposefulness, drive, commitment, dedication, doggedness, tenacity, tenaciousness, staying power ② they stayed against their will DESIRE, wish, preference, inclination, intention, intent ③ God's will WISH, desire, decision, choice, decree, command ④ his father's will (LAST WILL AND) TESTAMENT

▶ verb ① do what you will WANT, wish, please, see/think fit, think best, like, choose, prefer ② God willed it DECREE, order, ordain, command. ③ she willed the money to her husband BEQUEATH, leave, hand down, pass on, settle on, *Law* devise.

■ at will AS ONE PLEASES, as one thinks fit, to suit oneself, at whim

willing ▶ adjective ① I'm willing to give it a try READY, prepared, game, disposed, inclined, of a mind, minded; happy, glad, pleased, agreeable, amenable ② willing help READILY GIVEN, willingly given, ungrudging
 -OPPOSITES reluctant

willingly ▶ adverb VOLUNTARILY, of one's own free will, of one's own accord, readily, without reluctance, ungrudgingly, cheerfully, happily, gladly, with pleasure

willingness ▶ noun READINESS, inclination, will, wish, desire

willowy ▶ adjective TALL, SLIM, slender, svelte, lissom, sylphlike, long-limbed, graceful, lithe; informal skinny.

will power ▶ noun. See WILL² noun sense 1.

willy-nilly ▶ adverb ① cars were parked willy-nilly: HAPHAZARDLY, at random, randomly. ② we are, willy-nilly, in a new situation: WHETHER ONE LIKES IT OR NOT, of necessity; informal like it or lump it; formal perforce, nolens volens.

wilt ▶ **verb** ① the roses had begun to wilt **DROOP**, sag, become limp, flop; wither, shrivel (up) ② wilting in the heat: **LANGUISH**, flag, droop, become listless. ③ Shelley's happy mood wilted **FADE**, ebb, wane, evaporate, melt away
-**OPPOSITES** flourish

wily ▶ **adjective** **SHREWD**, clever, sharp, sharp-witted, astute, canny, smart, crafty, cunning, artful, sly, scheming, calculating, devious, informal tricky, foxy; archaic subtle
-**OPPOSITES** naive

wimp ▶ **noun** (informal) **COWARD**, namby-pamby, milksop, weakling, informal drip, sissy, weed, pansy, scaredy-cat, chicken, *Brit* informal wet, mummy's boy, big girl's blouse, *N Amer* informal cupcake, pantywaist, wuss, pussy, *Austral/NZ* informal sook, archaic poltroon

win ▶ **verb** ① Steve won the race **BE THE VICTOR IN**, be the winner of, come first in, take first prize in, triumph in, be successful in ② she was determined to win **COME FIRST**, be the winner, be victorious, carry/win the day, come out on top, succeed, triumph, prevail ③ he won a cash prize **SECURE**, gain, collect, pick up, walk away/off with, carry off, informal land, net, bag, scoop ④ Ilona won his heart **CAPTIVATE**, steal
-**OPPOSITES** lose

▶ **noun** a 3-0 win **VICTORY**, triumph, conquest
-**OPPOSITES** defeat

■ **win someone round/over** **PERSUADE**, talk round, convince, sway, prevail on

wince ▶ **verb** he winced at the pain **GRIMACE**, pull a face, flinch, blench, start

▶ **noun** a wince of pain **GRIMACE**, flinch, start

wind¹ ▶ **noun** ① the trees were swaying in the wind **BREEZE**, current of air, gale, hurricane; informal blow, poetic/literary zephyr See lists ② Jez got his wind back **BREATH**, informal puff ③ you do talk a lot of wind See **HOT AIR** ④ **FLATULENCE**, gas, formal flatul ⑤ music for piano and wind See list

-**RELATED TERMS** aeolian

■ **get wind of** (informal) **HEAR ABOUT/OF**, learn of, find out about, be told about, be informed of, informal hear something on the grapevine

■ **in the wind** **ON THE WAY**, coming, about to happen, in the offing, in the air, on the horizon, approaching, looming, brewing, afoot, informal on the cards

■ **put the wind up someone** (*Brit* informal) **SCARE**, frighten, make afraid, make nervous, throw into a panic, alarm

wind² ▶ **verb** ① the road winds up the mountain **TWIST** (AND **TURN**), bend, curve, loop, zigzag, weave, snake ② he wound a towel around his waist: **WRAP**, furl, entwine, lace. ③ Anne wound the wool into a ball: **COIL**, roll, twist, twine

■ **wind down** ① (informal) he needed to wind down: **RELAX**, unwind, calm down, cool down/off, ease up/off, take it easy, rest, put one's feet up; *N Amer* informal hang loose, chill (out) ② the campaign was winding down **DRAW TO A CLOSE**, come to an end, tail off, slack(en) off, slow down

■ **wind something down** **BRING TO A CLOSE/END**, wind up, close down.

■ **wind up** (informal) **END UP**, finish up, find oneself, land up; informal fetch up.

■ **wind someone up** ① (*Brit* informal) Katie was just winding me up: **TEASE**, make fun of, chaff, informal take the mick out of, send up, rib, josh,

kid, have on, pull someone's leg, *N Amer* informal pull someone's chain; *Austral/NZ* informal poke mullock at ② David was winding him up on purpose **ANNOY**, anger, irritate, exasperate, get on someone's nerves, provoke, goad, *Brit* rub up the wrong way; informal aggravate, rile, niggle, bug, put someone's back up, get up someone's nose, hack off, *Brit* informal nark, *N Amer* informal ride

■ **wind something up** ① Richard wound up the meeting: **CONCLUDE**, bring to an end/close, end, terminate, informal wrap up ② the company has been wound up: **CLOSE (DOWN)**, dissolve, put into liquidation

Local Winds

WIND

berg wind
bise
bora
brickfielder
buran
Cape doctor
chinook
Etesian
föhn/foehn
ghibli
haboob
harmattan
khamisin
levanter
libeccio
maestrale
meltemi
mistral
monsoon
nor'wester
pampero
Perth doctor
shamal
simoom/
simoon/samiel
sirocco

solano
southerly buster
tramontana

wet chinook
williwaw
willy-willy
zonda

LOCATION

South Africa
central Europe
central Europe
Australasia
central Asia
western South Africa
eastern Rockies, North America
eastern Mediterranean
northern Alps
North Africa
North Africa
West Africa
Egypt
Mediterranean
western Italy
Mediterranean
eastern Mediterranean
southern France
South Asia
New Zealand
South America

Persian Gulf
Arabia

North Africa and southern
Europe

Spain
SE Australia
Italy and western
Mediterranean
north-western USA
USA and Canada
NW Australia
Argentina

Beaufort Scale

0	calm
1	light air
2	light breeze
3	gentle breeze
4	moderate breeze
5	fresh breeze
6	strong breeze
7	near gale
8	gale
9	strong gale
10	storm
11	violent storm
12-17	hurricane

Wind Instruments

See also **BRASS, ORGAN**.

alpenhorn	fipple flute	piffero
altohorn	flageolet	pipe
bagpipes	flute	racket
barrel organ	harmonica	recorder
basset horn	heckelphone	reed pipe
bassoon	kazoo	sarrusophone
bombarda	krummhorn	saxophone
clarinet	lysarden	serpent
cor anglais	melodica	shawm
cornetto	mouth organ	stock-and-horn
contrabassoon	oboe	tin whistle
didgeridoo	ocarina	whistle
fife	pico	

winded ► **adjective** OUT OF BREATH, breathless, gasping for breath, panting, puffing, puffed out, *informal* out of puff

windfall ► **noun** BONANZA, jackpot, pennies from heaven

winding ► **noun** the windings of the stream
TWIST, turn, turning, bend, loop, curve, zigzag, meander

► **adjective** the winding country roads TWISTING AND TURNING, meandering, windy, twisty, bending, curving, zigzag, zigzagging, serpentine, sinuous, snaking
—OPPOSITES straight

window ► **noun** See list

Windows

bay window	mullion/mullioned window
bow window	oculus
bullseye	oeil-de-boeuf
casement	opera window
Catherine wheel	oriel window
clerestory window	oval window
compass window	Palladian window
deadlight	picture window
dormer window	porthole
double-hung window	quarter-light
embrasure	roof light
fanlight	rose window
fenestella	roundel
French window	sash window
gable window	sidelight
garret window	skylight
grisaille	squint
guichet	stained-glass window
Jesse window	storm window
lancet window	top light
lattice window	transom window
leaded light	viewport
lucarne	wheel window
lunette	

windpipe ► **noun** TRACHEA, pharynx, throat

windswept ► **adjective** ① the windswept moors EXPOSED, bleak, bare, desolate ② his windswept hair DISHEVELLED, tousled, unkempt, wind-blown, untidy, *N Amer* mussed up

windy ► **adjective** ① a windy day BREEZY, blowy, fresh, blustery, gusty, wild, stormy, squally, tempestuous, boisterous ② a windy hillside WINDSWEPT, exposed, open to the elements, bare, bleak ③ (*informal*) windy speeches See LONG-

WINDED ④ (*Brit informal*) she felt a bit windy See ANXIOUS sense 1

—OPPOSITES still, sheltered

wine ► **noun** *informal* plonk, vino, the grape, poetic/literary vintage See lists
—RELATED TERMS vinous, oeno-

Dessert Wines

Bual	Marsala	muscatel
canary wine	Monbazillac	Sauternes
Grenache	moscato	Sercial
hanepoot	muscat	Verdelho
jerepigo	Muscat de	vin de paille
Madeira	Beaumes-	vin santo
malmsey	de-Venise	

Wine Bottles

BOTTLE	CAPACITY (IN NORMAL BOTTLES)
magnum	2
jeroboam	4
rehoboam	6
methuselah	8
salmanazar	12
balthazar	16
nebuchadnezzar	20

wing ► **noun** ① a bird's wings poetic/literary pinion ② the east wing of the house PART, section, side, annexe, extension, *N Amer* ell ③ the radical wing of the party FACTION, camp, caucus, arm, branch, group, section, set, coterie, cabal

► **verb** ① a seagull winged its way over the sea FLY, glide, soar ② the bomb winged past HURTLE, speed, shoot, whizz, zoom, streak, fly ③ she was shot at and winged WOUND, graze, hit

■ **wing it** (*informal*) IMPROVISE, play it by ear, extemporize, ad lib, *informal* busk it

wink ► **verb** ① he winked an eye at her BLINK, flutter, bat ② the diamond winked in the moonlight SPARKLE, twinkle, flash, glitter, gleam, shine, scintillate

► **noun** a wink of light GLIMMER, gleam, glint, flash, flicker, twinkle, sparkle

■ **In the wink of an eye** (*informal*) VERY QUICKLY, very soon, in a second, in a moment, in a trice, in a flash, in an instant, in no time at all, *N Amer* momentarily, *informal* in a jiffy, in two shakes (of a lamb's tail), in a sec, in the blink of an eye; *Brit informal* in a tick, in a mo, *N Amer informal* in a snap

■ **wink at** TURN A BLIND EYE TO, close one's eyes to, ignore, overlook, disregard, connive at, condone, tolerate

winkle

■ **winkle something out** WORM OUT, prise out, dig out, extract, draw out, obtain, get

winner ► **noun** VICTOR, champion, conqueror, vanquisher, hero, medallist, *Brit* victor ludorum, *informal* champ, top dog
—OPPOSITES loser

winning ► **adjective** ① the winning team: VICTORIOUS, successful, triumphant, vanquishing, conquering, first, top. ② a winning smile: ENGAGING, charming, appealing, endearing, sweet, cute, winsome, attractive, pretty, prepossessing,

Wine and Grape Varieties

See also **SHERRY**.

WHITE WINES AND GRAPES

Aligoté
Asti
Auslese
Barsac
Beerenauslese
Blanc de blancs
Blanc Fumé
Bourgogne Blanc
Bucelas
Burgundy
Catawba
Chablis
Champagne
Chardonnay
Chasselas
Chenin Blanc
Clarette
Colombard
Condrieu
Cava
Crémant
Eiswein
Entre-deux-Mers
Frascati
Furmint
Gavi
Gewürztraminer
Graves
Grüner Veltliner
Hárslevelű
Heuriger
Hock
Kerner
Johannisberg
Jurançon
Kabinett
Liebfraumlich
Lutomer Riesling
Mâcon

Mâcon Villages
Melvasia Bianca
Malvoisie
Manseng
Marsanne
Mauzac
Meursault
Minervois
Montrachet
Moselle
Morio-Muskat
Müller-Thurgau or
Rivaner
Muscadelle
Muscadet
Muscat
d'Alexandrie
Muscat Blanc
Muscatel
Niersteiner
Orvieto
Palomino
Pedro Ximenez
Piesporter
Pinot Blanc
Pinot Grigio
Pouilly-Fuissé
Pouilly-Fumé
Retsina
Riesling
Rioja
Roussette
Rueda
sack
Sancerre
Saumur
Sauvignon
Scheurebe
Scuppermong
Sekt
Sémillon

Sercial
Seyval Blanc
Soave
Spätlese
Spumante
Steen
Sylvaner
Symphony
Tocal-Friulano
Tokay
Traminer
Trebblano
Trockenbeerenauslese
Verdejo
Verdelho
Verdello
Verdicchio
Verduzzo
Vermentino
Vernaccia
Vernaccia di San
Gimignano
Villard
Vinho Verde
Vioigner
Viura
Vouvray
Welschriesling or
Olasz Rizling or
Laski Rizling

RED WINES AND GRAPES

Aleatico
Amarone
Aramon
Bandol
Banyuls
Barbera
Barbaresco
Bardolino

Barolo
Beaujolais
Beaune
Blafränkisch/
Kékfrankos
Blauer Portugieser
Bourgogne Rouge
Bourguell
Brouilly
Brunello de
Montalcino
Bull's Blood
Burgundy
Cabernet Franc
Cabernet
Sauvignon
Carema
Carignan
Cahors
Chianti
Cinsaut
claret
Concord
Corvina
Côtes du Rhône
Crozes-Hermitage
Dão
Dolcetto
Faugères
Fitou
Fleurie
Gaillac
Gattinara
Gamay
Gevrey-
Chambertin
Gigondas
Graves
Grenache
Grignolino
Lambrusco

Malbec
Malvasia
Malvoisie Rouge
Mammolo
Mandelaria
Manseng
Margaux
Médoc
Merlot
Meunier
Montepulciano
Mourvèdre
Nebbiolo
Negroamaro
Nuits St George
Pauillac
Pinot Noir
Pinotage
Pomerol
Pommard
Rioja
Rofosco
Saint-Émilion
Saint-Estèphe
Sangiovese
Shiraz/Syrah
Tempranillo
Valdepeñas
Valpolicella
Vino Nobile di
Montepulciano
Zinfandel
Zweigelt or Blauer
Zweigelt

ROSÉ WINES

Rosé d'Anjou
Rosé de Syrah
Tavel

fetching, lovely, adorable, delightful, disarming, captivating, *dated* taking

winnings ▶ plural noun PRIZE MONEY, gains, prize, booty, spoils; proceeds, profits, takings, purse

winnow ▶ verb SEPARATE (OUT), divide, sort out, sift out, filter out, isolate, find, identify, remove, get rid of

winsome ▶ adjective. See WINNING sense 2

wintry ▶ adjective ① wintry weather: BLEAK, cold, chilly, chill, frosty, freezing, icy, snowy, arctic, glacial, bitter, raw, *informal* nippy, *Brit informal* parky. ② a wintry smile: UNFRIENDLY, unwelcoming, cool, cold, frosty, frigid
-OPPOSITES summery, warm.

wipe ▶ verb ① Beth wiped the table: RUB, mop, sponge, swab; clean, dry, polish. ② he wiped the marks off the window: RUB OFF, clean off, clear up, remove, get rid of, take off, erase, efface. ③ she wiped the memory from her mind: OBLITERATE, expunge, erase, blot out, blank out.

▶ noun he gave the table a wipe: RUB, mop, sponge, swab; clean, polish.

■ **wipe someone/something out** DESTROY, annihilate, eradicate, eliminate; slaughter, massacre, kill, exterminate, demolish, raze to the ground; *informal* take out, zap, *N Amer informal* waste, *poetic/literary* slay

wire ▶ noun CABLE, lead, flex.

wiry ▶ adjective ① a wiry man SINEWY, tough, athletic, strong; lean, spare, thin, stringy, skinny. ② wiry hair. COARSE, rough, strong; curly, wavy
-OPPOSITES flabby, smooth

wisdom ▶ noun ① we questioned the wisdom of the decision. SAGACITY, intelligence, sense, common sense, shrewdness, astuteness, smartness, judiciousness, judgement, prudence, circumspection; logic, rationale, rationality, soundness, advisability. ② the wisdom of the East. KNOWLEDGE, learning, erudition, scholarship, philosophy; lore
-OPPOSITES folly.

wise ▶ adjective a wise old man: SAGE, sagacious, intelligent, clever, learned, knowledgeable, enlightened; astute, smart, shrewd, sharp-witted, canny, knowing; sensible, prudent, discerning, judicious, perceptive, insightful, perspicacious;

rational, logical, sound, sane; *Brit informal* fly, *formal* sapient

—OPPOSITES foolish.

■ **put someone wise** (*informal*) TELL, inform, notify, apprise, make aware, put in the picture, fill in, warn, alert; *informal* clue in/up, tip off.

■ **wise to** (*informal*) AWARE OF, familiar with, acquainted with, *formal* cognizant of.

wisecrack ▶ *noun* (*informal*) JOKE, witticism, quip, jest, sally, pun, bon mot; *informal* crack, gag, funny, one-liner

wish ▶ *verb* ① *I wished for power*: DESIRE, want, hope for, covet, dream of, long for, yearn for, crave, hunger for, lust after; aspire to, set one's heart on, seek, fancy, hanker after, *informal* have a yen for, itch for, *archaic* be desirous of ② *they can do as they wish* WANT, desire, feel inclined, feel like, care, choose, please, think fit ③ *I wish you to send them a message* WANT, desire, require ④ *I wished him farewell*. BID.

▶ *noun* ① *his wish to own a Mercedes* DESIRE, longing, yearning, inclination, urge, whim, craving, hunger, hope, aspiration, aim, ambition, dream, *informal* hankering, yen, itch ② *her parents' wishes*: REQUEST, requirement, bidding, instruction, direction, demand, order, command; want, desire, will, *poetic/literary* behest

wishy-washy ▶ *adjective* ① *he's so wishy-washy* FEEBLE, ineffectual, weak, vapid, effete, spineless, lump, namby-pamby, spiritless, indecisive; *informal* wet, pathetic ② *wishy-washy soup* WATERY, weak, thin, tasteless, flavourless, insipid. ③ *a wishy-washy colour* PALE, insipid, palid, muted.

—OPPOSITES strong, tasty, vibrant

wisp ▶ *noun* STRAND, tendril, lock; scrap, shred, thread

wispy ▶ *adjective* THIN, fine, feathery, flyaway

wistful ▶ *adjective* NOSTALGIC, yearning, longing, plaintive, regretful, rueful, melancholy, mournful, pensive, reflective, contemplative

wit ▶ *noun* ① *he needed all his wits to escape* INTELIGENCE, shrewdness, astuteness, cleverness, canniness, (common) sense, wisdom, sagacity, judgement, acumen, insight, brains, mind, *informal* nous, gumption, savvy, horse sense; *Brit informal* common, *N Amer informal* smarts ② *my sparkling wit*: WITTINESS, humour, funniness, drollery, repartee, badinage, banter, wordplay, jokes, witticisms, quips, puns ③ *she's such a wit* COMEDIAN, humorist, comic, joker, jokester; *informal* wag; *informal, dated* card, caution.

witch ▶ *noun* ① *the witch cast a spell*. SORCERESS, enchantress, hex; Wiccan; *archaic* pythoness. ② (*informal*) *she's a right old witch* HAG, crone, harpy, harpidan, she-devil; *informal* battleaxe

witchcraft ▶ *noun* SORCERY, (black) magic, witching, witchery, wizardry, thaumaturgy, spells, incantations; Wicca; *fish* pishogue.

witch doctor ▶ *noun* MEDICINE MAN, shaman, healer.

with ▶ *preposition* ACCOMPANIED BY, escorted by; alongside, in addition to, as well as.

withdraw ▶ *verb* ① *she withdrew her hand from his*: REMOVE, extract, pull out, take out; take back, take away. ② *the ban on advertising was withdrawn*: ABOLISH, cancel, lift, set aside, end, stop, remove, reverse, revoke, rescind, repeal, annul, void. ③ *she withdrew the allegation*: RE-

TRACT, take back, go back on, recant, disavow, disclaim, repudiate, renounce; back down, climb down, backtrack, back-pedal, do a U-turn, eat one's words. ④ *the troops withdrew from the city*: LEAVE, pull out of, evacuate, quit, retreat from. ⑤ *his partner withdrew from the project*. PULL OUT OF, back out of, bow out of, get cold feet ⑥ *they withdrew to their rooms* RETIRE, retreat, adjourn, decamp, leave, depart, absent oneself, *formal* repair, *dated* remove, *poetic/literary* betake oneself

—OPPOSITES insert, introduce, deposit, enter

withdrawal ▶ *noun* ① *the withdrawal of subsidies* REMOVAL, abolition, cancellation, discontinuation, termination, elimination ② *the withdrawal of the troops*: DEPARTURE, pull-out, exit, exodus, evacuation, retreat

withdrawn ▶ *adjective* INTROVERTED, UNSOCIABLE, inhibited, uncommunicative, unforthcoming, quiet, reticent, reserved, retiring, private, reclusive, shy, timid, aloof; *informal* stand-offish

—OPPOSITES outgoing

wither ▶ *verb* ① *the flowers withered in the sun* SHRIVEL (UP), dry up; wilt, droop, go limp, fade, perish ② *the muscles in his leg withered* WASTE (AWAY), shrivel (up), shrink, atrophy ③ *her confidence withered* DIMINISH, dwindle, shrink, lessen, fade, ebb, wane, evaporate, disappear

—OPPOSITES thrive, grow

withering ▶ *adjective* SCORNFUL, contemptuous, scathing, stinging, devastating, humiliating, mortifying

—OPPOSITES admiring.

withhold ▶ *verb* ① *he withheld the information* HOLD BACK, keep back, refuse to give, retain, hold on to, hide, conceal, keep secret, *informal* sit on ② *she could not withhold her tears* SUPPRESS, repress, hold back, fight back, choke back, control, check, restrain, contain

within ▶ *preposition* ① *within the prison walls* IN, SIDE, in, enclosed by, surrounded by, within the bounds of, within the confines of ② *within a few hours* IN LESS THAN, in under, in no more than, after only

—OPPOSITES outside

without ▶ *preposition* ① *thousands were without food* LACKING, short of, deprived of, in need of, wanting, needing, requiring. ② *I don't want to go without you* UNACCOMPANIED BY, unescorted by, in the absence of.

withstand ▶ *verb* RESIST, weather, survive, endure, cope with, stand, tolerate, bear, defy, brave, hold out against, bear up against; stand up to, face, confront

witless ▶ *adjective* FOOLISH, stupid, unintelligent, idiotic, brainless, mindless; fatuous, inane, half-baked, empty-headed, slow-witted, *informal* thick, birdbrained, pea-brained, dopey, dim, dim-witted, half-witted, dippy, lame-brained, wooden-headed; *Brit. informal* daft; *Scottish & N English informal* glaikit; *N Amer informal* dumb-ass.

witness ▶ *noun* ① *witnesses claimed that he started the fight*: OBSERVER, onlooker, eyewitness, spectator, viewer, watcher, bystander, passer-by. ② *a whisky bottle was the only witness of his mood*: EVIDENCE, indication, proof, testimony.

▶ *verb* ① *who witnessed the incident?* SEE, observe, watch, view, notice, spot; be present at, attend; *poetic/literary* behold. ② *the will is correctly wit-*



nessed: COUNTERSIGN, sign, endorse, validate, *N* Amer notarize. ① his writings witness an inner toughness: ATTEST TO, testify to, bear witness to, confirm, evidence, prove, verify, corroborate, substantiate, show, demonstrate, indicate, reveal, bespeak

witter ▶ verb (*Brit. informal*) See GABBLE verb

witticism ▶ noun JOKE, quip, jest, pun, play on words, bon mot, *informal* one-liner, gag, funny, crack, wisecrack.

witty ▶ adjective HUMOROUS, amusing, droll, funny, comic, comical; jocular, facetious, waggish, sparkling, scintillating, entertaining, clever, quick-witted

wizard ▶ noun ① the wizard cast a spell over them SORCERER, warlock, magus, (black) magician, enchanter, *archaic* mage ② a financial wizard. GE NIUS, expert, master, virtuoso, maestro, marvel, Wunderkind, *informal* hotshot, demon, whizz-kid, buff, pro, ace, *Brit informal* dab hand, *N Amer informal* maven

wizardry ▶ noun SORCERY, witchcraft, witchery, witching, (black) magic, enchantment, spells, charms, *lsh* pishogue

wizened ▶ adjective WRINKLED, lined, creased, shrivelled (up), withered, weather-beaten, shrunken, gnarled

wobble ▶ verb ① the table wobbled ROCK, teeter, jiggle, sway, see-saw, shake ② he wobbled across to the door TEETER, totter, stagger, lurch ③ her voice wobbled TREMBLE, shake, quiver, quaver, waver ④ for a few days the minister wobbled HESITATE, vacillate, waver, dither, shilly-shally, blow hot and cold, *Scottish* swither

▶ noun ① she stood up with a wobble TOTTER, teeter, sway ② the operatic wobble in her voice TREMOR, quiver, quaver, trembling, vibrato

wobbly ▶ adjective ① a wobbly table UNSTEADY, unstable, shaky, rocky, rickety, unsafe, precarious, uneven, unbalanced, *informal* wonky ② her legs were a bit wobbly SHAKY, quivery, weak, unsteady, *informal* trembly, like jelly ③ I feel so wobbly. FAINT, dizzy, light-headed, giddy, weak (at the knees), groggy, muzzy, *informal* woozy
-OPPOSITES stable

woe ▶ noun ① a tale of woe MISERY, SORROW, distress, wretchedness, sadness, unhappiness, heartache, heartbreak, despondency, despair, depression, gloom, melancholy, adversity, misfortune, disaster, suffering, hardship, *poetic/literary* dolour. ② financial woes TROUBLE, difficulty, problem, trial, tribulation, misfortune, setback, reverse.
-OPPOSITES joy.

woebegone ▶ adjective SAD, unhappy, miserable, dejected, disconsolate, forlorn, crestfallen, downcast, glum, gloomy, doleful, downhearted, despondent, melancholy, sorrowful, mournful, woeful, depressed, wretched, desolate, *informal* down in the mouth, down in the dumps, blue
-OPPOSITES cheerful

woeful ▶ adjective ① her face was woeful. See WOEBEGONE. ② a woeful tale: TRAGIC, sad, miserable, cheerless, gloomy, sorry, pitiful, pathetic, traumatic, depressing, heartbreaking, heart-rending, tear-jerking. ③ the team's woeful performance: DREADFUL, awful, terrible, atrocious, disgraceful, deplorable, shameful, hopeless, lamentable; substandard, poor, inadequate, inferior, unsatisfactory; *informal* rotten, appalling,

crummy, pathetic, pitiful, lousy, abysmal, dire, *Brit informal* duff, chronic, rubbish.

-OPPOSITES cheerful, excellent

wolf ▶ noun. See list

▶ verb DEVOUR, gobble (up), guzzle, gulp down, bolt, *informal* put away, demolish, shovel down, scoff (down), get outside of, *Brit informal* gollop; *N Amer informal* scarf (down/up), snarf (down/up)

Wolves and Wild Dogs

African wild dog	jackal
bush dog	lobo
Cape hunting dog	maned wolf
coyote	raccoon dog
dhole	red dog
dingo	red wolf
dire wolf (extinct)	Simien jackal/fox
golden jackal	timber wolf
grey wolf	

wolfish ▶ adjective (*informal*) LASCIVIOUS, lecherous, lustful, predatory, rapacious

woman ▶ noun ① a woman got out of the car LADY, girl, female, matron, *Scottish & N English* lass, lassie, *lsh* colleen, *informal* chick, girlie, filly, biddy, *Brit informal* bird, *Scottish & N English informal* wife, *N Amer informal* sister, dame, broad, gal, jane, *Austral/NZ informal* sheila, *poetic/literary* maid, maiden, damsel, *archaic* wench, gentlewoman ② he found himself a new woman GIRL, FRIEND, sweetheart, partner, significant other, innamorata, lover, mistress, fiancée, wife, spouse, *informal* bird, fancy woman, missus, better half, *Brit informal* other half, Dutch, trouble and strife, *lsh informal* mot, *N Amer informal* squeeze, dated lady friend, lady-love, *archaic* leman

-RELATED TERMS female, gynaeco-

womanhood ▶ noun ① she was on the brink of womanhood ADULTHOOD, maturity; *poetic/literary* muliebrity ② she's an ideal of womanhood WOMANLINESS, femininity ③ the stereotype of Soviet womanhood WOMEN, womenfolk, woman-kind, womenkind, woman, the female sex

womanish ▶ adjective EFFEMINATE, girlish, girly, unmanly, unmasculine
-OPPOSITES manly

womanizer ▶ noun PHILANDERER, Casanova, Don Juan, Romeo, Lothario, ladies' man, playboy, seducer, rake, roué, libertine, lecher; *informal* skirt-chaser, ladykiller, lech

womankind ▶ noun WOMEN, woman, the female sex, womenkind, womanhood, womenfolk

womanly ▶ adjective ① womanly virtues FEMININE, female; *archaic* feminal. ② her womanly figure VOLUPTUOUS, curvaceous, shapely, ample, Junoesque, Rubenesque, buxom, full-figured, *informal* curvy, busty.
-OPPOSITES masculine, boyish.

wonder ▶ noun ① she was speechless with wonder AWE, admiration, wonderment, fascination; surprise, astonishment, amazement. ② the wonders of nature: MARVEL, miracle, phenomenon, sensation, spectacle, beauty; curiosity. See list.

▶ verb ① I wondered what was on her mind: PONDER, think about, meditate on, reflect on, muse on, speculate about, conjecture; be curious about.

② I wonder you were so patient **BE SURPRISED**, find it surprising ③ people wondered at such bravery **MARVEL**, be amazed, be astonished, stand in awe, be dumbfounded, gape, goggle, informal be flabbergasted.

The Seven Wonders of the World

Pyramids of Egypt
Colossus of Rhodes
Hanging Gardens of Babylon
Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
Statue of Zeus at Olympia
Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
Pharos of Alexandria (or, in some lists, the Walls of Babylon)

wonderful ▶ **adjective** **MARVELLOUS**, magnificent, superb, glorious, sublime, lovely, delightful, informal super, great, fantastic, terrific, tremendous, sensational, incredible, fabulous, fab, awesome, magic, ace, wicked, far out, Brit informal smashing, brilliant, brilliant, N Amer informal peachy, dandy, neat, Austral/NZ informal beaut, bonzer, Brit informal, dated champion, wizard, spiffing, topping, N Amer informal, dated swell
—**OPPOSITES** awful

wonky ▶ **adjective** (Brit informal) ① a wonky picture See **CROOKED** sense 3 ② wonky stools See **WOBBLY** sense 1

wont ▶ **adjective** (poetic/literary) he was wont to arise at 5.30: **ACCUSTOMED**, used, given, inclined

▶ **noun** (formal) Paul drove fast, as was his wont: **CUSTOM**, habit, way, practice, convention, rule

wonted ▶ **adjective** (poetic/literary) **CUSTOMARY**, habitual, usual, accustomed, familiar, normal, conventional, routine, common

woo ▶ **verb** ① Richard wooed Joan. **PAY COURT TO**, pursue, chase (after); dated court, romance, seek the hand of, set one's cap at, make love to ② the party wooed voters with promises: **SEEK**, pursue, curry favour with, try to win, try to attract, try to cultivate ③ an attempt to woo him out of retirement. **ENTICE**, tempt, coax, persuade, wheedle, informal sweet-talk

wood ▶ **noun** ① polished wood. **TIMBER**, planks, planking; logs; N Amer. lumber. ② a walk through the woods **FOREST**, woodland, trees, copse, coppice, grove, Brit spinney, archaic greenwood.

—**RELATED TERMS** ligneous.

wooded ▶ **adjective** **FORESTED**, afforested, tree-covered, woody; poetic/literary sylvan, bosky

wooden ▶ **adjective** ① a wooden door: **WOOD**, timber, woody; ligneous. ② wooden acting: **STILT**, stiff, unnatural, awkward, leaden; dry, flat, stodgy, lifeless, passionless, spiritless, soulless ③ her face was wooden: **EXPRESSIONLESS**, impassive, poker-faced, emotionless, blank, vacant, unresponsive.

woodland ▶ **noun** **WOODS**, wood, forest, trees, archaic greenwood.

woodwind ▶ **noun**. See list at **WIND**

woodwork ▶ **noun** **CARPENTRY**, joinery.

wool ▶ **noun** ① sheep's wool: **FLEECE**, hair, coat; floccus. ② a sweater made of cream wool: **YARN**.

■ **pull the wool over someone's eyes** (informal) **DECEIVE**, fool, trick, hoodwink, dupe, delude; informal lead up the garden path, put one over on, bamboozle, con

wool-gathering ▶ **noun** **DAYDREAMING**, dreaming, reverie, musing, abstraction, preoccupation, absent-mindedness, forgetfulness

woolly ▶ **adjective** ① a woolly hat: **WOOLLEN**, wool, fleecy ② a sheep's woolly coat: **FLEECY**, shaggy, hairy, fluffy, flocculent ③ woolly generalizations. **VAGUE**, ill-defined, hazy, unclear, fuzzy, blurry, foggy, nebulous, imprecise, inexact, indefinite; confused, muddled.

▶ **noun** (informal) **SWEATER**, pullover, jersey, cardigan, Brit jumper, Brit informal cardy

woozy ▶ **adjective** (informal) See **GROGGY**

word ▶ **noun** ① the Italian word for 'ham' **TERM**, name, expression, designation, locution, vocable, formal appellation ② his words were meant kindly **REMARK**, comment, observation, statement, utterance, pronouncement ③ I've got three weeks to learn the words: **SCRIPT**, lyrics, libretto ④ I give you my word: **PROMISE**, word of honour, assurance, guarantee, undertaking, pledge, vow, oath, bond, formal troth ⑤ I want a word with you **TALK**, conversation, chat, tête-à-tête, heart-to-heart, one-to-one, discussion, consultation, informal confab, powwow, formal confabulation ⑥ there's no word from the hospital: **NEWS**, information, communication, intelligence, message, report, communiqué, dispatch, bulletin, informal info, gen, dope, poetic/literary tidings. ⑦ word has it he's turned over a new leaf: **RUMOUR**, hearsay, talk, gossip, informal the grapevine, the word on the street ⑧ I'm waiting for the word from HQ **INSTRUCTION**, order, command, signal, prompt, cue, tip-off, informal go-ahead, thumbs up, green light. ⑨ his word was law **COMMAND**, order, decree, edict; bidding, will ⑩ our word now must be success: **MOTTO**, watchword, slogan, catchword, buzz word
—**RELATED TERMS** verbal, lexical

▶ **verb** the question was carefully worded **PHRASE**, express, put, couch, frame, formulate, style, say, utter

■ **have words** **QUARREL**, argue, disagree, squabble, bicker, fight, wrangle, dispute, fall out, clash; Brit informal row

■ **in a word** **BRIEFLY**, to be brief, in short, in a nutshell, to come to the point, to cut a long story short, not to put too fine a point on it; to sum up, to summarize, in summary.

■ **word for word** ① they took down the speeches word for word **VERBATIM**, letter for letter, to the letter; exactly, faithfully ② a word-for-word translation: **VERBATIM**, literal, exact, direct, accurate, faithful, unadulterated, unabridged.

wording ▶ **noun** **PHRASING**, phraseology, words, language, expression, terminology.

wordplay ▶ **noun** **PUNNING**, puns, play on words, wit, witticisms, repartee.

wordy ▶ **adjective** **LONG-WINDED**, verbose, prolix, lengthy, protracted, long-drawn-out, rambling, circumlocutory, periphrastic, pleonastic, loquacious, garrulous, voluble; informal windy; Brit informal waffly.

—**OPPOSITES** succinct.

work ▶ **noun** ① a day's work in the fields: **LABOUR**, toil, slog, drudgery, exertion, effort, industry, service; informal grind, sweat, elbow grease; Brit



informal graft, fag; Austral / NZ informal yakka, poetic/literary travail. ② I'm looking for work. **EMPLOYMENT**, a job, a post, a position, a situation, occupation, profession, career, vocation, calling ③ haven't you got any work? **TASKS**, jobs, duties, assignments, projects; chores. ④ works of literature **COMPOSITION**, piece, creation, opus, oeuvre. ⑤ this is the work of a radical faction: **HANDIWORK**, doing, act, deed ⑥ a lifetime spent doing good works. **DEEDS**, acts, actions. ⑦ the complete works of Shakespeare **WRITINGS**, oeuvre, canon, output ⑧ a car works **FACTORY**, plant, mill, foundry, yard, workshop, shop ⑨ the works of a clock **MECHANISM**, machinery, workings, parts, movement, action, *informal* insides ⑩ (informal) for only \$60 you can get the works **EVERYTHING**, the full treatment, *informal* the lot, the whole shebang, the full nine yards; *Brit informal* the full monty
—**OPPOSITES** leisure

► **verb** ① staff worked late into the night **TOIL**, labour, exert oneself, slave (away), keep at it, keep one's nose to the grindstone, *informal* slog (away), beaver away, plug away, put one's back into it, knock oneself out, sweat blood, *Brit informal* graft, fag; *poetic/literary travail* ② he worked in education for years: **BE EMPLOYED**, have a job, earn one's living, do business ③ farmers worked the land **CULTIVATE**, farm, till, plough ④ his car was working perfectly **FUNCTION**, go, run, operate, *informal* behave ⑤ how do I work this machine? **OPERATE**, use, handle, control, manipulate, run ⑥ their play worked **SUCCEED**, work out, turn out well, go as planned, get results, be effective, *informal* come off, pay off, do the trick, *N Amer informal* turn the trick ⑦ blusher can work miracles **BRING ABOUT**, accomplish, achieve, produce, perform, create, engender, contrive, effect. ⑧ (informal) the chairman was prepared to work it for Phil **ARRANGE**, manipulate, contrive, pull strings, *N Amer* pull wires; *informal* fix, swing, wangle ⑨ he worked the crowd into a frenzy. **STIR** (UP), excite, drive, move, rouse, fire, galvanize, whip up, agitate ⑩ work the mixture into a paste **KNEAD**, squeeze, form; mix, stir, blend ⑪ he worked the blade into the padlock: **MANOEUVRE**, manipulate, guide, edge ⑫ her mouth worked furiously: **TWITCH**, quiver, convulse ⑬ he worked his way through the crowd **MANOEUVRE**, make, thread, wind, weave, wend
—**OPPOSITES** rest, fail

■ **work on someone** **PERSUADE**, manipulate, influence; coax, cajole, wheedle, soften up; *informal* twist someone's arm, lean on

■ **work out** ① the bill works out at £50. **AMOUNT TO**, add up to, come to, total; *Brit* tot up to ② my idea worked out. See **WORK** verb sense 6 ③ things didn't work out the way she planned **END UP**, turn out, go, come out, develop, happen, occur; *informal* pan out ④ he works out at the local gym: **EXERCISE**, train.

■ **work something out** ① work out what you can afford: **CALCULATE**, compute, reckon up, determine. ② I'm trying to work out what she meant: **UNDERSTAND**, comprehend, puzzle out, sort out, make sense of, get to the bottom of, make head or tail of, unravel, decipher, decode; *informal* figure out; *Brit informal* suss out. ③ they worked out a plan: **DEVISE**, formulate, draw up, put together, develop, construct, arrange, organize, contrive, concoct; hammer out, negotiate.

■ **work something up** **STIMULATE**, rouse, raise.

arouse, awaken, excite

workable ► **adjective** **PRACTICABLE**, feasible, viable, possible, achievable; realistic, reasonable, sensible, practical; *informal* doable.
—**OPPOSITES** impracticable

workaday ► **adjective** **ORDINARY**, average, run-of-the-mill, middle-of-the-road, conventional, unremarkable, unexceptional, undistinguished, commonplace, mundane, humdrum, pedestrian, routine, everyday, day-to-day, *N Amer* garden-variety; *informal* bog-standard, nothing to write home about, ten a penny, a dime a dozen, *Brit informal* common or garden
—**OPPOSITES** exceptional.

worker ► **noun** ① a strike by 500 workers **EMPLOYEE**, member of staff, workman, labourer, hand, operative, operator; proletarian, artisan, craftsman, craftswoman, wage-earner, breadwinner ② (informal) I got a reputation for being a worker **HARD WORKER**, toiler, workhorse, *informal* busy bee, eager beaver, workaholic, *N Amer informal* wheel horse

workforce ► **noun** **EMPLOYEES**, staff, personnel, workers, labour force, manpower, human resources, *informal* liveware

working ► **adjective** ① working mothers **EMPLOYED**, in (gainful) employment, in work, waged ② a working waterwheel **FUNCTIONING**, operating, running, active, operational, functional, serviceable, *informal* up and running ③ a working knowledge of contract law **SUFFICIENT**, adequate, viable, useful, effective.
—**OPPOSITES** unemployed, faulty

► **noun** ① the working of a carburettor **FUNCTIONING**, operation, running, action, performance. ② the workings of a watch **MECHANISM**, machinery, parts, movement, action, works, *informal* insides

workman ► **noun** (**MANUAL**) **WORKER**, labourer, hand, operative, operator, employee; journeyman, artisan

workmanlike ► **adjective** **EFFICIENT**, competent, professional, proficient, skilful, adept, masterly

workmanship ► **noun** **CRAFTSMANSHIP**, artistry, craft, art, artisanship, handiwork, skill, expertise, technique.

workout ► **noun** **EXERCISE SESSION**, keep-fit session, training session, drill; warm-up, exercises, aerobics, *informal*, dated daily dozen

workshop ► **noun** ① a car repair workshop: **FACTORY**, works, plant; garage ② the craftsmen had a chilly workshop. **WORKROOM**, studio, atelier. ③ a workshop on combating stress **STUDY GROUP**, discussion group, seminar, class

world ► **noun** ① he travelled the world: **EARTH**, globe, planet, sphere. See lists at **CONTINENT**, **COUNTRY**, **REGION** ② life on other worlds: **PLANET**, satellite, moon, star, heavenly body, orb ③ the academic world: **SPHERE**, society, circle, arena, milieu, province, domain, orbit, preserve, realm, field, discipline, area. ④ she would show the world that she was strong: **EVERYONE**, everybody, people, mankind, humankind, humanity, the (general) public, the population, the populace, all and sundry, every mother's son, (every Tom, Dick, and Harry), every man jack. ⑤ a world of difference: **HUGE AMOUNT**, good deal, great deal, abundance, wealth, profusion, mountain; plenty; *informal* heap, lot, load, ton, masses; *Brit informal* shedload. ⑥ she renounced the

world SOCIETY, secular interests, temporal concerns, earthly concerns

■ **on top of the world** (informal) See OVERJOYED

■ **out of this world** (informal). See WONDERFUL

worldly ▶ **adjective** ① his youth was wasted on worldly pursuits. EARTHLY, terrestrial, temporal, mundane, mortal, human, material, materialistic, physical, carnal, fleshly, bodily, corporeal, sensual. ② a worldly man: SOPHISTICATED, experienced, worldly-wise, knowledgeable, knowing, enlightened, shrewd, mature, seasoned, cosmopolitan, urbane, cultivated, cultured
-OPPOSITES spiritual, naive

worldly-wise ▶ **adjective**. See WORLDLY sense 2

worldwide ▶ **adjective** GLOBAL, international, intercontinental, universal, ubiquitous, extensive, widespread, far-reaching, wide-ranging, all-embracing
-OPPOSITES local.

worm ▶ **noun**. See list

-RELATED TERMS vermiform, vermian, vermi-

worn ▶ **adjective** ① his hat was worn SHABBY, worn out, threadbare, tattered, in tatters,

holey, falling to pieces, ragged, frayed, moth-eaten, scruffy, having seen better days; informal tatty, tatty, the worse for wear; N Amer informal raggedy. ② her face looked worn. See WORN OUT sense 2

-OPPOSITES smart, fresh.

worn out ▶ **adjective** ① a worn-out shirt See WORN sense 1. ② by evening they looked worn out EXHAUSTED, fatigued, tired (out), weary, drained, worn, drawn, wan, sapped, spent, careworn, haggard, hollow-eyed, pinched, pale, peaky; informal all in, done in, dog-tired, dead beat, fit to drop, shattered, Brit informal knackered, N Amer informal pooped, tuckered out ③ worn-out ideas OBSOLETE, antiquated, old, stale, hackneyed, trite, overused, overworked, clichéd, unoriginal, commonplace, pedestrian, prosaic, stock, conventional, informal played out, old hat

-OPPOSITES smart, fresh

worried ▶ **adjective** ANXIOUS, perturbed, troubled, bothered, concerned, upset, distressed, distraught, disquieted, uneasy, fretful, agitated, nervous, edgy, on edge, tense, overwrought, worked up, keyed up, stressed, apprehensive, fearful, afraid, frightened, scared, informal uptight, a bundle of nerves, on tenterhooks, jittery, jumpy, twitchy, in a stew, all of a dither, in a flap, in a sweat, het up, rattled, Brit informal windy, having kittens, N Amer informal antsy, squirrely
-OPPOSITES carefree.

worrisome ▶ **adjective**. See WORRYING

worry ▶ **verb** ① she worries about his health FRET, be concerned, be anxious, agonize, brood, panic, lose sleep, get worked up, informal get stressed, get in a flap, get in a state, stew, torment oneself. ② is something worrying you? TROUBLE, bother, make anxious, disturb, distress, upset, concern, disquiet, fret, agitate, unsettle, perturb, scare, fluster, stress, tax, torment, plague, bedevil; prey on one's mind, weigh down, gnaw at, informal rattle, bug, get to ③ a dog worried his sheep ATTACK, savage, maul, mutilate, mangle, go for, molest, torment, persecute.

▶ **noun** ① I'm beside myself with worry. ANXIETY, perturbation, distress, concern, uneasiness, unease, disquiet, fretfulness, restlessness, nervousness, nerves, agitation, edginess, tension, stress, apprehension, fear, dread, trepidation, misgiving, angst, informal butterflies (in the stomach), the willies, the heebie-jeebies ② the rats are a worry PROBLEM, cause for concern, nuisance, pest, plague, trial, trouble, vexation, bane, bugbear; informal pain (in the neck), headache, hassle, stress

worrying ▶ **adjective** ALARMING, worrisome, daunting, perturbing, niggling, bothersome, troublesome, unsettling, nerve-racking; distressing, disquieting, upsetting, traumatic, problematic; informal scary, hairy.

worsen ▶ **verb** ① insomnia can worsen a patient's distress: AGGRAVATE, exacerbate, compound, add to, intensify, increase, magnify, heighten, inflame, augment; informal add fuel to the fire ② the recession worsened: DETERIORATE, degenerate, decline, go downhill; informal go to pot, go to the dogs, hit the skids, nosedive.

-OPPOSITES improve.

Worms

acanthocephalan

acorn worm

annelid

arrow worm

ascarid

bamboo worm

beard worm

bladder worm

blood fluke

bloodworm

bootlace worm

brandling

bristle worm

catworm

chaetognath

dungworm

earthworm

eelworm

eye worm

fan worm

feather duster (worm)

filaria

fireworm

flatworm

fluke

gapeworm

gordian worm

Guinea worm

hairworm

heartworm

helminth

hookworm

horsehair worm

horseshoe worm

liddney worm

leech

liver fluke

lobworm

lugworm

lungworm

mesozoom

mopane worm

nematode (worm)

nemertean

neriid

oilgochaete

paddle worm

palolo worm

parchment worm

peacock worm

peanut worm

phoronid

pinworm

platyhelminth

pogonophoran

polychaete

pot worm

proboscis worm

pterobranch

ragworm

rainworm

redworm

rhombzoan

ribbon worm

roundworm

scale worm

sea mouse

serpulid

sipunculid

spiny-headed worm

spoonworm

straw worm

strongyle

tapeworm

thorny-headed worm

threadworm

tongue worm

toxocara

trematode

trichine

tube worm

tubifex

vinegar eel

whiteworm

white worm

worship ▶ **noun** ① *the worship of saints*: REVERENCE, veneration, adoration, glorification, glory, exaltation, devotion, praise, thanksgiving, homage, honour; *dulia, latria*; *formal* laudation, *archaic* magnification. ② *morning worship* SERVICE, religious rite, prayer, praise, devotion, religious observance; *matins, vespers, evensong* ③ *he contemplated her with worship*. ADMIRATION, adulation, idolization, lionization, hero-worship.

▶ **verb** *they worship pagan gods*. REVERE, reverence, venerate, pay homage to, honour, adore, praise, pray to, glorify, exalt, extol; hold dear, cherish, treasure, esteem, adulate, idolize, deify, hero-worship, lionize, *informal* put on a pedestal; *formal* laud; *archaic* magnify

worst ▶ **verb** DEFEAT, beat, prevail over, triumph over, trounce, rout, vanquish, conquer, master, overcome, overwhelm, overpower, crush, outdo, outclass, outstrip, surpass, *informal* thrash, lick, best, clobber, drub, slaughter, murder, wipe out, crucify, demolish, wipe the floor with, take to the cleaners, walk all over, make mincemeat of; *Brit informal* stuff, *N Amer informal* shellac, cream

worth ▶ **noun** ① *evidence of the rug's worth* VALUE, price, cost, valuation, quotation, estimate ② *the intrinsic worth of education* BENEFIT, advantage, use, value, virtue, utility, service, profit, help, aid; desirability, appeal; significance, sense. *informal* mileage, percentage, *archaic* behoof ③ *a sense of personal worth* WORTHINESS, merit, value, excellence, calibre, quality, stature, eminence, consequence, importance, significance, distinction

worthless ▶ **adjective** ① *the item was worthless* VALUELESS, poor quality, inferior, second-rate, low-grade, cheap, shoddy, tawdry, *informal* crummy, rubbishy, ten a penny, *Brit informal* twopenny-halfpenny, *N Amer informal* nickel-and-dime ② *your conclusions are worthless*: USELESS, no use, ineffective, ineffectual, fruitless, unproductive, unavailing, pointless, nugatory, valueless, inadequate, deficient, meaningless, senseless, insubstantial, empty, hollow, trifling, petty, inconsequential, lame, paltry, pathetic, *informal* a dead loss ③ *his worthless son* GOOD-FOR-NOTHING, ne'er-do-well, useless, despicable, contemptible, low, ignominious, corrupt, villainous, degenerate, shiftless, feckless, *informal* no-good, lousy

—OPPOSITES valuable, useful

worthwhile ▶ **adjective** VALUABLE, useful, of use, of service, beneficial, rewarding, advantageous, positive, helpful, profitable, gainful, fruitful, productive, constructive, effective, effectual, meaningful, worthy.

worthy ▶ **adjective** *a worthy citizen*: VIRTUOUS, righteous, good, moral, ethical, upright, upstanding, high-minded, principled, exemplary; law-abiding, irreproachable, blameless, guiltless, unimpeachable, honest, honourable, reputable, decent, respectable, noble, meritorious; pure, whiter than white, saintly, angelic; *informal* squeaky clean.

—OPPOSITES disreputable.

▶ **noun** *local worthies*: DIGNITARY, personage, grandee, VIP, notable, notability, pillar of society, luminary, leading light, big name; *informal* heavyweight, bigwig, top dog, big shot, big cheese; *N Amer. informal* big wheel, big kahuna.

—OPPOSITES nobody

■ **be worthy of** DESERVE, merit, warrant, rate, justify, earn, be entitled to, qualify for

would-be ▶ **adjective** ASPIRING, budding, promising, prospective, potential, hopeful, keen, eager, ambitious, *informal* wannabe

wound ▶ **noun** ① *a chest wound*: INJURY, lesion, cut, gash, laceration, tear, slash, graze, scratch, abrasion, bruise, contusion; *Medicine* trauma ② *the wounds inflicted by the media*: INSULT, blow, slight, offence, affront; hurt, damage, injury, pain, distress, grief, anguish, torment.

▶ **verb** ① *he was critically wounded* INJURE, hurt, harm; maim, mutilate, disable, incapacitate, cripple; lacerate, cut, graze, gash, stab, slash ② *her words had wounded him* HURT, scar, damage, injure, insult, slight, offend, affront, distress, disturb, upset, trouble; grieve, sadden, pain, sting, shock, traumatize, torment

wraith ▶ **noun** GHOST, spectre, spirit, phantom, apparition, manifestation, *informal* spook, *poetic/literary* shade, phantasm

wrangle ▶ **noun** *a wrangle over money* ARGUMENT, dispute, disagreement, quarrel, falling-out, fight, squabble, altercation, war of words, shouting match, tiff, *informal* set-to, run-in, slanging match, *Brit informal* barney, row, bust-up

▶ **verb** *we wrangled over the details* ARGUE, quarrel, bicker, squabble, fall out, have words, disagree, be at odds, fight, battle, feud, clash, *informal* scrap, *Brit informal* row

wrap ▶ **verb** ① *she wrapped herself in a towel* SWATHE, bundle, swaddle, muffle, cloak, enfold, envelop, encase, cover, fold, wind ② *I wrapped the vase carefully* PARCEL (UP), package, pack (UP), bundle (UP), gift-wrap.

▶ **noun** *he put a wrap round her* SHAWL, stole, cloak, cape, mantle, scarf, poncho, serape, *historical* pelisse

■ **wrap up** ① *wrap up well* — it's cold DRESS WARMLY, muffle up ② (*Brit informal*) tell that child to wrap up See SHUT UP at SHUT

■ **wrap something up** (*informal*) CONCLUDE, finish, end, wind up, round off, terminate, stop, cease, finalize, complete, tie up, *informal* sew up

wrapper ▶ **noun** ① *a sweet wrapper* WRAPPING, packaging, paper, cover, covering, jacket, sheath ② (*N Amer*) *she wore a cotton wrapper* HOUSECOAT, bathrobe, dressing gown, robe, kimono, peignoir

wrath ▶ **noun** ANGER, rage, fury, outrage, spleen, vexation, (high) dudgeon, crossness, displeasure, annoyance, irritation, *poetic/literary* ire, cholera.

—OPPOSITES happiness

wreak ▶ **verb** INFLICT, bestow, mete out, administer, deliver, impose, exact, create, cause, result in, effect, engender, bring about, perpetrate, unleash, vent; *formal* effectuate

wreath ▶ **noun** GARLAND, circlet, chaplet, crown, festoon, lei; ring, loop, circle.

wreath ▶ **verb** ① *a pulpit wreathed in holly*. FESTOON, garland, drape, cover, bedeck, deck, decorate, ornament, adorn. ② *blue smoke wreathed upwards*: SPIRAL, coil, loop, wind, curl, twist, snake, curve.

wreck ▶ **noun** ① *salvage teams landed on the wreck*: SHIPWRECK, sunken ship, derelict; shell, hull. ② *the wreck of a stolen car*: WRECKAGE, deb-



ris, remainder, ruins, remains

- **verb** ① he had wrecked her car DEMOLISH, crash, smash up, damage, destroy; vandalize, deface, desecrate, write off; *N Amer* informal trash, total. ② his ship was wrecked SHIPWRECK, sink, capsize, run aground ③ the crisis wrecked his plans. RUIN, spoil, disrupt, undo, put a stop to, frustrate, blight, crush, quash, dash, destroy, scotch, shatter, devastate, sabotage, informal mess up, screw up, foul up, put paid to, stymie, put the kibosh on, nix, *Brit* informal scupper, dish

wreckage ► **noun**. See WRECK noun senses 1, 2

wrench ► **noun** ① she felt a wrench on her shoulders TUG, pull, jerk, jolt, heave, informal yank ② hold the piston with a wrench SPANNER, monkey wrench. ③ a wrench in his arm SPRAIN, twist, strain, rick, crick ④ leaving was an immense wrench PAINFUL PARTING, traumatic event, pang, trauma

- **verb** ① he wrenched the gun from her hand TUG, pull, jerk, wrest, heave, twist, pluck, grab, seize, snatch, force, prise, *N Amer* pry, informal yank ② she wrenched her ankle SPRAIN, twist, turn, strain, rick, crick, pull, injure, hurt

wrest ► **verb** WRENCH, snatch, seize, grab, prise, pluck, tug, pull, jerk, dislodge, *N Amer* pry, informal yank

wrestle ► **verb** GRAPPLE, fight, struggle, contend, vie, battle, wrangle, scuffle, tussle, brawl, informal scrap

wretch ► **noun** ① the wretches killed themselves POOR CREATURE, poor soul, poor thing, poor unfortunate; informal poor devil, poor beggar ② I wouldn't trust the old wretch SCOUNDREL, villain, ruffian, rogue, rascal, reprobate, criminal, miscreant, good-for-nothing; informal heel, creep, louse, rat, swine, dog, lowlife, scumbag, informal, dated rotter, bounder, blighter; archaic blackguard

wretched ► **adjective** ① I felt so wretched without you MISERABLE, unhappy, sad, heartbroken, grief-stricken, sorrowful, distressed, desolate, devastated, despairing, disconsolate, downcast, dejected, crestfallen, cheerless, depressed, melancholy, morose, gloomy, mournful, doleful, dismal, forlorn, woebegone, informal blue, poetic/literary dolorous ② I feel wretched. ILL, unwell, poorly, sick, below par; *Brit* off colour, informal under the weather, out of sorts ③ their living conditions are wretched: HARSH, hard, grim, stark, difficult; poor, impoverished, pitiful, pathetic, miserable, cheerless, sordid, shabby, seedy, dilapidated, informal scummy; *Brit* informal grotty ④ the wretched dweller in the shanty town UNFORTUNATE, unlucky, luckless, ill-starred, blighted, hapless, poor, pitiable, downtrodden, oppressed, poetic/literary star-crossed ⑤ he's a wretched coward: DESPICABLE, contemptible, reprehensible, base, vile, loathsome, hateful, detestable, odious, ignoble, shameful, shabby, worthless, informal dirty, rotten, low-down, lousy. ⑥ wretched weather: TERRIBLE, awful, dire, atrocious, dreadful, bad, poor, lamentable, deplorable; informal God-awful, *Brit* informal beastly. ⑦ I don't want the wretched money: informal damn, damned, blasted, blessed, flaming, confounded, rotten; *Brit* informal flapping, blinking, blooming, bloody.

—OPPOSITES cheerful, well, comfortable, fortunate, excellent.

wriggle ► **verb** ① she tried to hug him but he wriggled: SQUIRM, writhe, wiggle, jiggle, jerk, thresh, flounder, flail, twitch, twist and turn; snake, worm, slither ② he wriggled out of his responsibilities AVOID, shirk, dodge, evade, elude, sidestep, escape from; informal duck.

► **noun** the baby gave a wriggle: SQUIRM, jiggle, wiggle, twitch, twist

wring ► **verb** ① wring out the clothes: TWIST, squeeze, screw, scrunch, knead, press, mangle ② concessions were wrung from the government EXTRACT, elicit, force, exact, wrest, wrench, squeeze, milk, informal bleed ③ his expression wrung her heart. REND, tear at, harrow, pierce, stab, wound, rack; distress, pain, hurt

wrinkle ► **noun** ① fine wrinkles around her mouth CREASE, fold, pucker, line, crinkle, furrow, ridge, groove; informal crow's feet ② (informal) learn the wrinkles from someone more experienced GUIDELINE, hint, tip, pointer, clue, suggestion, (wrinkles) guidance, advice

- **verb** his coat tails wrinkled up CREASE, pucker, gather, line, crinkle, crimp, crumple, rumple, ruck up, scrunch up

writ ► **noun** SUMMONS, subpoena, warrant, arraignment, indictment, citation, court order

write ► **verb** ① he wrote her name in the book. PUT IN WRITING, write down, put down, jot down, note (down), take down, record, register, log, list, inscribe, sign, scribble, scrawl, pencil ② I wrote a poem COMPOSE, draft, think up, formulate, compile, pen, dash off, produce ③ he had her address and promised to write. CORRESPOND, write a letter, communicate, get in touch, keep in contact, informal drop someone a line

■ **write someone/something off** ① they have had to write off loans FORGET ABOUT, disregard, give up on, cancel, annul, wipe out ② he wrote off his new car: WRECK, smash up, crash, destroy, demolish, ruin, *N Amer* informal total ③ who would write off a player of his stature? DISREGARD, dismiss, ignore

• **writer** ► **noun** AUTHOR, wordsmith, man/woman of letters, penman, novelist, essayist, biographer, journalist, columnist, correspondent, scriptwriter, playwright, dramatist, dramaturge, tragedian, poet, informal scribbler, scribe, penpusher, hack See list

writhe ► **verb** SQUIRM, wriggle thrash, flail, toss, toss and turn, twist, twist and turn, struggle.

writing ► **noun** ① I can't read his writing: HANDWRITING, hand, script, print; penmanship, calligraphy, chirography; informal scribble, scrawl ② the writings of Gertrude Stein: WORKS, compositions, books, publications, oeuvre; papers, articles, essays

wrong ► **adjective** ① the wrong answer: INCORRECT, mistaken, in error, erroneous, inaccurate, inexact, imprecise, fallacious, wide of the mark, off target, unsound, faulty; informal off beam, out. ② he knew he had said the wrong thing. INAPPROPRIATE, unsuitable, inapt, inapposite, undesirable; ill-advised, ill-considered, ill-judged, impolitic, injudicious, infelicitous, unfitting, out of keeping, improper; informal out of order. ③ I've done nothing wrong: ILLEGAL, unlawful, illicit, criminal, dishonest, dishonourable, corrupt; unethical, immoral, bad, wicked, sinful, iniquitous, nefarious, blameworthy, repre-

Writers

See also **DRAMATIST**, **POET**.

Achebe, Chinua (Nigerian)
Ackroyd, Peter (English)
Addison, Joseph (English)
Aelfric (English)
Aesop (Greek)
Alain-Fournier (French)
Alarcón, Pedro de (Spanish)
Alcott, Louisa May (American)
Aldiss, Brian (English)
Algren, Nelson (American)
Amis, Martin (English)
Amis, Kingsley (English)
Andersen, Hans Christian (Danish)
Andrić, Ivo (Serbian)
Angelou, Maya (American)
Asimov, Isaac (American, b. in Russia)
Asturias, Miguel (Guatemalan)
Atwood, Margaret (Canadian)
Austen, Jane (English)
Bainbridge, Beryl (English)
Baldwin, James (American)
Ballard, J. G. (British, b. in China)
Balzac, Honoré de (French)
Banks, Iain (Scottish)
Barnes, Julian (English)
Barth, John (American)
Bates, H. E. (English)
Bawden, Nina (English)
Beckford, William (English)
Beerbohm, Max (English)
Behn, Aphra (English)
Belloc, Hilaire (British, b. in France)
Bellow, Saul (American, b. in Canada)
Bennett, Arnold (English)
Betti, Ugo (Italian)
Beauvoir, Simone de (French)
Bierce, Ambrose (American)
Binchy, Maeve (Irish)
Blackmore, Richard (English)
Boccaccio, Giovanni (Italian)
Böll, Heinrich (German)
Borges, Jorge Luis (Argentinian)
Boswell, James (Scottish)
Bowen, Elizabeth (British, b. in Ireland)
Boyd, Martin (Australian)
Bradbury, Malcolm (English)
Bradbury, Ray (American)
Bradford, Barbara Taylor (English)
Braine, John (English)
Brink, André (South African)
Brittain, Vera (English)
Broch, Hermann (Austrian)
Brontë, Anne (English)
Brontë, Charlotte (English)
Brontë, Emily (English)
Brookner, Anita (English)
Brownie, Thomas (English)
Buchan, John (Scottish)
Bulgakov, Mikhail (Russian)
Bunyan, John (English)
Burgess, Anthony (English)
Burney, Fanny (English)
Burroughs, Edgar Rice (American)
Burroughs, William S. (American)

Butler, Samuel (English)
Byatt, A. S. (English)
Calvino, Italo (Italian)
Camus, Albert (French)
Canetti, Elias (British, b. in Bulgaria)
Capote, Truman (American)
Carey, Peter (Australian)
Carroll, Lewis (Charles Dodgson; English)
Carter, Angela (English)
Cartland, Barbara (English)
Carver, Raymond (American)
Cary, Joyce (English)
Cather, Willa (American)
Cela, Camillo José (Spanish)
Céline, Louis (L. F. Destouches; French)
Cervantes, Miguel de (Spanish)
Chandler, Raymond (American)
Chateaubriand, Vicomte de (French)
Chatwin, Bruce (English)
Cheever, John (American)
Chesterton, G. K. (English)
Christie, Agatha (English)
Clarke, Arthur C. (English)
Coetzee, J. M. (South African)
Colette (Sidonie Gabrielle Colette; French)
Collins, Wilkie (English)
Compton-Burnett, Ivy (English)
Conrad, Joseph (Teodor Korzeniowski; British, b. in Poland)
Cookson, Catherine (English)
Cooper, James Fenimore (American)
Corelli, Marie (English)
Crane, Stephen (American)
Crompton, Richmal (English)
Cronin, A. J. (Scottish)
Dahl, Roald (English)
d'Annunzio, Gabriele (Italian)
Daudet, Alphonse (French)
Davies, Robertson (Canadian)
Defoe, Daniel (English)
Deighton, Len (English)
De Quincey, Thomas (English)
Dick, Philip K. (American)
Dickens, Charles (English)
Dinesen, Isak (Karen Blixen; Danish)
Doctorow, E. L. (American)
Dos Passos, John (American)
Dostoevsky, Fyodor (Russian)
Doyle, Arthur Conan (Scottish)
Drabble, Margaret (English)
Dreiser, Theodore (American)
Dumas, Alexandre (French)
Du Maurier, Daphne (English)
Duras, Marguerite (French)
Durrell, Lawrence (English)
Eco, Umberto (Italian)
Edgeworth, Maria (Irish)
Ehrenberg, Ben (Russian)
Eichendorff, Josef, Freiherr von (German)

Elot, George (Mary Ann Evans; English)
Endo, Shusaku (Japanese)
Evelyn, John (English)
Farrell, J. G. (English)
Faulkner, William (Cecil Lewis Troughton; American)
Fielding, Henry (English)
FitzGerald, F. Scott (American)
Flaubert, Gustave (French)
Fleming, Ian (English)
Follett, Ken (English)
Ford, Ford Madox (English)
Forester, C. S. (English)
Forster, E. M. (English)
Forsyth, Frederick (English)
Fowles, John (English)
Frame, Janet (New Zealand)
France, Anatole (Jacques-Anatole François Thibault; French)
Francis, Dick (English)
Franklin, Miles (Australian)
Fuentes, Carlos (Mexican)
Galsworthy, John (English)
García Márquez, Gabriel (Colombian)
Gaskell, Mrs (Elizabeth Cleghorn Stevenson; English)
Genet, Jean (French)
Gide, André (French)
Gibran, Khalil (American, b. in Lebanon)
Gibson, William (American)
Gissing, George (English)
Gogol, Nikolai (Russian)
Golding, William (English)
Goldsmith, Oliver (Irish)
Goncharov, Ivan (Russian)
Goncourt, Edmond de (French)
Goncourt, Jules de (French)
Gordimer, Nadine (South African)
Gorky, Maxim (Aleksel Peshkov; Russian)
Grahame, Kenneth (Scottish)
Grass, Günter (German)
Graves, Robert (English)
Greene, Graham (English)
Grisham, John (American)
Haggard, Rider (English)
Hall, Radclyffe (English)
Hammett, Dashiell (American)
Hamsun, Knut (Norwegian)
Hardy, Thomas (English)
Hartley, L. P. (English)
Hasek, Jaroslav (Czech)
Hawthorne, Nathaniel (American)
Hazlitt, William (English)
Heller, Joseph (American)
Hemingway, Ernest (American)
Henry, O. (William Porter; American)
Herriot, James (James Alfred Wright; English)
Hesse, Hermann (Swiss, b. in Germany)
Hoyer, George (English)
Highsmith, Patricia (American)
Hoffman, E. T. A. (German)

Writers (cont.)

- Holmes, Oliver Wendell (American)
 Horning, Ernest (English)
 Hugo, Victor (French)
 Huxley, Aldous (English)
 Irving, John (American)
 Irving, Washington (American)
 Isherwood, Christopher (American, b. in England)
 Ishiguro, Kazuo (British, b. in Japan)
 Jacobs, W. W. (English)
 James, Henry (British, b. in America)
 James, M. R. (English)
 James, P. D. (English)
 Jerome, Jerome K. (English)
 Joyce, James (Irish)
 Kadare, Ismail (Albanian)
 Kafka, Franz (Czech)
 Kawabata, Yasunari (Japanese)
 Keneally, Thomas (Australian)
 Kerouac, Jack (American)
 Kesey, Ken (American)
 King, Stephen (American)
 Kingsley, Charles (English)
 Kipling, Rudyard (British, b. in India)
 Koestler, Arthur (British, b. in Hungary)
 Kundera, Milan (Czech)
 La Bruyère, Jean de (French)
 Lacos, Pierre Choderlos de (French)
 Lagerkvist, Pär (Swedish)
 Lagerlöf, Selma (Swedish)
 Lambedusa, Giuseppe Tomasi di (Italian)
 La Rochefoucauld (French)
 Lawrence, D. H. (English)
 Lawrence, T. E. (English)
 Le Carré, John (David Cornwell; English)
 Lee, Harper (American)
 Lee, Laurie (English)
 Le Fanu, Sheridan (Irish)
 Le Guin, Ursula (American)
 Leonard, Elmore (American)
 Lesage, Alain-René (French)
 Lessing, Doris (English)
 Levi, Carlo (Italian)
 Levi, Primo (Italian)
 Lewis, C. S. (English)
 Lewis, Sinclair (American)
 Lindsay, Norman (Australian)
 Lodge, David (English)
 London, Jack (American)
 Lowry, Malcolm (English)
 Lurie, Alison (American)
 Lyly, John (English)
 Lytton, Lord (English)
 Macaulay, Rose (English)
 McCarthy, Mary (American)
 McCullers, Carson (American)
 McEwan, Ian (English)
 Macpherson, Compton (English)
 Maclean, Allan (Scottish)
 Mahfouz, Naguib (Egyptian)
 Mailer, Norman (American)
 Malamud, Bernard (American)
 Malory, Thomas (English)
 Malraux, André (French)
 Mann, Thomas (German)
 Manning, Olivia (English)
 Mansfield, Katherine (New Zealand)
 Manzoni, Alessandro (Italian)
 Marryat, Frederick (English)
 Marsh, Ngalo (New Zealand)
 Maugham, Somerset (English)
 Maupassant, Guy de (French)
 Mauriac, François (French)
 Melville, Herman (American)
 Meredith, George (English)
 Mérimée, Prosper (French)
 Miller, Henry (American)
 Milne, A. A. (English)
 Mishima, Yukio (Kimitake Hiraoka; Japanese)
 Mitchell, Margaret (American)
 Mitford, Nancy (English)
 Monsarrat, Nicholas (John Turney; English)
 Montaigne, Michel de (French)
 Moore, Brian (Irish)
 Moore, George (Irish)
 Moravia, Alberto (Alberto Pincherle, Italian)
 Morrison, Toni (American)
 Munro, Alice (Canadian)
 Murdoch, Iris (British, b. in Ireland)
 Musil, Robert (Austrian)
 Mutanabbi, Abu al- (Persian)
 Nabokov, Vladimir (American, b. in Russia)
 Nalpaal, V. S. (British, b. in Trinidad)
 Narayan, R. K. (Indian)
 Nesbit, E. (English)
 Newby, Eric (English)
 Nin, Anaïs (American)
 O'Brien, Patrick (Irish)
 O'Brien, Edna (Irish)
 O'Brien, Flann (Brian O'Nolan; Irish)
 Oe, Kenzaburo (Japanese)
 Okri, Ben (Nigerian)
 Ondaatje, Michael (Canadian, b. in Sri Lanka)
 Orczy, Baroness (British, b. in Hungary)
 Orwell, George (Eric Blair; English)
 Ouida (English)
 Parker, Dorothy (American)
 Pasternak, Boris (Russian)
 Pater, Walter (English)
 Paton, Alan (South African)
 Pavese, Cesare (Italian)
 Paz, Octavio (Mexican)
 Peacock, Thomas Love (English)
 Peck, Mervyn (English)
 Pepsy, Sarmist (English)
 Perec, Georges (French)
 Perelman, S. J. (American)
 Perrot, Charles (French)
 Pliny the Younger (Roman)
 Plutarch (Greek)
 Poe, Edgar Allan (American)
 Porter, Katherine Anne (American)
 Potter, Beatrix (English)
 Powell, Anthony (English)
 Pratchett, Terry (English)
 Priestley, J. B. (English)
 Pritchett, V. S. (English)
 Proust, Marcel (French)
 Puzo, Mario (American)
 Pym, Barbara (English)
 Pynchon, Thomas (American)
 Queen, Ellery (Frederick Dannay; American)
 Queneau, Raymond (French)
 Rabelais, François (French)
 Radcliffe, Ann (English)
 Ransome, Arthur (English)
 Reade, Charles (English)
 Renault, Mary (Mary Chalmers, British, resident in South Africa from 1948)
 Rendell, Ruth (English)
 Rhys, Jean (Gwen Williams, British, b. in Dominica)
 Rice, Anne (American)
 Richardson, Samuel (English)
 Richler, Mordecai (Canadian)
 Robbe-Grillet, Alain (French)
 Robbins, Harold (American)
 Roth, Philip (American)
 Runyon, Damon (American)
 Rushdie, Salman (British, b. in India)
 Sackville-West, Vita (English)
 Sade, Marquis de (French)
 Sagan, François (French)
 Saint-Exupéry, Antoine (French)
 Saki (H. H. Munro; Scottish, b. in Burma)
 Salinger, J. D. (American)
 Sand, George (Amandine-Aurore Dupin, Baronne Dudevant; French)
 Sargeson, Frank (New Zealand)
 Sarraute, Nathalie (French, b. in Russia)
 Sartre, Jean-Paul (French)
 Sayers, Dorothy L. (English)
 Scott, Walter (Scottish)
 Seth, Vikram (Indian)
 Shadbolt, Maurice (New Zealand)
 Shelley, Mary (English)
 Sholokhov, Mikhail (Russian)
 Shute, Nevil (English)
 Silko, Alan (English)
 Simonon, Georges (Belgian)
 Singer, Isaac Bashevis (American, b. in Poland)
 Sitwell, Edith (English)
 Smollett, Tobias (Scottish)
 Snow, C. P. (English)
 Solzhenitsyn, Alexander (Russian)
 Spivack, Wole (Nigerian)
 Spink, Marjorie (English)
 Spillane, Michael (American)
 Stein, Gertrude (American)
 Steinbeck, John (American)
 Stendhal (Marie-Henri Beyle; French)

Writers (cont.)

Sterne, Laurence (Irish)
 Stevenson, Robert Louis (Scottish)
 Stoker, Bram (Irish)
 Stowe, Harriet Beecher (American)
 Strachey, Lytton (English)
 Surtees, Robert (English)
 Sutherland, Efua (Ghanaian)
 Svevo, Italo (Ettore Schmitz; Italian)
 Swift, Jonathan (Irish)
 Symons, Julian (English)
 Thackeray, William Makepeace (British, b. in India)
 Theroux, Paul (American)
 Thompson, Flora (English)
 Thoreau, Henry (American)
 Tolkien, J. R. R. (British, b. in South Africa)
 Tolstoy, Leo (Russian)
 Tremaine, Rose (English)
 Trevor, William (Irish)

Trollope, Anthony (English)
 Trollope, Joanna (English)
 Turgenev, Ivan (Russian)
 Twain, Mark (Samuel Clemens; American)
 Updike, John (American)
 Vargas Llosa, Mario (Peruvian)
 Verne, Jules (French)
 Vidal, Gore (American)
 Voltaire (François-Marie Arouet; French)
 Vonnegut, Kurt (American)
 Wain, John (English)
 Walker, Alice (American)
 Wallace, Edgar (English)
 Walpole, Horace (English)
 Walton, Izaak (English)
 Warren, Robert Penn (American)
 Waugh, Evelyn (English)
 Webb, Mary (English)
 Weldon, Fay (English)
 Wells, H. G. (English)

Welty, Eudora (American)
 Wesley, Mary (English)
 West, Rebecca (Cicely Fairfield; English)
 Wharton, Edith (American)
 White, Patrick (Australian)
 White, T. H. (British, b. in India)
 Wilder, Thornton (American)
 Williamson, Henry (English)
 Wilson, Angus (English)
 Wodehouse, P. G. (British)
 Wolf, Christa (German)
 Wolfe, Tom (American)
 Wolstonecraft, Mary (English)
 Wood, Mrs Henry (English)
 Woolf, Virginia (English)
 Wren, P. C. (English)
 Wright, Richard (American)
 Wyndham, John (English)
 Zola, Émile (French)

hensible, *informal* crooked ① *there's something wrong with the engine*. AMISS, awry, out of order, not right, faulty, defective

—OPPOSITES right, correct, appropriate, legal

▶ **adverb** she guessed wrong INCORRECTLY, wrongly, inaccurately, erroneously, mistakenly

▶ **noun** ① the difference between right and wrong IM MORALITY, sin, sinfulness, wickedness, evil, unlawfulness, crime, corruption, villainy, dishonesty, injustice, wrongdoing, misconduct, transgression ② an attempt to make up for past wrongs MISDEED, offence, injury, crime, transgression, peccadillo, sin, injustice, outrage, atrocity, Law tort, *archaic* trespass

—OPPOSITES right

▶ **verb** ① she was determined to forget the man who had wronged her ILL-USE, mistreat, do an injustice to, do wrong to, ill-treat, abuse, harm, hurt, injure, *informal* do the dirty on ② perhaps I am wronging him MALIGN, misrepresent, do a disservice to, impugn, defame, slander, libel

■ **get someone/something wrong** MISUNDERSTAND, misinterpret, misconstrue, mistake, misread, take amiss, get the wrong idea/impression, *informal* get the wrong end of the stick, be barking up the wrong tree

■ **go wrong** ① I've gone wrong somewhere MAKE A MISTAKE, make an error, make a blunder, blunder, miscalculate, trip up, *informal* slip up, screw up, make a boo-boo, *Brit informal* boob ② their plans went wrong GO AWRY, go amiss, go off course, fail, be unsuccessful, fall through, come to nothing; backfire, misfire, rebound, *informal* come to grief, come a cropper, go up in smoke; *Brit informal* go adrift. ③ the radio's gone wrong BREAK DOWN, malfunction, fail, stop working, crash, give out, *informal* be on the blink, conk out, go kaput; *Brit informal* play up, pack up.

■ **in the wrong** TO BLAME, blameworthy, at

fault, reprehensible, responsible, culpable, answerable, guilty, *archaic* peccant

wrongdoer ▶ **noun** OFFENDER, lawbreaker, criminal, felon, delinquent, villain, culprit, evil-doer, sinner, transgressor, malefactor, miscreant, rogue, scoundrel, *informal* crook, wrong 'un, Law malfeasance, *archaic* trespasser

wrongdoing ▶ **noun** CRIME, lawbreaking, lawlessness, criminality, misconduct, misbehaviour, malpractice, corruption, immorality, sin, sinfulness, wickedness, evil, vice, iniquity, villainy, offence, felony, wrong, misdeed, misdeemeanour, fault, peccadillo, transgression, Law malfeasance, tort, *formal* malversation, *archaic* trespass

wrongful ▶ **adjective** UNJUSTIFIED, unwarranted, unjust, unfair, undue, undeserved, unreasonable, groundless, indefensible, inappropriate, improper, unlawful, illegal, illegitimate

—OPPOSITES rightful

wrought up ▶ **adjective** AGITATED, tense, stressed, overwrought, nervous, on edge, edgy, keyed up, worked up, anxious, nervy, flustered, fretful, upset, *informal* in a state, in a stew, het up, wound up, uptight, jumpy, in a tizz/tizzy, *Brit informal* strung up, *N Amer informal* spooky, squirrely.

—OPPOSITES calm.

wry ▶ **adjective** ① his wry humour IRONIC, sardonic, satirical, mocking, sarcastic, dry, droll, witty, humorous. ② a wry expression: UNIMPRESSED, displeased, annoyed, irritated, irked, vexed, piqued, disgruntled, dissatisfied, *informal* peeved. ③ a wry neck TWISTED, crooked, contorted, distorted, deformed, misshapen, Scottish thrawn

Xx

xenophobic ▶ **adjective** JINGOISTIC, chauvinistic, flag-waving, excessively nationalistic, isolationist, prejudiced, bigoted, intolerant

Xerox ▶ **noun** (*trademark*) PHOTOCOPY, copy, du-

plicate, reproduction, *trademark* photostat

Xmas ▶ **noun** (*informal*) See CHRISTMAS

X-ray ▶ **noun** RADIOGRAPH, X-ray image/picture/photograph, roentgenogram, radiogram.

Yy

yahoo ▶ **noun** (*informal*) BOOR, lout, oaf, thug, barbarian, Neanderthal, brute, bully boy, *informal* clod, roughneck, bruiser, *Brit informal* yobbo, yob, oik

yank ▶ **verb** (*informal*) JERK, pull, tug, wrench, snatch, seize

yap ▶ **verb** ① *the dogs yapped about his heels* BARK, woof, yelp ② (*informal*) *what are they yapping on about?* See **BABBLE** verb sense 1

yardstick ▶ **noun** STANDARD, measure, gauge, scale, guide, guideline, indicator, test, touchstone, barometer, criterion, benchmark, point of reference, model, pattern

yarn ▶ **noun** ① *you need to use a fine yarn* THREAD, cotton, wool, fibre, filament; ply ② (*informal*) *a far-fetched yarn* STORY, tale, anecdote, saga, narrative, *informal* tall tale/story, cock and bull story, shaggy-dog story, spiel

yawning ▶ **adjective** GAPING, wide open, wide, cavernous, deep, huge, great, big

year ▶ **noun** TWELVE-MONTH PERIOD, calendar year, *poetic/literary* sun, summer, winter; *archaic* twelvemonth

—RELATED TERMS **annual**

■ **year in, year out** REPEATEDLY, again and again, time and (time) again, time after time, over and over (again), (week in, week out), (day in, day out), recurrently, continuously, continually, constantly, habitually, regularly, without a break, unflinching, always

yearly ▶ **adjective** *a yearly payment* ANNUAL, once a year, every year, each year

▶ **adverb** *the guide is published yearly* ANNUALLY, once a year, per annum, by the year, every year, each year

yearn ▶ **verb** LONG, pine, crave, desire, want, wish, hanker, covet, lust, pant, hunger, thirst, ache, eat one's heart out, have one's heart set on; *informal* have a yen, itch

yearning ▶ **noun** LONGING, craving, desire, want, wish, hankering, urge, hunger, thirst, appetite, lust, ache, *informal* yen, itch

yell ▶ **verb** *he yelled in agony* CRY OUT, call out, call at the top of one's voice, shout, howl, yowl, wail, scream, shriek, screech, yelp, squeal; roar, bawl, *informal* holler

▶ **noun** *a yell of rage* CRY, shout, howl, yowl, scream, shriek, screech, yelp, squeal, roar, *informal* holler

yellow ▶ **adjective** ① *yellow hair* | *a yellow shirt* FLAXEN, golden, gold, blonde, fair, lemon, daffodil-yellow, mustard. ② (*informal*) *he'll have to prove he's not yellow*. See **COWARDLY**

yelp ▶ **noun & verb** SQUEAL, shriek, howl, yowl, yell, cry, shout, yawp, *informal* holler.

yen ▶ **noun** (*informal*) HANKERING, yearning, longing, craving, urge, desire, want, wish, hunger, thirst, lust, appetite, ache; fancy, inclination; *informal* itch.

yes ▶ **adverb** ALL RIGHT, very well, of course, by all means, sure, certainly, absolutely, indeed, affirmative, in the affirmative, agreed, roger;

Scottish, N English, & archaic aye, *Nautical* aye aye; *informal* yeah, yep, yup, uh-huh, okay, OK, okey-dokey, okey-doke, *Brit informal* righto, righty-ho, *N Amer informal* surely; *archaic or formal* yea

—OPPOSITES **no**

yes-man ▶ **noun** (*informal*) SYCOPHANT, toady, creep, fawner, flatterer, lickspittle, doormat, *informal* bootlicker, *Brit informal* poodle, *N Amer informal* suck-up.

yet ▶ **adverb** ① *he hasn't made up his mind yet* SO FAR, thus far, as yet, up till/to now, until now ② *don't celebrate just yet* NOW, right now, at this time, already, so soon ③ *he was doing nothing, yet he appeared purposeful* NEVERTHELESS, nonetheless, even so, but, however, still, notwithstanding, despite that, in spite of that, for all that, all the same, just the same, at the same time, be that as it may; *archaic* natheless ④ *he supplied yet more unsolicited advice* EVEN, still, fur-

Young Animals

YOUNG	ANIMAL
calf	buffalo/camel/cattle/elephant/elk/giraffe/hartebeest/rhinoceros/seal/whale
cheeper	grouse/quail/partridge
chick	chicken/hawk/pheasant
colt	horse
cub	badger/bear/fox/leopard/lion/tiger/walrus/wolf
cygnet	swan
duckling	duck
eaglet	eagle
elver	eel
eyas	hawk
fawn	caribou/deer
filly	horse
foal	horse/zebra
fry	fish
gilt	pig
gosling	goose
joey	kangaroo/wallaby/possum
kid	antelope/goat/roedeer
kit	beaver/fox/weasel/ferret/mink
kitten	bobcat/cat/cougar/jackrabbit/skunk
lamb	sheep
leveret	hare
owlet	owl
parr	salmon
peachick	peafowl
pickerel	pike
piglet	pig
poriking	pig
pup	dog/wolf/seal/rat
puppy	dog/coyote
scrod	cod/haddock
smolt	salmon
squab	pigeon
squeaker	pigeon
tadpole	frog/toad
whelp	dog/wolf

ther, in addition, additionally, besides, into the bargain, to boot.

yield ▶ **verb** ① *too many projects yield poor returns* PRODUCE, bear, give, supply, provide, afford, return, bring in, earn, realize, generate, deliver, pay out ② *the nobility had yielded power to the new capitalist class* RELINQUISH, surrender, cede, remit, part with, hand over; make over bequeath, leave ③ *the Duke was forced to yield* SURRENDER, capitulate, submit, relent, admit defeat, back down, climb down, give in, give up the struggle, lay down one's arms, raise/show the white flag, throw in the towel/sponge ④ *he yielded to her demands* GIVE IN TO, give way to, submit to, bow down to, comply with, agree to, consent to, go along with, grant, permit, allow, *informal* cave in to, *formal* accede to ⑤ *the floorboards yielded underfoot* BEND, give, give way

—OPPOSITES withhold, resist, defy.

▶ **noun** risky investments usually have higher yields PROFIT, gain, return, dividend, earnings

yob, yobbo ▶ **noun** (*Brit informal*). See HOOLIGAN

yoke ▶ **noun** ① *the horses were loosened from the yoke* HARNESS, collar, coupling ② *countries struggling under the yoke of imperialism* TYRANNY, oppression, domination, hegemony, enslavement, servitude, subjugation, subjection, bondage, thrall; bonds, chains, fetters, shackles ③ *the yoke of marriage* BOND, tie, connection, link

▶ **verb** ① *a pair of oxen were yoked together* HARNESS, hitch, couple, tether, fasten, attach, join ② *their aim of yoking biology and mechanics* UNITE, join, link, connect, tie, bind, bond

yokel ▶ **noun** BUMPKIN, peasant, provincial, rustic, country cousin, countryman/woman, *Irish informal* culchie, *N Amer informal* hayseed, hillbilly,

hick, Austral informal bushy

young ▶ **adjective** ① *young people* YOUTHFUL, juvenile; junior, adolescent, teenage, in the springtime of life, in one's salad days ② *she's very young for her age* IMMATURE, childish, inexperienced, unsophisticated, naive, unworldly; *informal* wet behind the ears ③ *the young microbrewery industry* FLEDGLING, developing, budding, in its infancy, emerging

—OPPOSITES old, elderly, mature

▶ **noun** ① *a robin feeding its young* OFFSPRING, progeny, family, babies See list ② *the young don't care nowadays* YOUNG PEOPLE, children, boys and girls, youngsters, youth, the younger generation, juveniles, minors; *informal* kids, young 'uns

youngster ▶ **noun** CHILD, teenager, adolescent, youth, juvenile, minor, junior; boy, girl, *Scottish & N English* lass, lassie, *informal* lad, kid, whippersnapper, young 'un, teen

youth ▶ **noun** ① *he had been a keen sportsman in his youth* EARLY YEARS, young days, teens, teenage years, adolescence, boyhood, girlhood, childhood, minority, *formal* juvenescence ② *she had kept her youth and beauty* YOUTHFULNESS, freshness, bloom, vigour, energy. ③ *local youths* YOUNG MAN, boy, juvenile, teenager, adolescent, junior, minor; *informal* lad, kid ④ *the youth of the nation* YOUNG PEOPLE, young, younger generation, next generation, *informal* kids

—OPPOSITES adulthood, old age

youthful ▶ **adjective** YOUNG-LOOKING, spry, sprightly, vigorous, active, young, boyish, girlish, fresh-faced, in the springtime of life, in one's salad days

—OPPOSITES old, elderly

Zz

zany ▶ **adjective** ECCENTRIC, peculiar, odd, unconventional, strange, bizarre, weird, mad, crazy, comic, madcap, funny, quirky, idiosyncratic, *informal* wacky, screwy, nutty, oddball, off the wall, *Brit informal* daft, *N Amer informal* kooky, wacko

—OPPOSITES conventional, sensible

zap ▶ **verb** (*informal*) ① they were zapped by anti-radar missiles See DESTROY sense 5 ② racing cars zapped past See SPEED verb sense 1

zeal ▶ **noun** PASSION, ardour, love, fervour, fire, avidity, devotion, enthusiasm, eagerness, keenness, appetite, relish, gusto, vigour, energy, intensity, fanaticism

—OPPOSITES apathy

zealot ▶ **noun** FANATIC, enthusiast, extremist, radical, young Turk, diehard, activist, militant, bigot, dogmatist, sectarian, partisan, *informal* henchman, maniac, ultra, nut

zealous ▶ **adjective** FERVENT, ardent, fervid, fanatical, passionate, impassioned, devout, devoted, committed, dedicated, enthusiastic, eager, keen, avid, vigorous, energetic, intense, fierce, *poetic/literary* perfervid

—OPPOSITES apathetic

zenith ▶ **noun** HIGHEST POINT, high point, crowning point, height, top, acme, peak, pinnacle, apex, apogee, crown, crest, summit, climax, culmination, prime, meridian

—OPPOSITES nadir

zero ▶ **noun** ① the sum's wrong—you've left off a zero NOUGHT, nothing, nil, 0, *Computing* null character, *dated* cipher, *archaic* naught ② I rated my chances as zero NOTHING (AT ALL), nil, none, *N English* nowt, *informal* zilch, nix, sweet Fanny Adams, sweet FA, not a dicky bird, *Brit informal* damn all, not a sausage, *N Amer informal* zip, nada, diddly-squat, *archaic* naught, nought

■ **zero in on** FOCUS ON, focus attention on, centre on, concentrate on, home in on, fix on, pinpoint, highlight, spotlight, *informal* zoom in on

zero hour ▶ **noun** THE APPOINTED TIME, the critical moment, the moment of truth, the point/moment of decision, the Rubicon, the crux, *informal* the crunch.

zest ▶ **noun** ① she had a great zest for life ENTHUSIASM, gusto, relish, appetite, eagerness, keenness, avidity, zeal, fervour, ardour, passion, verve, vigour, liveliness, sparkle, fire, animation, vitality, dynamism, energy, brio, pep,

spirit, exuberance, high spirits, *informal* zing, zip, oomph, vim, pizzazz, get-up-and-go ② he wanted to add some zest to his life PIQUANCY, tang, flavour, savour, taste, spice, spiciness, relish, bite, excitement, interest, an edge, *informal* kick, punch, zing, oomph ③ the zest of an orange RIND, peel, skin

—OPPOSITES apathy, indifference, blandness

zigzag ▶ **adjective** TWISTING, twisty, full of twists and turns, serpentine, meandering, snaking, snaky, winding, crooked

—OPPOSITES straight

zing ▶ **noun** (*informal*) See ZEST sense 1

zip (*informal*) ▶ **noun** he's full of zip See ENERGY

▶ **verb** 1 zipped back along the M20 See SPEED verb sense 1

zodiac ▶ **noun** See lists

Signs of the Zodiac

SIGN	FROM	TO	SYMBOL
Aries	21 Mar.	19 Apr.	Ram
Taurus	20 Apr.	20 May	Bull
Gemini	21 May	21 June	Twins
Cancer	22 June	22 July	Crab
Leo	23 July	22 Aug.	Lion
Virgo	23 Aug.	22 Sept.	Virgin
Libra	23 Sept.	23 Oct.	Scales/Balance
Scorpio	24 Oct.	21 Nov.	Scorpion
Sagittarius	22 Nov.	21 Dec.	Archer
Capricorn	22 Dec.	19 Jan.	Goat
Aquarius	20 Jan.	18 Feb.	Water Carrier/ Bearer
Pisces	19 Feb.	20 Mar.	Fish/Fishes

Signs of the Chinese Zodiac

boar/pig	monkey	rooster
dog	ox	sheep/goat
dragon	rabbit	snake
horse	rat	tiger

zone ▶ **noun** AREA, sector, section, belt, stretch, region, territory, district, quarter, precinct, locality, neighbourhood, province

zoologist ▶ **noun** See list

zoom ▶ **verb** (*informal*) See SPEED verb sense 1

Zoologists and Naturalists

Agassiz, Louis (American, b. in Switzerland)

Bonnet, Charles (Swiss)

Carson, Rachel (American)

Cuvier, Georges, Baron (French)

Darwin, Charles (English)

Frisch, Karl von (Austrian)

Kinsey, Alfred (American)

Lamarck, Jean-Baptiste de (French)

Leeuwenhoek, Antoni van (Dutch)

Lorenz, Konrad (Austrian)

Morgan, Thomas (American)

Swammerdam, Jan (Dutch)

Tinbergen, Nikolaas (Dutch)

Wallace, Alfred (English)

White, Gilbert (English)